

GOALS ACADEMY



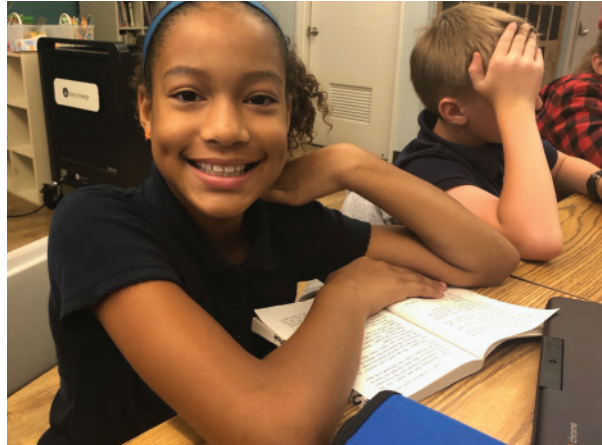
OUR STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH TO TEACHING & LEARNING HELPS SCHOLARS DISCOVER THEIR INTERESTS & TALENTS

We acknowledge that each of our scholars enters our school with unique interests and talents. It is our intention, in partnership with parents, to help each scholar discover his/her interests and talents through a rigorous academic program and highly enriched opportunities.

Once scholars' interests and talents are discovered, then they can be converted into strengths through personalized mentoring by teachers and specialists.

Unlike educational systems in which scholars are either viewed as "empty vessels" waiting to be filled and/or "broken vessels" needing to be fixed (a deficit-based approach), we believe a strength-based approach to teaching and learning creates a more positive, rewarding, and effective learning environment.

SEEING THE PROGRAM IN ACTION



HERE'S HOW OUR PROGRAM WORKS

In elementary school, many scholars do not have sufficient life experiences to know what their interests and talents are. For this reason, it is essential to provide scholars with many opportunities to discover them through a rigorous academic program with "voice and choice," as well as an abundance of enrichment opportunities.

Rigorous Academics

- Reading Workshop/CAFÉ with reading choices
- Process and On Demand Writing with topic choices
- Go Math!
- FOSS
- Inquiry-Based/Project-Based Learning
- Technology Infused Education with Differentiation, Individualization, and Personalization

Abundant Enrichment

- Visual/Performing Arts (VAPA) during school day
- After-school Little Labs
- After-school Big Labs with VAPA, STEAM, and Life Skills electives
- After-School GFGA with sports orientation

Character Development

- Morning Gatherings
- Values in Action with Virtues and Character Strengths
- Leader in Me
- PBIS

HERE'S WHY IT'S EFFECTIVE

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

– Albert Einstein

Traditionally, school systems have focused on measuring children, determining where they have gaps to fill or challenges to overcome, and then “fixing” them through an emphasis on remediation. A constant focus on children’s weaknesses makes school an unhappy, unmotivating place. This is a deficit approach to teaching and learning. It causes many children to view themselves as flawed learners, and they eventually disengage from school.

While GOALS Academy provides support for developing foundational skills necessary for future success in school and life, we work from our scholars’ interests and talents and then convert them into strengths through character development and mentoring. We celebrate an individual’s progress with a growth mindset rather than compare scholars to each other with a fixed mindset. We acknowledge the power in the word “yet” when a scholar is initially unable to master something, and we teach, “Smart isn’t what you are. Smart is what you become.”

Through our rigorous academic program and abundant enrichment opportunities, our scholars are able to share what they are learning with enthusiasm. They acknowledge their strengths, both in terms of character and learning. When you walk onto our campus, the energy is high because our scholars’ involvement is high. We strive to keep learning a joyful experience in which our scholars are motivated by critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. It works!

RESOURCES STRENGTH-BASED TEACHING/LEARNING

These links and references are just a small sample of what has inspired GOALS Academy’s strength-based approach to teaching and learning.

VIA Character Strengths

www.viacharacter.org

The Leader in Me

www.theleaderinme.org

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

www.pbis.org/school

StrengthsFinder

www.strengthsquest.com

Growth Mindset

www.mindsetworks.com/science

CTA’s Institute for Teaching

www.teacherdrivenchange.org

Edutopia

www.edutopia.org/blog/creating-safe-strength-based-classrooms-lori-desautels

The Talent Code: Greatness Isn’t Born. It’s Grown. Here’s How by Daniel Coyle (2013)

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth (2016)



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FAMILY & STAFF TEAM FACEBOOK:

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LEARNING, SHARING, & CARING TOGETHER

TK-6
CHARTER
SCHOOL

