



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

ARCHWAY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 6, 2025



KEY DATES:

FEBRUARY 7TH

Coffee with the Counselors
Jean Day for a \$1.00
Early Release Friday &
Athenaeum will be closed

FEBRUARY 12TH

Family Partnership Night for
K-6th Grade

FEBRUARY 17TH

No School-
President's Day

FEBRUARY 19TH

Mini Matadors
Spring Season Starts

FEBRUARY 26TH

Literary Figures Day

FEBRUARY 28TH

PSO's Special Person Dance for
Kinder-4th Grade

A message from Headmaster Cruz...

I hope this finds you all doing well. It is hard to believe we are at the middle of the quarter already. February gets busy with field trips and events and we look forward to seeing you engage in some of those opportunities.

I am especially hopeful to see you all here next week for Family Partnership Night. These events provide important information and even for me as a parent who is plugged into all parts of the school, it serves as a good reminder to me of how I can support my own children individually. I also know how hard our teachers work to prepare and how happy it makes them to have strong attendance. In fact, the grade level teaching team with the highest attendance will receive a faculty lunch and the class with the highest attendance will receive a class ice cream party. I am sure your students will all want to win that for themselves and their teachers so please make arrangements and it is a win-win situation for all!

As we approach this season of being in community for more events I want to remind you all to have discussions with your children at home about ways they can help foster a community here at school where we honor diverse perspectives and experiences. Please note that conversations around current events and topics have come up amongst students and we are doing our best to guide them to have conversations at home. Please help them approach these conversations mindfully regardless of family beliefs. Some ways to do this are by creating a space for them to dialogue their concerns and questions with you. This will allow you as a family to encourage respect and empathy. As you navigate these conversations, it is important for your child to know to when it is appropriate to share personal information or values and when it is best to keep that private.

We will continue to encourage virtue and the importance of respect and dignity and your partnership is always much appreciated.



PSO PRESENTS SPIRIT WEAR FRIDAY!
2/07/25

\$7

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

COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS

Join our School Counselors and other parents another informative Workshop on

Parenting Skills

presented by Friendly House

tomorrow Friday

at 8:00 AM

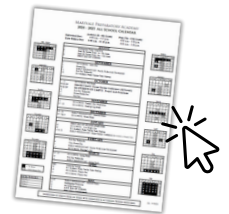
in the Archway MPR

(Location has been moved to Archway MPR, please park in the front and check in the office)



EARLY RELEASE TOMORROW FRIDAY

We have early release tomorrow **Friday, February 7th** for an all Great Hearts faculty In-Service. No after school clubs, sports practice or Athenaeum on this day.



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 tomorrow 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE 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*

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP NIGHT

Next Wednesday is 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

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.

Update: As we have had many illnesses going around, we want to be prepared in the event a teacher is not present for this event. If such is the case, we will inform as soon as we know and will provide an alternate date for you to attend your specific child's classroom meeting.

THEMATIC GOAL UPDATE: TURNING PAGES TOGETHER

We want to keep pushing reading not just at school but at home as well. Research shows that students who read the most are the best spellers, writers, and thinkers.

Reading outside of school for recreation can have great benefits.

1. Recreational reading relieves stress. Studies have shown that reading for pleasure is an effective way to manage stress by increasing enjoyment and relaxation.
2. It's good for your brain and cognitive development. Recreational reading also can have benefits for your concentration, vocabulary, reading and writing skills, and improving working memory.
3. Reading can help you be more empathetic. In studies including both children and adults, leisure reading has been shown to increase an individual's communication skills, understanding of themselves and others who are different from them, and develop overall empathy skills.

Keep books for your children in the car, baskets of books around the home so that they can grab easily, an extra book or two in their backpacks so they have for down time, and try taking books to restaurants instead of electronic devices. Help your child find things they really enjoy reading and watch them get hooked!



LITERARY FIGURES DAY

Mark your calendars for Literary Figures Day. This special day will be celebrated on **Wednesday, February 26th**. Students have the option to come to school dressed as their favorite classical literary character, scientist, or historical figure.

Costumes need not come directly from the grade level curriculum, though they must be classically aligned. Additionally, costumes should allow students to engage in regular school day activities such as recess, and lunch, and shouldn't impede their instruction. Violent images or weapons or drug/alcohol paraphernalia of any kind will not be permitted. Full face coverings/masks are also not allowed. Additionally, students may bring their favorite blanket and a book they love from home to sit on and read. It is sure to be a full, fun day celebrating the beautiful enjoyment reading brings!

Please return the costume slip your child brings home by February 18th.

POWERSCHOOL PUBLIC PORTAL FOR EVALUATIONS

It is already mid quarter! If your child is deficient, you should expect an email or phone call from the teacher soon. Thereafter you will receive notification if they become deficient as we inch closer to close of this grading period.



