



**Advantage Academy**

Academics located in Grand Prairie, Rowlett, North Duncanville and Waxahachie

Administrative Office  
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**Administrative Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



*Clockwise from top left:* Dr. Allen Beck, founder and Superintendent of Advantage Academics; Mrs. Kathryn Davidson, 5th Grade Science teacher, with a student; Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Nakia Hopps, with a student.

# From Dream to Destiny

*Advantage Academy has designed a process of learning to unleash the champion inside each student, as a means of training the leaders of tomorrow. — By Beverly Shay*

Dr. Allen Beck, founder of Advantage Academy operated by Eagle Advantage Schools, Inc., is incisively inspired by Abraham Lincoln. One of his favorite quotations of Lincoln is: “The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.” Dr. Beck patterned his school system on seven pillars gleaned from biblical standards and the philosophies of the founding fathers and other greats, Abe Lincoln being his favorite hero. “I believe parents should have a choice in where and how their children are educated. We need to offer parents a market-driven accountability in education, while being innovative and creative in guiding their children — our students — to greatness.”

Dr. Beck’s seven pillars are: integrity (self-governing honesty), humility (accepting who you are with your limitations, yet

authentically able to receive help from others), authority (ability to be under authority, so can lead with authority), stability (unwilling to abandon commitments, therefore able to follow through), community (service), prosperity (financial stewardship) and victory (no half-heartedness toward becoming a winner). “We believe that society as a whole is influenced by the family, church or moral beliefs and the community. The first education a child receives is within the family, supported by the church or moral environment outside the family and within the community. My first educational vision was for students in the inner city,” Dr. Beck stated.

Allen Beck never heard the concept of charter schools until 1996. Researching the idea led him to Austin. Soon, applications were submitted. He resigned his job as English teacher in the

Palmer Independent School District and began interviewing teachers. In March of '98, he was awarded a contract, but he had no building and no students and none of the \$100,000 he needed to open. But open they did — in a warehouse with 54 students of all grades in the one room. They have grown to four campuses, with a new one under construction in Grand Prairie, 200 employees and some 1,700 students.

“Our schools encompass over 50 districts, so students from all over the city and every socio-ethnic background can attend. All our teachers are trained in the brain-based Switch on Your Brain™ 5-Step Learning Process developed by Dr. Caroline Leaf. Because we will not settle for mediocrity, we include character training in our curriculum, with the goal of establishing a pathway to greatness the old-fashioned way,” Dr. Beck explained. Once again quoting Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Beck said, “My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of the earth.”

Believing moral character shapes integrity, Advantage Academy chooses principles like integrity, honesty and pride in work to replace hopelessness, indifferences and negative environmental influences. “We emphasize good communication skills, knowledge, emotional and physical health, while opening a child’s imagination to expand their ability to learn,” Dr. Beck noted. The goal of their style and process of education is training leaders who will understand and implement profitability in business, both locally and globally. “We recognize seven patterns of learning: intrapersonal, interpersonal, linguistic, visual/spatial, kinesthetic, music/rhythm and logical/mathematical. We are also implementing the tutorial YouTubes available through Khanacademy.org. Bottom line is we desire to provide competitive education blending the common identity values of the past with the neuroscience of the present and the technology of the future.” Not a bad dream-to-destiny story for a boy who grew up as a sharecropper in western Oklahoma, whose simple upbringing and reverence for education is similar to Lincoln’s. **NOW**