

## Curriculum

**Does this info session apply to BASIS Texas and BASIS DC also or only Arizona and Louisiana?**

Yes, this presentation applies to BASIS Charter Schools in Texas and DC as well!

**If we join in 10th grade, how do you help them with the transition from public schools? Is it going to be tough for them and will impact their grades?**

Typically, it is very challenging for a student to come to one of our schools in the high school grades. Our minimum math level required in 9th grade is Precalculus and if students have not completed Algebra I & II, which are typical public high school math requirements, it can be a challenge.

**With constantly adapting curriculum, does what the student learns in previous classes get applied to adapted curriculum so it's not just lost knowledge?**

Absolutely. Our curriculum beginning in the primary grades spirals all the way up through high school constantly building upon itself so that by the end of high school students are not just knowledgeable but skilled at applying that knowledge.

**Is 8th or 9th grade a clearly better entry point from a) a supply/demand of seats perspective, and b) needing a potential adjustment period to best succeed academically perspective? Full disclosure, we were considering for 9th, but wondering if 8th has advantages. Thank you.**

The earlier the better! As Dr. Bezanson is discussing, our middle school courses prepare our students for success in our high schools. The middle school has some flexibility with math, which is where we accelerate our students the most comparatively, but students are also taking rigorous science classes in Physics, Chemistry and Biology each, English, and Social Studies which all assist in preparing them for the AP curriculum in high school.

**Do you guys offer any special program/enrichment for gifted students? How do you encourage the gifted students to continue expanding their potentials further?**

We don't offer a specific gifted program. However, we do offer rigorous curriculum that engages students to perform beyond their current grade level.

**Do senior students have the opportunity to take college credit courses?**

Students are capable of earning college credit by successfully passing AP exams. The senior project is the pinnacle achievement of a BASIS student because it is an opportunity that allows them to independently design a research project or intern at a university or with a business gaining real world experience and gaining invaluable connections prior to enrolling in college.

**Why do you teach mandarin? Seems Spanish would make more sense in Arizona.**

Mandarin is a required part of our curriculum from Transitional Kindergarten to Grade 4 because Mandarin provides our early learners with the opportunity to engage both sides of their brains.

Mandarin is a tonal language. This means that the same word can have multiple different meanings depending on the tone. Students of the language must attend to both the basic sound as well as the tone in order to understand a word. The difference in brain activity between Mandarin and English speakers is well documented in scientific research. Most recently, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America published a study that outlined the specific differences in brain activity between speakers of tonal and non-tonal languages.

The results demonstrated that while speech processing is largely carried out in the “common left hemisphere,” Mandarin speakers activate an additional sector of their brain called the “right anterior temporal cortex,” which is crucial in recognizing differences in tone. Learning to speak a tonal language means that one must exercise this connection between the left and right hemispheres of the brain to improve their tonal comprehension abilities.

#### **Do you guys offer any PE classes? Extracurricular activities after school?**

Yes. Students in grades 1–6 are required to participate in PE and Sports classes three times per week. Beginning in grade 7, students can choose to continue with Physical Education as an elective course.

BASIS Charter Schools offer extracurricular activities to enrich our students’ academic experience. Each school aligns its activities to the unique interests of the student body, therefore activities will vary from school-to-school. Clubs and extracurricular activities could include Music, Art, Dance, Orchestra/Band, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Minecraft, Coding, and Chess—just to name a few! Our middle and high school students are able to participate in charter association sports leagues and have the opportunity to test their skills against other schools inside and outside of our network. Please contact your local BASIS Charter School for specific information.

#### **What Math curriculum does Basis use for Kindergarten?**

BASIS schools use Saxon Math 1 Volumes 1 & 2 in kindergarten.

#### **If the kids have met state graduation requirements by 11th grade do they have the option to graduate after 11th year?**

Yes, there is an option available to graduate in 11th grade.

