





W E L C O M E T O

# Outcomes Magazine

## 2022–2023



BASIS Peoria graduate

BASIS Peoria  
Primary student

“...the BASIS Charter Schools network has had the pleasure and the privilege of educating students for twenty-five years.

With our eyes set on the future, we eagerly anticipate educating, supporting, and celebrating the successes of generations to come.”



**This issue of *Outcomes* comes to you in the 25th academic year in our network's history**, which commenced in August 2022 and culminates in May 2023. In this issue, we will take a look back at our history of raising the standards of student learning to the highest international levels, while also looking forward as we consider our growth, achievements, and future endeavors.

We like to talk about our humble beginnings in Tucson, Arizona in 1998. But the truth is that even then, from the very start, our academic program was a force to be reckoned with. BASIS Tucson was a disruptor in the then-small-but-burgeoning public charter school movement – and as we near a quarter-century of delivering our unique flavor of education to any student who wants it – we continue to disrupt the education sphere.

If you're familiar with us, you know that what we call our 'secret sauce' sets us apart: our acclaimed and ever-improving BASIS Charter School Curriculum, delivered by subject expert teachers who are given the freedom to use their wisdom and creativity to present academic content in a way that best suits their students.

In the 2022–23 school year we've opened five new schools, bringing our total to 37 in Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, D.C. The data and stories to follow will show what has remained constant amidst this tremendous growth — our dedication to a world-class curriculum which has helped produce some of the finest scholars in the nation.

Here's the thing: we look around at the education landscape as you do, and see most schools and districts and networks touting their curriculum, noting how much their teachers love their work, and stating that they instill in their students the desire to excel. Yes, we talk about that, too. Most educators

do. That's why people become teachers. It's a profession infused with passion, and we yearn to see it in our schools, and all schools.

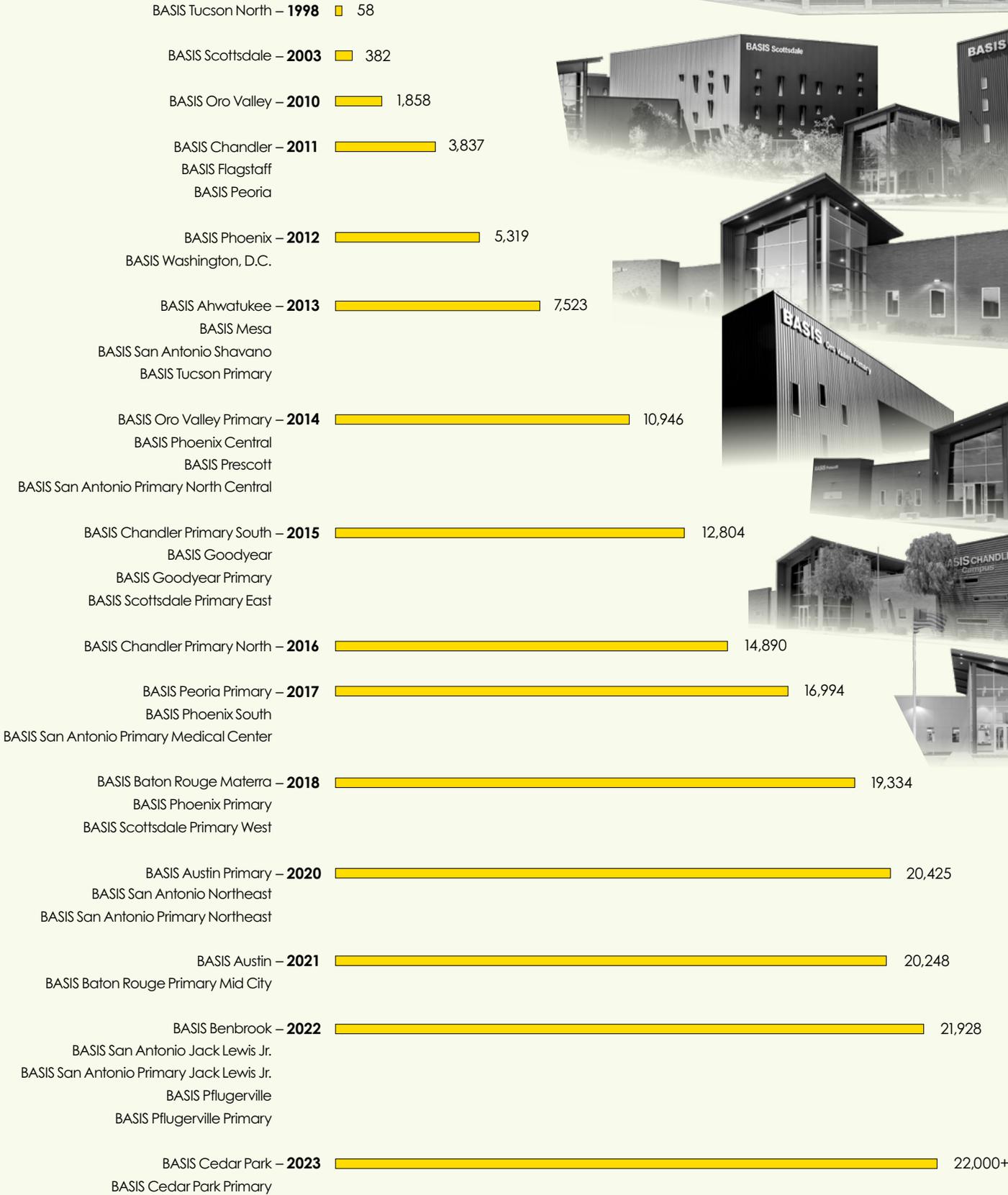
But at the end of the day, what excites every last individual across our network, including school leaders, teachers, staff, central office professionals, students, families, and supporters, is that our students perform. That's ultimately what makes BASIS Charter Schools unique: our academic program, taught by our expert teachers, leads to unique student outcomes and world class performance. The secret sauce begets a tangible and unique result. It has done exactly that for twenty-four school years so far, and is doing so again, in this twenty-fifth school year, in 2022–23.

We don't speak for other schools or for education generally, of course, and never aim to do so. But we do know for certain that our student outcomes are tangible, that our students perform – and do so, in the aggregate, better than any other district or network. That's been the bottom line from the beginning when it comes to our commitment and our vision: to be the best in the world, based upon student performance.

From the very first class of BASIS Tucson middle school students (who are now adults, with school-aged children of their own), the BASIS Charter Schools network has had the pleasure and the privilege of educating students for twenty-five years. With our eyes set on the future, we eagerly anticipate educating, supporting, and celebrating the successes of generations to come.

We hope you enjoy this 2022–23 issue of *Outcomes*, celebrating the 25th academic year of the BASIS Charter Schools network!

# BASIS Charter School Openings





# 2022 National, State, STEM, and Charter School Rankings

U.S. News & World Report

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

- #11 BASIS Chandler
- #27 BASIS Oro Valley
- #29 BASIS Scottsdale
- #30 BASIS Peoria
- #42 BASIS Flagstaff
- #54 BASIS Tucson North
- #56 BASIS Ahwatukee
- #58 BASIS Phoenix
- #66 BASIS Mesa
- #77 BASIS San Antonio Shavano
- #274 BASIS Washington, D.C.

## NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

- #2 BASIS Chandler
- #4 BASIS Oro Valley
- #5 BASIS Scottsdale
- #6 BASIS Peoria
- #7 BASIS Flagstaff
- #9 BASIS Tucson North
- #10 BASIS Ahwatukee
- #12 BASIS Phoenix
- #13 BASIS Mesa
- #17 BASIS San Antonio Shavano
- #68 BASIS Washington, D.C.

## NATIONAL STEM SCHOOLS

- #3 BASIS Scottsdale
- #4 BASIS Chandler
- #5 BASIS Peoria
- #12 BASIS Oro Valley
- #15 BASIS Tucson North
- #16 BASIS Phoenix
- #25 BASIS San Antonio Shavano
- #77 BASIS Flagstaff
- #164 BASIS Ahwatukee
- #187 BASIS Mesa

## ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOLS

- #1 BASIS Chandler
- #2 BASIS Oro Valley
- #4 BASIS Scottsdale
- #5 BASIS Peoria
- #7 BASIS Flagstaff
- #8 BASIS Tucson North
- #9 BASIS Ahwatukee
- #10 BASIS Phoenix
- #11 BASIS Mesa

## BASIS Chandler

- #11 in National Rankings
- #1 in Arizona High Schools
- #2 in Charter High Schools
- #4 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Oro Valley

- #27 in National Rankings
- #2 in Arizona High Schools
- #4 in Charter High Schools
- #12 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Scottsdale

- #29 in National Rankings
- #4 in Arizona High Schools
- #5 in Charter High Schools
- #3 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Peoria

- #30 in National Rankings
- #5 in Arizona High Schools
- #6 in Charter High Schools
- #5 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Flagstaff

- #42 in National Rankings
- #7 in Arizona High Schools
- #7 in Charter High Schools
- #77 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Tucson North

- #54 in National Rankings
- #8 in Arizona High Schools
- #9 in Charter High Schools
- #15 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Ahwatukee

- #56 in National Rankings
- #9 in Arizona High Schools
- #10 in Charter High Schools
- #164 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Phoenix

- #58 in National Rankings
- #10 in Arizona High Schools
- #12 in Charter High Schools
- #16 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Mesa

- #66 in National Rankings
- #11 in Arizona High Schools
- #13 in Charter High Schools
- #187 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS San Antonio Shavano

