



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

ARCHWAY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 12, 2024



KEY DATES:

DECEMBER 18TH

3-5th Grade
Winter Concert

DECEMBER 18-20TH

Early Release Days

DECEMBER 23-JAN 6TH

Winter Break

JANUARY 7TH

Start of Semester 2
Students return to school

JANUARY 10TH

Coffee with the Counselors
Quarter 2 Grades available
on PowerSchool Public Portal

JANUARY 15TH & 22ND

Parent/Teacher Conferences
by Invitation Only

A message from Headmaster Cruz...

I hope December has been good to you thus far. Our students are closing out well and our teachers are working hard to identify semester one progress and gaps as they prepare end of quarter grades and for conferences in January. As we close out these weeks, please be in communication with your child's teachers and on the grade portal to help ensure your child is on track to close out well. In these final days, please note that absence is crucial as tests and closing assignments are being completed. Please guide and encourage your children to finish the quarter strong. It is so easy at this time of year to be excited and distracted and we want to keep motivating them to give it their all!

As we close the year, please also take time to thank and show appreciation to your child's teachers! They have worked hard all semester and are pouring in daily with great effort and lots of love. Don't forget to remind them how special they are!

This will be our last newsletter of 2024, please keep it and make a note of our upcoming schedule of early release days, breaks and return for the semester. May this month continue to bring you joy, health and happiness!



SCHOOL HOURS

Regular Days:
8:00 AM - 3:15 PM
(campus opens at 7AM)

Early Release Days:
8:00 AM - 12:45 PM
(campus opens at 7AM)

Main Office Phone Number: (623) 247-6095
Attendance Line: (623) 247-6095 Option 0
(leave a detailed voicemail to report absences)

Attendance Email:
attendance@maryvaleprep.org
www.maryvaleprep.org

OFFICE HOURS

Regular School Days:
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Early Release Days:
7:00 AM - 1:30 PM





We are in the last week of open enrollment! Share with any family and friends who are not currently enrolled and encourage them to apply to Maryvale Prep.

Early enrollment guarantees the best chance at a seat for the 2025-2026 school year. The **deadline to submit an application has been extended to tomorrow Friday, December 13th at midnight.**

More details in the link:

https://enrollaz.greatheartamerica.org/oe_k-12

BARD COMPETITION

Our 3rd-5th grade Bard competitors are working hard on memorizing their poems and would love to see you there to support them! Please join us in the Marley Center **today, December 12 at 4 pm**

LOCKDOWN DRILL

Tomorrow, **Friday, December 13th** at 2:20pm, we will have a lockdown drill. As these are sensitive topics, please discuss with your children at home to prepare them for any uneasiness and concern. We will do the same here at school.

PSO POTLUCK

Tis the Season for Giving! On **Thursday, December 19th**, our PSO will provide holiday dishes to teachers and staff to enjoy at lunch during the busy grading period.

Parents, if you would like to join this effort by donating a dish, please sign-up on the link below. Dishes can be brought to campus by 9:00am. We want to show our appreciation and gratitude to our teachers and staff.

[**Sign Up Genius**](#)

THEMATIC GOAL UPDATE: TURNING PAGES TOGETHER

This week's featured reader is Mrs. Suarez!



Mrs. Suarez has served in various capacities here at Maryvale Prep, but most recently as a 5th grade TA. She just welcomed her baby boy and soon she will be reading her favorite books to him!

3-5TH GRADE WINTER CONCERT

On **Wednesday, December 18th** we are excited to present our 3rd through 5th grade music classes in concert in our Marley Center. Please be sure to prepare ahead by ensuring your child has the proper concert attire which is black dress bottoms, a white top, and black shoes. (No vests or anything other than white for the top).

Concert arrival and start times are as follows:

3rd Grade: 5:15 (arrive at 5:00pm)

4th Grade: 6:15 (arrive no earlier and by 6:00pm)

5th Grade: 7:15 (arrive no earlier and by 7:00pm)

When arriving please enter through Gate 4 and drop your student off at the East Marley Center entrance to line up with their grade level and then parents may enter through the West doors of the Marley Center for seating.

At the end of the concert, remain seated until all students are outside and lined up. Once released by administrators head to the lawn for pick up and exit campus promptly via Gate 14 in order to free up parking for the next concert arrival.

Please ensure proper concert etiquette. While this [video clip](#) is for a bit more formal concert, this etiquette is similar to what we teach our students as they watch their peers and go on field trips. We ask you all to model the same.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

We at Maryvale Prep think fondly of the holidays and the opportunities they provide for families and communities to celebrate with one another and partake in cherished traditions.

