



# MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

## ARCHWAY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 30, 2025



### KEY DATES:

**FEBRUARY 5TH**  
Full Day Wednesday

**FEBRUARY 6TH**  
Class Picture Day

**FEBRUARY 7TH**  
Coffee with the Counselors  
Early Release Friday &  
Jean Day with \$1.00 Pay  
Athenaeum will be closed

**FEBRUARY 12TH**  
Family Partnership Night

**FEBRUARY 17TH**  
No School-President's Day

**FEBRUARY 26TH**  
Literary Figures Day

### **A message from Headmaster Cruz...**

*Thank you for your patience over the last week as we've worked with our Great Hearts leadership to ensure that what we share with you is accurate. Our commitment to keeping all children safe on our trusted watch remains at the forefront of all we do. Here is the latest information we have regarding news of changed federal immigration policies:*

- *First, we do not collect or store immigration/citizenship information for our students and families.*
- *Second, we are legally prevented from sharing student and family information without your permission or a verified court order.*
- *Finally, should a federal agency visit campus or contact Academy leadership or faculty, our team has direction to immediately contact our Superintendent's office for support.*

*As it pertains to other future possible changes, we will monitor those closely, pursue appropriate guidance, and communicate with and support you. Thank you for entrusting us to care for your children.*

*Please reach out if you have any questions.*



### **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](mailto:attendance@maryvaleprep.org)

[www.maryvaleprep.org](http://www.maryvaleprep.org)



### **OFFICE HOURS**

Regular School Days:  
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Early Release Days:  
7:00 AM - 1:30 PM

## POWERSCHOOL PUBLIC PORTAL FOR EVALUATIONS

Student evaluations/grades are now 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://greatheartfaz.powerschool.com/public/home.html>.

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

## THEMATIC GOAL UPDATE: TURNING PAGES TOGETHER

We have had fun sharing photos of our teachers and what they read for fun! We hope that you share these with your students and encourage them to do the same.

In a recent study, children who start to read for fun early in life get better test scores by the time they reach adolescence.

Reading for pleasure by the age of nine is also linked to better mental health, less screen time and better sleep. Brain scans found that children who started to read for pleasure by the age of nine had slightly larger total brain areas and volumes, particularly those regions of the brain that play a key role in cognitive functions. According to this study, children who read 12 hours per week gain the most benefit. Please encourage your children to read!



## FAMILY PARTNERSHIP NIGHT

Please save the date for our second and final Family Partnership Night of the 2024-2025 school year! During this meeting, we will continue to forge strong connections as a school community while providing you with updated student data, resources, and information that are critical to supporting your child's academic growth at home.



**When: Wednesday, February 12th**

**Where: Your Child's Classroom**

### **NEW Times:**

Kinder-2nd grade: 2:00-2:45pm

3rd-4th grade: 3:00-3:45pm

5th-6th grade: 4:00-4:45pm

More information will be sent soon by our administrators and teachers. Attendance is mandatory (please limit to one parent/guardian per child as space is limited). Students may not attend but childcare will be available.

## FRIENDSHIP DAY

**Friday, February 14th**, is a day our network celebrates Great Hearts Day! We have reserved this special day to focus on the virtue of friendship and celebrate the traits that make a great-hearted student. Teachers will plan interactive and fun activities centered around these topics.

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 holiday celebrations into the classroom. 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 more of its pop culture approach and celebrations that can inappropriately encourage children to have a "sweetheart" at such a young age. On that note, students will not be permitted to bring store-bought valentines, candy, or gifts to school.

## EARLY KINDER TESTING

As we approach enrollment for next school year, we have begun early Kinder Testing for entrance. We have very limited spots and will only release a few at a time and up to a small number. We are **ONLY** testing siblings of current students who will turn 5 in September.

Students testing early must be potty trained, able to separate from parents easily and have basic number sense and alphabet concepts amongst several other indicators that will be tested. Please reach out to [ccruz@maryvaleprep.org](mailto:ccruz@maryvaleprep.org) to schedule your test and note your availability along with child's name, name of current Maryvale sibling(s) and date of birth for the child being assessed.

## LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found carts are available during school time for students by the recess areas. At the end of the day, the cart will be available inside or outside the Front Office for parents. Please label all student belongings with full name and section.

