

# Basic Assistance to Students in the Community



## REPORT CARD 2024



## 8TH SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

### BASIC Ensures No Student is Left Behind

In elementary school, students face a critical turning point: by the end of 3rd grade, they move from learning to read to reading to learn. Similarly, middle school math marks another essential transition. Falling behind during these stages makes it incredibly challenging for students to catch up. That's where BASIC steps in, providing the crucial support to ensure every student can overcome obstacles and succeed.

# Brief description of the struggle

## Borrego Springs learners face significant challenges:

### 1. Language Barriers:

High Percentage of English Language Learners: 89% of Borrego's students do not speak English as their first language, making it crucial for them to improve vocabulary, gain fluency, understand composition structure, and enhance writing skills.

### 2. Educational Milestones:

Early Literacy and Math Skills: Many students struggle to meet critical educational milestones, such as transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn by the end of 3rd grade, and understanding foundational math concepts.

### 3. Socioeconomic Factors:

Low-Income Challenges: Research shows that students who do not meet these key milestones tend to face lower lifetime earnings and a higher risk of remaining in a low-income state. This issue is especially pronounced for Latinx students, who constitute nearly all of the program participants.

### 4. Resource Accessibility:

Limited Access to Educational Resources: Students often lack access to necessary educational resources, including books for personal libraries, technology for learning, and academic support outside of the regular school year.

### 5. Engagement and Attendance:

Encouraging Regular Attendance: Ensuring students regularly attend classes and participate in programs is essential for continuous growth and academic improvement.

### 6. Food Insecurity:

In Borrego Springs, many students face the harsh reality of food insecurity, making it difficult to focus on their studies. The lack of consistent access to nutritious meals means that these young learners often struggle to keep up academically. Addressing food insecurity is essential to ensure that every child remains focused and has the opportunity to thrive in and out of the classroom.

**Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and supportive approach, which is why programs like BASIC's Learning Academy are so crucial in providing the necessary resources, attention, and support to help students succeed.**

**"The Summer Learning Academy is the best help our children can have to support them in reading and math over the summer." ---a parent**

# **Program Timeline:** July 2 - August 1, 2024



## **What is Learning Academy?**

The Learning Academy is a transformative “school without walls” summer program, hosted at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Borrego Springs, CA. BASIC’s Cradle-to-Graduation (C2G) program stands out by providing small class sizes, personalized attention, and over 100 hours of immersive instruction per student—all free of charge. This initiative ensures that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically in a supportive and enriching environment.

## **Classes target these three areas**

- **Academic Improvement:** 35 - 50% of students will achieve grade equivalent on standardized tests, bridging the academic gap. Scores are based on pre- and post-testing.
- **Fostering a love for learning:** Instill a passion for education, creating lifelong learners.
- **Promoting Regular Attendance:** Prioritize over 95% attendance rates for continuous growth.

# **Key Features of Learning Academy**

- Closing Ceremony with program-end presentation class projects
- Perfect Attendance Incentive: LAPTOP reward
- Door-to-Door Bus Service
- FREE:
  - Hot breakfast, snack, and lunch every day
  - Books for students' personal home libraries
  - T-shirts and backpacks to build identity and pride

## **Enrichment Program**

BASIC's summer Learning Academy art enrichment program is a lifeline that helps students develop coping skills, boost self-esteem, and foster a strong sense of community. These benefits lay a foundation for mental health and well-being, driving success in the classroom and building brighter futures.

"Art with OLAC," hosted by Ed and Joan White, embodies the mantra "Art is medicine." Since 1992, OLAC has brought art into the community, primarily helping at-risk youth to discover its healing and inspirational power.



# THE OUTCOMES



Total students attended

**45**

Total laptops awarded

**43**

Total meals served

**1760**

## TESTIMONIALS

### From parents...

"My favorite part is when he returns home from school, happy to tell me about the new stuff he learned."

"My daughter loves books and had the basics down but I could tell she "made up" most of the story...BASIC gave her the tools and support she needed to reach her grade level.."