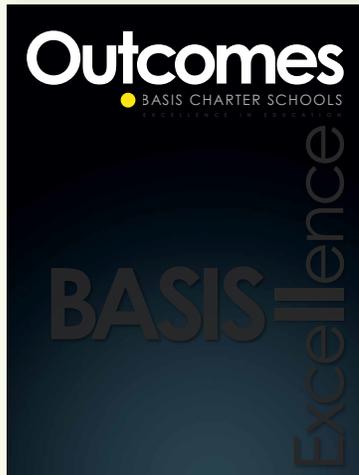
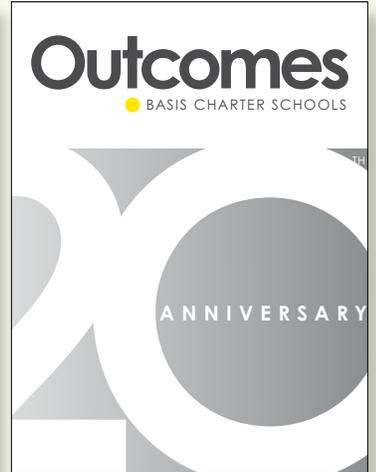
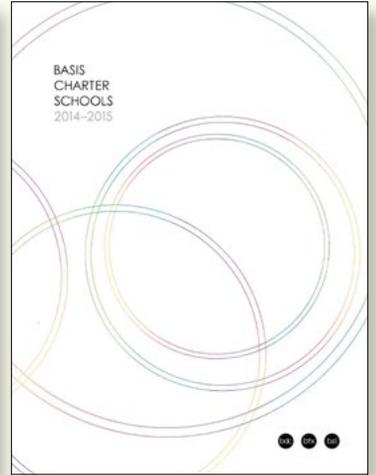
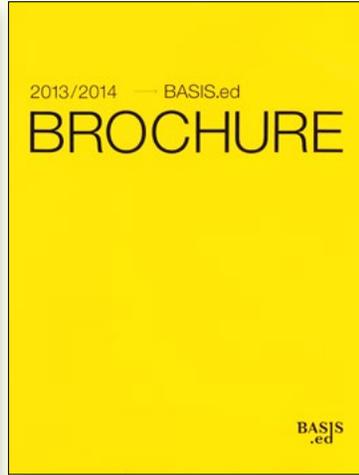
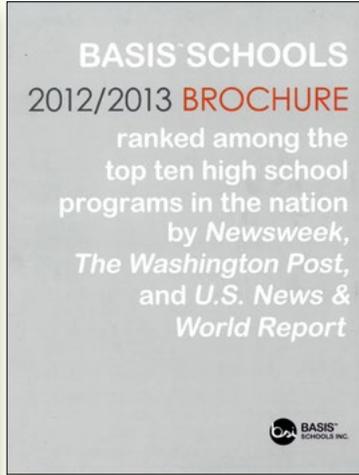
- #77 in National Rankings
- #8 in Texas High Schools
- #17 in Charter High Schools
- #25 in STEM High Schools

## BASIS Washington, D.C.

- #274 in National Rankings
- #3 District of Columbia High Schools
- #68 in Charter High Schools



# Outcomes Covers Over the Years



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# The History of the BASIS Charter Schools Network, 1998–2023



First school logo for BASIS Tucson

First BASIS Charter School opens with 58 students and six teachers; classes were held at Temple Emanu-El in Tucson.



BASIS Tucson graduates its first class.



BASIS Tucson Owls basketball team with championship trophy.

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

20



Co-founders Dr. Michael and Olga Block

In 1998, economists and educators Michael and Olga Block found themselves dissatisfied with the local educational options available for their middle school-aged daughter. They were unable to find a public school in Tucson that offered truly challenging academics on par with the highest international standards.

The Blocks decided to take advantage of Arizona's then-new charter school law and open their own school that would combine the rigor of Asian and European education with the American spirit of inquiry and discovery. The BASIS Charter Schools network was born shortly thereafter.

Student population:

**58**

Student population:

**382**



BASIS Scottsdale opens.

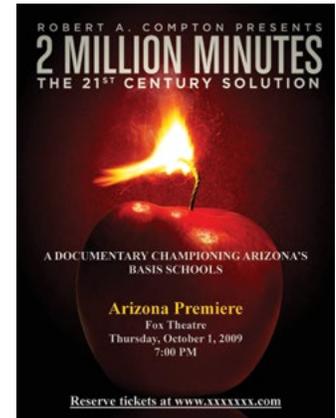


Aerial view of first BASIS Scottsdale campus

BASIS Scottsdale's new building in 2007



Tucson premiere poster for Documentary on BASIS Charter Schools, 2009



BASIS Scottsdale after renovations



BASIS Scottsdale moves into brand new facility.



First BASIS Scottsdale campus

The first donor recognition wall showcasing the founding contributors of the Annual Teacher Fund, 2008-09



Premier of "2 Million Minutes: The 21st Century Solution" - a documentary about global education featuring BASIS Charter Schools

Opening of our third campus, BASIS Oro Valley, which begins our rapid growth in Arizona

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

BASIS Tucson ranked #3 high school in the U.S. by Newsweek.

BASIS Tucson receives first national ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

BASIS Tucson ranked #1 high school in the U.S. by Newsweek.

The Annual Teacher Fund (then called the Master Teacher Campaign) begins at BASIS Scottsdale.



BASIS Tucson [North] showing Newsweek's #1 High School ranking status.



BASIS Tucson North's new campus



Craig Barrett speaks at the first Annual Teacher Fund event (then called Master Teacher Campaign), April 2010

Student population:  
**1,000**

BASIS Mesa



BASIS Ahwatukee, BASIS Mesa, and the first primary school, BASIS Tucson Primary, open. First Texas charter school opens, BASIS San Antonio Shavano.

BASIS Washington, D.C.



BASIS Washington, D.C. opens as the first BASIS Charter School outside of Arizona. BASIS Phoenix opens and BASIS Tucson North opens new campus. Student population reaches 5,319 across nine schools.

BASIS Charter Schools begin participating in two major international programs, International Schools' Assessment and AP Capstone™. BASIS Oro Valley Primary, BASIS Phoenix Central, and BASIS Prescott open. Second Texas school opens, BASIS San Antonio Primary North Central. BASIS Charter Schools network grows to 16 schools.

BASIS Phoenix Central



Student population:  
**16,994**

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2011 BASIS Chandler, BASIS Flagstaff, and BASIS Peoria open. BASIS Scottsdale and BASIS Tucson participate in the pilot of the OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA). BASIS Tucson receives national ranking by *The Washington Post*, #11.



BASIS Chandler

BASIS Chandler Primary South, BASIS Scottsdale Primary East, and BASIS Goodyear open.

Student population:  
**3,837**

Student population:  
**7,523**

BASIS Chandler Primary North opens. BASIS Charter Schools dominate *US News and Washington Post* national rankings.

BASIS Phoenix, BASIS Peoria Primary, BASIS Phoenix South, and BASIS San Antonio Primary Medical Center open

New campuses for: BASIS Peoria, BASIS Scottsdale, BASIS Chandler

Student population:  
**22,000+**

BASIS Baton Rouge Primary –Mid City Campus



BASIS sweeps the top three spots in the 2017 *US News* national rankings, an incredible feat that the network would eclipse the following year. In addition, 3 BASIS Charter Schools ranked in *Washington Post's* top 5.

The second school opens in Louisiana, BASIS Baton Rouge Primary Mid City. BASIS Austin opens

BASIS Austin Primary and BASIS San Antonio Northeast open

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

In the *US News* rankings, the five best schools in the U.S. are BASIS Charter Schools. No network has ever ranked #1 through #5 before or since. Seven of our campuses rank in the top 20, among ten campuses with national recognition.

BASIS Phoenix Primary and BASIS Scottsdale Primary West open. First Louisiana charter school opens, BASIS Baton Rouge Materra. New campuses for BASIS Phoenix and BASIS San Antonio Shavano.

In August 2023, the network plans to open BASIS Cedar Park and BASIS Cedar Park Primary near Austin, Texas.

BASIS Benbrook, BASIS Pflugerville Primary, BASIS Pflugerville, BASIS San Antonio Primary Jack Lewis Jr., and BASIS San Antonio Jack Lewis Jr. open.



BASIS Baton Rouge Materra



BASIS Phoenix



Construction of BASIS Pflugerville



# Reflections 1998–2003



## Olga Block

(Academic years 1998–99 through 2002–03)

The idea that the 2022–23 school year is the 25th academic year of the BASIS Charter Schools network is still, in one way, quite surprising, but in another, right on time. When we applied for the charter in 1997, and, once granted, when we

planned the opening of the campus in 1998, we knew the idea behind BASIS Tucson was solid. We had a feeling that raising student standards would be well received – maybe not by everyone in Tucson with school-aged children like us, but by enough to operate our campus, and to do so at a high academic level.

When people write about the beginning of BASIS, they usually write that Michael and I were looking for a great school for our youngest daughter. Our three older children were already in college, or beyond college, but our youngest needed more than what was available. What we usually write is that, we needed a school because we were distressed about the low expectations and lack of academic substance in the choices we had.

That is true. However, what we often gloss over in that early description is that, while we aimed to start a school with higher expectations that was rich with academic substance, we didn't just want to replicate a European or Asian campus. Instead, we wanted those high expectations and academic substance combined with the incredible encouragement, high spirits, give-and-take, and creativity of the American classroom. Incredible academics? Yes! Raising the standards? Yes! Teaching students to have educational autonomy? Yes! But the vibe and spirit of the American classroom, and the fervor and creativity of American teachers, also had to be a part of BASIS Tucson.

And it was!

Look: we were educators. My experience was such that I knew what a formidable education, academic and classroom discipline, and accountability should look like. Michael also knew this from his experience. We knew that many of the middle school students we enrolled would respond to a challenge by meeting or exceeding it. Would every student? No. But we also knew that good educators and an atmosphere of curiosity, responsibility, and



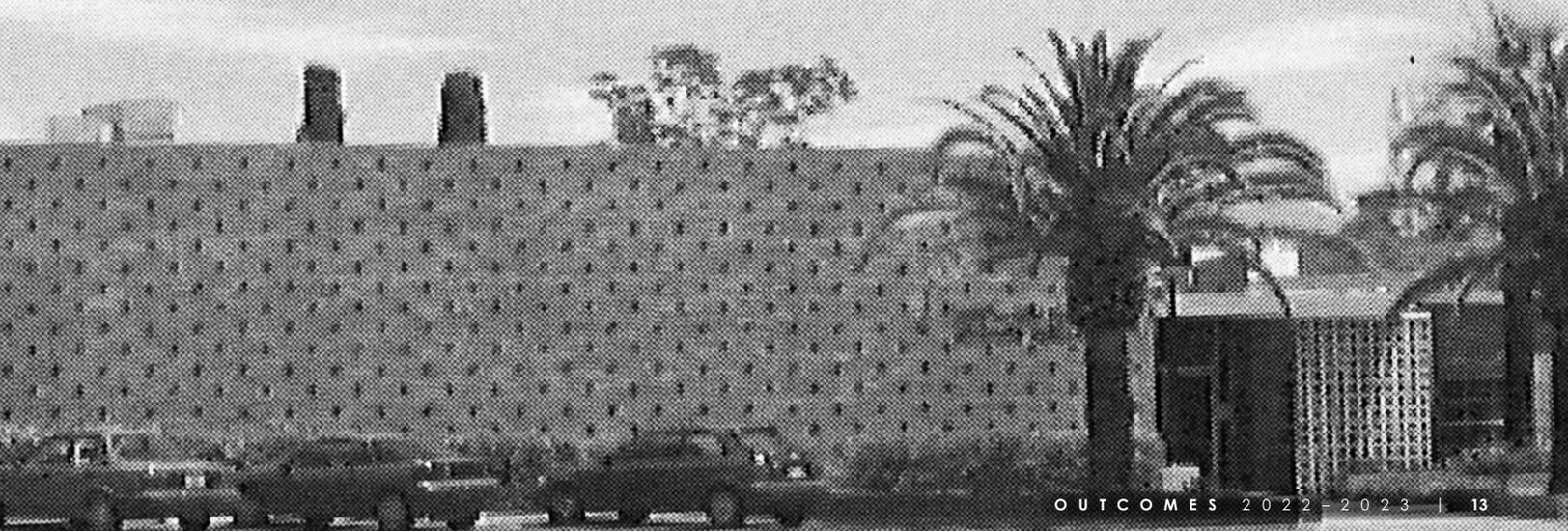


"...we believed what we told all those other parents, that **their children could learn at a higher level.** We knew they could. Then the teachers, students, and families believed they could. And then, they did!"