## MESSAGE FROM HEALTH OFFICE

We understand that limited food budgets, challenges with early work schedules and transportation, or children who won't eat early in the morning make it difficult for many families to provide a healthy breakfast every morning. At Maryvale Prep, we offer free breakfast from 7:00 am – 7:45 am for all students. If students arrive to school outside of these times or do not like what is served, please pack a snack for your scholar to eat on the way to school.

Every child should start the school day with a healthy breakfast. When students miss a healthy morning meal, they go to class hungry. Studies show that students who skip breakfast generally have slower memory recall, make more errors and are more likely to be absent or tardy and to repeat a grade. Hunger is associated with lower physical activity, stomachaches, headaches, depression, anxiety and a decreased ability to focus.

Students who eat breakfast consistently show improvement in verbal fluency, arithmetic, tests of attention, memory, creativity, physical endurance, and general tests of academic achievement and cognitive functioning. A Tufts University study showed elementary school students who eat breakfast listen better and have better spatial memory and short-term memory than students who skip breakfast.

Source: *No Kid Hungry*



## 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**

## GREAT HEARTS HIRING EVENT

Great Hearts is hosting a hiring event on **Saturday, February 1st**

Click here to register to any of our three locations:  
<https://careers.greatheartamerica.org>



## FIELD TRIPS

### DATE GRADE DESTINATION

Feb 10th	6th	Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Feb 14th	4th	AZ Museum of Natural History
Feb 14th	5th	Mesa Arts Center
Feb 28th	1st	Arizona Science Center
Mar 7th	3rd	Musical Instruments Museum
Mar 7th	2nd	Pioneer Living History Museum
Apr 4th	Kinder	Tolmachoff Farms

All field trips have a small fee to help cover transportation and venue fees. Payment and electronic permission slip must be completed by parent/guardian in **Configio**. Payment can be processed two weeks ahead, the notify me feature can send you a reminder.

If selected as a field trip chaperone, you need to have clearance through Raptor before the field trip or to volunteer on campus. Raptor clearance must be renewed annually, if you were cleared last year, you must complete the clearance process again for the 2024-25 school year. The cost is \$6 and it only takes a few minutes. **Click here to start the process**

## SPORTS

Spring Sports registration is open on **Configio**. Registrations after **February 21st** are full price (no Volunteer Discounts).

Additional information on sports can be found on our **Winter Newsletter** and **website**. Follow us on **Instagram**



## FEBRUARY MEAL MENUS

### BREAKFAST

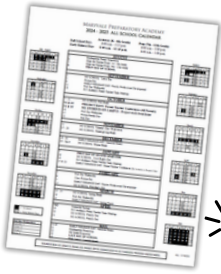
### LUNCH K

### LUNCH 1-6

### Online Menus



# IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK



## DISMISSAL INFORMATION FOR NEXT WEEK

On **Wednesday, February 5th** we will have a regular full day schedule.

The early release day is on **Friday, February 7th** due to a Faculty Great Hearts In-Service. No after school clubs, sports practice or Athenaeum on this day.

## CLASS PICTURE DAY

Class Picture day is **Thursday, February 6th**.

Students must be in full uniform for pictures.

Scan the QR Code to pre-order or visit: <https://mydorian.com/prepayment/>  
Order forms will be sent home tomorrow Friday, envelope with payment is due on picture day.



*Dorian*

Volunteers are welcome to help, please sign up for a shift [here](#) if you can help.  
All volunteers need to have clearance through Raptor, click [here](#) to start the process.

## COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS

Join our School Counselors  
and other parents  
another informative Workshop on

### ***Parenting Skills***

presented by Friendly House

**Friday, February 7th**

**at 8:00 AM**

**in the Prep MPR**

*(Please park by the Prep Building  
and check in at the Prep Office)*



## PSO PRESENTS SPIRIT WEAR FRIDAY! 2/07/25

**SPIRIT WEAR FRIDAY**

\$ will be collected  
by your scholars  
teacher

For Archway  
& Prep



No ripped  
jeans

No Crocs or  
opened-toe  
shoes

ALL FUNDS WILL BE FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR!

