

Good Foundations Academy

5101 South, 1050 West, Riverdale, Utah 84405

Main: 801.393.2950

FAX: 385.333.7245

Website: <http://gfautah.org>

For info: askgfa@gfautah.org

July 16, 2026

Dear GFA Families,

On behalf of the entire staff at Good Foundations Academy, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning families and a very special welcome to those who are joining the GFA community for the first time. We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with opportunities to relax, make memories, and enjoy time with family and friends. As summer comes to a close, we are excited to begin another school year filled with new friendships, meaningful learning experiences, and opportunities for every student to grow both academically and personally. We are honored that you have entrusted us with your child's education, and we look forward to partnering with you throughout the coming year.

Behind the scenes, our teachers and staff have been busy planning, preparing, and getting everything ready to welcome students back to campus. From preparing classrooms and developing engaging lessons to reviewing curriculum, refining procedures, and ensuring a safe and positive learning environment, a great deal of work has gone into making sure we are ready for a successful start. We are confident that the 2026-2027 school year will be another outstanding year at GFA, and we cannot wait to see our hallways and classrooms filled with students once again. As we prepare for the first day of school, below is some important information to help your family get ready for a smooth and successful beginning to the school year.

Student Placement & Class Lists

A tremendous amount of time, care, and thoughtful consideration has gone into the student placement process for the 2026-2027 school year. Our goal is to create balanced classrooms that meet the academic, social, emotional, and individual learning needs of every student. Class lists are carefully developed to provide equitable class sizes and learning environments across each grade level.

Because of the extensive planning involved, changes to class assignments are rarely possible without creating imbalances that affect multiple classrooms. We sincerely appreciate your support and understanding. One of the best ways you can help your child have a successful start is by speaking positively about his or her teacher and encouraging excitement about the new school year, classmates, and learning opportunities.

Class lists will be posted on the windows near the small playground on July 31st at 10:00 a.m.

NEW THIS YEAR – Open House & Back-to-School Night Combined!

We are excited to introduce a new tradition this year by combining our Open House and Back-to-School Night into one exciting event! We believe bringing these two events together will provide families with one convenient evening to gather important information, meet teachers, and prepare for a fantastic school year.

Please join us on **Thursday, August 6, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

During the evening you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet your child's teacher(s)
- Visit classrooms and drop off school supplies
- Learn about classroom expectations and routines
- Visit the Uniform Closet
- Learn more about our lunch program and other school resources
- Receive important beginning-of-year information
- Ask questions and connect with our faculty and staff

The evening will begin with a brief parent meeting in the gym from 6:00-6:15 p.m. Following the meeting, families will have three opportunities to visit classrooms:

- **Session 1:** 6:20 p.m.
- **Session 2:** 6:55 p.m.
- **Session 3:** 7:30 p.m.

Half-Day Kindergarten Families Only: To ensure you meet with the correct teacher, please attend the Back-to-School Night session that corresponds with your child's class. **Families of students enrolled in the AM Half-Day Kindergarten should attend Session 1 at 6:20 p.m. Families of students enrolled in the PM Half-Day Kindergarten should attend Session 2 at 6:55 p.m.**

Whether you have one student or several children attending GFA, these multiple sessions will provide flexibility to meet with each of your children's teachers. We hope every family will attend as we kick off another exciting school year together!

Attendance Matters

At Good Foundations Academy, academic excellence begins with consistent attendance. Students simply learn more when they are in the classroom each day, actively engaged in instruction. While we understand that appointments and illnesses are sometimes unavoidable, we encourage families to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

The State of Utah defines excessive absenteeism as missing more than ten days during the school year. Although we recognize that illnesses and emergencies occur, regular attendance plays a critical role in student achievement. Every day truly counts.

School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:15 a.m. must be checked in by a parent or guardian either in the front office or by scanning the QR code located at the front entrance.

For student safety, parents checking students out early must come into the office and present a valid photo ID. Students will not be released to individuals waiting in vehicles.