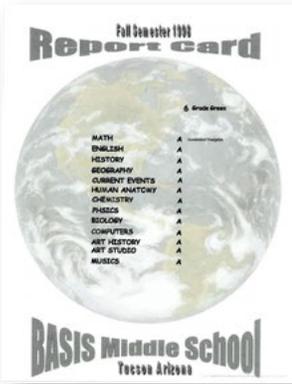
Original BASIS Tucson students

Photo of the Temple Emanu-El, Tucson where the first BASIS Charter School opened in 1998



high expectations could help us meet every type of student where they were, and bring them on this academic journey that, for our community in Tucson, was truly brand new.

There were days leading up to the start of that first academic year when we wondered if this endeavor would work. Like the days when we canvassed parking lots, placing flyer after flyer on the windshield of every car. Or the days during the picketing and protests by the residents who lived near the synagogue in whose basement we would hold those initial classes. Or the



Images of very first report cards, 1998

other days during the many meetings – what we now call “info sessions” –when some prospective parents looked at us as if they didn’t quite get it. We didn’t wonder ‘if this would work’ because of the academics – we knew the educational foundation was strong and the idea was right. But beyond what would happen in classrooms was the operational work – just getting the school off the ground. We not only had to let other parents in our community know this new option existed, we had to convince enough of them to give it a try. Finding students was one thing. Finding the right teachers was another thing. And finding a place to serve as a school building was yet another. Ultimately, pulling all these things together was both a marathon and a sprint.

We wondered as we worked, in those pre-opening days, when all the external noise would quiet, when

we would reach the point where we’d have our students and our teachers, and we could simply teach, and run the school, and simply be BASIS Tucson.

Yes, we did reach that point, and it did quiet down, and we were able to settle into ‘doing what we do’ for the first time in the first BASIS Charter School. We got there because the idea was strong. Because the robust academics resonated not just with parents, but, more importantly, with the students in the classroom, and with the teachers teaching them. And when we opened those classrooms – filled with 58 students and six teachers in the basement of Temple Emanu-El in Tucson – the familiarity and creativity of that American spirit was still there! The only difference was that we believed what we told all those other parents, that their children could learn at a higher level. We knew they could. Then the teachers, students, and families believed they could. And then, they did!

And that quieted the skeptics. (At least for a minute or two.)

Those first five years were like running two types of races – both a marathon and a sprint, sometimes alternating, and sometimes at the same time. But they were also a race with hurdles, one after the other. So, just as we still do today, we began to assess the outcomes after each school year and then tweak our curriculum, looking at what worked well and what could work better, for both the students and teachers. We added one grade level each year – starting with middle school, and up through high

“Nothing could engage students more than that marriage of intellect and passion, and nothing has, in the two decades since!”

school. As we enrolled more students, we added more teachers, and we

began to seek and learn the best way to find professionals who were experts in their fields, but not necessarily with classroom experience. We benefited from the Arizona law which stated that charter school teachers were not required to have teacher certification, allowing us to recruit from a larger and more diverse pool. Our teaching staff ranged from

recent graduates from top colleges and universities, to former scientific researchers, investment bankers, and college professors. All of them had a passion for their academic discipline. Each of them loved being a part of something brand new in the world of education.

As we often write and speak about now, perhaps the moment we knew that BASIS Tucson was going to be a true center of academic inquiry and incredible student outcomes was when we saw the connection in the classroom. No matter how optimal our curriculum was, if teachers couldn't teach it, students wouldn't learn from it. Rather quickly, we saw the connection between our high curricular standards and the creative ways our teachers sought to convince their students of the importance and fascination of their subject matter. Nothing could engage students more than that marriage of intellect and passion, and nothing has, in the two decades since!

Michael and I did not set out to create a network. We set out to open, build, improve, and support one great school, BASIS Tucson. Now we call that school BASIS Tucson North, and all the campuses that spawned from that first campus, and grew out of those early years, the BASIS Charter Schools network.

The first graduating class at BASIS Tucson received the first-ever BASIS Diplomas in the spring of 2002. What an incredible moment that was! At the time, we hadn't begun to disrupt the education world the way we eventually would. We weren't yet ranked by *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, or any of the smaller ranking publications that would eventually deliver honors and accolades.

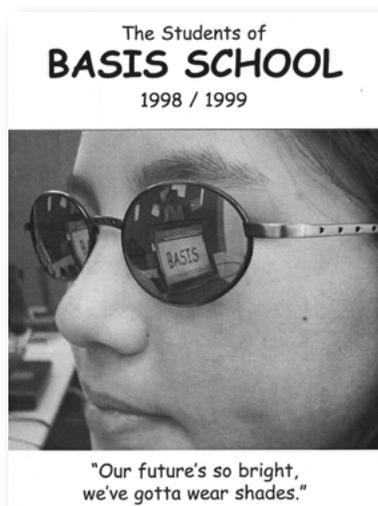
Nevertheless, there was a gleam in the eye of every person at that first graduation. The community of this small campus — teachers, families, students, and supporters of this still-new school with this outside-the-box curriculum — the first and only learning community of its kind (with no “network” in mind) — was so very proud, and deservedly so. We measure our success in student outcomes, and that first graduation was the initial ultimate outcome!

By the time 2003 arrived, BASIS Tucson was in its fifth academic year and was well known across Arizona, and another new staff at a new school called BASIS Scottsdale were getting ready to open in the fall, just eight months later. Michael and I were wearing out I-10—spending our weekdays in Tucson, with me at BASIS Tucson and Michael continuing to teach at U

of A while working on BASIS business whenever possible—and spending our weekends at BASIS Scottsdale, preparing to double the number of campuses from one to two. We thought the curriculum could be replicated but, just like in 1998, while it was a great idea on paper, would it work? Could we get a second school off the ground? We quickly saw that it would be another sprint, and another

marathon, both with hurdles, all at the same time – to continue what we began at BASIS Tucson, while doing much the same in Scottsdale.

It still wasn't a “network” of schools; BASIS was still just about one great school, and then, a second great school. Just like in year one, and the four years thereafter, we got to work, and we did what we do! And we're still doing that today.



(Above) Dedication of first BASIS Charter School yearbook to Olga Block, 1998–99

(Below) Cover of the first BASIS Charter School yearbook, 1998–99



# Reflections

## 2003–2008



**Carolyn McGarvey**

(Academic years 2003–04 through 2007–08)

This issue of *Outcomes* talks about how much the network of BASIS Charter Schools has grown and changed as we have expanded over the past twenty-five school years. However, I continue to be fascinated by just how much has stayed the same! A great deal of what we do in each

classroom, in each of our thirty-seven schools — despite necessary differences, purposeful growth, and calculated progress — is exactly what our first educators did at BASIS Tucson in 1998.

My experience at BASIS Charter Schools began like so many others: as a parent. My oldest child was a sixth grader, and our family was seeking something different.

BASIS Tucson was different!

For us, it was the exact type of difference we were looking for. My schooling in Scotland was excellent, and Michael and Olga Block were touting BASIS

Tucson as a high standards school, with a curriculum akin to the best schools in Europe and Asia.

But I am writing about the “second five years” in our network’s history, 2003–04 through 2007–08. By the fall of 2003, which is when we opened BASIS Scottsdale, our network’s second campus, BASIS Tucson was already established as one of the best schools in the state of Arizona. So many of the incredible things that our teachers do in classrooms now, we were already doing then.

I was seeing it up close, too. After starting in 1998 as a parent, and then volunteering at BASIS Tucson as a nurse — my profession — I began working for the Blocks at BASIS Tucson. Eventually, I became Head of School, leaving behind my career as a nurse to help with this incredible cutting-edge educational endeavor.

Supported by an incredible staff, enthusiastic parents, and a growing number of supporters, Michael and Olga Block chose Scottsdale as the site of the second campus. They specifically picked an area with a pretty good public school district, essentially as a test to see if our curriculum at BASIS

“Teachers smiled knowingly at each other, students had an extra spring in their steps, parents at drop off and pickup rolled down their windows and said yet again just how incredible it was. And it was incredible! This school, out of thousands of other schools, in just its tenth year of existence, is the best in the country!”

Original BASIS Tucson building proudly displaying #1 ranking status by The Washington Post



Carolyn McGarvey and 2008 BASIS Tucson graduate, Weston Akins

Senior prank at BASIS Tucson

Tucson could work there, too. As you know, it did. The first five years of BASIS Scottsdale, and the second five years of BASIS Tucson's existence, may have been the most important time period in the history of the BASIS Charter Schools network.

Here's why.

It's one thing to open a successful school. It's quite another to open a second campus in a location that is very different than the first – while utilizing the exact same cutting-edge academic program, and succeeding in much the same way.

During these years, BASIS Tucson's reputation as one of the best schools in the state continued to grow, and the support from both the teaching staff and the families of students attending was strong. It was a level of pride that's difficult to measure.

BASIS Scottsdale opened with 150 students in August, 2003, on the same day that BASIS Tucson began its sixth academic year. One hundred fifty students was three times the number of students that began at



Olga Block speaking to parents and students under a tent at BASIS Scottsdale's first day of school, 2003

BASIS Tucson. It felt like a great start, but that only reinforced the need to continue exactly what we were doing at BASIS Tucson, which meant acknowledging the positive outcomes, while not resting on those successes -- not standing still, but choosing improvement as a way to run our academic program, every day.

As the Blocks worked back and forth, in Tucson and Scottsdale, I recall the collective feeling, rather quickly after BASIS Scottsdale opened, that there was every indication that BASIS Scottsdale and its incredible staff would mirror BASIS Tucson's success. There were growing pains, of course. But — just like today — the curriculum was the curriculum, our teachers did what they do, and our second unique school, another unique campus in Arizona's educational landscape, grew up quickly.

One of the wonderful details about the BASIS Charter Schools network today became very apparent in the first several years of BASIS Scottsdale. Each of our campuses has its own culture, its own vibe, its own spirit embedded in each learning community. Yes, the BASIS Charter School Curriculum instills an academic culture that runs through every campus, and reaches beyond geography and schoolhouse walls. At the same time, each school is what the people there create. Every campus has its own culture, created, grown, and embedded by the teachers, families, and students at that school.

This became evident very quickly as BASIS Scottsdale doubled from 150 students, and then tripled its student population through the 2000's.

By 2006, our network – which we didn't refer to as a "network" yet – started to receive national recognition.

It was *Newsweek's* national ranking of BASIS Tucson that turned the spotlight on us. In the spring of 2006, in its eighth academic year, *Newsweek* ranked BASIS Tucson as the #3 high school in the nation. Our network has had nationally ranked schools every academic year since.



