

## **Liberty Academy History**

### **Introduction**

Liberty Academy Charter School opened October 1, 2006 in a new building in Salem, UT, within the boundaries of Nebo School District. We serve students in largely rural south Utah County. Although we have students living in areas ranging from Orem to Goshen, most of the students come from the Payson, Santaquin and Elk Ridge communities. The school was established as an option to local schools, including the then newly-opened American Leadership Academy Charter School in nearby Spanish Fork. The founding Board members chose to establish Liberty Academy as a school in which students would receive a rigorous, classical education with the mission of “restoring the American heritage” within its students.

Typical of many start-ups, the school underwent change within its first year and had a shift in administration. In 2007, the Board was dismantled and new members were nominated. The aforementioned American Leadership Academy Board joined with Liberty’s Board and Liberty Academy began sharing administration, resources and programs. In addition to over 300 full-time students, Liberty Academy also found a niche in serving home-schooled and part-time students in the area, providing structured programs and classes, including distance education options. In 2010, our current Director, Rick Clark, was hired and Liberty Academy enrollment continues to grow year by year to our current count of 475 students.

Liberty Academy staff consists of one Director, four office staff members, twenty-one credentialed teachers (including special education), six Para educators, and three kitchen workers. We have grown into our facility, currently making full use of every classroom in the building, as well as adding on a serving area for lunch. With the recent addition of one small and two large school buses, it is anticipated that enrollment will continue to grow, along with field trip excursion opportunities, with the aid of adequate student transportation. Liberty Academy is looking forward to a prosperous and productive future.