



Hello Future Maryvale Matadors!

My name is Dr. Cruz, and I am the proud Headmaster of Archway Maryvale and a proud mother of two students here. I am thrilled to welcome you and your child to Kindergarten at Maryvale Preparatory Academy! As we prepare for this exciting first step in their remarkable K–12 journey, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for choosing our school. It is an honor to partner with you in shaping your child—both morally and intellectually—as they begin this formative and joyful new chapter.

As you gear up for the 2025-2026 school year, we will begin sending communications and want to encourage you to reach out as often as needed while you prepare. Below are a few details to get you started:

### **Maryvale Preparatory Academy Website**

Our [website](#) is updated frequently and this will be an ideal place for you as a parent to find our [school calendar](#), [our family handbook](#), our [Kindergarten book and supplies lists](#), and more.

### **Our Curriculum:**

Kindergarten is a formative year, and we start off early in our journey of seeking truth, goodness and beauty in all that we pursue.

- In **language arts**, we focus on the foundations of reading, writing, spelling, poetry, and literature. We use the Spalding curriculum to start students off with learning the basic building blocks, the phonograms of the English language to learn how to read, write, and spell. Literacy appreciation is cultivated through sayings, poetry recitation and stories such as Little Bear and Mouse Soup.
- For **math**, we use the principles of Singapore Math to help students build a strong foundation. Kindergarteners will first encounter math through concrete activities, then progress to pictorial representations and then finally will learn to employ abstract algorithms. Throughout the year they will study shapes, sorting and matching, classification, patterns, numbers up to 100 and more!
- Our students explore **history** and engage curiously as they explore topics such as geography, early history and symbols of the United States and more.
- During **science**, students will explore topics such as classification of objects, the five senses, weather, and more.
- Our students receive a well-rounded education in their **special area courses** as well and will participate in physical education, Spanish, art and music!

While many of you may want to start preparing your child for kindergarten, please do not feel you need to research all these curriculum areas, our teachers are excited to tackle that when they arrive and can start early with them if you are able to **enroll them in our Summer School Program**. Summer School will run from Monday, June 2nd – Thursday June 26th. There is no school on Fridays during the summer school program, and no school on Thursday, June 19th, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Classes will run from 8:00-11:30 am. Students can arrive at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and stay until 12:00 p.m. for lunch. The summer school tuition fee for all students is \$200.

You can register for Summer School [here](#) and can reach out to Samantha Kennedy, our Assistant Headmaster and Summer School Director, with any questions at [ssidoti@maryvaleprep.org](mailto:ssidoti@maryvaleprep.org).

In addition to signing up for summer school, some of the best ways to prepare your child are to:

- **Build Stamina**-your child will need to sit and listen for a long time. You can build stamina by reading to them at least 15-20 minutes each day and asking them questions. This will help them increase their attention spans. Try books that repeat words; involve activities like counting, identifying colors, objects or letters; or are about things they enjoy. Ask questions such as, "what do you think happens next?"
- **Set Routines**-help your child get accustomed to the structure of the school day by establishing regular routines for waking up, dressing, mealtimes, and bath and bedtimes. When it comes to sleep, a kindergarten aged child should be sleeping 8-10 hours per night. Getting them on a school schedule early will set them up for success come August.
- **Sharing and Responsibility**-Being in a class with many others, possibly for the first time is a big transition. You can help by teaching your child how to share. Engage in games and play that requires practice taking turns. Use language about sharing so that they begin to understand how to express themselves when with others. Build task independence and responsibility by letting them help you clean up, so they get used to putting things back where they found them.
- **Fine Motor Practice**-fine motor skills are the small movements we use to control our hands and fingers. These skills are essential for writing, cutting, and everyday classroom tasks. You can help your child strengthen those little muscles before school starts by encouraging drawing and coloring, cutting with child-safe scissors, playing with playdough, stringing beads, lacing, and tracing, playing with Legos, etc.

We will continue sending out notices periodically about our Kindergarten Orientation, Meet the Teacher Nights, and more. We cannot wait to officially welcome you to our school family for the 2025-2026 school year and I look forward to meeting you all soon! We are thankful that you have picked us as your school of choice and are excited to partner with you in your child's education for many years to come. Lastly, we are still enrolling and have seats available in Kinder and various other grades as well so please spread the word about our school with family and friends. See you soon!

Sincerely,



Dr. Crystal Cruz  
Archway Headmaster