### From students...

"Reading in class is not scary anymore. Thank you Ms. Fuerte."

"I love the food and making new friends. I learned a lot and feel ready for school."

### From a teacher...

"We work over 100 hours dedicated to Math only during the program and even students who "hate" math enjoy the experience and teacher feedback...(teachers) are amazed at the increased ability of their students as well as their actual "enjoyment" of math."





# REPORT CARD

## Elementary Reading Class

Grade Level: 2nd and 3rd grade

Teacher

Tania Fuerte

Teaching Aide

Joselynn Troncoso



### Subject

Word Fluency

Reading Comprehension

Passage Fluency

(passage fluency = reading accurately, smoothly, and with expression)

### Outcomes

92% growth

92% growth

83% growth

### Overall Performance

**75% of students completed the class at grade level!**



# REPORT CARD

## Elementary Math Class

Grade Level: **4th and 5th grade**

Teacher  
**Meg Hanna**

Teaching Aide  
**Ty White**



### Subject

Common Core State Standards Assessment

Multiplication facts  
(best improvement: 54 more correct)

Division facts  
(best improvement: 54 more correct)

### Outcomes

41% growth

100% growth

100% growth

### Overall Performance

**25% of students completed the class at or above grade level!**



# REPORT CARD

## Middle-school Math

Grade Level: **7th and 8th grade**

Teacher  
**Ken Collard**

Teaching Aide  
**Brody White**



### Subject

Common Core State Standards Assessment

### Outcomes

42% growth

Math Fact Assessments

85% growth

Multiplication (best improvement: 36 more correct)

100% growth

Division (best improvement: 62 more correct)

71% growth

Long Division problems with decimals  
(first assessment: none correct)

### Overall Performance

**21% of students completed the class at grade level!**



# REPORT CARD

## English Language Development (ELD) —

Grade Level: Students in ELA or ELD

Teacher  
Neysa Smith

Teaching Aide  
Bryan Fuerte



### Subject

Common Core State Standards Assessment

### Outcomes

57% growth

Sample ELPAC Writing Prompt  
Rubric score:  
(Growth in sentence details and clarity)

57% growth

### Overall Performance

**21% of students completed the class at grade level!**

# **BASIC's Learning Academy Team**

Thank you to all our dedicated participants for your unwavering commitment and hard work; your efforts are the backbone of our success and deeply appreciated.



## **Headmaster, Tim White**

Tim White is the Vice Principal of Borrego Springs Middle/High School. In addition, Mr. White also serves as a math teacher, athletic director, and head coach for the football, basketball, and golf teams.



## **Teachers & Teacher Aides** as noted on class report cards

### **Staff**

Victoria Baay, Testing Facilitator  
Martha Daniels, Custodian  
Nidia Meza, Program Assistant

### **Volunteers**

Jim Wall, Roberta Wall, Aleksandra Buchowieck

### **Learning Academy Committee**

Curt Yaws, Headmaster Emeritus  
Joann Stang, Director  
Joanne Ingwall, Finance Director

### **Special “Thank You” also goes to**

Barbara Coates, Carol Haller ,Desert Spirit, Cristina Serrentino  
Ed & Joan White, Jim Dice, Ken Collard, Kendall’s Café, Lorena  
Valdez and team, Lorry Seagrim, Martha Deichler  
Richard Fausel, Joanne Ingwall, Mary Watkins, Mateo Mamea  
Neil Farber, Sughiel Fuentes, Urmie Ray

# LEARNING ACADEMY 2024

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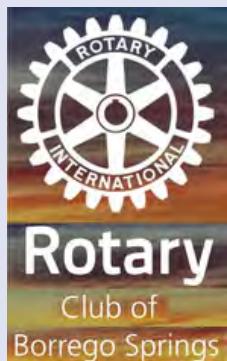
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Borrego Springs Unified School District:  
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Victoria Baay  
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Kathleen Kearns  
UCI Steele/Burnand  
Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center:  
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