



Dave Dau, Executive Director

GOOD FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY
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Thank you for your interest in Good Foundations Academy (GFA)! We hope you find the following information to be helpful and informative. Please feel free to visit our website at www.gfautah.org for more information and the entire parent handbook. "Like" us on Facebook to receive school-wide notifications.

GFA is represented by a "Guardian" mascot. To help students understand the principles behind the GFA Guardians mascot, the GFA Shield is used as a visual logo to represent the school. The "guardian symbol" and the accompanying shield reflect Good Foundation Academy's philosophy of the seven foundation stones as follows:

GFA Guardians show respect and self-control in all they do. Students are willing to be warriors and fight for what is right; therefore, they practice integrity and citizenship. Guardians are responsible to guard and protect, showing perseverance when times are tough. Guardians practice cooperation with each other to keep peace in our school and community.

At GFA, we not only teach and reinforce our foundation stones, but we expect our students to model those expectations!

Daily Schedule:

AM Kindergarten

Mon-Thurs 8am-11 am
 Friday 8am-10 am

PM Kindergarten

M-Thurs 12:10 pm-3:10pm
 Friday 11am-1pm

Grades 1-6

Mon-Thurs 8am-3:10pm
 Friday 8am-1pm

You will need an Aspire/SIS Account to check your student's grades. To set up a username and password please use the following link.

<https://goodfoundations.usoe-dcs.org/Login.aspx>

Attendance:

Tardy and Early Check-outs

Because the focus at GFA is on academic excellence and character, regular attendance is a core expectation. We have found that students cannot be successful academically if they are not in class for instruction. We understand that students have to go to appointments. We simply ask that you plan as many of them as possible outside of the regular school day.

School starts at 8:00 am. 'Meet and Greet', in the gym, runs from 8:00-8:10 am. This is an important part of building our GFA culture. During meet and greet we all join in the Pledge of Allegiance, GFA Pledge and recite the Foundation Stone of the week. In addition, we recognize students, celebrate our successes and pass on important information. Because we do this in meet and greet we don't have to interrupt our teachers during our regular school day. Parents should see this as an essential part of our school day.

If arriving after 8:10 am, parents/guardians must come into the office to check-in your student(s). They will be marked as tardy. Please do not park in the driving lane in front of the school doors as this blocks access to our parking lot. Parents/guardians who check out their student early must show a picture ID in person. We will not send students out to parents who are waiting in their car.

Students will be released at 3:10 pm unless they are participating in our after school program.

Absences

The State of Utah holds public schools accountable for excessive absenteeism. Excessive absenteeism is defined by the State of Utah as any student missing more than ten days in a single school year. As a result, GFA takes attendance very seriously. Parents/guardians must provide a valid excuse for absences. Failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unexcused". However, excessive absences- more than 10 absences in a single school year- are discouraged even if they are excused. We understand that things happen and kids do get sick. We just need you to understand that regular attendance is essential to your student's academic success.

Student absences may be submitted online, or reported by telephone or email. Please contact the office by 4:00 pm on the day of absence, for each day of absence. If a student is absent more than 2 consecutive days, we require a doctor's excuse.

Please use one of the following three options to excuse your student.

1. Online: http://www.gfautah.org/Excuse_Student_Absence.html and click on the “Excuse Student” quick link
2. Email: attendance@gfautah.org
3. Telephone: (801) 393-2950

Extended Absences for 3 or more days:

We require parents/guardians to fill out a form for extended non-health related absences. This form can be obtained in the office. This form should be completed two weeks before the anticipated absence begins and must be approved by the GFA Director. This two week period allows the Director to follow up with any questions he might have and it allows the teacher time to put together materials for your student.

Specials Make Up Days:

If your student(s) is absent they will be required to make-up the Specials class (art, music, PE, library) that they missed by staying after school and attending the appropriate make up period. The following list are the days that make-ups for that special are held:

Monday- Art Tuesday- Music Wednesday- PE Thursday- Library

Making appointments:

To speak with an administrator, please call the office at 801-393-2950 to make an appointment.

FAQs

Is transportation to-and-from school provided?

Parents are responsible for transportation for their children. We strongly encourage carpooling. This is not only better for the environment but makes the traffic flow around our school more manageable and efficient.

To drop off your student(s) use the lane directly in front of the school.

Pickup is in the back of the school according to your designated carpool sign. Please inquire in the office for a carpool assignment.

