



Our journey as the Academy of Personalized Learning began in the spring of 2009: When the Gateway Unified School District accepted our charter, we were ecstatic! We had worked long and hard to find a sponsoring district for our school that would allow us to continue our mission to “honor and serve the family’s choice to personalize learning according to their children’s strengths.”

Given new life as a school, we immediately went to work to find an acceptable site and get organized to begin the 2009/10 school year. We wanted to continue to work with our home school families, to support them with the best in curriculum choice and materials, professional teacher support, access to vendors, and all of the components needed to assist families in educating their children well. We also wanted to offer on-site classes and tutoring support, a library, a place for our families to connect, network, and build community.

We found a site on Hartnell Avenue in Redding that became our home for two years. We worked together as a staff, always listening to the voices of our families, to develop a schedule of on-site classes to support the work students were doing at home. In addition to our cadre of home school families, many students were coming to us from traditional schools, looking for another option. While some families were seeking enrichment opportunities for their children to engage with other children in safe and meaningful ways, others were in need of remediation to help their students get back on track.

Many families were drawn to participate in our classes and soon they were asking for more, but our site was rather small and we needed more space to accommodate all of the enrichment as well as the core classes that families were requesting. We needed a larger facility.

We feel blessed to have found our new home here at The Larkspur Educational Centre. It has offered us the facility we need to create the community and provide the services and materials that will allow our students to grow and shine. Our school is flourishing. We understand the importance of community, the necessity of a safe place for students to learn and mature, and the value of inspiring teachers whose joy and purpose is to nurture and instruct young minds.

As we move forward and continue to develop our program, we can look back on one seminal weekend that really showed the character of our community and that was Labor Day weekend of 2011, when we moved our school to the new site. Those who participated will long remember what a great feeling it was to work together to unpack all of those boxes and set our school up to begin classes the following week. “With many hands making the work light,” little children and adults joined together to create work teams so that each could contribute in a meaningful and constructive way to get the work done. And we did! It was amazing! And it really showed what a dedicated group of individuals can do when they have a common purpose. The day after Labor Day, when on-site classes commenced, everyone was amazed that we had been able to accomplish so much in such a short time.

We are grateful for the support of our families, and many people within the greater community, as they have helped us in so many ways, sharing in our trials as well as our triumphs. There are just too many people to thank individually, but we are grateful to all who have shared our vision and participated in our journey to become what we are and what we will be. How true the proverb: “It takes a village to raise a child,” and ours is a truly blessed village! A “Garden for Children!” “A never ending rewarding Journey!”