



## Building BEAS !



### A Message from our Founder:

I am a teacher with an entrepreneurial spirit. I have taught in public, private and charter school over the course of my career. I enjoy being an educator and I love seeing children succeed. I have seen what works to create a highly effective learning environment and successful students. It is this passion for creating the most effective educational system possible that fuels our drive to start BEAS Academy. Unfortunately, I have also seen many educational ideas and methods that do not work. In fact, some of these methods actually hold children back from reaching their potential.

**This is what we have set out to correct with the BEAS Academy system of education. I want something better for students.**

I have a clear vision of how to bring about change through our curriculum and delivery. There are three main areas that BEAS Academy means to address as a means to reform education. Firstly, partly due to large class sizes partly due to style, schools rarely treat each child as an individual learner. WE start with the premise that every student is a natural learner, and most are capable of great things if their natural abilities and inclinations are nurtured properly. We designed BEAS Academy to be a school that getting to know each child and individualizing education to their strengths rather than setting rigid benchmarks to be met by certain dates regardless of student interests and abilities.

Another main focus of our education system and curriculum is to create continuity from subject to subject. We like to help kids make the connection between math and art; between history and literature; or science and physical education. All subjects can help inform our understanding of other subjects, so, if kids can learn to build their

knowledge on what they know from other subjects, they can accelerate their learning in ALL areas.

**I am quite idealistic, but also am very realistic about what is possible.** I have an understanding that the classroom is where the magic happens. So, lastly, we believe that the learning space itself is an incredibly important element of an education. We think of the classroom as “the third teacher” because we believe that the room and other school surroundings can either inspire imagination and a desire to learn or it can stifle it. We take inspiration from museums, Exploratoriums, petting zoos, and children’s literature to create a space that inspires. We know our students will enjoy school at BEAS Academy and will learn as much as possible about themselves and the world. We hope you will join us on this journey. So, give us a call or come pay us a visit on one of our open house days. **We look forward to meeting and hearing from you!**

Barbra Williams, Head Teacher

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### The third teacher: letting the classroom inspire

The illustration below from WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak may be one of my favorites from my childhood and one that has had a lasting impression on me into adulthood. What I love about this drawing is how the four rigid walls melt into the fluidity of the woods and the woods, in turn, invade the room. This scene depicts an imagination exploding from one world into another as the night shadows dance on the walls and the child teeters between sleep and wakefulness. In moments like these all things and anything is possible for the mind that is able to see it.

The job of the elementary student is to expand their young mind as far as it can reach so that their imagination is so active that it can overcome all limitations. This is the first order of developing their mental power. As they age they gradually learn to control their minds ever more so they can focus that power in effective ways in the world. The trick is to develop mental control and discipline without ever losing that vivid imagination.

So, an elementary classroom is an opportunity to help students tap into their imaginations and develop their minds while they're young and before the world would have stop dreaming. I believe a learning space should have art on the walls. It should be configured in a way that encourages a child's mind to imagine. And the space should also encourage movement. When the space reflects the desired outcomes of the class, the student becomes an active learner; and the teacher their guide.





## Our Mission

BEAS Academy provides support to families and helps students improve academic performance, close achievement gaps, enhance social-emotional well-being, and increase lifelong potential for success through our elementary school, after-school program, and parent education.

### **I know a funny little man,**

As quiet as a mouse  
Who does the mischief that is done  
In everybody's house.  
Though no one ever sees his face,  
Yet we can all agree  
That every plate we break was cracked  
By Mr. Nobody.  
'Tis he who always tears our books,  
Who leaves the door ajar,  
Who pulls the buttons from our shirts,  
And scatters pins afar.  
That squeaking door will always squeak  
For—this is plain to see—  
We leave the oiling to be done  
By Mr. Nobody.  
'Tis he who brings in all the mud  
That gathers in the hall.  
'Tis he who lets the front door slam,  
And scribbles on the wall.  
When we can't find the scissors,  
Or have lost the back door key,  
The one to blame in every case  
Is Mr. Nobody.  
We know he cracked the window  
And broke the china plate,  
We know he left the kitchen floor  
In such a dreadful state.  
We know his faults and failings,  
His sins are plain to see,  
And so we always put the blame  
On Mr. Nobody.



About Us



**Beas Academy**  
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