

## **U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Candeo Peoria Among the 2024 Best Elementary and Middle Schools**

Washington, D.C. – January, 2024 – Candeo Peoria has been ranked No. 4 in Arizona among the 2024 Best Charter Middle Schools and No. 26 among the Best Charter Elementary Schools by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings include more than 79,000 public elementary and middle schools across the country. Schools are ranked at the state and district level, with Best Charter Schools and Best Magnet Schools ranked as stand-alone categories.

"I am incredibly proud and humbled by the recognition of Candeo Peoria by the U.S. News and World Report," shares Dr. Stephanie Musser, Founder and CEO of Candeo Schools. "This prestigious award is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our teachers, students, parents, and administrators. It reflects our collective and unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional education that achieves academic excellence through a classical approach to education, preparing students for a lifetime of learning and success."

The methodology focuses on state assessments of students who were proficient or above proficient in mathematics and reading/language arts while accounting for student backgrounds, achievement in core subjects, and how well schools are educating their students. Student-teacher ratios are applied to break ties in the overall score.

The 2024 Best Elementary and Best Middle Schools rankings are based on publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Education. For district-level rankings, at least two of the top performing schools must rank in the top 75% of the overall elementary or middle school rankings to qualify for district-level recognition.

"The 2024 Best Elementary and Middle Schools rankings offer a way for parents to get a snapshot of their child's school and how well it is doing compared with other schools in their community," said LaMont Jones, managing editor for education at U.S. News. "In addition, U.S. News provides easily accessible data on student-teacher ratios, district spending, and the number of counselors a school makes available to its students."

Parents, educators and students can see how Candeo Peoria compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on USNews.com.

### **About Candeo Schools**

Candeo Schools' mission is to grow wisdom and virtue for a life well lived through rigorous knowledge-based schooling in the classical liberal arts. Committed to providing a world-class education in a learning environment set in rigor and delight, Candeo consistently ranks among the top schools in Arizona. In 2015, Candeo Peoria became a Nationally Accredited School through AdvancEd/NCA and has been rated A+/Excelling (AZ Department of Education) since inception in 2008. In 2021, it received the prestigious honor of being named a Core Knowledge School of Distinction, an award that recognizes high-level implementation and excellence in the Core Knowledge® curriculum. The success of the Peoria campus led to a replication of its model in a second campus in North Scottsdale in 2020.

### **About U.S. News & World Report**

U.S. News & World Report is the global leader in quality rankings that empower consumers, business leaders and policy officials to make better, more informed decisions about important issues affecting their lives and communities. A multifaceted digital media company with Education, Health, Money, Travel, Cars, News, Real Estate, Careers and 360 Reviews platforms, U.S. News provides rankings, independent reporting, data journalism, consumer advice and U.S. News Live events. More than 40 million people visit USNews.com each month for research and guidance. Founded in 1933, U.S. News is headquartered in Washington, D.C.