



THE EARLY LIGHT ACADEMY

The Early Light Academy is a public charter school which has been granted approval by the Utah State Board of Education. Opening Fall 2009 in Daybreak, the Early Light Academy will accept kindergarten through eighth grade. The ninth grade will be added in Fall 2010. The school will cover a 58,000 square foot space and will be comprised of two separate buildings with 30 classrooms on a six-acre site. The Early Light Academy is a non-profit organization.

Charter schools operate on three basic principles:

Choice. Charter schools give families an opportunity to pick the school most suitable for their child's educational well-being. Teachers choose to create and work at charter schools because there they can directly shape the best working and learning environment for their students and themselves. Likewise, charter sponsors choose to authorize schools that are likely to best serve the needs of the students in a particular community.

Accountability. Charter schools are judged on how well they meet the student-achievement goals established by their charter contract. Charter schools must also show that they can perform according to rigorous fiscal and managerial standards. In addition, they are required to comply with all state and federal student accountability standards, including state-mandated testing.

Autonomy. A board of directors governs charter schools such as the Early Light Academy. Charter schools have one board for one school as opposed to one board for an entire school district with complex and diverse needs. This allows for autonomy and the focusing of both personnel and fiscal resources towards the goals of one school. This structure enables charter-school leaders to focus on setting and reaching high academic standards for their students. The board of directors for the Early Light Academy is comprised of parents who are responsible for making policy decisions that are in line with the school's mission.

What is the mission of Early Light Academy?

The mission of the Early Light Academy is to deliver a high-quality education with a deep, rich, and engaging curriculum utilizing effective instructional techniques and emphasizing history, taking our students from the Stone Age to the Space Age, to the Information Age and beyond.

What is the role of parent volunteers?

Parent involvement is a crucial element in student success. The Early Light Academy asks that academy families volunteer a minimum of 35 hours per academic year. In addition, all parents will become voting members of the Student, Parent, Teacher Organization (SPTO). The SPTO will elect an executive committee and chairpersons to be involved in such activities as fundraising, volunteer coordination, etc.

When will the online lottery/enrollment process begin?

The enrollment process will begin in combination with the Parent Information Meeting held on Thursday evening (Nov. 6) at the Daybreak Community Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in Conference Room B.

The steps to successful enrollment are as follows:

1. Log on to earlylightacademy.org.
2. Click on **enroll now**. Note the lottery dates located on the enrollment page.
3. Complete the online enrollment form.
4. Click **submit** at bottom of page. You must accept application terms.
5. Print the confirmation page for your records.
6. The lottery will be run on selected dates found on the enrollment page. (See step 2)
7. You will be notified by email with your next step for registration if you are chosen.

Will a dress code be required?

Students at ELA will adhere to a dress code. The purpose of the Early Light Academy's dress-code policy is to promote school spirit, prevent socio-economic discrimination, and create a learning environment free of unnecessary distractions. Detailed policy is posted on our website.

Will the school year be similar to those of other schools in the area?

The Early Light Academy will be on a modified traditional school year with 180 instructional days, the first day of school beginning each year in late August.

How can I help before the school opens?

As the facility approaches completion, we will be actively seeking additional volunteers to ensure the school is ready to welcome students in Fall 2009. Please visit our website to volunteer.

What is the facility equipped for and what advantages does the building itself offer?

- At full capacity, the total enrollment will be at 750 students in kindergarten through ninth grades. Classroom size is not to exceed 25 students with three classrooms per grade. The school will employ 30 teachers and additional administration and staff.
- The facility is equipped with one dedicated computer lab, two mobile computer labs, a library (2,600 square feet), breakout rooms for additional learning spaces, a cafeteria, and an indoor gymnasium for physical education. The kindergarten is located in a separate wing with its own play area.
- Each classroom will include a wireless computer and SmartBoard technology to accommodate teaching. Outdoor planting and teaching areas will also be available to enhance student learning.
- The campus hosts separate buildings for the elementary and junior high students, with unconventional creative and exploratory-play spaces as well as a regulation-sized soccer field.
- The facility design takes advantage of passive solar heat, incorporates evaporative cooling to save energy, and utilizes daylighting, which has been shown to increase student learning.
- The indoor gymnasium's displacement air system eliminates odors and improves air quality.
- Low VOC paints and materials with high-recycled content are utilized throughout both buildings.

Who is the Early Light Academy working with to ensure the success of the school?

Volunteers. Numerous individuals have generously dedicated a substantial amount of time to the success of the Early Light Academy. Volunteer efforts will be an essential component in the ongoing operations of the school. Individuals who wish to volunteer may do so on our website.

K12 Inc. A technology-based education company, K12 Inc. is the leading provider of K-12 curriculum and online education programs. K12 provides its curriculum and academic services to online schools, traditional classrooms, blended school programs, and directly to families. Over 52,000 students in 17 states are enrolled in online public schools that use the K12 program. K12 Inc. also operates the K12 International Academy, an accredited, diploma-granting online private school serving students worldwide. K12's mission is to provide any child the curriculum and tools to maximize success in life, regardless of geographic, financial, or demographic circumstances. More information can be found at www.K12.com.

Atlas Architects. A studio based architectural design practice, Atlas Architects Inc. seeks creative solutions to help their clients create unique environments. Atlas employs a strong background in the language and methods of building construction to transform ideas into built reality. Atlas approaches each project as a new opportunity to experience the built environment. Design solutions are explored through a dynamic and interactive process until their client's goals are achieved.

Academica West. Providing charter schools with comprehensive services and support, Academica West maintains a reputation of excellence. They currently serve six operational and three planned charter schools throughout Utah. Academica West ensures that each of its client charter schools is professionally managed and operates in compliance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Their job begins with facilitating the completion and timely filing of all financial and programmatic reports to proper governmental agencies. Additionally, Academica West provides human resources development, board training, payroll, annual financial audit support, professional accounting services, internal control development, and curriculum support along with a list of many other services.