What role do parents play?

Parent volunteers are an integral part of GFA's success. Families are encouraged to volunteer 30 hours per year to support our students. There is a laptop computer in the office for parents to sign in and log their hours. Some volunteer opportunities include:

- Volunteering as a room parent for a student's classroom
- Participating in the Guardian Committee (PTO)
- Assisting with counting Box Tops
- Volunteering at book fairs
- Attending field trips and special events
- Supervising the Uniform Closet
- Helping with Musical, Field Day, Art Festival, and APEX Fun Run
- Other service projects

Does GFA offer free and reduced lunch?

GFA participates in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Please review our lunch menu page on our website for more information.

Setting Up a Lunch Account

Lunches do not have to be ordered ahead of time, but students do need to have a balance in their account in order to receive lunch. School lunch costs \$2.85 per student. All payments must be done online. We do not accept lunch money in the office. You can set up an account at the link below, and payment will be deducted from your account each time your student gets a lunch. An e-mail will automatically be sent to you when your balance is low. Lunch payments will be processed each day at 4:30pm so please pay at least 24 hours in advance.

One milk or juice is included with each school lunch, however any student, with school lunch or home lunch, may purchase milk or juice for 25 cents. The money is given to the lunchroom aide as students go through the lunch line. Students cannot use their lunch account to buy an extra milk or juice.

Students will be allowed to reach a -\$6.00 balance before being offered a free back-up lunch, which consists of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk. To avoid this please keep a positive balance in your child's account or send a lunch from home.

Use the following link to set up an account. You will need to contact the school to obtain your student's lunch number. <https://secureinstantpayments.com/sip/?ID=23100>

Are there programs/activities available after school?

GFA offers a popular array of free after-school activities. They are coordinated and supervised by teachers and staff, and parents are encouraged to volunteer.

These activities are open to all students in grades one through sixth provided the student maintains appropriate academic and character standards. However, students must register for these activities ahead of time. When programs exceed capacity, a lottery process will be put in place to determine who can be registered. We will send out flyers and emails in advance to inform you of where and when sign-ups will be held. In the past GFA has offered the following after-school activities: Homework Club, Indoor fitness, Basketball, Soccer, Choir, School Musical, Drama, Art (group and independent), Lego Club, Harry Potter Club, Rubik's Cube Club, Origami Club.

We strongly encourage students who participate in after-school programs to register at Explorer's Academy. Explorer's Academy is not an extension of GFA, however they are a valuable partner. After school programs end at 4:20 and our front office closes promptly at 4:30. In the event that there is an emergency and you are unable to pick up your student from the after school program they will be allowed to go to Explorer's Academy so long as they are registered ahead of time. This option can ensure communication between you and your student if an emergency arises. Parents who are interested in registering their student at Explorer's Academy can pick up registration papers at GFA's front office.

Does GFA offer religious instruction?

GFA is a public school and follows the laws and regulations outlined by the Utah State Board of Education in regard to religious instruction. The teaching of character is an essential mission of GFA. However, we believe character education is not exclusive to any one religion. GFA uses Core Knowledge curriculum in every grade level. This curriculum includes opportunities to learn about the impact of various religions and religious activities in history. This curriculum, and the lessons contained within, are in accordance with US Constitutional Law, the laws of the State of Utah, and the guidelines of the Utah State Board of Education.

Families who wish to release their children from school to attend non-denominational religious instruction twice a week, for 45-minutes, may choose to do so. Bible Explorers, sponsored by [Explorer's Christian Academy](#), a separate facility not affiliated with GFA, offers religious instruction for a fee. Those students who are not released to receive private religious instruction, will receive non-religious character instruction on campus.

Where is the Lost and Found located?

The lost and found is located by the adult bathrooms next to the cafeteria. We encourage students to check the lost and found area regularly. We strongly encourage that all clothing (sweaters, jackets, coats, gloves, scarves, etc) along with school lunch boxes are labeled with your student's name. If an item is lost, you will have until the first Friday of every month to reclaim it.

Our 6th graders are in charge of gathering and sorting all items. If they are labeled we try our best to return the item to its rightful owner. If they are not labeled, they will be donated the following Monday to a local thrift store.

What is the protocol for withdrawing my student?

If, for any reason, you need to withdraw your student from school during the school year you are required to come to the main office and fill out a withdrawal form. You are also required to turn in library books and/or pay overdue fines before student's last day of attendance.