**\*Spirit Wear sold by Coach G\***



## ATHENAEUM

Annually in the spring, the Great Hearts Arizona Academies are privileged to participate in a Great Hearts In-service Day for professional development. **Athenaeum programs will be closed on Friday, February 7th, 2025**, to allow the Athenaeum staff and administrators the opportunity to participate in this important training, development, and team building day with their colleagues. This is the only day during the academic year that Athenaeum will close on an early release day. We are taking this opportunity to remind you in advance of this closure, so that you may make other arrangements for your children.

We thank you for supporting the Athenaeum Team in this opportunity for growth and to foster the Great Hearts Community culture.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

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

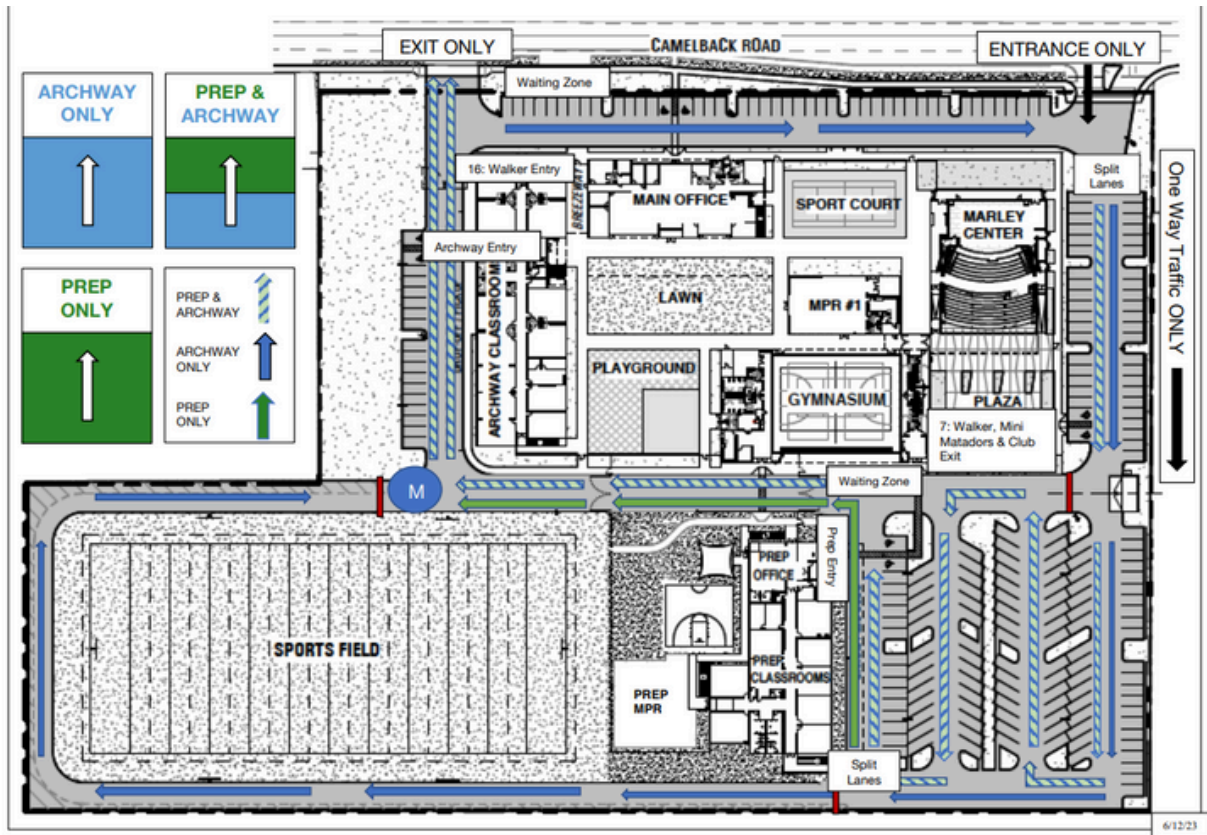


## STUDENT DROPOFF

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

## 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](mailto: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.

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

Attendance Email:  
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[www.maryvaleprep.org](http://www.maryvaleprep.org)



## OFFICE HOURS

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7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Early Release Days:  
7:00 AM - 1:30 PM