First Day of School

The first day of in-class learning is Monday, August 10th. School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. All students must enter through the front of the building and go directly to their classroom. Doors open at 7:40 a.m. each morning. **Please keep in mind that we will be following an early release schedule the first week of school.** Students will be released at 1:00 p.m. **The early release schedule this week for kindergarten is as follows:** Morning kindergarten will attend school from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and afternoon kindergarten will attend school from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please join us for an opening ceremony event on the first day of school beginning at 8:15 a.m. in the front of the school near the flag poles.

School Entrance and Schedule

GFA currently uses a front door buzz-in entry system. Upon entry, visitors will need to sign-in at the front office before given further access to the school. All other doors will remain locked throughout the day. **All visitors to the school must enter through the front doors.**

Daily Schedule

AM Kindergarten

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

PM Kindergarten

Monday – Thursday: 12:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
Friday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All-day Kindergarten through 6th

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Morning Drop-Off Safety Reminders

The safety of our students is always our highest priority. Following our drop-off procedures helps keep traffic moving efficiently while ensuring students arrive safely.

Please remember:

- Morning drop-off begins at 7:40 a.m. Please make arrangements with a care provider like Next Generation, which is located behind GFA, if you need to drop off your student before 7:40 a.m.
- Pull forward as far as possible before stopping to unload your student. If everyone pulls as far forward as possible before stopping, we can unload twice as many students in the same amount of time.
- Have students ready to exit the vehicle quickly to keep traffic flowing.
- Students should always exit from the passenger side nearest the sidewalk.
- If your child needs assistance, please park in the parking lot rather than stopping in the drop-off lane.
- Please do not park or leave your vehicle in the drop-off lane, as it blocks traffic and creates a safety concern.
- Please be aware of the cross walk while leaving the school parking lot. You must turn **right** out of the exit closest to the crosswalk between GFA and Utah Military Academy.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work through high volumes of traffic at the beginning of year and for helping us create a safe and efficient arrival process for everyone.

Afternoon Pick-Up Reminders

Afternoon dismissal is one of the busiest times of the day. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as everyone becomes familiar with the procedures, especially during the first few weeks of school.

Please remember:

- Drive slowly and remain attentive throughout the pick-up line.
- Refrain from using your cell phone while driving through school property.
- Show patience and kindness to staff and other families as we work together to keep students safe.
- Each class within a grade level will stand together in a designated area. Students in 6th Grade, 5th Grade, and PM Kindergarten will be picked up in the front drive-through beginning at 3:10 p.m. If you DO NOT have a student in grades 1-4, you may turn left to exit out of the car lane and prepare to leave

the school. If you have a student in grades 1-4, you will turn right and continue to the back of the school. Students will be stationed in the following order in the back of the school: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and daycare buses. Families picking up students in Grades 1-4 will continue through the route to the back of the school where students will be organized by grade level.

- AM Kindergarten students will be picked up in **the back of the school**.
- If you plan to check your child out early, please park in the parking lot before entering the office.
- If your child will be walking to Target or another designated location after school, please notify your **child's teacher in advance**.

Maps outlining our carpool procedures will be available during Back-to School Night.

Partnering With Parents

One of the greatest strengths of Good Foundations Academy is the incredible partnership we share with our families. Parent involvement has a tremendous impact on student success, both academically and socially. Whether volunteering in classrooms, assisting with school events, serving on the Guardian Committee, helping with Book Fairs, Field Day, musicals, or other activities, your willingness to serve makes our school stronger.

We encourage every family to find a way to get involved this year. Together, we can continue creating a school community where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and commitment to Good Foundations Academy. We are honored to partner with you in your child's education and look forward to another incredible year of learning, growth, and achievement.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back very soon. Together, let's make the 2026-2027 school year our best one yet!

Sincerely,

Lisa Erwin M.Ed.
Executive Director
Building Knowledge and Character
(801)393-2950

“Aim High, Work High, Be Great!”