



After-School Learning

The Athenaeum program at Great Hearts

Great Hearts is a non-profit network of 27 public charter schools in Arizona and Texas dedicated to improving education through classical preparatory K-12 academies.

A Great Hearts education prepares students to be more than just proficient test takers, but rather, to become great hearted leaders capable of success throughout their higher education and professional careers. With a curriculum built upon a classical liberal arts tradition and a revolutionary approach to school itself, Great Hearts cultivates the hearts and minds of students in the pursuit of Truth, Goodness and Beauty.

The Athenaeum program at Great Hearts provides an extension of the school day for scholars in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Alex, a 5th grader from Athenaeum at Archway Glendale describes her experiences, *"I like Athenaeum because I get to meet new teachers who give us new lessons and activities. They support us. We get a lot of things we don't expect. We learn activities that are like the classroom material. If you listen, you'll learn a lot and get better grades. You get freedom to learn in Athenaeum and that probably helps you learn better because it's not just a requirement."*

A decade of research and evaluation studies, as well as large-scale, rigorously conducted syntheses looking across many research and evaluation studies, confirms that children and youth who participate in after school programs can reap a host of positive benefits in a number of interrelated outcome areas—academic, social and emotional, prevention, and health and wellness. (Little, Wimer, and Weiss, 2008, p. 2). Athenaeum is truly an extension of the Great Hearts school day and includes time for homework completion as well as classical lessons in the arts, sciences, and literature.

Great Hearts Academies counts on the Athenaeum program to help children flourish.



Little, P. M., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. (2008). Afterschool programs make a difference: Findings from the Harvard family research project. *SEDL Letter*, 20(2).

1st grade student at Archway Trivium West, works on her rendition of Giorgio Morandi's (1890-1964) "*Natura Morta*". Great Hearts is accredited by NAEYC.