



Learning Academy REPORT CARD – 2022

BASIC held its SIXTH Learning Academy this summer!

The energy and enthusiasm were palpable, and it made a difference in the lives of the students, their families and even the teachers.

History of Learning Academy BASIC's Learning Academy is a community-embedded "school without walls" summer program held at the Steele-Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center. This year, full-day classes began July 7, 2022 and continued for four weeks, providing over 100 hours of instruction in four small group settings to 43 students. This is a 33% increase in enrollment for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic, our Borrego students like many across the country, have shown major losses in math and English competencies.

- This is the SIXTH year for Reading Academy, providing intensive reading/literacy instruction to 2nd and 3rd graders who needed a boost to achieve grade level proficiency.
- This is the FIFTH year for English Language Development (ELD).
- This is the FOURTH year for MATH classes for middle school students. Middle School is when students falter, influencing their life-long learning and earning trajectories.
- This is the SECOND year for a writing class for middle school students.

Program Objectives

All students will:

- improve their performance measured by pre- and post-testing and standardized tests. 35 – 50% of our students will reach their grade equivalent on a standardized test
- develop positive attitudes toward reading or math or English and develop a love of learning
- demonstrate greater than 95% daily attendance.

2022 Outcomes: 43 students enrolled: **39 achieved the attendance goal;** (7 missed final days due to Covid)

- **3rd Grade Class:** 100% of 3rd grade reading/literacy students **grew** in word fluency; no students scored above 50% pre-test but 4 were at 75% or above post-test. **88% grew** in passage fluency (passage fluency = ability to read accurately, smoothly and with expression)
- **Math Class:** 36% of math students **grew** on grade level Common Core assessment; students practiced addition, subtraction, multiplication and division daily, demonstrating improvement.
- **ELD Class:** 33% of the English Language Development students improved reading comprehension; in testing for writing about academic information 3 students earned full points.
- **Writing Class:** 100% of students got an improved score post-test using an argumentative writing prompt, **83% reduced punctuation** errors or had none, 100% **decreased spelling** errors or had none. Students started off paragraphs with strong topic sentences for the 2nd assessment. Many students made use of graphic organizers and thoughtfully planned their response.

Feedback...

From their school teachers and administrators...

- *“I have seen them (Learning Academy students in elementary school) portray confidence in reading and participating in class.”*
- *“I have heard positive feedback of student’s writing abilities...and increased interest, with improved ability with adding specific details.”*

Family Engagement Programs

With financial support from the Borrego Springs Unified School District, BASIC engaged the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) to provide family engagement programming for the parents of Learning Academy students. Parent engagement is one key to students’ success in the classroom. This 12 hour program has been proven to be effective in educating, empowering and inspiring parents of K-12 children to take an active role in encouraging and enabling their children to: stay in school; improve academic performance; and develop healthy and constructive relationships with teachers and administrators. 30 parents enrolled and 27 completed the classes. Covid caused cancellation of the final session for dialogue with school administration and graduation activities. Pre- and post-program survey data showed that these parents learned and benefited from the program.

Why BASIC holds Learning Academy

More than 80% of Borrego's third graders do not read at grade level. Children spend their early school years (grades 1 to 3) learning basic literacy skills. After grade 3 they use those literacy skills to learn everything else. Children who do not read at grade level by the end of grade 3 get further and further behind in subsequent grades. They rarely close the gap and are at high risk for dropping out of school. The same is true for math in the middle school years. English is not the first language for 89% of Borrego’s students. Many are long-term English Language Learners who need to increase vocabulary, gain fluency, understand composition structure, and improve writing.

Structure

A trained teacher and instructional aide lead each of the small classes (10-12 students/class). Testing data and best teaching practices are used to individualize instruction. Classes are intensive but fun, purposely not replicating the regular school setting. Students are given the opportunity to shine in a small group setting while increasing skills and developing a love of learning. A headmaster is also present to manage all administrative issues including, again this year, repetitive Covid testing in the last days.

Other key features that define the Learning Academy include:

- Door-to-door bus service
- Free hot breakfast and lunch every day
- Free books for the students' personal home libraries
- Free T-shirts and backpacks to build identity and pride
- Incentives for perfect attendance including award of a laptop

BASIC's Learning Academy 2022 Donor Honor Roll

BASIC thanks our many donors, especially these exceptional Learning Academy contributors –

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UCI Steele-Burnand Anza-Borrego
Desert Research Center



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Jim Dice
Desert Spirit, Cristina Serrentino

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