

WHY CHOOSE PAULO FREIRE FREEDOM SCHOOL?

1. We Are A Free Public School, Dedicated to Academic Excellence. Our school is open and free to all students and is grounded in the core academic subjects as articulated in the Arizona educational standards—AZ Learns. We are committed to the four R's of rigor, relevance, relationships, and reflection. Our school is a laboratory/demonstration site for research-based, best instructional practices.

2. We Are Small. Research shows that small schools are safer; students are more likely to graduate, demonstrate higher achievement, and have better attendance and behavior records. With student/teacher ratios of not more than 20:1, our students and their families are known well.

3. We Are Part of a National Movement of Progressive Schools. These national networks of educators provide wisdom, experience and support for our school. Visit their websites to learn more: Turning Points (www.turningpts.org); NSRF (www.nsrffharmony.org); Coalition of Essential Schools (www.essentialschools.org).

4. We Follow Great Traditions In Education. Our school is inspired by the tradition of the Freedom Schools of the 1960's and the work of the Brazilian educator, Paulo Freire – who believed that all students have much to offer and that real learning must spring from the realities of their lives.

5. We Are Experienced Educational Leaders. Our Co-Directors have more than 25 years of public educational experience between them. They have received national and local teaching awards and consult with schools throughout the country on best instructional practices, school reform and professional development.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Visit our website
- Join a discussion group
- Become part of our school planning team
- Register as a community resource
- Sign up as a Paulo Freire Freedom School family

SCHEDULED OPENINGS:

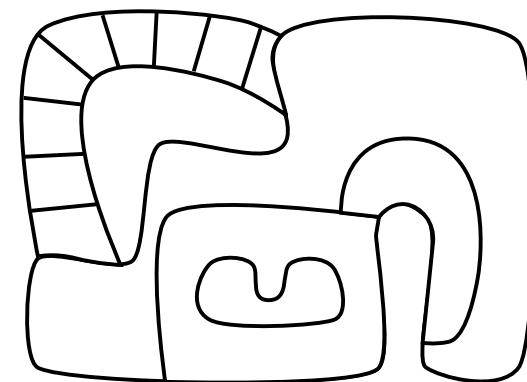
- **Fall 2005** Middle School Opens (with grades 6 and 7)
- **Fall 2007** High School Opens (with grade 9)
- **Fall 2008** Elementary School Opens (with grades Kindergarten and 1)
- **Open Enrollment Period** From January 1 through March 15

*Paulo Freire Freedom School
is a project of*

**EL PUEBLO INTEGRAL—
Teaching and Learning Collaborative,**
a non-profit organization seeking to promote powerful, transformative teaching and learning within appropriately structured learning environments dedicated to the integral development of individuals and communities for a more just and sustainable world.

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Paulo Freire
FREEDOM SCHOOL

*To Rise
To Dream
To Know*

“Education is always and everywhere about opening doors, opening minds, opening possibilities. Education is about opening your eyes and seeing for yourself the world as it really is in all its complexity, and then finding the tools and the strength to participate fully, even to change some of what you find.”

—William Ayers

To Know

“The great difficulty (or the great adventure!) is how to make education something which, in being serious, rigorous, methodical, and having a process, also creates happiness and joy.”

—Paulo Freire

Young people learn when learning is connected to the real world they live in, to the other things they are studying throughout the day, and to issues they care about. Research has shown that learning accelerates when learning environments are “student-centered, experiential, holistic, authentic, expressive, reflective, social, collaborative, democratic, cognitive, developmental, constructivist, and challenging” (Zemelman, Daniels, and Hyde, 1998).

At Paulo Freire Freedom School we use these research-based, ‘best instructional practices’. We require students to use their minds well, to think about complex ideas, to use knowledge in meaningful ways to demonstrate mastery of ideas and skills.

Learning is hard work, but it is also a joyful experience. Our students are encouraged to pursue individual passions, explore ideas with their peers and experience the satisfaction of knowing how to navigate through complex ideas and problems. To know is freedom. To know is to have power.

- **Interdisciplinary, project based learning**
- **Multiple means of assessment including student portfolios, student-led parent/teacher conferences, and public exhibitions of student work**
- **Intercessions where students and teachers can explore individual interests**

To Dream

At Paulo Freire Freedom School we do not shy away from thinking about the environmental and social problems facing the world - instead we immerse our young people in them. Our **curricular focus on social justice and environmental sustainability** is reality-based, but grounded in hope.

Students not only learn about issues and problems, but are encouraged to think about solutions. They act on some of these solutions through an **integrated service learning program**. Also, participation in the democratic structures of the school help students develop skills in **leadership, conflict resolution, and peace-building**.

Paulo Freire Freedom School will be **partnered with a school near Lake Atitlan in Guatemala**. Through the development of personal relationships, our students will gain an intimate understanding of the social, economic, and political circumstances of another culture.

At Paulo Freire we not only learn about the world as it is today – we also dream about it as it can be and work towards the fulfillment of that dream together.

To You

**To sit and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world
Outside our world of here and now –
Our problem world –
To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Through dreams made whole,
Unfettered free – help me!
All you who are dreamers, too,
Help me make our world anew.
I reach out my hands to you.**

—Langston Hughes

To Rise

At Paulo Freire Freedom School we believe that young people grow not only academically and physically, but emotionally, socially, and spiritually as well. The growth they experience in these areas is interconnected with their academic success and with their health and happiness as a whole person. We are committed to supporting and challenging every young person to rise to their full potential.

In the rush to pack students full of knowledge and skills, some schools forget that they are dealing with people, not just test scores. At Paulo Freire we do not forget. We know each student well (and the family from which they came). We honor them for who they are. Our school is structured to nurture and support each young person and keep them safe, yet challenge them at each stage of their development so they continue to grow.

Paulo Freire Freedom School will be separated into developmentally appropriate learning environments – each designed to support a young person’s unique developmental needs and capacities. Within these carefully designed learning environments individual students will be supported and challenged to grow and become... to rise and transform... to develop into integrally whole human beings (body, heart, mind, and soul).

- **Small classes where teachers know their students well**
- **Developmentally appropriate learning environments**
- **Advisory Program**
- **Care for whole child**