At our academy, we have intentionally decided to not bring those celebrations into our classrooms for two specific reasons. The first reason is a matter of minutes. We believe that every minute of learning here matters, and given the magnitude of our mission, we must be very strategic about how we use each of those minutes. We believe that the minutes around these holidays should continue to be devoted to the pursuit of learning in mathematics, language arts, and all of our liberal arts subjects, rather than given to other activities such as classroom parties or holiday arts and crafts.

The second reason is a matter of content. Although holidays are rooted in much that is good (and many of them are studied in various parts of our curriculum), some of them unfortunately have become associated with certain elements that are not edifying to our school culture or student body, such as Valentine's Day with its traditional celebrations that can inappropriately encourage children to have a "sweetheart" at such a young age. That being said, we will not be having classroom parties around the holidays. We will work hard to carefully explain this approach to the students, as to keep their excitement and positivity towards the holidays greatly alive.

SAVE THE DATE - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

On **January 15th and 22nd** after early release, teachers will be holding mandatory conferences for students who are at risk academically or how have excessive absences.

Parents who need to attend will receive an email from their teacher on **January 6th**.



END OF SEMESTER 1

- Semester 1 ends Friday, December 20th.
- Grades for Quarter 2 (Oct-Dec) will be released on Friday, January 10th through the PowerSchool Public Portal. Please log in to access grades, this will be the only way to view your student's progress moving forward.

BEGINNING OF SEMESTER 2

- Students return for Semester 2 on Tuesday, January 7th and this is a regular full school day.
- Wednesday, January 8th is an early release day.
- We will not have school on Monday, January 20th to observe Civil Rights Day.

POWERSCHOOL PUBLIC PORTAL FOR EVALUATIONS

Student evaluations/grades will be available on the PowerSchool Public Portal.

Parents if you have not created an account on this portal, please check your email for a communication with step-by-step instructions on a one-time setup.

The portal can be accessed at: <https://greatheartsaz.powerschool.com/public/home.html>.

Please note: This will be the only way to view your child's grades.



COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS

Join our School Counselors and other parents at another informative workshop on

Parenting Skills

presented by Friendly House

Friday, January 10th at 8:00 AM in the Archway MPR

(Please park by the Archway Front Office and check in with a photo ID)



LOST AND FOUND

- Any unclaimed bottle waters and lunch boxes will be disposed at the end of each week in order to maintain cleanliness at our campus. Please label water bottles and lunch boxes with your child's name; we will add a new lost and found shelf for these items near the MPR for easier access to students.
- Any clothing not claimed by the end of the quarter will become part of the nurse's stash or donated to our PSO.
- Parents can check the lost and found areas at the end of the day, please check-in the Front Office.



PLEASE LABEL YOUR STUDENTS BELONINGS

PSO EVENT



OUTERWEAR

To maintain our consistent, scholarly uniform, the Maryvale Prep sweater will be the only outerwear piece that students will be permitted to wear throughout the school day.

Students may wear personal jackets to school (they must be free of writing and images, only one-color scheme, according to our Maryvale Prep guidelines outlined in the Family Handbook, see examples below) but they will be required to hang them up for the day upon arrival.

Purchase outerwear at: [Anton Uniforms](#)

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

HEARING AND VISION SCREENS

The health office has been conducting hearing and vision screens. We have sent home referrals for all scholars who did not pass the screenings, so please check backpacks and homework folders this week for notices.

FLU SEASON

With the flu season upon us, it is important that we work together to keep our scholars and staff healthy. You can help prevent the spread of colds and flu viruses by following a few simple steps:

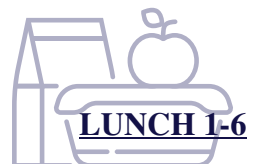
- Cover noses and mouths with a tissue or the bend of your elbow when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Remind students to avoid touching their face, mouth, nose and eyes.
- If your child has a fever, chills, cough, sore throat, body aches, keep them at home to prevent the spread of illness to others.
- Vitamin C is always touted to be a game changer for colds. Regular vitamin C is not easily absorbed in the body. Find a liposomal vitamin C which has been shown to increase absorption.
- Hydration is extremely important, when feeling sick, plain water doesn't truly hydrate unless it's a spring water with natural minerals. Add trace of mineral drops to water, drink teas, broths, coconut water and low sugar electrolyte powders.

Also, please make sure your child is eating a healthy breakfast and packing a lunch if they don't eat the school lunch.

DECEMBER MEAL MENUS

[BREAKFAST](#)

[LUNCH K](#)



[LUNCH 1-6](#)

[Online Menus](#)

Next week we have early release on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Winter Break is from December 23rd to January 6th; school resumes on Tuesday, January 7th.

