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# INFORMATION KIT



# YOUR CHILD IS DESTINED TO CHANGE THE WORLD



# WHO ARE WE?

As parents of 5 children, we strongly believe that our children are destined to find a calling that will change the world. We believe our role as parents is to inspire and equip our children for what we call a Hero's Journey.

Our journey began when traditional schooling started to kill the excitement of natural curiosity and the love of learning in our first two children. After two years in a traditional private setting, we transferred to a Montessori school. The spark for learning came back, yet we wanted more.

We wanted them to be able to follow their passions and have real-world experiences that would prepare them to leave the "nest" as responsible and capable Heroes in our society. We wanted to prepare them to have a life of meaning and purpose and to be life-long learners.

Joseph was introduced to Acton Academy's K-12 school while completing an MBA at the Acton School of Business. He suggested that I look into their K-12 school. The more I read and researched, the more I knew this was the type of education I wanted for our 5 children.

This model incorporated what we were searching for:

Learning to **LEARN**, Learning to **DO**, and Learning to **BE**



## Mindy Petramalo

Co-Founder

Mindy is a mother of 5 independent, strong-willed children. She loves traveling, playing music, ballroom dancing, riding/training horses, and raising farm kids. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Home and Family Sciences and a minor in business. She has run 7 successful businesses, beginning at 8 years old.

## Joseph Petramalo

Co-Founder

Joseph graduated Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern Studies with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies and an MBA from Acton School of Business. Joseph has enjoyed history and reading from a young age. He also loves traveling and has a gift for languages, which was fostered when living 2 years in Russia. Consequently, he too has run 7 startup businesses.

# OUR PROMISES TO YOUR CHILD

He or she will:



Begin a Hero's Journey



Learn to be a curious, independent, lifelong learner.



Develop a deep respect for economic, political and religious freedoms.



Cherish the arts, wonders of the physical world and the mysteries of life on Earth.



Discover his or her most precious gifts and learn to use them to solve difficult problems.

# OUR BELIEFS



We believe each child has a gift that can change the world in a profound way.



We believe in a closely connected family of lifelong learners.



We believe in learning to learn, learning to do, and learning to be.



We believe in economic, religious, and political freedom.



# Unique Design

## LEARNING TO LEARN

Heroes master the foundations of reading, writing, and math with Montessori materials. While Socratic discussions help heroes think and speak clearly to develop wisdom and judgment.

## LEARNING TO BE

Heroes develop habits and character traits that make an abundant, fulfilling life. Clear thinking leads to good decisions, good decisions lead to the right habits, the right habits lead to character and character becomes destiny.

## LEARNING TO DO

Heroes thrive on hands-on projects to master the skills needed to solve real-world problems. These hands-on quests also bring the "learning to learn" aspect to life. These solidify and make core skills applicable.

# STUDIO DESIGN

## THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

At Acton Academy Twin Falls, our studios blend the best from the old and the new - a return to the one-room schoolhouse model that built America with the best of modern technology and 21st century organizational design. Our tightly knit community is bound by a shared mission, promises and accountability where young people develop deep friendships and the skills to keep those friendships for the long run.

## Skills for Today's Challenges

Hands-on projects to master real-world problems, **for example:**

Instead of memorizing the periodic table .....

You are an ER doctor in a 6-week simulation. You learn the processes, tools, decision trees and facts to triage patients. On the final-day exhibition, parents come with prepared "diseases." You can order an MRI, an X-ray, etc., paying for each. The winner of the simulation is the ER doc who saves the most lives (correct diagnoses) for the lowest cost.

# A DAY AT ACTON



## How A Day Flows

At Acton Academy Twin Falls, large blocks of time are set aside in the morning for core skills and afternoon for projects. Students set their own goals and work within guardrails, which equip young people to manage their time, set S.M.A.R.T. goals, and track progress. As learners demonstrate their readiness, they earn more freedom and responsibility. Within each work block, students choose from a broad range of work options based on their personal goals, passions and commitments.

## A LEARNER-DRIVEN COMMUNITY

Learner-Driven Communities are run mostly by learners, and guided by guides, only when needed, to keep them on course to follow the contracts the Heroes themselves put in place.

Heroes create and sign a Contract of Promises describing how each individual will act and the consequences for violating community norms. These are provisional contracts and can be changed to better their community (studio) in a town hall meeting.

“Badges are earned for mysterying core skills, character call-outs and completing leadership challenges. These are not easy to earn, but so rewarding!

## Typical Schedule

- Mornings are launched with a Socratic discussion about a hero or character building question.
- Core Skills follow the morning launch.
- Afternoons are for hands-on Quest projects in the shoes of a real-life hero.
- 15-minute Socratic discussion closes the day and provides a time to reflect, provide feedback, and bond as a group.

