

A N E W S C H O O L Y E A R B E G I N S !

# Elementary



DAYBREAK  
ACADEMY



## A program geared towards bright & gifted children.

Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are years of wonderful academic and social growth for children. Our scholars will be learning increasingly sophisticated methods to read and talk about varied texts, including nonfiction books, poetry, picture books, and chapter books. They will write about themselves and the world around them using detailed and descriptive language. They will also use more advanced critical and analytical problem solving skills in math. This is an exciting time! We look forward to helping your student reach their full individual potential.

### A Parent's Story...

My son got swallowed in public school. The big class sizes that necessitate a cookie cutter approach left him feeling confused and behind his peers. He has gained so much confidence this year! The teacher loves her students and is helping each of them succeed. The small class size has helped my son not feel lost or overwhelmed and the frequent breaks for specialists helps keep the kids engaged and on task. We are so happy he has been at Daybreak Academy this year! Daybreak Academy takes a more holistic approach to education. The kids are learning so much more than they would somewhere else - classic art and literature, technology, Chinese, karate, and movement. The kids are excited about and engaged in their own education in a way that can't be replicated in a large classroom and school. We have had a wonderful experience! - Dawna B.

### What Parents Say About our Academy...

The teacher has been able to work closely with our child. I am amazed at the facts and concepts she has learned. The class size is small, which is great for interaction. My child also has so much fun because the teacher encourages both fun and learning. Daybreak Academy excels at providing students with a great learning environment. The teacher has been able to dedicate the time needed to work with each student's needs. I highly recommend the first grade program!  
- Nina M.

The small class size has really allowed each child to get individualized attention. The teacher is able to make sure that kids who need extra help on a concept get it & those students who catch onto an idea quickly continue to be challenged and aren't left bored...your child will learn & grow in ways you never imagined! The extra days in the school year and the lack of early dismissals give them so much more time to master & apply the required concepts for each age. - Julie S.





## Literacy

The Early Elementary years are an exciting time in literacy. Students will discover new worlds through literature and more advanced self-expression.

### Nurturing Young Readers...

Our “Readers’ and Writers’ Program” includes several distinct segments. First, your child will participate in a mini-lesson— a brief instructional lesson that targets one focused teaching point, often times using a read-aloud book to highlight and demonstrate a skill. Next, your child will either independently apply what was learned from the mini-lesson or meet with a teacher or classmate to discuss his or her reading or writing ideas. Then, during the third segment, students will gather together to share their thinking, what they have read or written, or participate in a discussion.

### ...and Thinkers

Your child will learn to write narrative writing, argument writing (opinion), and informational/procedural writing. Students’ writing will be assessed on rubrics for each genre. Each rubric will include scores for content, organization, features (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling), and handwriting. Your child will develop skills in each of these areas. Students will be expected to craft a sentence, use proper capitalization and punctuation, and logically structure a piece of writing (with a beginning, middle, and end). Students will also learn how to state facts and opinions with supporting evidence to provide support for their ideas.





## Cultivating Talented Mathematicians Through Hands-On Application & Investigation

Our math curriculum lays out a clear path for children to follow that develops mastery within skills taught throughout each unit. Children will learn through problem-solving, hands-on work with math manipulatives, in-depth discussion with peer partners, and sharing their thoughts critically with a group. Sequential, rigorous units “investigations” cover topics including basic operations, measurement, algebra, geometry, and time. At the end of each investigation, we administer a summative assessment to assess your child’s fluency on the skills taught within that unit to ensure that every child is grasping

the critical concepts needed to excel. We make sure students have the opportunity to master “core curriculum” standards and beyond, in a fun, interesting and applicable way. We believe that children learn best when they see a purpose and application behind their learning. These new concepts will stick with them as they see how math applies to real life and will be useful and valuable to them now and in the future. Every child has an inner mathematician—the goal is to properly cultivate their confidence and skills, so they can proudly say, “I’m good at math” without the self-defeating doubts that many of us adults unfortunately grew up with!