#### **How many hours of homework?**

At every grade level, homework is used to reinforce concepts taught during the school day, establish good time management, and hone organizational skills. Homework volume differs by grade level and by student. A typical BASIS Charter School student should expect about 30 minutes of homework per night in Kindergarten, 35–40 minutes

in grades 1–2, 45–55 minutes in grades 3–4, 60–90 minutes in grades 5–7, and up to three hours in grades 8 and up.

**How much emphasis is placed on writing and critical thinking from 4th grade on?**

A lot! Our Humanities curriculum prepares students to be talented writers and critical thinkers by exposing them to a diverse list of authors. Students are taught how to analyze texts, do advanced literary analysis, and build upon those skills all the way through high school. Students take a standard English course 5 times a week starting in 4th grade while simultaneously taking an additional Writing Enrichment course 3 times a week.

**My son will be 2nd grade at BASIS from this September. Should my son prepare for the Chinese before he goes to BASIS?**

No, it is common for students to enter BASIS 1st- 4th grade without Mandarin experience. Our teachers will work with your student to get caught up.

**Do students have the freedom to choose where they go for their senior project or is that something the school assign for the students?**

Your student will be conducting high-level, off-campus research on an approved topic with subject matter that mirrors their own academic and professional goals. Unlike other internship or study programs, your student is not limited to location, or type of research site. They can team up with corporations, agencies, research facilities, and entrepreneurs, either nationally or internationally. In addition to an onsite mentor, your student will also be collaborating with a BASIS faculty member.

**If an incoming 6th grader is potentially ready for Algebra 1, is it possible to test into the class or something to that effect?**

Yes. Many of our students are ready to take Algebra I in 6th grade. A readiness exam for math is given to new incoming students to gauge what they are prepared for. Prealgebra is the minimum math level offered for 6th grade students.

**Is there a sample of how the day of a kinder goes? Would there be a nap time for them during the day?**

You may find more information, here: <https://enrollbasis.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BASIS-Sample-Kindergarten-Schedule.pdf> You can schedule a tour at the campus you desire and they can show you the schools and provide details regarding the Kindergarten daily schedule. Naps are not part of the Kindergarten full day schedule.

**For kids it's important to do presentations in science events, etc. Will BASIS encourage students to think out of box and share new ideas in class or it will be more to book reading culture and gets scores?**

Our students are always encouraged to expand their ideas using the knowledge they gain in class by participating in in-class projects. Our curriculum and approach in the classroom is not centered around reading and having students keep their heads in a book. There are opportunities for school science fairs along with regional organizations

such as SARSEF. For example, BASIS Tucson North and BASIS Oro Valley had two students each receive awards for their participation in SARSEF. To add to that, our Post AP courses taken in 11th grade and the Senior Project in 12th grade are the pinnacle moments for our high schools to shine and come up with novel questions to research, and perhaps intern with a university to aid in the research performed at those institutions.

**Is BASIS Ed's model built to fully support Louisiana students that have shown academic abilities with the curriculum for 4 or more consecutive years—but now have shown a great need for specified accommodations, ones that require more communication from teachers and staff?**

Yes, BASIS Baton Rouge Materra and Mid City are working towards improving the level of student support to assist with their academics. Our staff in grades K-3 are participating in the Science of Reading trainings to better prepare them in pedagogy to support students with literacy.

**How do you ensure all campuses are up to the standard and the quality of education offered?**

BASIS has always worked hard to maintain a specific standard at all our schools. Internally managed platforms that allows us to deliver all of our teachers the specific objectives and pedagogical resources they need to be successful with their students for every one of our classes. Of course, we also believe in teacher autonomy to support their specific students, as needed, but every year our curriculum is reviewed by subject and grade level experts, modified, and updated to keep up with State Standards and use the feedback received from our schools to provide ongoing improvements.

**Is cursive writing taught?**

Yes, in many of our schools cursive is taught starting in K or 1st grade, but by the end of 3rd grade, all of our students have been taught how to write in cursive.

**Would you offer other foreign languages?**

Mandarin provides our early learners with the opportunity to engage both sides of their brains. Mandarin is a tonal language. This means that the same word can have multiple different meanings depending on the tone. Students of the language must attend to both the basic sound as well as the tone to understand a word. Learning Mandarin at a young age also improves a students' capacity for creative thinking and problem-solving skills and helps them gain an appreciation of other cultures and develop a deeper understanding of their own culture.