At that time, it was proof to others that what we were doing wasn't a fluke, and that our unconventional way of thinking about how students could be



## The Head of The Class

Public schools are ranked according to a ration devised by Jay Mathews: the number of Advanced Placement, Intl. Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school in 2007 divided by the number of graduating seniors. See all schools at 1,000 or above, the top 5 percent, at [www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com).

RANKING	SCHOOL	RATIO	LUNCH	ADP
1	BASIS Charter—Tucson, Ariz.	17.167	n/a	Yes
2	Talented and Gifted—Dallas	15.953	30%	Yes
3	Suncoast Community**—Riviera Beach, Fla.	10.387	15	Yes
4	Science/Engineering Magnet—Dallas	10.245	50.9	Yes
5	Stanton College Prep**—Jacksonville, Fla.	9.893	6	Yes
6	Preuss UCSD—La Jolla, Calif.	9.892	85	Yes
7	Academic Magnet—North Charleston, S.C.	7.314	7.3	Yes
8	Pason school for Advanced Studies**—Jacksonville, Fla.	7.132	72	No
9	Oxford Academy—Cypress, Calif.	6.784	16.3	Yes
10	International School—Bellevue, Wash.	6.717	3	Yes
11	City Honors**—Buffalo, N.Y.	6.320	23	Yes
12	International Academy—Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	6.271	<1	Yes
13	Pacific Collegiate—Santa Cruz, Calif.	6.125	n/a	Yes
14	Northside College Prep—Chicago	6.052	3.3	Yes
15	Highland Park—Dallas	6.035	0	Yes
16	H-B Woodlawn—Arlington, Va.	5.835	17	Yes
17	Eastern Sierra Academy—Bridgeport, Calif.	5.600	35	Yes
18	North Hills Prep**—Irving, Texas	5.563	9	Yes
19	Coral Reef**—Miami	5.514	37.3	No
20	Jericho—N.Y.	5.477	<1	Yes
21	Early College at Guilford—Greensboro, N.C.	5.467	4.3	Yes
22	Center for Advanced Tech—St. Petersburg, Fla.	5.446	11	Yes
23	Martin Luther King Acad. Magnet—Nashville	5.371	13	Yes
24	Hume-Fogg Academic—Nashville	5.322	9.2	Yes

MAY 26, 2008 | NEWSWEEK

educated — our resolve that students could rise to meet the challenges we set for them— wasn't going away.

In those days, educational standards were on everyone's mind – and many people in Tucson and Scottsdale had strong opinions about what we were doing and how we were doing it. The No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law in 2002 and was still in the implementation phase. In the eyes of our skeptics we still were not a sure thing. While we kept our heads down and continued to do what we do, Newsweek helped solidify our local, regional, state, and national standing with our first ranking in 2006 and again in 2007.

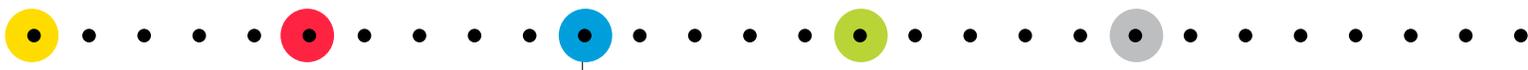
Then in 2008, that recognition scaled up another level when BASIS Tucson was ranked the #1 high school in the United States by Newsweek. It's a mildly humorous and sort of ironic custom -- with which we weren't yet familiar -- that rankings are often published during the end of the school year, the busiest time for teachers, staff, and students. And in that spring of 2008, I must say that while we had no choice but to stay focused on the busy year-end happenings, you could feel the immense pride on campus after that #1 ranking came out. Teachers smiled knowingly at each other, students had

an extra spring in their steps, parents at drop off and pickup rolled down their windows and said yet again just how incredible it was. And it was incredible! This school, out of thousands of other schools, in just its tenth year of existence, is the best in the country! (And BASIS Scottsdale wasn't far behind!)

Yes, we knew what we were doing in Tucson, and in Scottsdale, too. But that external acknowledgement was truly special. And while we weren't surprised that our program compared well with America's top schools, we couldn't help but feel gratitude. We knew those rankings were deserved. We were energized when others saw it, assessed it, and knew it, too.

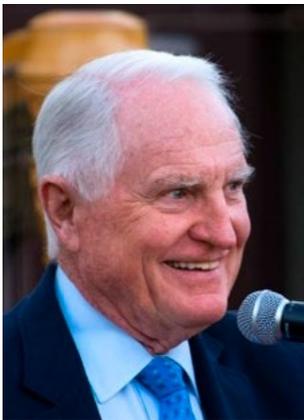
We refer to BASIS Tucson and BASIS Scottsdale as our "Legacy Schools" – and the true legacy of what we would become was born in that period, from 2003–04 to 2007–08. We refused to rest on BASIS Tucson's early success. We didn't see BASIS Scottsdale's replication of student achievement as the end game. Improvement was the constant, and we had two groups of educators, separated by two hours on I-10, who were at once teammates and rivals at sister schools, each wanting to do something as good or better than their counterpart. One successful school, then a second, and then national recognition while we kept our heads down and continued teaching students at a high level: that's precisely the reason our Legacy Schools bloomed into a thriving network. For me, it's a time that I will always cherish.

BASIS Tucson [North] receives first number 1 ranking from Newsweek, May 2008



# Reflections

## 2008–2013



### Craig Barrett

(Academic years 2008–09 through 2012–13)

When I joined BASIS Charter Schools, Inc. as Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2009, there were just two schools – the “Legacy Schools” as we call them: BASIS Tucson and BASIS Scottsdale. BASIS Tucson had recently received its first national ranking by *U.S. News & World Report*

and improved its *Newsweek* ranking to the #1 high school in the United States.

That notoriety was important because, at the time, there were many serious issues facing American education. So, I challenged the BASIS team to draw on their success and replicate the Legacy Schools’ model to increase access to BASIS Charter Schools across Arizona -- and into other states as well. It was my strongly held opinion, shared by others, that every community would benefit from a BASIS Charter School.

There were key components to the BASIS Charter School model that allowed us to replicate schools and become the highest performing school network in the nation:

- BASIS offers a highly rigorous academic program that utilizes College Board Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams to assess student achievement.

- BASIS recruits and hires teachers who possess academic degrees in the disciplines they teach – teachers who share relevant field experience and content expertise, and create an engaging learning environment.
- BASIS primary school students benefit from a two-teacher academic model, setting them up for success with the pacing and rigor of the BASIS Charter School Curriculum.
- BASIS holds everyone accountable for results. Accountability begins with baseline assessments throughout the year in primary grades. That is followed by high stakes comprehensive exams for promotion from middle school. Students ultimately demonstrate their knowledge through AP Exams that are required for high school graduation. Teachers are incentivized through performance bonuses to use the baseline assessments, pre-comp exams, and a variety of checkpoints along the way to gauge progress, make instructional adjustments, and provide additional supports to ensure students have the greatest opportunities for success. And, administrators are judged on the success of their school results in a no-excuses manner.



(Top) BASIS Oro Valley campus, 2010  
(Bottom) Carolyn McGarvey and Craig Barrett cutting the opening ribbon at BASIS Oro Valley, 2010

The results speak for themselves. During my early years as Chair, between 2009 and 2013, we opened six new BASIS Charters Schools in Arizona. We also expanded opportunities into the nation's capital with the launch of BASIS Washington, D.C. The school in Washington helped the network surpass five thousand students – a significant milestone at that time. BASIS DC has become a top-ranked school in the nation's capital itself, and in metropolitan Washington, in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings.

During this period, it became undeniable that students across the country were benefitting from the BASIS Charter School model. In addition to hitting enrollment milestones, the national rankings would continue to grow with BASIS Tucson receiving the network's first ranking by *The Washington Post*, debuting at #11 in the country. Our excellent *Post* ranks, for many of our schools, would continue until that newspaper stopped ranking schools several years ago.

Our growth in those early years, coupled with the national recognition, made it clear that we were on the right path. Additionally, by the fall of 2013, the first BASIS primary schools were in development, along with our expansion into the state of Texas.

Today, a decade and a half after I arrived at BASIS, most of the issues facing American education remain. The American K–12 system continues to be ranked in the middle tier of OECD countries. There have been many studies of the system with recommendations for improvement, but to date not much has changed. Against this backdrop, BASIS Charter Schools continue to offer something that most other schools do not: a common-sense solution to our K–12 education malaise. Our schools have a model that works, and it works because we always focus on the bottom-line school results and student outcomes. It worked in 1998 when the Blocks opened the first school. It worked in 2003 when BASIS Scottsdale started. And it continued to work when we started our rapid expansion of the BASIS Charter School network in 2010.



(Top) Image of new BASIS Scottsdale building (now BASIS Scottsdale Primary East), 2008 (Bottom) The Class of 2010 was the first sixth grade class of BASIS Scottsdale (the school served grades 6–8 in first year), 2003–04



Craig Barrett speaks at the first Annual Teacher Fund event (then called Master Teacher Campaign), April 2010

Today, our 37 campuses serve more than 20,000 students across the United States. While schools within the network jockey for the top slots, it is never a surprise to see the efforts of our teachers, administrators, and students place so many BASIS campuses among the highest nationally ranked schools. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* release in the spring of 2022, BASIS Charter Schools are 7 of the top 20 STEM schools in the U.S., 11 of the top 20 charter schools in the nation, and 8 of the top 60 schools overall nationally. For comparison purposes, there are about 25,000 high schools in the country!

The model worked in Arizona, and then in Washington, D.C., and then again in Texas, and now it's working in Louisiana.

It works in all of these places, at all of our campuses, with all of our students and teachers focusing on achieving world class results. I've stated and written it before, and I'll write it again here: the results, quite frankly, speak for themselves. BASIS Charter Schools is the top ranked school system in the United States and achieves competitive results on the level of the best schools around the world. As we said in 2009, every community can benefit from having a BASIS Charter School.



Craig Barrett speaking at Founders' Circle event

“Our schools have **a model that works**, and that has always been the bottom line.”



# Reflections

## 2013–2018



### Michael Block

(Academic years 2013–14 through 2017–18)

When I am pressed about the founding and history of BASIS Charter Schools, I often have to remind people that I am an economist. Economics, as you well know, is a social science concerned with production, distribution, consumption, and scarcity. It focuses on how individuals and organizations

optimize in the shadow of scarcity. It looks at how people, firms, and other institutions do as well as they can in spite of limited resources.

Olga and I once wrote in an *Outcomes* predecessor many years ago that as economists running these incredible charter schools, we were interested in producing the best student outcomes possible. Our focus was on giving our students the best possible education, an education based on time tested content and methodologies. Our aim was and is to produce excellent results, not to slavishly follow some current fads. That's still true, and that's why our schools succeed.

My background, and Olga's, are illustrative, but only in the sense of the mechanics of how we built our academic program, how we ultimately scaled the network up to educate as many children as we could without diluting that academic program, and — most influentially — how we assess those student outcomes relative to both student and teacher performance.