## Applied Sciences & Social Studies

**From organic gardening to building a hovercraft, our students learn with their hands. Enough talking, kids learn best by doing.**

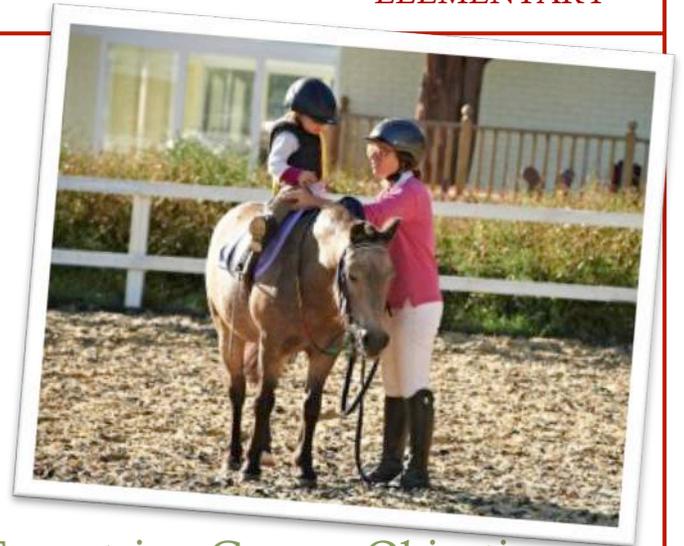
*Every child is wonderfully unique. That’s why at the Academy we incorporate a wide range of learning styles in every subject, so that every child has the chance to excel and feel successful every day.*



# Little Equestrians

## Introducing our Rose Ranch Partnership

Daybreak Academy has partnered with Rose Ranch (a charming local ranch just a few minutes from the school) to give our 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students a chance to learn from and about horses. Why? Because developing balance, coordination, forethought, empathy, and emotional control are essential for growth as a rider. These skills are also important for growth as a human being and have wide application outside the world of horses. Your child will think it's just all great fun, and it is, but she will be learning skills that will help her succeed for a lifetime.



## Equestrian Course Objectives:

Allison Wicks of Rose Ranch Stables shares the purpose behind this program:

1. **Developing personal integrity** through discussion and using the horse's innate integrity as example. Integrity, being the syncing of thought, speech and action, is not mentioned or taught often as a learned skill. If we want the horse to begin to trust us (as well as other humans to trust us) we must become trustworthy.
2. **Teach kindness, mindfulness and compassion** as a way to be around horses (and living our lives in general) make activity with horses work really well. If you want a horse to be kind to you, you must be kind to it, but in its own language of body postures. If you want the horse to be compassionate and forgive you if you make a mistake with it, you show the horse the same thing in your attitude and action. If you want a horse's respect you must respect it and not assume anything or have expectations. Horses are generally kind and show compassion for each other. Kindness and compassion develop confidence in all and really help to develop trusting relationships.
3. **Learning to show respect to get respect.** Developing and earning respect with a horse is nearly the same with humans. Do not inappropriately touch or invade the personal space of a horse. Never demand the horse do anything. Make clear and precisely communicated requests. Say "thank you" when you get what you ask for or even if the horse just tries to comply ("Good Boy!"). Always connect consciously with a horse when approaching it. Say "Hello" and have the intention to have a calm respectful connection before asking anything of a horse. The same goes for interacting with people.
4. **Demonstrate embodied, wonderful leadership.** This means teaching kids to become leaders. Simple ground exercises such as leading the horse, stopping, backing, turning in different directions, circling around the handler (lunging), etc. If done right, the horse immediately becomes attracted to the child handler and wants to only stay close to that human and do as requested, assuming the requests are clear, appropriate and thoughtfully asked.



## Equestrian Curriculum:

### Week One:

General introduction to Rose Ranch and staff.  
Overview of each of the buildings and their functions.

### Week Two:

First encounter with a horse with supervision. Kids will begin to learn how body language and voice commands affect a horse.

### Week Three:

Observe someone riding a horse in a training session and explain the basic skill needed to ride a horse.

### Week Four:

Children will be given the opportunity to ride a horse with an adult handler with a high level of safety and supervision.