8:15-8:30	Free Time	Free Time
8:30-8:45	Morning Launch	Morning Launch
8:45-10:30	Individual Core Skills	Individual Core Skills
10:30-12:00	Collaborative Core Skills	Collaborative Core Skills
12:00-12:45	Lunch - Recess	Lunch - Recess
12:45-1:00	Afternoon Launch	Afternoon Launch
1:00-2:35	Quests	Civilization, Music or Art
2:35-2:45	Studio Maintenance	Studio Maintenance
2:45-3:00	Closing	Closing

# FAQ

## What is a Hero and a Hero's Journey?

We refer to our students as Heros. Why? Because we believe each of us has a special calling; gifts, talents, and passions, that when applied, will change the world. Our mission is to prepare each child for his or her special journey through life while serving others along their way.

## What Grades Do You Offer?

At AATF, there are 3 multiaged studios:  
Pre-K - Ages 4-6  
Lower Elementary - Ages 6-9  
Upper Elementary - Ages 8-12

## Will you be offering grades Pre-12th?

Yes!

We will be offering grades Pre-7th in Fall 2022.  
We anticipate adding high school in Fall 2023.

## Is Acton a religious school?

No. We value and respect each person's beliefs. We explore the importance various religions have played throughout history, but we do not offer religious education. Children may be exposed to a variety of religions through our study of civilization.

## How much homework will be assigned??

NONE! We believe that children need time to play, relax, and be with family and friends. There will not be any homework assigned. We find that children educated in this way become passionate about learning and have no trouble keeping themselves busy.

## How do Acton students compare on standardized test?

On average, Acton Academies throughout the country are finding that Acton students are progressing 3-5 grade levels above students their age. We do not believe standardized testing is a very accurate way to gauge a child's learning. We do not give standardized tests to pass core skills materials. Instead, we believe in a mastery approach. Once a child has mastered a concept, it is only then that they move on. This reduces frustration and getting behind or lost when one is not ready for a new concept but also allows those ready to move faster to progress at a pace that is suitable for them..

## How will my child stay on track in a self-directed environment?

Children will have freedom to explore while their guide helps provide boundaries and helps them manage the incorporation of core skills into their day. They will set the foundation for goal setting and meet with their guide regularly as they take steps toward being fully self-directed.

A child's ability to set and track goals in order to evaluate progress is essential to success in a learner-driven, individualized program. Children need a lot of practice setting specific, measurable goals that are challenging but realistic.

## What is the schedule of a school year?

We operate on an 11-month trimester calendar. Why? We want to capitalize on the mental and physical energy essential for learning while preventing burnout, which is a killer of curiosity. Heros put forth great energy and effort for 4-7 weeks. This is followed by an exhibition to showcase their efforts and then a 1-2 week break to revamp. Our schedule allows families to travel more throughout the year without missing school days and for Heros to retain more by shortening summer breaks.

## Is Acton Academy Twin Falls accredited?

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## Is Acton Academy Twin Falls accredited?

Yes. We are accredited through the International Association of Learner Driven Schools.

## What about extra-curricular activities?

We encourage our heroes to try new things to find what they're passionate about. This not only fosters a deep love of learning in their school years but also helps one to find their calling and joy in life. Idaho allows private school students to utilize classes and/or extracurricular activities at public school. This allows students to gain an education their families sees best while being able to participate in activities such as sports team, band, etc...at public school. To keep our tuition as low as possible, we are currently utilizing these programs for extracurricular activities.

Reference this in Idaho Statues, Title 33, Chapter 2, Section 33-203

# BOOKS WE RECOMMEND



Courage to Grow by Laura Sandefer

One World Schoolhouse by Sal Khan

A Thomas Jefferson Education by Oliver DeMille

Nurture Shock by Po Bronson & Ashley Merryman

The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle

Unschooling Rules by Clark Aldrich

Work Rules! by Laszlo Bock

Creative Schools by Sir Ken Robinson

The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown

Mindset by Carol S. Dweck

Antifragile by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

# ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Our admissions process is designed to help your family explore the new science of learning in the 21st century, then decide if this is the right fit for you. If interested in applying, we encourage you to read, watch videos, and participate in our exhibition events.

We encourage you to dive deeply in Acton Academy!

## Who does Acton Academy fit best?

- People who believe the traditional school system no longer works to prepare children for the modern world
- Entrepreneurs
- Creators and creatives
- Out-of-the box thinkers
- People who want the benefits of child-directed learning without having to make a full-time commitment to homeschooling
- Families with flexible schedules
- People who need flexible attendance for travel and family obligations. (We will operate on an 11-month calendar with 4-7 week sessions and breaks in between)
- Children who want additional time to pursue their passions beyond traditional after school hours
- People who want to maximize their family time
- Trailblazers and trendsetters
- Families who value their freedom and want their children to develop a love of learning

## Families looking for the following may not feel Acton Academy a good fit:

- Those who are “blamers” and ultimately will gossip and criticize, no matter what.
- Those who aren't sure their child is ready yet for the responsibility and struggles—and occasional tears—of truly independent learning.
- Those who are not committed to a Hero's Journey themselves.

I'M READY TO...

# Explore Campus

We're thrilled you have gone through our informational kit. We encourage you to continue your research on Acton Academy.

We'd love to meet you and your family and hear your thoughts on education and it's scene in our community.

To schedule a campus tour, give us a call at 208.420.9520 or visit us at <https://www.actonacademytf.org/simpl-e-schedule>

**Thank you!**