



Building Knowledge and Character

Mrs. Goers is a Master Teacher, committed to excellence and innovation in all she does. She was a founding teacher at Good Foundations Academy (GFA) when our charter school opened in 2010. She contributed countless hours to develop curriculum resources for our school. She is the team leader for our 5th and 6th grader teachers, developing and providing training for new teachers in Core Knowledge, Singapore Math, and GFA curriculum standards. These efforts were recognized in 2011 as she was awarded the Utah Charter School Educator of the Year Award. She has built a strong and collaborative team, and is a true teacher-leader and a valued member of our community.

Susan Goers demonstrates a tireless devotion to improving the educational opportunities for students at GFA. She developed a variety of programs for our students, including Science Fair, MATH COUNTS clubs, National Junior Forensics League, “Novel in a Year” enrichment, and participation in Physics Day at Lagoon. These popular and successful programs have earned awards and recognition for students and school. Our 6th graders have earned “Silver Level Status” from MATH COUNTS in 2012 and 2013. Nine students have been honored for excellence for their work in the Noetic Learning Math Contest for 2013. Mrs. Goers was honored with the MathMovesU Math Hero award in 2013, for her “outstanding work with students in math using interactive and creative learning initiatives.” Mrs. Goers has been instrumental in bringing NJFL, a powerful speech and debate honor society, to life in northern Utah. GFA has hosted several forensics events and competed at regional and national events. Mrs. Goers personally trains coaches, judges, and other volunteers, in addition to coordinating all prizes, meals and gifts for volunteers, and schedules. GFA students are first in Utah for NJFL and 11 students placed in the 2012 NJFL Nationals All American League. Three students have successfully published original novels through “Novel in a Year” in 2012, and seven students are working on novels to be completed and presented for publication in 2013.

Our students are actively engaged in real-world experiences as they learn about math, science, literature, and history. Mrs. Goers takes advantage of local events to enrich her curriculum and provide connection and motivation to students’ lives. In 2012, one of our students placed third out of thousands in the Physics Day event at Lagoon. Students performed poetry recitals at an annual Coffee House. 6th Grade Coffee House is a perfect blend of Core

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Knowledge and NJFL, and is becoming a cornerstone of our school community. Under Mrs. Goers' direction, our students are school leaders as well. They are responsible for raising and lowering the American flag daily. They seek opportunities for community service, such as visiting the local nursing home, filling food pantries, and tutoring other students. They have written a petition to be presented for school improvement to the GFA Board of Directors, following NJFL Congress rules and procedures, hoping to leave a legacy with the school.

Mrs. Goers focuses her efforts on improving the outcome of our students' educational performance. 6th grade assessments consistently demonstrate excellence in achievement. GFA tests our students in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, with NWEA MAP tests. Our 6th graders are tested in Math, Reading, Language, and Science. Recent scores showed a 16% percent growth in scores compared to national norms in Math from Fall 2012 to Winter 2013. Her students achieved an average score of 91 percentile in Reading in Winter 2013, up from 83 percentile in the Fall. She teaches strategies for organization, time management, goal setting to her students. She sets high expectations and motivates students to achieve them. Students in her class who earn Headmaster's Honor Roll (all As) and Dean's List (all As and Bs) have truly achieved academic excellence.

Mrs. Goers seeks to impact education beyond her classroom and into the community at large. She has led efforts to write a charter for a complementary high school that would build on the mission and vision of Good Foundations Academy. She is a founding member of the high school Board of Directors and is developing curriculum standards for the new school. She has collaborated with local math teachers to create opportunities for charter schools to provide training for math endorsements. She supports the local homeschool association and shares her expertise and resources with any who can benefit.

Mrs. Goers is a leader in our school community. She strives for excellence and demonstrates exceptional commitment to student success. She is a model for other teachers for creative and effective instruction.

Sincerely,

Ms. Peggy Downs

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