

BASIS Mesa 3rd grade addition - Narrative

1) The rationale for the increase in grade levels served

Adding 3rd grade to the BASIS Mesa program will allow us to begin serving students at a younger age, giving us the chance to prepare them earlier for the rigors of the BASIS academic program.

2) How the additional grades support the mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction

The mission statement of BASIS Mesa is:

“[to] provide an accelerated liberal arts education at internationally competitive levels for all students. The rigorous college preparatory education at BASIS readies students for competitive admissions process, helps them become eligible for scholarships, prepares them to prosper at top colleges, and enriches their lives.”

Adding 3rd grade to the BASIS Mesa campus will allow even more children to succeed at the high levels described in our mission statement by giving them the chance to prepare for the rigorous BASIS middle school and AP-based high school curriculum at an earlier age than is currently available. The 3rd grade program teaches students study skills and organizational skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. The additional year of instruction will also allow us to further our educational philosophy of fostering a love of learning and self-reliance in our students, and it will allow our teachers to maintain or even raise their high expectations that form an integral part of their methods of instruction.

3) Mastery of coursework and grade-level promotion (for K-8 grades only)

Proficiency requirements for 3rd grade will be consistent with the proficiency requirements for our 4th – 7th grade students. The proficiency level of each student will be based on the student’s performance on multiple sources of assessment including homework, class participation, quizzes, tests, and Key Exams, which will be aligned with the Arizona College and Career Ready State Standards.

Letter Grade and Percent Equivalency	
%	Grade
≥ 90	A
≥ 80	B
≥ 70	C
≥ 60	D
≥ 0 < 60	F
n/a	I

We anticipate having five grading periods for grades K-3 as we do for grades 4-7. We will give percentage grades per grading period with year-end traditional letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) based on the periodic percentage grades.

In order to advance to the next grade level, students must receive a grade of 60 percent or higher in all core subjects. Students who fail to meet this requirement do not qualify for promotion status. To remedy their promotion status, these students' parents/guardians must request formally, in writing, permission to obtain conditional promotion status. To advance from conditional promotion status to promotion status, the student must satisfy all Special Summer Project assignment requirements.

Students who fail to earn promotion status, fail to obtain conditional promotion status, or fail to advance from conditional promotion status to promotion status, are held back.

4) Course offerings, proficiency level required for course credit, policy on acceptance of transfer credit, and graduation requirements that identify number of credits in each content area and electives (for 9-12 grades only)

Not applicable

5) Changes in staffing that comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines

All changes in staffing needed to serve 3rd grade will comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines. Most BASIS teachers have degrees in their fields—math, science, English, etc.—which prepares them extremely well to teach students and share their passion for their field with the next generation.