**My family is out of state and moving to Arizona soon. Do students take MAP assessment tests regularly? I don't see any MAP schedule on the school calendar. Is it common not to take the MAP in Arizona, or just BASIS?**

Our students take the Fastbridge Benchmark assessment which is an approved literacy screener with ADE. MAP may be approved universal screener in other states, but it is not an approved assessment in Arizona.

## Enrollment

### **Is there a school district restriction or preference for a student's admission, if the student's family lives in a different school district?**

**Arizona:** BASIS Charter Schools in Arizona are not restricted by school district boundaries. Students are simply required to provide proof of Arizona residency before attending.

**Louisiana:** Per state laws, our BASIS Baton Rouge campuses are only able to accept applications from students living within the East Baton Rouge Parish School District.

**Washington, D.C.:** BASIS DC is open to all students who reside within the District of Columbia.

### **I live in Phoenix. My older one will turn four and a half in August. Is she eligible to join at that age or it 5 years the minimum age to join?**

Kindergarten age requirements vary from state to state. In Arizona, your child must be 5 years or older by September 1 of the year in which they wish to start kindergarten. AZ allows early admission for kids born between Sept 1 to Dec 31. If your child does not meet the standard age cutoff but will be 5 years old by December 31, select the "Early Kindergarten" option when applying to be considered for early enrollment.

### **Will the school partner with me to find out if maybe another nearby school has availability? If waitlisted what are chances of acceptance?**

Hello, we don't offer services to find a nearby school for waitlisted students. We apologize for the inconvenience.

### **Is there chance of acceptance if waitlisted?**

Schools continue to make offers as seats become available so it is still possible to receive an offer if your child is on the waitlist. Chances of enrollment do vary by grade and school. Please contact [enrollment@basisschools.org](mailto:enrollment@basisschools.org) to discuss your child's waitlist placement.

### **A lot of people keep mentioning a waiting list. How early can I enroll my child in kindergarten for the year 2024?**

The 2024-25 Enrollment Period won't be open to accept application until the Open Enrollment season which takes place mid-October through mid-December.

### **Will your child be given preference the following year at their desired school?**

Transfer priority does not guarantee enrollment, but rather places the transfer student in a prioritized position on the waitlist for their desired BASIS Charter School campus.

### **Do incoming siblings of current students get admission preference?**

If a student receives an enrollment offer, then the sibling(s) of that student will be granted sibling priority once the offer is accepted and the online registration form is submitted for the admitted student. This priority does not guarantee a seat, but it does improve the sibling's placement on the waitlist and increases the chance of receiving an enrollment offer. We understand that managing multiple schedules and schools in a

household can be challenging and our schools do their best to make offers to siblings of admitted students when space is available.

**We have applied in 3 different Basis Charter Schools before the lottery and there is hardly any change in the waiting list. How can we get more visibility into it?**

You may notice fluctuations in your student's waitlist number. This is a fairly common occurrence, especially during peak times of enrollment, and should not be a cause for concern. Please contact [enrollment@basisschools.org](mailto:enrollment@basisschools.org) if you have specific questions about your child's application.

**I heard the lottery already happened. Can you confirm - when did the lottery occur for kindergarten?**

The lottery was held in January, but we are still accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year and making offers where seats are available.

**Do previous BASIS students have priority?**

Yes, there is a previously attended priority for students who attended a BASIS Charter School in the past. There is a form that needs to be completed and can be found in the application.

**Is there a school that has opening for Grades 1, 3, 5, 6?**

Please reach out to the Enrollment Department at [enrollment@basisschools.org](mailto:enrollment@basisschools.org).

**I will relocate to Phoenix this August. Should I apply for 2024-2025 academic year or 2023 - 2024 academic year?**

You will need to apply for the 2023-24 Enrollment Period. The 2024-25 Enrollment Period isn't open until Open Enrollment begins.

