



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kinder Counts

Free full-day kindergarten at Heritage Elementary

GLENDALE, AZ (02/02/16) – Heritage Elementary School Glendale is currently welcoming kindergarten student enrollment for the 2016-2017 academic year. The charter school has all the benefits of a private school education—small class sizes, highly qualified teachers, a rigorous academic and values-based curriculum—without tuition. Plus, because Heritage Elementary teachers and administrators believe “kinder counts,” kindergarteners attend school for a full day at no extra cost, better preparing them for future classroom involvement.

Heritage Elementary serve grades K-8 with a campus conveniently located in Glendale, 6805 N. 125th Ave. Curriculum is designed to tie into state standards and kindergarten classes are capped at 25 students in order to facilitate individualized instruction. Subjects taught include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health and safety. The charter school also incorporates a character education program that fosters students’ academic and personal growth by promoting important values like trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

While many schools have reduced their kindergarten classes to only a half-day or a full-day at an extra charge to parents, studies show the long-term benefits of a full-day of school, like that offered at Heritage Elementary. According to the National Education Association, “full-day kindergarten helps make sure that students build the strong base of learning they will need to succeed throughout school and life.”¹

Child Trends Databank further finds that, “full-day kindergarten allows teachers more time to promote formal and informal learning, reduces the number of transitions in a child’s day, and allows children to get used to a schedule similar to that which they will have in first grade. In the short-term, children attending full-day kindergarten programs tend to do better in school than do children attending half-day kindergarten programs, and show stronger academic gains in kindergarten.”²

“Full-day kindergarten can make a vast difference for young learners as they head into elementary school,” said Justin Dye, Principal of Heritage Elementary School Glendale. “That’s why we firmly believe that kinder counts. Our kindergarten program is structured to jumpstart success throughout a student’s entire educational career.”

Further setting Heritage Elementary apart from other schools are services such as free breakfast and dinner, in addition to free before- and after-school care, featuring activities centered around arts and crafts, technology, sports, and outdoor activities to

enhance health and fitness. A snack and an hour of homework time are also scheduled into the after-school program.

Parents can enroll their children at Heritage Elementary Glendale by visiting the front office to fill out the required enrollment forms.

The following records are required to process enrollment applications:

- Birth certificate (kindergarteners must be 5 years old prior to September 1, 2016)
- Immunization records (all shots must be current)
- Registration, emergency medical, and first aid forms (available at the school)
- Proof of Arizona residency (i.e., utility bill or lease agreement)
- Picture ID of parent/guardian

To learn more about the charter school, which offers tuition-free education for grades K-8, or to receive an on-site tour, please visit HESGlendale.org.

¹National Education Association, "Full-Day Kindergarten Facts," Accessed January 15, 2016, http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HE/mf_fdkfactsheet.pdf.

²Child Trends Databank, "Full-Day Kindergarten," Last modified February 2015, http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/102_Full-day-kindergarten.pdf.

For more information about Heritage Elementary Glendale, visit www.HESGlendale.org or reach out to the media contacts at the bottom of this release.

About Heritage Elementary School

Heritage Elementary School, founded in 2002, is one of Arizona's fastest-growing charter school systems. The tuition-free, character-based charter school is home to two campuses, one in Glendale and one in Williams, and serves more than 1,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. Both the Glendale and Williams locations offer bus/van transportation. Raena Janes, an active, award-winning advocate for Arizona education and charter schools, is the founder and charter holder. Visit the school's website at HESGlendale.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Alexandra Salazar

McFadden/Gavender

O: (520) 882-6262

M: (520) 820-9948

alexandra@mcfaddengavender.com

Taylor Bentall

McFadden/Gavender

O: (520) 882-6262

M: (603) 801-9398

taylor@mcfaddengavender.com

Website

HESGlendale.org

###