NOTE: This month-long program will take place during the school day. Transportation is provided, and there are no extra fees to participate.

## The details...

As you may already know, Daybreak Academy offers exceptional full-time private school for less than the cost of some afterschool/off-track programs.

How is this possible? We have partnered up with our sister program CAMAS (Children's Art & Music Advocate Society), which is a non-profit educational program to help cover your child's tuition expenses with grant funds that support art & music education for children. So you will only be paying a portion of the tuition. CAMAS will automatically cover all expenses over the base tuition that parents will be asked to contribute monthly. (Low cost extended care is also available).

This means that your child can begin or continue with their music/piano studies, continue with their martial arts achievement, keep learning Mandarin Chinese and all of our other wonderful arts enrichment programs offered at the Academy. Other benefits include:

**Small class size**, low student to teacher ratios, so your child gets more 1-to-1 assistance, which correlates with faster learning and deeper mastery.

**The Academy follows the innovative "open classroom" style of learning**, where children are treated as full participants in their learning process and parents are welcome to participate as much as they wish to. Students are encouraged to frequently share their thoughts and feelings and actively participate in their learning experience. Teachers serve as guides and facilitators. It's about asking students the right questions rather than just telling them what to do. Most teachers WANT to teach this way. They intuitively KNOW it's the right way to truly inspire a child. Unfortunately, with public schools filled to the brim and class sizes much bigger than is ideal, most of them don't have a choice but to focus on "classroom management" and "following the rules" rather than being able to focus on inspiring gifted and talented students to excel.

**Off-Track is included.** More specifically, the program does not go "off-track" (so it's truly year-round) from August to June (An optional summer camp is available in July for those wanting to participate). Just ask your friends how much they like it that their kids are home bored for several weeks at a time throughout the entire school year, or have to go to unchallenging baby-sitting or "off-track daycare" when school is out. Ask them how they like having just a half-day of school at least once a week or more (aka "Early Out" days). Most families feel that it is disruptive for their child's learning and the parents schedule. The time off isn't helpful, because most

parents still have to go to work or have other responsibilities that make it difficult to maximize that time away from learning. The Academy offers an education that is fun and challenging. Kids want to go to school and learn when they have exciting goals they are working towards.

In our elementary classrooms, **students learn the basics of how to CODE.** The future of innovation is software and programming. Have you noticed that all of the billion dollar companies being sold by very young men and women are TECH companies? Tech is the future (whether we like it or not). We'd rather have our students become young men and women that understand tech and can control it to advance creativity and learning, rather than having them be passive viewers/consumers of other people's creativity. The Academy has partnered up with Code Academy (<http://www.codecademy.com>) to offer this free enrichment. Tech education equips children to make a creative contribution to the world, not simply to fit into an established order.



**Your student is likely already ahead of other kids** his age. Putting an advanced, gifted child back into an overcrowded public classroom setting risks that the child will be under-stimulated, lose interest, and not be able to reach towards his/her full potential. We have plans (within the next few years) to be able to offer low-cost, high-quality private school up thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Healthy lunch & snacks INCLUDED.** It's important what a child eats, since "you are what you eat". Public schools serve meals (if you pay for it) that are highly processed and not what most parents consider healthy. Take a look at a standard menu and you will see that "hamburgers, pizza, tater tots and French fries" are the norm. Ideally, those should be rare "sometimes" treats, not the foundation for daily meals! Yes, parents can send in their own healthy meals to public school, but that is time-consuming and expensive. It's also a challenge when a child sees that everyone else is basically eating junk food. It's nice when the whole class is eating a healthy, non-processed meal together and THAT is the norm. 😊

**Students can learn at their own pace.** Small classroom numbers mean that kids have a chance to ask lots of questions and take the time they need to not just "memorize" answers, but to actually MASTER the subjects being taught. The Academy meets and exceeds the Utah State Core guidelines for Kinder-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Whether your child picks things up quickly, or needs extra time to fully wrap their heads around certain concepts, small innovative classrooms makes it easy for the teacher to customize each child's learning to his/her individual needs.

“Children must be taught  
how to think, not what  
to think,”

Margaret Mead