The portal to review progress can be accessed at: <https://greatheart saz.powerschool.com/public/home.html>.

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 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.

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 it's 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.

SPORTS

Winter Sports Banquet is on **Thursday, February 20th**
Winter Sports picture day is on **Friday, February 14th**
Spring Sports Parent Meeting is on **Tuesday, February 18th**

Spring Sports registration is open on [Configio](#).
Mini Matadors start **Wednesday, February 19th**

Additional information on sports can be found on our [Spring Newsletter](#) and [website](#).

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

Field trips have a 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. Please make sure you select the correct participant for the field trip and their grade.

If selected as a field trip chaperone, you need to have clearance through Raptor before the field trip. 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](#)

MINI MATADORS SPRING SEASON

The Mini Matadors Spring Season starts **Wednesday, February 19th**.

Participants meet after school on early release Wednesdays until 1:45pm. More details and registration link through Configio will come soon.



PSO

Special Person Dance for students from Kinder to 4th grade with one adult.

Tickets can be purchased now on [Configio](#)
Tickets are \$10 and it includes admission for one student and one adult. Online ticket sale ends on February 19th.

Concessions will be open, card and cash accepted.



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.

FEBRUARY MEAL MENUS

[BREAKFAST](#)

[LUNCH K](#)

[LUNCH 1-6](#)

[Online Menus](#)



TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

The **westbound lane on Camelback Road is scheduled to be limited with cones to one lane.**

We ask all families to exit campus to the east (RIGHT TURNS ONLY) and this street project will make left turns even more dangerous and will slow your exit. Please exit going east towards 47th Avenue and use Indian School as an alternative.

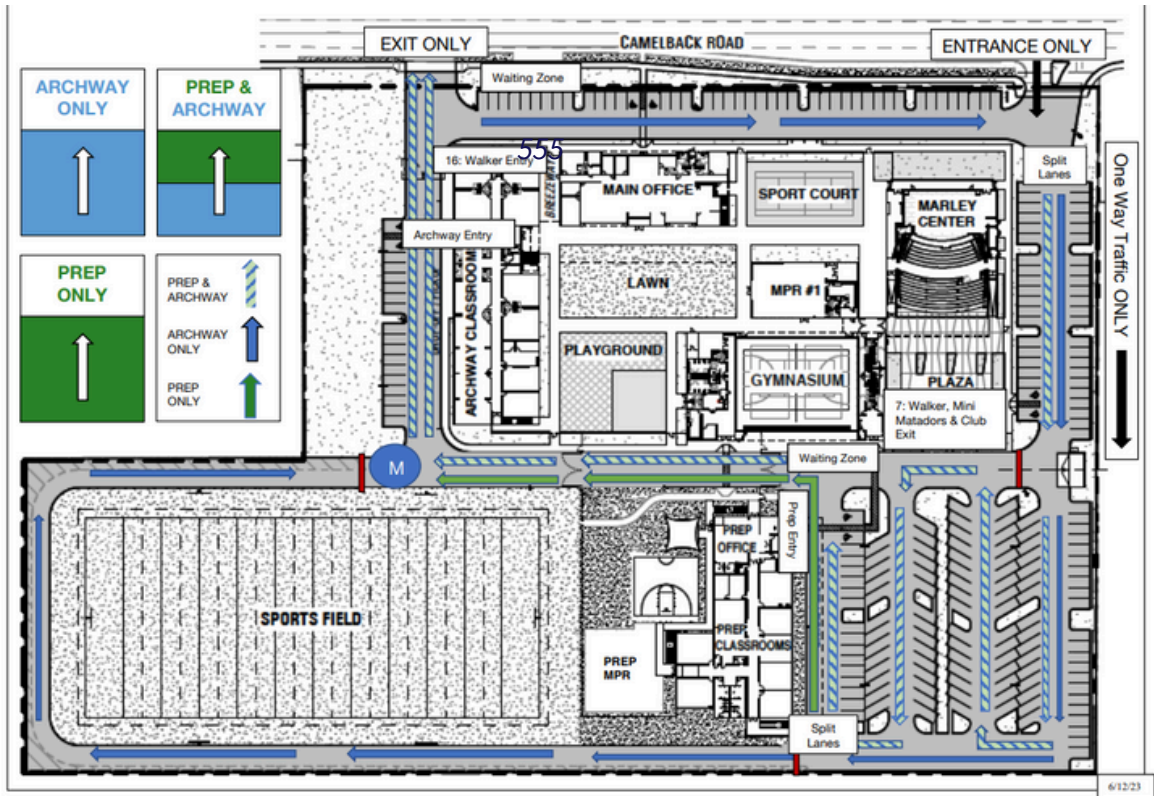


STUDENT DROPOFF

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. 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.

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