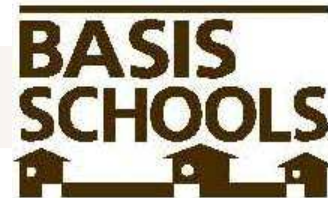


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DECEMBER 8, 2008

BASIS Tucson named “Gold Medal School” and ranked first in Arizona on newly released *U.S. News and World Report’s* “America’s Best High Schools” list.

Tucson—BASIS Tucson School was ranked 13th out of 21,000 public high school in the newly released *U.S. News and World Report’s* “America’s Best High Schools” list, up from 16th last year. BASIS Tucson is the top-ranked public high school in Arizona. Only two other schools in Arizona were designated as Gold Medal Schools.

BASIS Tucson’s 13th national ranking puts it ahead of all other Arizona public schools, including exclusive schools for gifted students, such as Tucson’s University High School (UHS), which placed 22nd (dropping nine spots since last year). Unlike UHS, which is comprised of gifted students drawn from the cream of the Tucson Unified School District through stringent entrance exams, BASIS Tucson is an open-enrollment charter school. This fact demonstrated that the BASIS method enables non-gifted and gifted students alike to make the most of their potential.

The *U.S. News* ranking is the most recent honor bestowed upon the young charter school, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary of operation. (It has a sister school, BASIS Scottsdale, which opened five years ago.) BASIS Tucson is currently recognized as the nation’s best public high school for college readiness, based on *Newsweek’s* “Challenge Index.”

Additionally, the Department of Education’s results for 2007-08 showed that BASIS Tucson finished first or tied for first among all Arizona high schools in all AIMS Test categories—math, reading, and writing—with 100% of BASIS tenth-grade students passing each of the tests. Similarly, BASIS Tucson’s Middle School stood at or near the top of AIMS scores in almost every grade and test category. BASIS Scottsdale’s students had comparably high scores.

BASIS Tucson students earned acclamation from the College Board for their performance on the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in May 2008. BASIS Tucson had 98 students who took AP Exams, and 42 of them, 43%, earned the designation of “AP Scholar,” compared to the 11% percent of all of the two million students who took AP Exams. Among these 42 students were five who earned the distinction of “AP National Scholar,” the highest AP distinction a student can receive; these five represented half of the total of 10 students in Arizona who earned this recognition.

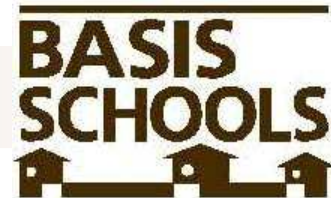
What makes BASIS Tucson students so well prepared? It’s the world class college preparatory curriculum that starts in the fifth grade and is based on combining the European-Asian educational systems’ stress on acquiring content and concepts with the American system of student inquiry and questioning. Many high-school subjects—such as physics, biology, chemistry, algebra I, and algebra II—are taught in middle school. The demanding curriculum is continued in the Upper School, which is centered on the AP program. BASIS Tucson currently offers 15 AP courses ranging from English Language and Composition to Calculus BC. Upper School students are required to take eight AP courses and six AP exams to graduate, and the results of these exams count toward the student’s final grade in the subject. The BASIS philosophy is that superior academic achievement is a result of setting high standards. BASIS believes all students can be successful and prides itself on challenging each student to be his or her best.

BASIS Tucson was founded by Michael and Olga Block in 1998. Its student’s successes have earned national recognition by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*.

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E



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BASIS's world-class curriculum would come to little if it were not for BASIS's teachers, who are trained in the BASIS system, which requires them to be experts in their subject. BASIS hopes to keep its best teachers in the classroom through its Master Teachers fundraising program. The "kick off" event for the Master Teachers program will be held December 11 with a screening of *Two Million Minutes*. The documentary's producer, Robert Compton will be in Tucson for the event and will be interviewed during the screening by Ronald Marx, the Dean of the University of Arizona's College of Education.

U.S. News's "America's Best High Schools" list, developed by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services, is based on the principles that a great high school must serve all of its students well and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes across a range of performance indicators. *U.S. News* analyzed 21,069 public high schools in 48 states using data from the 2006-2007 school year. *U.S. News* used a three-step process to determine the best high schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all their students well, using state proficiency standards as the measuring benchmarks; for BASIS Tucson, *U.S. News* used results on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) tests. The 9% of schools that made it past the first two steps became eligible to be judged nationally on the final step, college-readiness performance, using Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate test data as the benchmarks for success. This third step measured which schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest percentages of their students. Those schools that finished in the top 100, like BASIS Tucson, earned "Gold Medal" recognition.

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