It's worth noting, with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek, that as economists, we realize that scarcity is vital as an economic concept, but there isn't a limited supply of knowledge to disseminate to students. There isn't a certain amount of intellect and know-how in any given classroom that must be distributed equitably. We don't have to divvy up what we do in a BASIS Charter School, or in a given classroom. It is ceaselessly available! As public charter schools, our BASIS Charter School Curriculum is available to any student who wants it.

The period of 2013 through 2018 encompassed five school years that brought us from essentially being 'an Arizona network with one school in Washington, D.C.', to a nationwide network with charter schools crisscrossing the country. It is a period when we grew

younger, going from a program for students in grades 5–12, to one in which we “spiraled” our curriculum to meet and serve K–4 students, too.

Both our first primary school, as well as our first campus in Texas, opened in the fall of 2013. As we’d been the top middle and high school program in Tucson for fifteen years, and in Scottsdale for ten years, it wasn’t all that difficult to offer what had consistently been one of the best academic programs in the country to younger students at a new campus called BASIS Tucson Primary. In fact, our school leaders and teachers had for many years been queried about why we started in grade 5, and about the possibility of a program for younger students. Ultimately, adding a K–4 program to the BASIS Charter School Curriculum made sense both for the



Winter of 2014 edition of *Education Next* with feature article on BASIS Charter Schools top test results on the OECD Test for Schools (Based on PISA). Cover image shows BASIS Scottsdale students in AP Physics class.

students in our communities, and for the educators at BASIS Charter Schools.

Of course, to prepare, we assessed data, listened to our teachers, and looked at great primary school programs across the country and around the world. We heard first person classroom accounts, researched, and studied. We used a lot of dry erase ink on many whiteboards as we huddled with our middle and high school educators to figure out how best to prepare students as young as five-years-old for our program. We were creating a

primary curriculum from scratch – and it had to be different than other primary school programs, since our students would have to meet the advanced rigor and subject matter acceleration of our grade 5 program, which spirals to grade 6, then grade 7, and beyond. But with expertise and toil, data and assessment — and using the tenets of economics, and the creativity and passion of our educators — we created that primary school curriculum.

It’s an academic program that’s now used in eighteen of our thirty-seven campuses across the BASIS Charter Schools network. Today, those primary school campuses are our backbone, feeding well-prepared and BASIS-versed students to our middle school and high school campuses.

A quick anecdote about opening a primary school that sticks with me. Academically, opening BASIS Tucson Primary was in our realm of hard work and

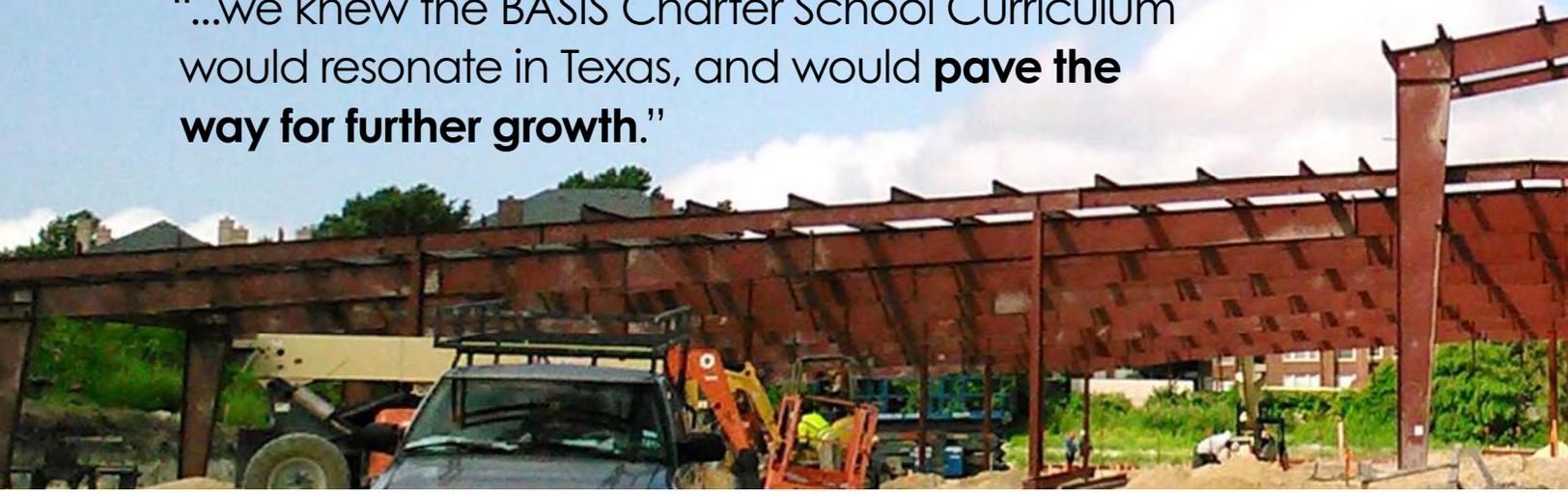


Arizona Republic’s AZ Economy section of the Sunday paper, July 6, 2014. Olga Block was selected as one of Arizona’s top female executives leading change in the state.



Article about the Block’s vision for BASIS Charter Schools and the amazing results the schools had achieved so far. *Scottsdale magazine*, September 2014

“...we knew the BASIS Charter School Curriculum would resonate in Texas, and would **pave the way for further growth.**”



experience. But even as that primary curriculum was ready to go, taking a physical tour of the new K–4 campus was, in a word, jarring! Seeing cubbies and lockers and restrooms and drinking fountains of a distinctly smaller size made sense, of course – younger students are smaller people. But when first walking through BASIS Tucson Primary as it was being built – wow! What a joyful surprise, after my many years teaching college and graduate students, and our fifteen years of the middle and high school students at BASIS up to that point. Is this how small kindergarteners really are? Our grandkids were mere toddlers, and infants, at the time. Did we get the sizes and spaces right for such miniature scholars? Ultimately, the younger students fit just fine – physically and academically.

That same month, August 2013, we also opened our first campus in Texas, called BASIS San Antonio. While obvious, it needs to be stated that the state of Texas was a different educational landscape altogether. While the differences weren't as pronounced as those of primary grades to middle and high school grades, plus the fact that we were invited to build and operate a school in San Antonio by an organization focused on bringing excellent charter school networks to that city, there were still t's to cross and i's to dot in bringing exactly what we'd been doing for fifteen years to a new place. Then again, we knew the BASIS Charter School Curriculum would

resonate in Texas, and would pave the way for further growth. We recognized the opportunity to teach more students at our unique high level.

Both that first primary school, as well as the first Texas campus, led to many more in each sphere. And the five-year period of growth that each of those new campuses catalyzed in August 2013 would ultimately encompass the largest era of growth in our network's history, from eight schools to twenty-four. Thinking like an economist, that's a 200% rise – and with no diminishing educational returns, that's an incredibly successful scaling process. But thinking like an educator, it's even better: it's thousands of students learning at the high level we teach, hundreds of teachers who are experts in their academic discipline disseminating what they know with expertise and



The Blocks (far right) posing for photo with city officials and board members at a ground breaking ceremony for a new BASIS Charter School campus

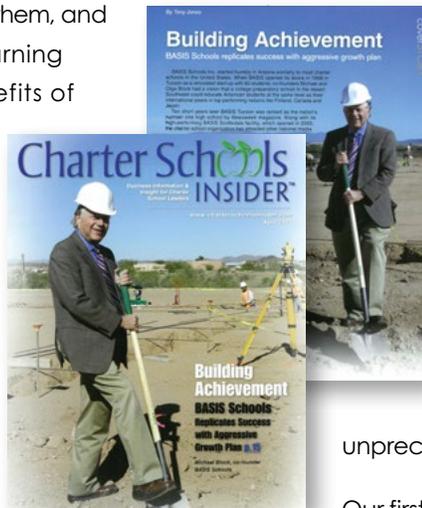


Construction of BASIS San Antonio Primary – Medical Center Campus

creativity to the students in front of them, and sixteen neighborhoods and learning communities reaping the benefits of new and better schools.

We knew our curriculum had resonance. When we chose Scottsdale for our second campus, we purposefully picked the highest-performing school district in Arizona at that time to test our program in the most competitive market. That's what an economist would do. As we opened new campuses, and students entered with different levels of preparation and experience – no matter their grade level – our program was able to meet them exactly where they were, and bring them to where everyone wanted them to be.

The culmination of this period of growth and expansion can be seen in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings in 2017 and 2018. Those were the last years that *US News* used a rankings methodology focused on “college readiness” – and make no mistake, the BASIS Charter School Curriculum is focused on preparing students for college. In 2019, *US News* changed its methodology away from college prep, and widened the scope of its rankings from



Michael Block on the cover of *Charter Schools Insider* magazine, April 2011

3,000 schools to more than 24,000. But in 2017 and 2018, the final years before the methodology change, BASIS Charter Schools swept the national rankings, including having the #1 through #5 national schools in 2018, and the #1, #2, and #3 ranked schools in 2017. Those aren't charter rankings, or state rankings: those are the best schools of any kind in the United States – an extraordinary result, unprecedented and beyond comparison.

Our first school was a game-changer in 1998, but only with a ripple, in Tucson. In 2003, the ripple went wider, but was still incremental. The recognition that BASIS Tucson and BASIS Scottsdale received from the student outcomes produced in the ensuing years sent that ripple wider still. But starting in 2013, BASIS scaled up in a way no other network ever has, with no dilution of an esteemed academic program –with a more robust offering, to 200% more students in five additional grade levels. This period culminated in a historic sweep of national school rankings. Now, we celebrate our network's 25th academic year, marking schools founded with both economics and creativity in mind – with assessment and support, with analysis and instinct, to provide students with the best college prep program in America, and show educators everywhere what a disruptive force in education can do.



# Reflections

# 2018–2023



**Peter Bezanson**  
(Academic years 2018–19 through 2022–23)

As our network has grown larger and achieved more, explaining BASIS Charter Schools has become even easier, because we've become better at every aspect of what makes us the top charter school network in America.

"We do what we do," we say and write, again and again. "We are schools of choice for anyone who wants our unique flavor of high-level education," we have repeated to supporters, reporters, and critics.

We say it because it's real. We write it because it's true. Over time, as we hire more teachers and teach more students, as we continue to aggressively expand to bring great schools to more students in more communities, our explanations of and answers to what the BASIS Charter Schools network is, what it does, what we represent, have not become more complex but have become more simple to state. Not simple as in "it's easy to do what we do". But it is simple to explain what we stand for and what we do in our classrooms, and that simplicity is part of

our brand. The BASIS Charter Schools network stands for high academic standards and high expectations, for expert teachers and universal accountability, all of which results in the bottom line: excellent student outcomes. The network has stood for the same for 25 school years.

The simple version: we set the bar high, so our curriculum is rigorous, and with our expert teachers, it works.

