



Inspiring exceptional futures

## Benefits of being a Self Development Academy Faculty Member:

- Pride with teaching at a highly ranked school  
America's #2 ranked Charter Elementary School K— 8 [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)  
Arizona's #1 ranked Public Elementary School [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)  
Mesa's #1 ranked Elementary School [www.schooldigger.com](http://www.schooldigger.com)
- New staff members are assigned mentor teachers to provide the support that is critical to teacher success
- Work in an environment where administrators also teach in the classroom and understand the challenges of teaching
- An opportunity for teachers to be involved in a school culture that nurtures growth and professional development
- Earn bonuses based on student achievement
- Teachers are provided with curriculum, assessments, and pacing guide. This allows teachers to focus on creatively and effectively ensuring student learning.

## What our Faculty is saying:

SDA provides a rigorous curriculum for students, keeping them challenged and engaged. The support given by our Founder, Dr. Anjum Majeed, plays a huge role in our school's high ranking. ~ Jamie

As a 3rd year teacher at SDA, I appreciate how the academic program challenges the students to reach a higher level of learning. ~ Patricia

The support of the staff, administration, and parents allows me to feel like I am part of a team. As a teacher of SDA my knowledge has grown. I value the education that is provided to our students. ~ AnnMarie

I love that we are able to work one-on-one with the students and make them feel important and build the student's confidence. ~ Elizabeth

In the Middle School we work to support each other and to collaborate in order to solve problems. ~ Tici



The students are hard workers, and the parents are very involved and want to work with the school to have the best outcome for their child's educational experience. ~ Loni

For the 9 years I have taught at SDA, I've become part of not just a great organization but a family. I've grown as a teacher by taking part in the SDA philosophies and expectations. ~ Katie

SDA offers a culture and environment where every staff member collaboratively works toward the same goal. The teachers are part of a professional learning environment that strives for growth and commitment to building lifelong learners. ~ Jennifer

I love that as a school we are consistently ranked as a top-performing school in the state. I am extremely proud to say I work for SDA. ~ Kathy

As new teacher I like the fact that the curriculum is very structured. It allows me to know what I will be teaching and when it should be taught. At SDA, the students work a grade level ahead and are always working hard. The students themselves have high expectations to excel. ~ Brittany





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# Self Development Academy

## Rankings

Niche [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)

**#1 in 2017 Best Public Elementary Schools in Arizona (of 1,061)**

**#1 in 2017 Best Charter Elementary Schools in Arizona (of 238)**

**#2 in 2017 Best Charter Elementary Schools in America (of 2,636)**

<https://www.niche.com/k12/self-development-academy-mesa-az/>

Great! Schools [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)

**10 out of 10 Great! Schools rating**

<http://www.greatschools.org/search/search.page?q=Self%20Development%20Charter%20School>

SchoolDigger [www.schooldigger.com](http://www.schooldigger.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> of Mesa public school**

**4<sup>th</sup> of 1,073 public elementary schools in Arizona (2016)**

**4<sup>th</sup> of 669 public junior high schools in Arizona (2016)**

<https://www.schooldigger.com/go/AZ/schools/0023202022/school.aspx>



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## Why Our Faculty Loves Teaching at Self Development Academy

- Being a teacher at Self Development Academy (SDA) for eleven years speaks volumes about what an incredible school SDA is. The support of the staff, administration, and parents allows me to feel like I am part of a team. At SDA student learning is the first priority, and the mission is to create lifelong learners. The caring nature and small environment added to the reasons why SDA was an excellent fit for me. Through the years, I have had many students and siblings in my class. The connection I share with these families makes my experience very special.

As a teacher at SDA, my knowledge of learning has grown. As with the students, I am challenged to improve my teaching skills. With our accelerated curriculum, students are challenged each day. The focus on critical thinking and preparing students for high school and college gives me a feeling of gratitude. The more I prepare the students with skills needed for their future, the more confident they are. In addition, all students are given the learning skills needed to reach their goals. Many students who have graduated come back to visit and express gratitude for the educational foundation they received at SDA.

Additionally as a mother, I wanted to keep an open mind about my own child's education. I placed her in the two's at the SDA's preschool, and her academic progress and love for learning has increased tremendously. I value the education that is provided for our students as well as for my daughter. ~ AnnMarie

