

Sunburst Elementary

Layton, Utah



Today

[Sunburst Elementary School](#) is not your average school. Our learning team co-designed and piloted a [Teacher Academy Model School](#). We partner with three universities to provide an immersive learning experience for aspiring teachers in their first two years of the university teacher preparation program. Because Sunburst teachers must continually reflect on their instruction in order to provide mentoring for practicum teachers, the Teacher Academy Program makes great teachers better and practicum students benefit from the immersive experience. Most importantly, Sunburst students benefit from teachers who continually improve on their previous best and by having additional adults invested in their learning. In the midst of a pandemic, how do you pilot a Teacher Academy Model School Program and remain committed to a shared vision? Sunburst's vision is, "We foster *meaningful, collaborative, personalized, engaging* learning for all members of our school community - students, teachers and practicum students." To support our vision, our culture celebrates risk taking, values process over product and includes a shared mindset that views challenges as opportunities. Finally, we commit to leveraging technology to enhance our vision. We didn't just survive; we thrived. Students, teachers and practicum students flourish in our energizing school environment.

Engaging Learning



Meaningful Learning



Personalized Learning



Collaborative Learning



Demographics

772 students

77 faculty members

Public

K-6

Apple products and services

1:1 Student iPad

1:1 Teacher iPad

1:1 Logitech Crayons

Apple TV in each classroom and collaborative learning space

Ongoing, on-site Apple Professional Development

95% Apple Badge Certified Teachers

Everyone Can Create Teacher Guide

Apple Teacher Learning Center

Vision

We firmly believe that learning opportunities for teachers and practicum students must mirror our learning vision for students. Teachers serve as examples of risk taking and collaboration by learning and exploring alongside their students. We've adopted an unofficial motto – "Don't afraid to get messy, just try it" We value process over product and perfection. This mindset changes the way we view challenges. We reframe them as opportunities for growth and innovation.



Learning

Collaboration and Connections. A walk down Sunburst halls reveals, students working together in collaborative spaces. Students configure non-traditional furniture to facilitate collaboration and engagement. They are engaged in conversation, group problem solving and designing. Virtual gallery walks, newscasts, podcasts, interactive digital learning journals and iMovies are used to facilitate collaboration. Students frequently connect with other grades levels, schools and organizations.

Personalized Learning Experiences. Teachers utilize technology to design personalized experiences based on individual student needs and interests. Students have choice in how they learn and demonstrate their levels of understanding. For example, personalized learning journals, digital choice boards, collaborative presentations. A favorite success story is that of a 6th grade student who struggles academically, especially with traditional testing. His teacher gave him the opportunity to choose how to demonstrate his level of understanding on a Science unit. He chose to create a Keynote with audio explanations and visuals. After experiencing success, he proudly told his teacher, "I really do understand more than people think I do. Now I finally get to prove it."

Meaningful. Teachers plan objectives for each learning experience with a relevant, real-world connection.

Success

- * The number of teachers who consistently utilize technology for student-to-student collaboration increased by 37%
- * The number of teachers who consistently and effectively utilize technology to personalize instruction increased by 24%
- * Every teacher feels more confident taking risks, so much so they agreed to go live and unscripted for a virtual school tour during an Apple webinar.
- * Every teacher tried multiple new strategies to enhance learning with technology.
- * 100% of practicum students indicated they have a better understanding of enhancing learning with technology.
- * Observation 'student engagement' indicators increased by 40%
- * 91% of surveyed 3rd-6th grade students reported they are more engaged in their learning when they have choices, work with other students and use technology to learn.

➔ What's Next

We recognize that growth and success isn't an endpoint, it's ongoing. We will continue to provide an optimal learning environment for students by growing the culture that's been established, continuing to leverage technology, utilizing on-site Apple professional development and The Apple Teaching Learning Center. Our school is growing. Next year, five additional teachers will join our faculty. In addition to participating in a summer Apple training for educators, they will receive onboard training that focuses on our school culture and environment. We are excited to extend our learning community; our new faculty members will add to the energizing, collaborative and engaging environment at Sunburst.