The nuanced version: the distinction of BASIS Charter Schools, and the beauty of our academic program, lies in how a subject in one grade level blends into not just the next grade level, but all the grade levels after that — what we call "spiraling". It's a bit of academic foretelling, on a precise schedule, and ahead of the global curve. Do this across each core

academic subject, year after year, and it adds up to an academic program unlike any other. Mix in the high standards and expectations, the accountability and the

expert educators,



BASIS Scottsdale  
Primary East student

and earning a BASIS Diploma is utterly unique in American academia.

There's a quote that BASIS communications pros used before I joined BASIS.ed. The quote has been attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, Steve Jobs, and others, but I thank whoever said it, because it applies to us: "simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."

So, what we stand for is simple to say, but requires mastery and nuance to actually do. Our growth as a network can be seen through this dichotomic lens. We grew very slowly at first and then very, very fast—with three newschools in the first twelve years, followed by thirty-four in the next thirteen years. Like

Olga Block, Carolyn McGarvey, Craig Barrett, and Michael Block, I am writing about a five-school-year period among the twenty-five school years we've been educating students. The time period I'm writing about is the current span, 2018-2023.

BASIS Charter Schools was an incredible idea on paper that worked even better in real life, and while our model might be simple yet sophisticated, growth

was never easy. After about ten school years, late in the previous decade, the Blocks pitched Craig Barrett on



BASIS Chandler student

becoming Chairman of the Board, all with their eyes on opening new BASIS Charter School campuses. It seemed possible and promising to expand and was, yet again, a simple notion: to offer more students the opportunity to get a BASIS Charter School education. But in 2009, charter school funding was cut sharply by the state of Arizona. Establishing the charter management company was a way to

## OUR BOTTOM LINE:

# excellent student outcomes



BASIS Ahwatukee students

bridge the new funding gap and vital to the then-small network as it sought to foster growth – and so BASIS Educational Group (BASIS.ed) was born.

With the hard work and cooperation of BASIS.ed and BASIS Charter Schools, Inc., the network began opening new schools every single school year, starting in 2010 with BASIS Oro Valley, our third campus. When I walked in the door four years later, BASIS was

just days away from opening our second primary school (BASIS Oro Valley Primary) and our second school in Texas (BASIS San Antonio North – today called BASIS San Antonio Primary – North Central Campus). We were about to increase the total number of campuses to sixteen, where there had been only two when BASIS.ed was founded in 2009.

Dr. Barrett, the Board of BASIS Charter Schools, Inc., Michael and Olga Block, and the superlative staff of business, finance, real estate, operations, creative, and educational professionals at BASIS.ed welcomed me with open arms, and eager vision –



which I excitedly shared. My first years were an incredible whirlwind of success, with consistent rapid expansion including unprecedented charter school growth, as well as our brief time opening and operating domestic private schools and international schools, all using the same simple formula: the incredible curriculum, the data and assessment, and the subject experts in each classroom. That period culminated with an accolade beyond what any network or district has ever received before or since: we swept the top three spots nationwide (2017), and then the top five (2018), in *U.S. News & World Report's* national rankings.

The period since 2018 can best be quantified and qualified as one in which circumstances required we take a close look at ourselves, to review and then stay with the simple things that make us who we are. Our desire to stay true to what we do — to continue to teach students at a high level, to continue to improve our program, and to keep growing — during the major external upheaval of a worldwide pandemic, required that simplicity.

2022 BASIS Chandler alumnus, Jesse Hu, winner of the History Channel's season 9 "Forged in Fire"



More specifically, the last five academic years look like this: we slowed our school openings in Arizona, and we were invited to open one, and then a second, public charter school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with a new kind of public-private partnership. We dealt with the largest-ever catastrophic upheaval in American education from the COVID-19 pandemic, pivoting to distance learning, and back and forth between screens and schools for a bit, before finally returning to classrooms for good, all while we continued to focus on health and safety in ways that have never before been necessary. And finally, we separated BASIS.ed into two divisions, BASIS.ed AZ+ and BASIS.ed TX. That particular reconfiguration has delivered new and purposeful ways for us to do the simple things we do as a network: one division of our charter management firm's employees now focus on growing our schools in Texas; another division focuses on maintaining the decades-long excellence of schools in Arizona and Washington, D.C., plus our unique newer schools in Louisiana; and another, smaller crew serves both BASIS.ed divisions.

A bit more about the pandemic: now that we have returned fully and completely to in-person instruction in this, the fourth school year affected by COVID, it's important to say that we are not only back on track academically, but back on track and equipped with much more knowledge about our



2022 BASIS Scottsdale graduate, Kaitlyn Cai, U.S. Presidential Scholar, 2022 Distinguished Young Woman of America



program, our teachers, our classroom atmosphere, and the good that comes from it all. We even continued to grow in Texas and Louisiana as all of this was happening. Sure, like everyone else in the world, we had some catching up to do in our schools. But our program persevered—of course it did!

Just like when Arizona's charter funding changed in 2009, and we persevered in our growth plans via the founding of BASIS.ed. It's no surprise. Perseverance is one of the primary, simple tenets of the BASIS Charter School Curriculum, taught to every student from kindergartener to high school senior.

We knew who we were before COVID. Rather than diluting or diminishing, the pandemic underlined it, showed us we were correct about who we

are, and taught us a great deal. The process gave us a new perspective, allowed us to see what matters most inside our classrooms, within our curriculum, and in our school communities.

And what matters most, we saw with fresh eyes, are those simple things: a great program taught with high standards by smart and capable teachers. We saw yet

“...we treat the classroom as sacrosanct, and view the student-teacher relationship as the most vital component of our program. That's how we do the simplest thing that we do: teach students to love learning.”

another acknowledgement of something the Blocks told me when I arrived at BASIS.ed: we treat the classroom as sacrosanct, and view the student-teacher relationship as the most vital component of our program. That's how we do the simplest thing that we do: teach students to love learning.

These last five years brought that home once again. Sophistication, via simplicity.

I am confident the next five years, and the next twenty-five, will continue along the same course. We do something that's simple to state, with a lot of smart people performing complex and nuanced tasks in a professional environment that's rife with expertise. Emerging from these uniquely challenging yet effective five years, ready to continue doing what we do as we mark our network's twenty-fifth school year, is a simple privilege and delight. And that's a silver anniversary worth celebrating.



2022 BASIS Charter School graduates and recipients of the 2022 Coca-Cola Scholarship, Wesley Peng (left), Riley Rane (center), and Ella Wang (right)

# In + the

“The charter school organization has attracted national media attention for its charter school success from outlets like *The Economist*, *CNN Tonight*, and *Meet the Press*, and garnered recognition among the nation’s top high schools in *U.S. News & World Report* and *Businessweek*.”

– Tony Jones

*Charter Schools Insider*, April 2011 and June 2011

**“Metro Phoenix charter school system cleans up in international testing”**

*KTAR News*, August 18, 2014

**“BASIS is quickly becoming the national model for education reform.”**

– Megan Basham

*World*, “BASIS Uncovered”, November 7, 2009

“BASIS Charter Schools give us a national model that demonstrates how we can effectively address this serious decline in educational performance.”

Congressional Recognition, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, September 30, 2009

# News

“Documentary, 2 Million Minutes: The 21st Century Solution, calls BASIS a model ...a model for what schools across the country should strive to be.”

– *Arizona Daily Star*, by Alexis Huicochea, September 28, 2009  
– Robert A. Compton, Producer

“I never envisioned a school where ninth graders could take AP English Language and Composition, or AP European History, or AP Computer Science, and 10th graders would be welcome in AP Calculus, AP Physics, or AP Chemistry.”

– Jay Mathews, former education reporter and columnist, *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post*

## “What are BASIS Charter Schools And How Are They Rewriting The Education Rules?”

– Maureen Sullivan, *Forbes*, May 23, 2016

“In an extremely old-fashioned way, it’s all about the teacher in the classroom.”

– Mark Reford, former Chief Brand Officer

“At last we have unprecedented choice, and school opportunity that we’ve just never witnessed in the city before.”

CEO New Schools for Baton Rouge, Chris Meyer  
*225 Magazine*, October 25, 2021

“[On a PISA test in 2012] The average BASIS student not only outperformed the typical U.S. student...but outscored the average student in Finland, Korea, and Poland, as well.”

– Amanda Ripley  
*The Smartest Kids in the World,  
and How They Got That Way*

“At BASIS Charter Schools... teachers train students for academic conquests the way most American high schools train football players for Friday night games.”

– Amanda Ripley  
*The Smartest Kids in the World,  
and How They Got That Way*

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## “No one has ever gone to a school like this.”

–Michael Block, co-founder  
*Washington Examiner*, by Barbara Hollingsworth May 15, 2012

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“Our network’s San Antonio campuses are already among the best schools in that city, and in the entire state – and that’s not idle chatter...There’s no doubt that these new schools will produce outstanding student outcomes too.”

– BASIS Texas CEO Dr. Peter Bezanson  
*My San Antonio*, “Texas is Getting 5 new nationally acclaimed charter schools” by Camille Sauers, July 7, 2021

“Our objective in starting BASIS was not to duplicate Czech schools, or Finnish, or Japanese schools, or for that matter any country’s schools. Rather it was to take the strengths from many countries and create one of the world’s best schools.”

–Olga Block, co-founder  
*So Scottsdale*, “Learning with Blocks”  
by Shana Schwarz, September 2014

## “A couple’s vision creates award-winning schools”

– Shana Schwarz  
So Scottsdale, “Learning with Blocks”,  
September 2014

“BASIS Charter Schools, Inc. started humbly in Arizona similarly to most charter schools in the United States. When BASIS opened its doors in 1998 in Tucson as a renovated startup with 60 students, co-founders Michael and Olga Block had a vision that a college preparatory school in the desert Southwest could educate students at the same level as their international peers in top-performing nations like Finland, Canada and Japan.”

– Tony Jones  
Charter Schools Insider, April 2011 and June 2011

“BASIS is a truly inspiring school led by administrators who at the forefront of a growing body of educators who are seeing tremendous results as they act on the belief that all students deserve preparation for and access to the sort of stimulating coursework found in AP classes.”