- As a new teacher, I began my career here at Self Development Academy (SDA). Five years later, I am still here for a multitude of reasons, the most prominent being the sense of community. In the Middle School, we work to support each other and collaborate in order to solve problems. We all have the same students so when one of them is struggling, we work together to help that student. Another major factor to why SDA has been such a good fit is the opportunities for growth. As a small school, sometimes the teacher needs to wear multiple hats. As a result, there have been many opportunities to expand my knowledge and experience that would not have taken place anywhere else. Here, we have high expectations not only of the students but also the teachers. Truly the opportunity to stretch, grow, and be challenged while working in a supportive environment is why, five years later, I remain a proud teacher at SDA. ~ Tici
- Teaching at Self Development Academy has been a blessing in my life in many ways. For the nine years I have taught here, I've become part of not just a great organization, but a family. I've grown as a teacher in taking part and adopting the philosophies and expectations at SDA. The results have been astounding. Each day we teach at a higher level of thinking, while continually raising the bar and having high expectations. In addition, we are fortunate to have a pullout system to enrich and mend some of the gaps students may have. This recipe for success is one that I am proud to be part of. In as much, my daughter started attending daycare here at the age of two. The leaps and bounds she's made, with a love for learning, makes a mother proud. She and I will continue to be lifelong learners here at SDA. ~ Katie
- I have been a teacher at Self Development Academy (SDA) for four years. Working here has been an amazing experience. When I first started this was my first teaching job. I had a wonderful mentor teacher that was patient and really gave me the time I needed with all of my questions. The students are hard workers and I have enjoyed each and every group I have worked with. The parents are very involved and really want to work with the school to have the best outcome for their child's education experience. The most important aspect of working at SDA is the administration. Everyone is so positive and understanding. They really want each person to do their best and set high expectations for each teacher. I have been lucky to be at this amazing school and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for this growing school. ~ Loni
- An advantage of being a first year teacher at Self Development Academy (SDA) is that you're treated like a family member rather than a coworker. Everyone at the school is very helpful and helps in any way they can. The curriculum is very structured, which is wonderful. This allows you to know what you're expected to teach and when it should be taught. The school does teach a grade level ahead, so the students are always working hard and have high expectations for excelling. ~ Brittany



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- SDA is a great school for teachers. SDA provides a rigorous curriculum for students. Keeping students challenged and engaged in the curriculum minimizes behavior problems. Our school consistently ranks as one of the highest performing schools in Arizona. I believe the support that is given by our founder, Dr. Anjum Majeed, has played a huge role in our schools' ranking, because she brings in teachers to do "pull-outs" to support the teachers in the classroom. This enables that "No Child is Left Behind," and every student can grow academically according to his/her level.

Other than academics, staff at SDA, show they really care about each student at our school. SDA staff ensures each student is in a safe, learning environment. Many times I have walked by the office and seen an office staff member caring for a student's needs.

SDA is a wonderful environment to work in. I feel the support I see results with the students academically and I know the students are well cared for. I would recommend any teacher to work at our school. ~ Jamie

- This is my third year working at Self Development Academy (SDA), and it has been wonderful in so many ways. The most important thing, for me, is that I have seen students learn more here, than I have seen at any other school that I have worked at. I love SDA's academic program in that it challenges the students to reach higher. The teachers at SDA are very dedicated to their mission, and the administration is very supportive. Together we are family, all working hard towards the common goal of ensuring that the students get the highest level of education. We all support, help, enrich, and promote each other. Perhaps the most rewarding thing is that I see how we change the kids' lives, and it makes the hard work all worth it. I could not ask for a better place to work and have a teaching career! I love my job! I will retire at SDA! ~ Patricia

- I am currently employed as a Kindergarten teacher at Self Development Academy (SDA). I have worked here for six years now and love it. There are many reasons why I feel very fortunate to be employed by SDA.

First, the administration is extremely helpful and supportive. I know if I ever have a problem or concern, they are always there for me to lend a hand or give suggestions. Another reason I like working at SDA is that my lesson plans are done for me which is helpful. This allows me to put my creative twist on my lessons and gives me more time to devote to my classroom. Lastly, I love to work at a school that is consistently ranked as a top performing school in the state of Arizona. I am extremely proud to say I work for SDA. We work very hard as a school and are rewarded by receiving such an honor and are consistently thanked for our work.

I would highly recommend considering SDA for your next place of employment. I've worked in public and private schools and they don't compare to the community that we have here at SDA. ~ Kathi

- I love that we have time to work with students one-on-one and make them feel important. Knowing that someone will go your speed while still pushing you, can lift your confidence not only in school but for the rest of your life. Our pull-out groups create a culture of feeling safe and being able to help the students learn from their mistakes. This in turn creates a lifelong curiosity that will push them past their own expectations. ~ Elizabeth

- Mesa and neighboring communities have what seems to be a plethora of schools. Choosing a school for which to teach can be incredibly challenging, given the many available options and preferences. Nevertheless, Self Development Academy (SDA) shines and has forged its way to the top. SDA is a school of excellence. It is a great school for teachers. With its many advantages such as targeted interventions, and supportive administration and school culture, SDA is a prize for teachers. For example, the academic targeted interventions are embedded into the school's academic model for instruction and learning through small group and one-on-one pull-out sessions. As needed, students are pulled from the mainstream class to finish assignments, get targeted instruction, work on projects or get extra support for areas of deficiencies, struggles, or enrichment. In addition, the administration is supportive, and ensures policies and procedures are implemented and enforced. It collaborates with staff and families to promote academic excellence. Moreover, the school's culture is nurturing, professional, and student-centered. The teachers genuinely care for the students and educating them. The students respect and admire the teachers and staff. In essence the school model, administration, and culture are advantageous for prospective teachers. ~ Veada

- Self Development Academy (SDA) is a great place for teachers to work and grow in their profession. There is a very diverse population of students who want to learn. Just like any school there can be challenges but SDA has a very supportive administration team. For a new teacher looking for a way to transition to a full time teaching job, SDA enables you to grow valuable experience by working as a small group pullout teacher. ~ Tyler