**What are ways to fast-track enrollment for kindergartners?**

Please reach out to the Enrollment Department at [enrollment@basisschools.org](mailto:enrollment@basisschools.org) and they will be able to answer your questions.

**Do previous BASIS students have priority?**

Yes, there is a Previously Attended priority in AZ for children who previously attended a BASIS Charter School in AZ, left in good standing, and met requirement for promotion to the next grade. A Previously Attended form must be submitted and approved when applying.

**What is the tuition for Arizona students?**

There is a fee for full day Kindergarten.

## **Student Support**

**Do you have the IEP for students at the elementary level? How do you help 4th grader with learning differences/special needs? Do you provide services?**

Yes. BASIS Charter Schools are public schools that provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities who are currently eligible, or are determined eligible, to receive special education and related services. BASIS Charter Schools comply with all aspects of federal and state civil rights and disability laws, and we are committed to ensuring that all students who are eligible for special education and related services receive them. If you have specific questions about Special Education at a BASIS Charter School, please contact the Special Education Coordinator at your school and they will be happy to assist you.

## Other

### **Can students have their phone at school?**

Each school has their own cell phone policy, but most commonly we ask that cell phones stay in the locker during class.

### **Do middle schoolers have a "snack" recess? How long is their lunch? (We are looking at Tucson North.)**

Lunch and recess specifics will vary by school and grade. Please consider scheduling a tour at BASIS Tucson North for more specific questions!

[https://enrollbasis.com/events/list/?tribe\\_eventcategory%5B0%5D=61](https://enrollbasis.com/events/list/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=61)

### **Are there organized sports at Tucson North? Ex. Middle School basketball team?**

Extracurricular and organized sports vary by school. To get specific information about BASIS Tucson North, you may consider scheduling a tour. They will be able to answer more specific questions about extracurricular programs and sports.

<https://enrollbasis.com/events/>

### **Do you provide snack and lunch to the kindergarten kids or do parents provide it for them when they go to school?**

At most campuses we do not provide lunch for our students. We do offer a lunch program at BASIS Phoenix South and our Baton Rouge locations.

### **Do you have early and after care programs?**

Yes. BASIS Charter Schools offer the Early Bird and Late Bird programs to assist parents/guardians whose schedules do not align with the schools' scheduled start and end times.

The Early Bird program serves parents/guardians whose days begin earlier than the school start time. During Early Bird, staff members supervise students in designated areas of the school. While our staff members do monitor students' safety and general well-being, we do not provide organized instruction or recreation during this time. Students are still expected to follow all school rules.

The Late Bird program is a fee-based, after-school program that serves parents/guardians whose days end later than the school end time. During Late Bird,

staff members supervise students in designated areas of the school. The Late Bird program is structured, so students have time to do homework, read, make up tests, etc.

For specific details about times and any fees you can contact the school you are interested in attending.

**Do the kids wear uniforms?**

No, uniforms are not required at any BASIS Charter School.

**Has the location of BASIS Phoenix North been decided?**

No, we have not announced a location for the BASIS campus in north Phoenix.

**Are there clubs and extracurriculars after school?**

BASIS Charter Schools offer extracurricular activities to enrich our students' academic experience. Each school aligns its activities to the unique interests of the student body, therefore activities will vary from school-to-school. Clubs and extracurricular activities could include Music, Art, Dance, Orchestra/Band, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Minecraft, Coding, and Chess—just to name a few! Our middle and high school students are able to participate in charter association sports leagues and have the opportunity to test their skills against other schools inside and outside of our network. Please contact your local BASIS Charter School for specific information.

**When can we have a tour of the school if accepted?**

Yes! You can schedule a tour of a BASIS Charter School at any time. Schedule a school tour: <https://enrollbasis.com/events/>

**Is Building Blocks Preschool only at Basis Scottsdale main campus?**

Building Blocks Preschool is its own entity. Located at 12001 E Shea Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85259

**If a kindergartner starts with half day, is the option to move to full day always available?**

There is an option to choose full day, but you will need to contact your desired campus to inquire if that option is always available.