



Haas Hall Academy

Fayetteville, AR | Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer, Founder and Superintendent

Grades Served: 8-12 ■ **Enrollment:** 360 ■ **Year Opened:** 2004-2005

Instructional Strategies: STEAM, college prep

Student Demographics: 86% White; 5% Hispanic; 4% Asian; 3% Black; 1% FRL eligible

A Mission to Serve

Haas Hall Academy, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, offers an accelerated learning model for scholars seeking a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. Its mission is “to provide an aggressive alternative to the traditional learning environment for scholars with high intensity of purpose, enabling them to succeed at the nation’s prestigious universities and to become pillars of their communities.” The school is structured like a university and this captures the college-centric atmosphere of its city, which is home to the University of Arkansas. Its semester-based, block-scheduled courses mean that one instructional day at Haas Hall Academy is equivalent to about two traditional school days.

The in-depth STEM-focused instruction pays off: *Newsweek* ranks Haas Hall Academy as the 25th best high school in America among more than 26,000 public high schools.

From Vision to Reality: How CSP Funds Enabled Haas Hall Academy to Open

Haas Hall Academy received a \$450,000 planning grant in 2004 through the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP). School Founder and Superintendent Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer stated that, “if it weren’t for those CSP funds, we would have had no desks, no books. Everything you need comes from that grant. It is imperative that public charter schools receive those funds, because we start out from nothing and create a school.”

Dr. Schoppmeyer believes that Congress could continue to support public charter schools through stronger facilities funding. When it comes to per-pupil funding, “it shouldn’t matter where you go to school, you should be treated the same,” he notes.

Principal’s Office

Dr. Schoppmeyer founded Haas Hall Academy on the idea of a public school that provided students the same academic intensity offered in elite private schools. In 2004, the school launched as the first public charter high school in Arkansas with 17 students taking classes in a converted dairy barn.

He was drawn to the charter school model to deliver his vision for a college-like learning experience because public charter schools are open

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- Haas Hall Academy has a 100% graduation rate and 100% college acceptance rate
- Ranked in the Top 1% of America’s Most Challenging High Schools by *Washington Post*
- Ranked #1 Public High School in Arkansas for 4th consecutive year by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Ranked #25 in the Top 2,000 U.S. Public High Schools by *Newsweek/Daily Beast*

“To be able to say that you go to Haas Hall Academy is a great honor considering the academic accomplishments it’s achieved.”

— Bryson Horn, 10th grade



to all students, can have a specific instructional focus, and leaders can hire faculty who are experts. The vast majority of Haas Hall Academy faculty hold advanced degrees in their subject area—enabling the teachers to provide in-depth coverage of the topic—but might not hold a traditional teacher certification.

The need for a strong academic public school option in Fayetteville was apparent. Data for the neighboring University of Arkansas show that nearly 50 percent of incoming students require academic remediation and less than ten percent of those students will graduate from college. In contrast, Haas Hall Academy has 100 percent graduation rate and a 100 percent college acceptance rate.

Haas Hall Academy's profound academic success has led to huge parental demand for a seat in the public charter school. To meet this demand, the school will be replicating to a second grades 7-12 campus in Bentonville, which will open for the 2015-16 school year. The Fayetteville and Bentonville campuses will collaborate and share resources to serve as a regional educational model.

Heard in the Halls



"I just don't think every child learns the same way and to having public charter school options is a benefit to all families"

—Stacy Keenan, Director of Advancement and parent



"Working in a public charter school, I get a lot more freedom in my classroom. We have the most supportive administration I've ever dealt with, and it's really focused on the kids."

—Tad Sours, history and geography teacher



"The beautiful thing about Haas Hall Academy is that by being college prep, everybody understands that when they walk in front door, we're going help you go to college."

—Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer, Founder and Superintendent



Coming to Haas Hall Academy, it was great to be in a close-knit family environment. You're very close to the teachers and students, and there's a lot more one-on-one work—it's a great learning environment

—Bryson Horn, 10th grade

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Scholars, faculty, administration, and parents all participate in community service projects, in groups and individually.
- Parents must volunteer three hours a year to the school as part of their parent partnership.
- Haas Hall Academy offers award-winning arts and athletic programs