– Trevor Packer,  
College Board’s AP Operations Director  
The Washington Post, 2009

## “Ten short years later, BASIS Tucson was ranked as the nation’s number one high school by Newsweek magazine.”

– Tony Jones  
Charter Schools Insider, April 2011 and June 2011





YEARS

OF OUTSTANDING  
OUTCOMES

# ● 2022 Graduate Profile

Total number of 2022 BASIS Charter School graduates

# 746

2021	696
2020	707
2019	662
2018	515
2017	424
2016	339
2015	246

Amount earned in scholarships by 2022 BASIS Charter School graduates

# \$69,855,788

Average scholarship award earned by each 2022 BASIS Charter School graduate

# \$94,019

# 61.8%

Percentage of graduates accepted to a top 100 National University or National Liberal Arts College

BASIS Charter Schools class of 2022 college acceptance rate

# 100%

Total number of college acceptances

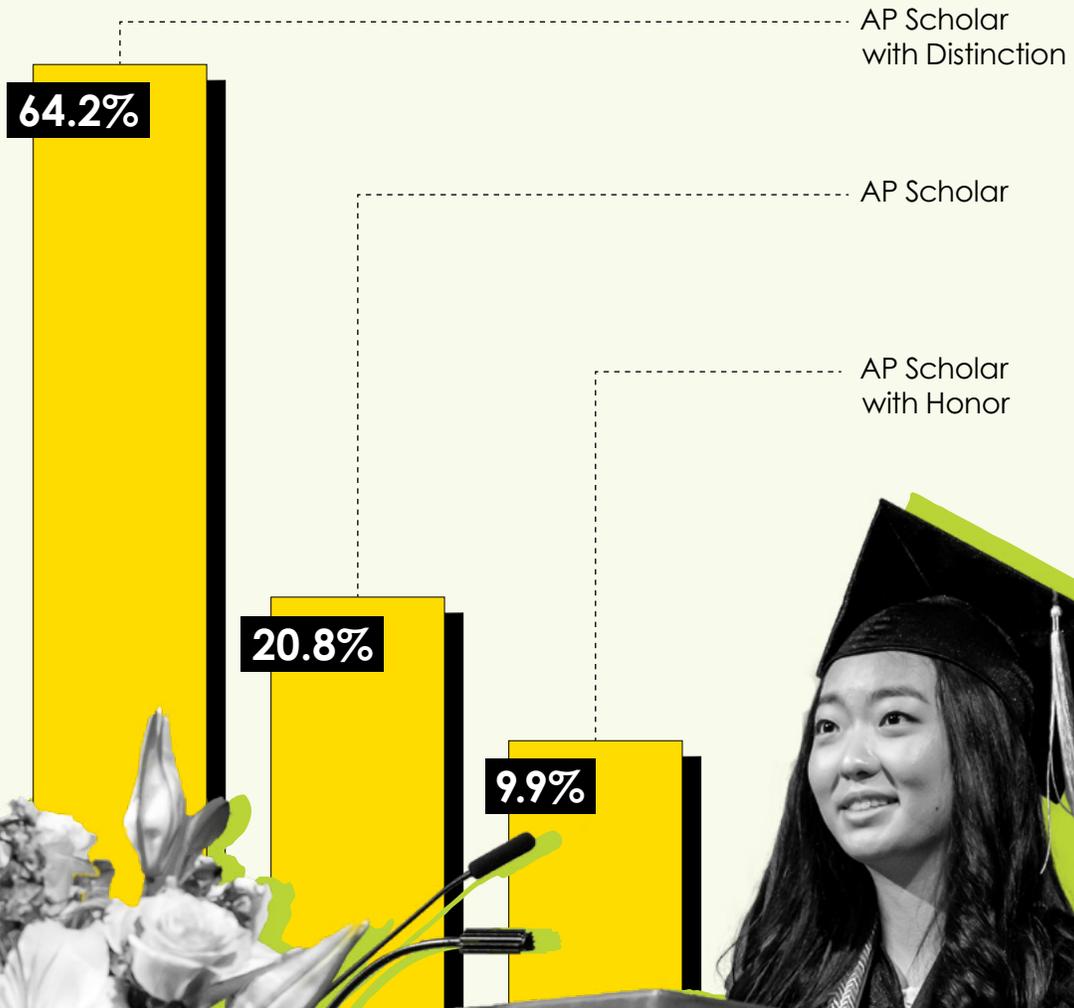
# 3,119

Co-founders Michael and Olga Block at BASIS Scottsdale's 2022 graduation ceremony.



# ● Class of 2022 AP Scholar Awards

Distribution of the highest AP Scholar Award earned



BASIS Scottsdale 2022 Valedictorian,  
Gina Sylvia Ryu

## ● AP Profile

### 2022 BASIS Charter School graduates

**AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

**AP Scholar with Honor:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

**AP Scholar with Distinction:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

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AP Exam pass rate

**86.2%**

Average AP Exam score

**3.77**

Average number of AP Exams per graduate

**11.8**

## ● College Entrance Exams

### Average scores

The ACT® and SAT® exams are used by most colleges and universities when making admissions and merit-based scholarship decisions. The ACT is scored out of 36 points, while the SAT is scored out of 1600 points.

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BASIS Charter Schools

United States

SAT

**1392**

**1050**

ACT

**30.9**

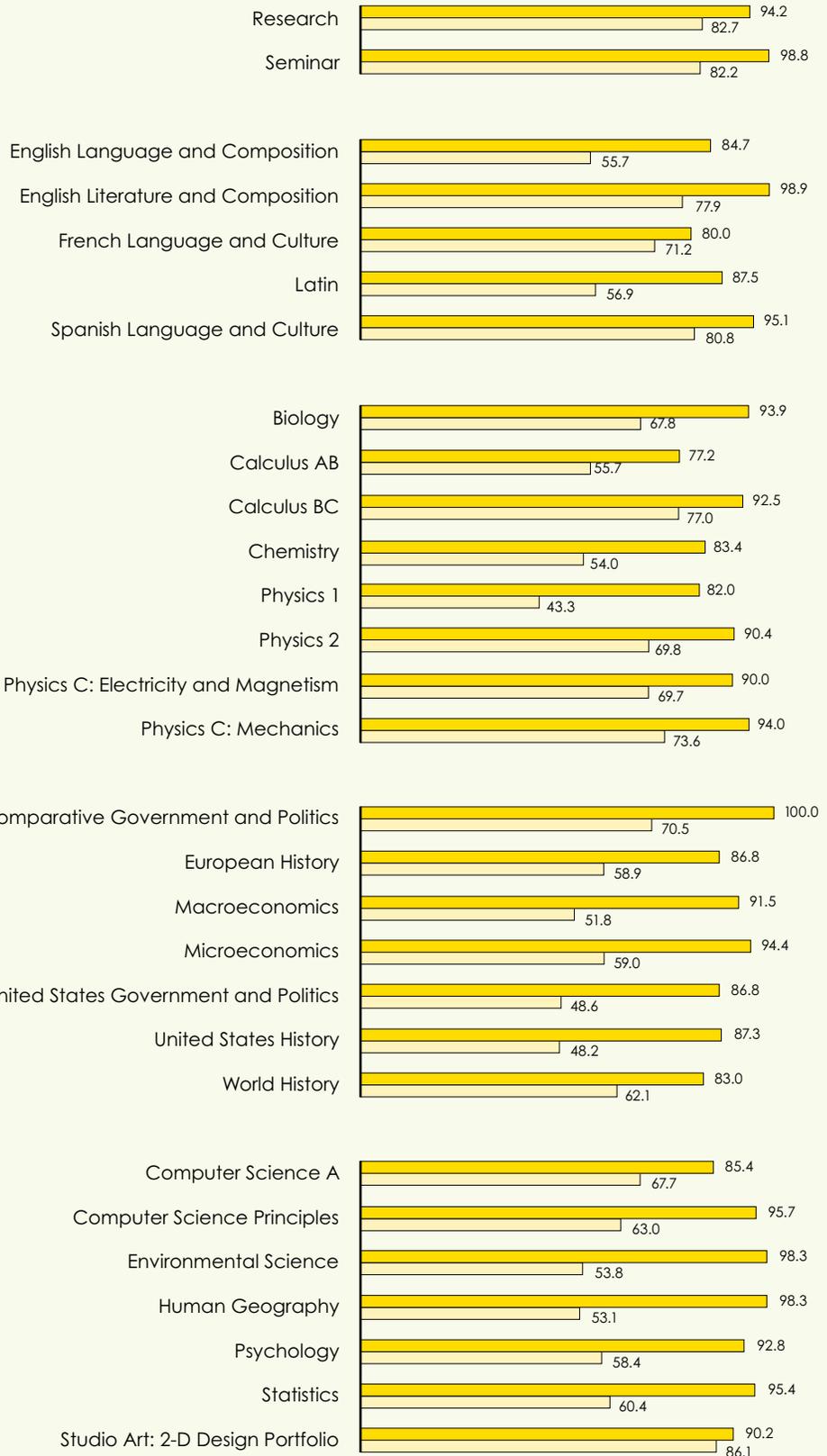
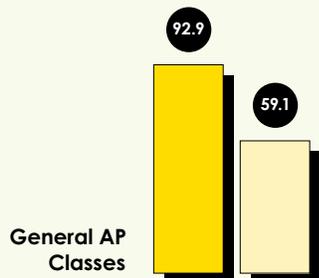
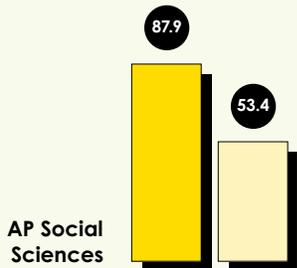
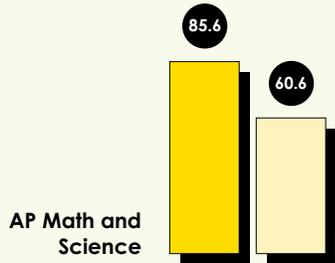
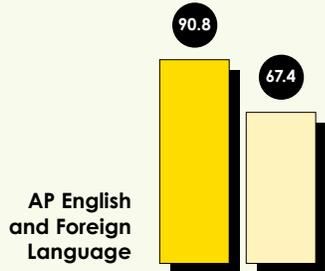
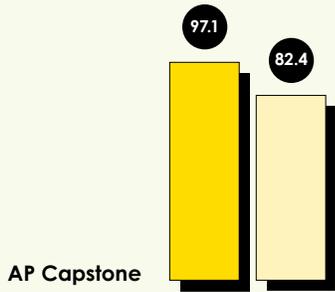
**19.8**



