



Berean Academy is a Kindergarten through Twelfth grade Public (tuition free) Charter school. We are the only accredited K-12th grade school in Sierra Vista.



The process began in 2002. Incorporating as a Non-Profit (501c3) tax exempt corporation went surprisingly fast. The granting of the Charter by the Arizona Charter Board also went quickly. From the start, it was obvious we had favor in this endeavor.

Why the name, Berean? In the Bible the people of Berea were described as *“a people more honorable than their neighbors.”* Why? Because, when they heard *“Good News”*, they went home to make sure what they heard was the truth. This is the spirit we hope to instill in our young scholars. Our desire is that each of them will be seekers of truth and life-long learners.

Berean has established foundations of *“Love and Logic”*² and Character development³.

Love and Logic teaches our scholars that they are responsible for the choices they make and for the consequences of those choices.

When we talk about character, we mean the inward values that determine outward actions; the mental model used for making decisions...the moral compass that guides our choices....who we are when no one else is watching.

Why does Character matter?

Most problems in today’s classroom (and society) can be traced to a lack of character, including bullying, disrespect, cheating, tardiness, vandalism, profanity, and drug abuse. All of which hinder childhood development, student achievement, school safety, and public confidence. If we succeed in educating our scholars, but fail in their character development, we may be producing the smartest people who fail in life or worse, end up in prison.

Our Charter was granted in 2002. Kindergarten through Eighth Grade classes began in August of 2003. Classes began on the campus of Celebration Chapel Foursquare Church. Each year an additional grade was added until Berean Academy became a Kindergarten through 12th grade center for education.

As Berean grew, it became obvious that the facility was fully developed and had no room for expansion. For several years we looked for a larger location. Each attempt failed. Every venture to a bank ended when they asked: *“How much money do you have in the bank?”* They never liked the answer: *“We are a ‘Not for Profit’ corporation that exists solely for the education of our students. All of our resources are put to that use.”* Admittedly, not the best Business Plan to present to a bank.

After another failed attempt to acquire a new facility; a man “showed up” to observe our school. He had read about us in a national publication and wanted to see if what he read was true. He must have been impressed, because he came to us with an offer to build us a new facility.

In January 2010 we held our first classes on our BEAUTIFUL new campus.

To list all the miracles* that transpired in bringing us to where we are today would take more time than I would expect you to give. However, I will share this: during the sequestration of 2008 the Bond Market was closed. After all the promises and work to build our new facility... everything came to a screeching halt. With all the plans in place...there was no money to build. Then, in 2009 the Bond Market reopened and we were the first bond granted in the State of Arizona.

From June of 2009 to January 2010, an undeveloped piece of land was transformed into our beautiful campus.

Without getting mired in details, we want you to understand who we are and why we're here:

1. We are a collaborative academic community focused on scholar learning and achievement. We set high expectations and provide each scholar with the essential tools to succeed. We are here to equip each young scholar for their best possible future.
2. To accomplish our goal of protecting, enriching and preparing our scholars for life we:
 - a. Use the discipline of Love and Logic[®] *(www.loveandlogic.com). We are determined to help our scholars understand that choices have consequences and that good choices make life better.
 - b. Berean Academy employs the PLC[®] philosophy of education. Our staff works together as a Professional Learning Community and collaborates in the process of education. We endeavor to enrich our staff so they can enrich our scholars. (www.allthingsplc.info/about)
 - c. We incorporate the Character First[®] program to develop character. (<http://characterfirsteducation.com>) We stress Character Development because it would be tragic to produce highly educated prisoners for the state penitentiary.

We are constantly learning and adjusting our attitudes, methods, curriculum and skills to provide the best possible environment and means to both educate and learn.

Sincerely,
Jim Fogarty, Director

****Miracle:** a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.*

Footnote Citation

¹ The Fogarty's sensed the family was to move to Arizona but over a two year period they could not pinpoint where in Arizona. Their property in Chehalis, Washington had been for sale for two years without a single inquiry. Upon their first visit to Sierra Vista they found a business to buy, a property to build on and a church to attend. The only issue was; everything depended upon the sale of their home. When they returned to their hotel there was a call from their real estate agent...their house had sold. Jim and Liz and their four children moved from Chehalis, Washington to Sierra Vista in 1994.

² Love and Logic is our "disciple of choice". When we need to address a scholar's misbehavior we follow the Love and Logic pattern of addressing the issue. We Love the child enough to address the issue in a way they learn (Logic) how they should and can make better choices in the future. Visit the Love and Logic web site for more information and resources. <https://www.loveandlogic.com/>

A few years before any of this started, more than an acre of Flood Plane (unbuildable) land was donated to Oasis Church. Shortly after this "useless" piece of land was gifted... the Flood Plane status was removed. As the Charter was still being worked out, this land was miraculously transformed into a campus with eight classrooms. It was miraculous because the church did not have the resources to accomplish this. (The people at Oasis church graciously undertook the task of developing the property as Landlords to Berean.)