*We wish you a restful winter break
and a Merry Christmas*

TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

Please be mindful of the 30mph speed limit signage on both eastbound and westbound on Camelback Road.

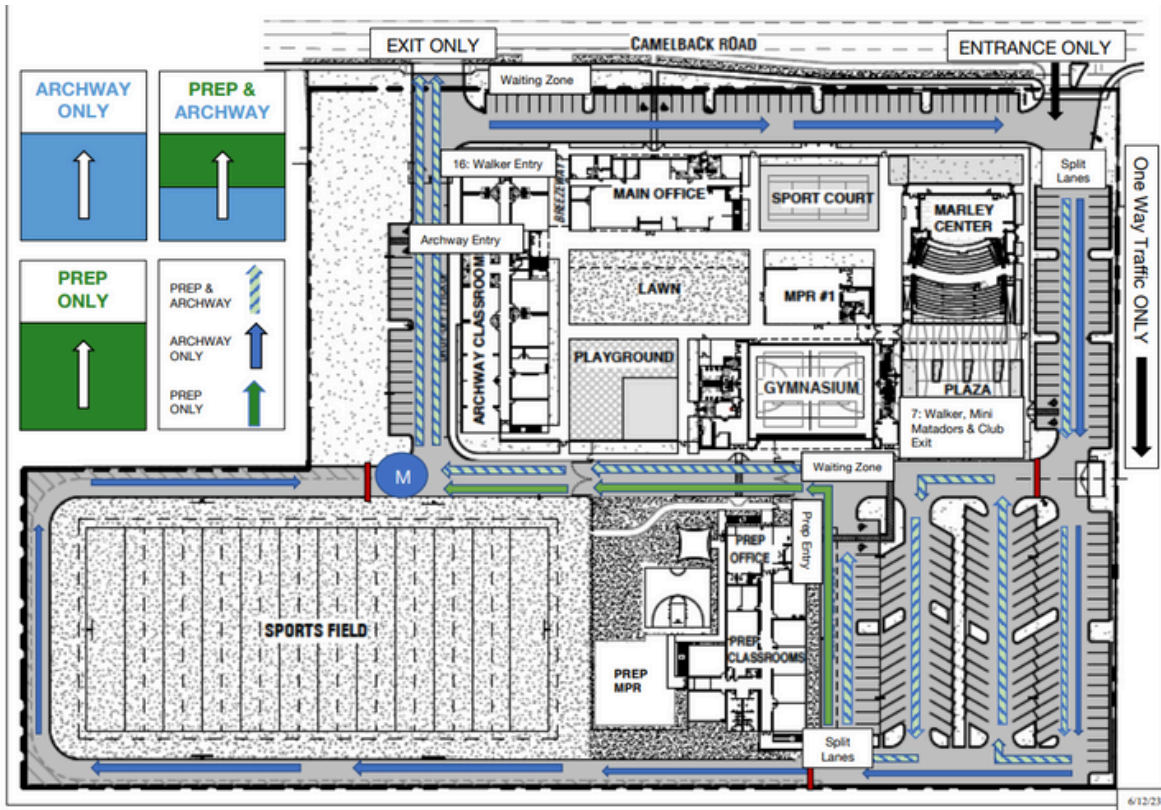


STUDENT DROPOFF

Students should not be dropped off on the side of Camelback Road near or by the campus. This is extremely unsafe and does not follow our student drop off guidelines. The drop-off guideline is to use carline to safely drop off students or park near the school property and walk to school using the sidewalk. Please refer to our family handbook listed in our website for additional information on our guidelines.

CARLINE PICKUP

- The earliest you can enter into carline is 2:30pm on Full Days and at 12:15pm on Early Release Days. This will allow our students & faculty to have a cleared parking lot in the event EMS needs access.
- Have your placard ready for scanning; roll down your window when approaching a staff member that can scan your placard, they will not scan if window is up as this causes delays with window barrier.
- Please keep the East Entrance merge point cleared at all times. Wait to enter until all traffic is cleared.
- Archway only: follow blue signs and circle around the Sport Field.
- Archway & Prep: follow blue/green signs and snake through faculty parking lot.
- Maintain safe parking lot speed of 5 mph.
- Merge point will utilize a zipper merge (1 car per lane).
- The use of cell phones while on carline has slowed us down, and its ultimately unsafe.
- DO NOT record or take pictures of students outside your family.



HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

Do not park in a handicap parking space if you or your passenger do not hold a permit. Parking in a handicap spot without the proper authorization is in violation of [ARS 28-884](#). Even if you are in a rush or your visit to the office will take a few minutes, these spots are reserved for our students, parents and visitors with a disability. Violations should be reported

CAMPUS SAFETY

Our campus is equipped with security gates that are armed and required to be closed at all times. These gates are for both vehicles and pedestrians. Access is limited to our Front Office only and we ask that all visits are conducted through these doors and at no times should pedestrian gates be used to exit campus. To ensure carline efficiency and safety, please plan to exit campus with Right Turns only. Camelback Road is very dangerous when making left turns.

Students are allowed onto campus at 7am and all of entrance gates will be opened at this time. Student walkers should adjust their time on campus to reflect the timing of the campus gate openings.

SCHOOL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

A student that is absent more than ten percent (18 days) of the required number of school days per year is considered to have "excessive absences" whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

This year, we are introducing CUTS LITE Service (Court Unified Truancy Suppression Limited Intervention To Educate). We will follow the following timeline:

- 5 Absences: You will receive the 1st warning letter
- CUTS Lite Conference
- 9-11 Absences: 2nd warning letter
- CUTS Hearing
- Parent Conference/School Intervention



TARDIES

Any student here beyond 7:57 a.m. is considered tardy and **must be signed in by a parent in the front office.** Please avoid any consequences for multiple tardies by arriving on time.

EARLY STUDENT PICK UP

Students who need to be picked up early for appointments must be picked up in the main office **no later than 2:45pm on full days and 12:30pm on half days, NO EXCEPTIONS.** The current Placard with student's name or a valid identification with photo is required when picking up through the office. The student must be signed out with a reason for leaving.

PLACARD FOR CARLINE PICK UP

Placards can be accessed on the Parent Portal at <https://greathearts.schoolaxis.com/> Log in, on main page PICK UP PLACARDS, Select Maryvale Prep Academy, Download and Print, if you cannot locate the placard on your Parent Portal Account, please contact the Front Office. Please note, we will not accept phone images of the placard for student pick up, parents must have the current paper copy of the placard for safety and fast process.

LATE PICK UP

Students picked up after 3:45pm (1:30pm early release), will incur late pick up fees beginning with the second occurrence of late pick-up, families will be assessed a late pick-up fee according to the following fee schedule:

- Up until 4:00pm (1:30 pm early release) = \$5.00 per student
- 4:01 - 4:30pm (1:46-2:15pm early release) = \$5.00 per student + \$1.00 per student, per minute
- After 4:30pm (2:15pm early release) = same fee structure as above + Department of Child Safety phone call

VOLUNTEERS AND FIELD TRIP CHAPERONES

Volunteers must have clearance before volunteering on campus or attending a field trip. Clearance must be renewed annually, if you were cleared last school year, you must complete the clearance process again for this school year. The cost is \$6 and it only takes a few minutes.

[Click here to start the process](#)

STUDENT WALKERS

If you would like to add your child to the walker list, you will need to do so at least 12 hours in advance of when you want them to begin walking. If you do not receive confirmation, they have not been added and will have to wait until then to be dismissed as walkers. Please note, once on the walker list they must walk daily until they are removed. If you want your child to be on the walker list, please email enrollment@maryvaleprep.org. The same applies if you want them removed. Parents meeting their student walkers must park off campus.

1. Walkers will be dismissed at 12:50 pm on early release days and at 3:20 pm on full days from Gates 6 and 7.
2. On full days, Prep students can wait for their Archway siblings until they are released at 3:20 pm and they can head out to Gate 4 to walk home or meet families together.
3. On Early Release Days, Archway students can wait for their Prep siblings until they are released at 1:00 pm and they can head out to Gate 4 to walk home or meet families together.
4. Students not waiting for siblings as noted, must exit campus immediately.
5. Kindergarten students without 1st through 12th grade siblings must be met by their parent/guardian or authorized pick up personnel right outside of Gate 4.

Students will walk along the sidewalk adjacent to the Marley Center and out Gate 4 to meet their parents. Please refrain from walking through Gate 4 onto campus or crowding up that area to ensure the flow of traffic continues and students do not get lost amongst waiting families.

Please note that signing your child up as a walker is a liability you are taking as they are not supervised or delivered directly to parents. We ask that as parents, you calculate the best option for your family as you consider safety and convenience. Student walkers will be allowed to take their phones out to connect with parents/guardians once they have exited Gates 6 and 7.

DISMISSAL

Due to our school day in sessions and safety precautions arrival for end of day pick up will not begin until 2:30 pm. If you arrive prior to that, please note that you will be asked to exit campus and return after 2:30 pm. Emergency and office business vehicles cannot get onto campus if the school is blocked with waiters.