# ● AP Exam Pass Rate

Percentage of BASIS Charter School test takers earning a 3 or higher

Source: College Board, 2022

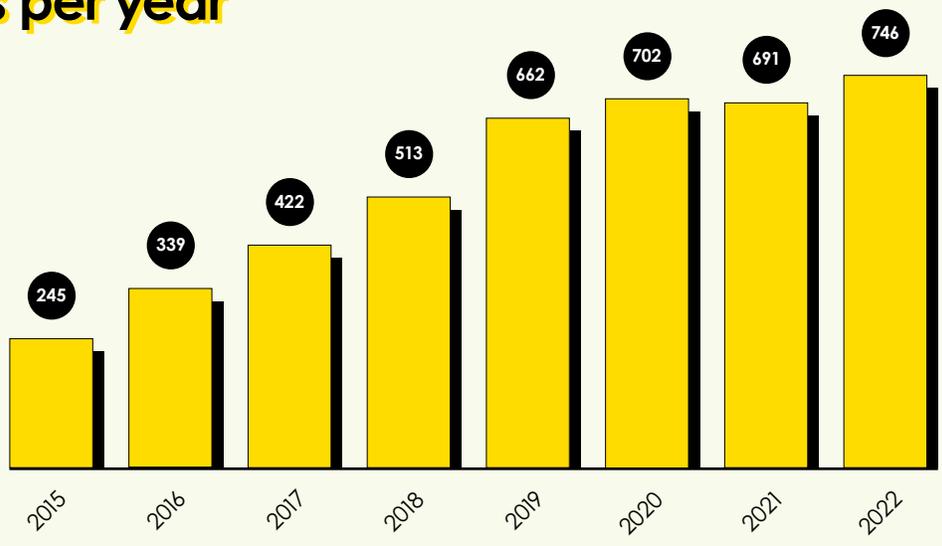


■ BASIS Charter Schools    ■ All Countries



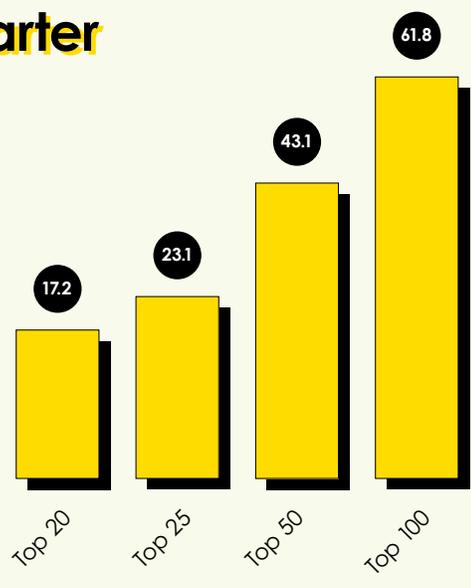
Pennant wall in College Counseling classroom at BASIS Peoria

● **Number of BASIS Charter Schools graduates per year**



● **Percentage of 2022 BASIS Charter School graduates**

accepted to a *U.S. News & World Report* top National University or National Liberal Arts College



## ● Number of 2015–2022 BASIS Charter School graduates

accepted to a *U.S. News & World Report* top National University\*

Brown University	50	Princeton University	35
California Institute of Technology	30	Rice University	90
Columbia University	27	Stanford University	50
Cornell University	88	University of California, Los Angeles	248
Dartmouth College	42	University of Chicago	33
Duke University	94	University of Notre Dame	32
Harvard College	34	University of Pennsylvania	46
Johns Hopkins University	53	Vanderbilt University	82
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	45	Washington University in St. Louis	83
Northwestern University	63	Yale University	49

## ● Number of 2015–2022 BASIS Charter School graduates

accepted to a *U.S. News & World Report* top National Liberal Arts College\*

Amherst College	25	Middlebury College	17
Barnard College	21	Pomona College	17
Bowdoin College	11	Smith College	33
Carleton College	22	Swarthmore College	15
Claremont McKenna College	7	United States Military Academy	4
Colby College	6	United States Naval Academy	9
Colgate University	15	Washington and Lee University	10
Davidson College	8	Wellesley College	26
Grinnell College	51	Wesleyan University	25
Hamilton College	7	Williams College	26
Haverford College	16		

Acceptances to top 20 schools were calculated using the 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings.

## The 2022 OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA)

**BASIS Charter School students outscored students in every other educational system.**

The OECD Test for Schools—based on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), an international educational assessment—provides insight into how our students perform in the core subjects of Math, Reading, and Science, compared to students in other educational systems throughout the world. This tool provides us with a powerful assessment of how our schools perform, and insight into student perceptions of learning.

Source: OECD "How Your School Compares Internationally: OECD Test for Schools," 2022. The 2022 OECD Test for Schools was designed to enable international benchmarking against results from the 2018 PISA exam.

## Global Results on the OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA)

	Math	Reading	Science
<b>BASIS Charter Schools</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>604</b>
B-S-J-Z (China)	591	555	590
Singapore	569	549	551
Macao-China	558	525	544
Hong Kong-China	551	524	517
Estonia	523	523	530
Japan	527	504	529
Korea	526	514	519
Canada	512	520	518
Chinese Taipei	531	503	516
Finland	507	520	522
Poland	516	512	511
Ireland	500	518	496
Slovenia	509	495	507
United Kingdom	502	504	505
New Zealand	494	506	508
Sweden	502	506	499
Netherlands	519	485	503
Denmark	509	501	493
Germany	500	498	503
Belgium	508	493	499
Australia	491	503	503
Switzerland	515	484	495
Norway	501	499	490
Czech Republic	499	490	497
United States	478	505	502
France	495	493	493
Portugal	492	492	492
Austria	499	484	490
OECD average	489	487	489
Latvia	496	479	487
OECD total	478	485	486
Iceland	495	474	475
Russia	488	479	478
Lithuania	481	476	482

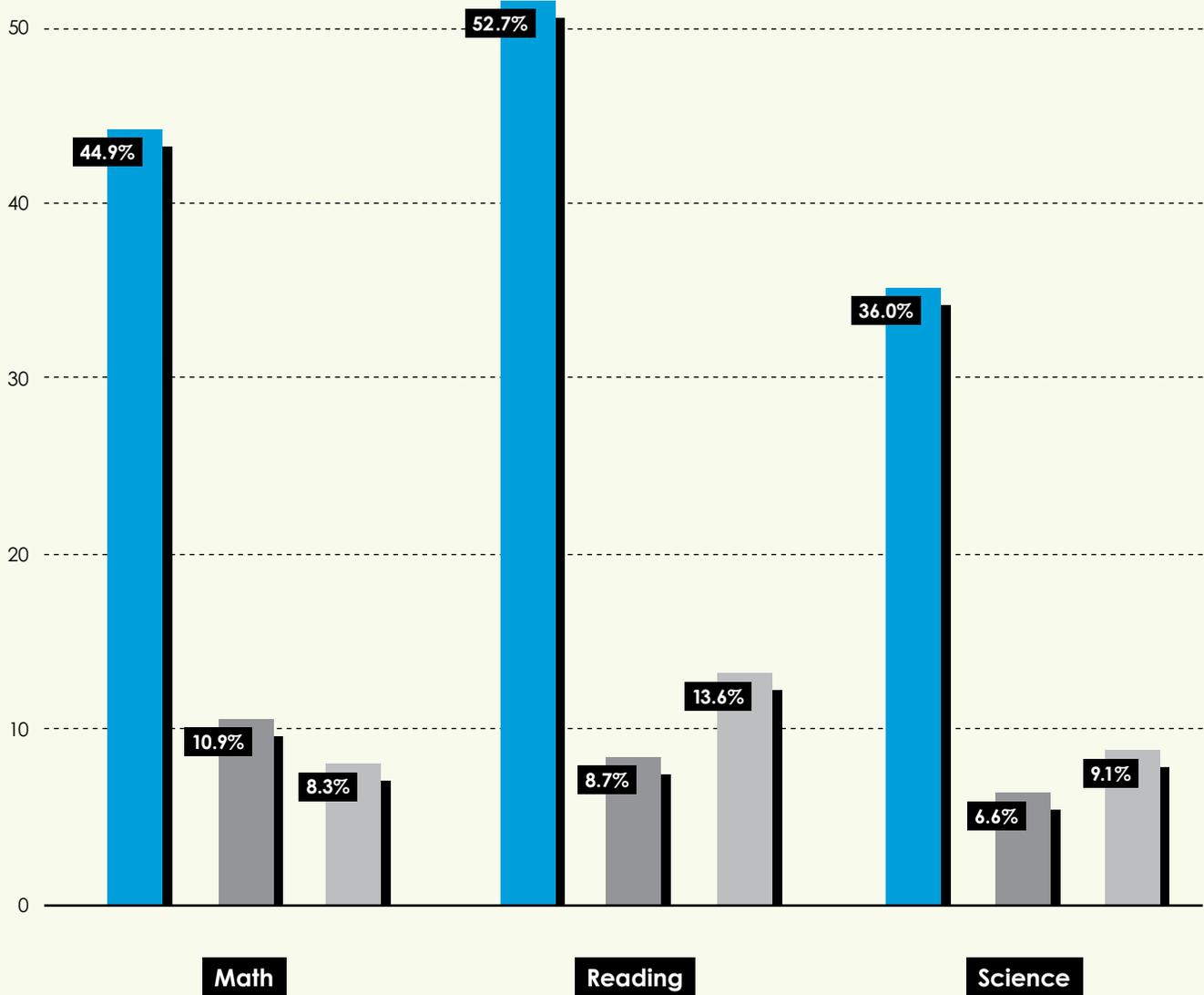
\* Includes BASIS Chandler, BASIS DC, BASIS Oro Valley, BASIS Peoria, BASIS Phoenix, BASIS San Antonio – Shavano Campus, BASIS Scottsdale, BASIS Tucson North

\*\* Beijing-Shanghai-Jiangsu-Guangdong

## ● 2022 OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA)

Percentage of students scoring in the highest proficiency levels (levels 5–6)

BASIS Charter Schools offer students an education that prepares them according to the highest international standards. As a result, our students are more likely to score in the highest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) performance levels. Students who get to level 5 or above “can be regarded as potential ‘world-class’ knowledge workers of tomorrow,” according to the 2022 report for the OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA).



## LEGACY GIVING \$100,000–\$8,000,000

One-time or multi-year gifts that range from \$100,000–\$8,000,000

- Barbara and Craig Barrett
- BASIS Chandler Primary North Boosters
- BASIS Oro Valley Boosters
- BASIS Tucson North Boosters
- Patti and Peter Bezanson
- Olga and Michael Block
- Garcia Family Foundation
- George W. Brackenridge Foundation
- Choose to Succeed
- The Ewing Halsell Foundation
- Stacy and Joel Hock
- The KLE Foundation
- Kleinheinz Family Foundation
- Anonymous gift in memory of Jack Lewis, Jr.
- Lynn and Jack Londen
- New Schools for Baton Rouge
- The Rodel Foundation, Don Budinger
- Sid W. Richardson Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation

## ANNUAL TEACHER FUND 2021–2022

2021–22 gifts to BASIS Charter Schools overall

### COSMOS \$250,000+

- Olga and Michael Block

### POLARIS \$25,000+

- Barbara and Craig Barrett
- BASIS Austin Primary Boosters
- BASIS Flagstaff Boosters
- BASIS Goodyear Boosters
- BASIS Oro Valley Boosters
- BASIS Oro Valley Primary Boosters
- BASIS Tucson North Boosters
- BASIS Tucson Primary Boosters
- Eicher-Faherty Family
- Grace Hebert Curtis
- The Hastings Family
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- Morrison Johnson

### SIRIUS \$10,000+

- Buck FA
- Insite EFS
- Harvey Vigneault

### CANOPUS \$5,000+

- Buquet and Leblanc Inc.
- Coldwater Ventures
- Schulman Hoffer

### VEGA \$2500+

- Patti and Peter Bezanson
- Freeman Family

## SIRIUS \$10,000+

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## REGULUS \$1,500+

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