



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 28, 2025



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHOOL HOURS/INFO

ARCHWAY (K-6th Grade)

FULL DAYS:
8:00AM-3:15PM

HALF DAYS:
8:00AM-12:45PM

Archway Office Phone Number:
623-247-6095

Report an absence at:
attendance@maryvaleprep.org

OFFICE HOURS:

FULL DAYS:
7:00AM-4:00PM

HALF DAYS:
7:00AM-1:30PM



PREP (7th-12th Grade)

FULL DAYS:
8:00AM-3:00PM

HALF DAYS:
8:00AM-1:00PM

Prep Office Phone Number:
623-247-6095 Option 2

Report an absence at:
prep.attendance@maryvaleprep.org

GATE CLOSURE TIMES:

FULL DAYS: 1:00PM-2:30PM

EARLY RELEASE DAYS: 11:00AM-12:15PM

www.maryvaleprep.org



A MESSAGE FROM ARCHWAY HEADMASTER



Hello Maryvale Prep Families,

As we close out the month of August, we want to thank you for your partnership. It has been a strong start to the year and we are fortunate to guide students in truth, goodness and beauty. As such I would like to recap where we have seen excellence, progress, and where we are putting in effort to improve.

In the first month much is required to ensure we are operating well logistically and creating a safe and welcoming environment. We are not yet where we need to be and will continue making adjustments as we are able to. We have heard from many of you, mostly out of frustration, regarding drop off and dismissal and we will continue navigating the best way we can while continuing to ask all of you for compliance, patience, and grace. Our carline is not just about efficiency. It is also a daily opportunity for us to live out the virtue and values that make our school community unique. It is a time for us to practice and model patience and kindness to our students. It is a chance for us to model integrity as we follow the procedures designed for safety. It allows us to show goodness in the small acts of consideration we have for one another. It is by no means convenient, especially in this heat, but perhaps, if we approach it from an angle of opportunity to model and engage in the good, our perspective will shift.

August is also a time for us to hone in on the foundation of order and joy, not only with outside logistics but across the day with our students. Order and joy are what allow us to flourish. Order provides structure and joy makes order worth pushing towards. Our teachers have worked hard alongside your students to develop strong classroom routines, tight transitions, appropriate play, and daily habits that allow them to focus on learning while joyfully engaging. I encourage you to ask your children about their structure and get a pulse check on how they think they are doing. Our hope is that developing strong daily habits at school will partner with the parenting work you are doing which will lead to an ongoing desire for our students to live and work together harmoniously.

We look forward to the month ahead and opportunities to engage with you all at campus wide events such as athletic games, movie nights, and family partnership night. It has been a wonderful start, and we look forward to continuing to grow together in both order and joy as the year unfolds. Thank you for entrusting us with your children and partnering with us in so many ways!

LITERACY SCREENER PARENT LETTER

K-3 families, please follow this [link](#) to read a letter about the reading assessments and screeners your student will receive in the first month of school and possible next steps if your child is not at benchmark in reading.

You will receive a letter with information in your student's homework folder if your student requires additional instruction and intervention outside of the classroom following these screeners



3RD-6TH GRADEBOOK



(Parent Portal Link) Every Monday grades will be updated in the parent portal for 3rd-6th grades. We highly encourage you to review these with your child and reach out to your child's teacher with any concerns or to find out how else you can help your scholar.

ACADEMIC MORNING CLUBS

As we review recent data, we will invite or adjust who is coming to morning clubs, please be on the lookout for invitations.

Students invited to morning club should arrive on campus at 7:00 am if they would like to eat breakfast. At 7:15 they will report to the morning club line on the lawn to meet their club leader. After 7:30, students will be too late to join morning club.



FAMILY PARTNERSHIP NIGHT

Please save the date for our first Family Partnership Night of the 2025-2026 school year! During this meeting, we will build 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, September 10th
Where: Your Child's Classroom

NEW Times:
5th-6th Grades: 2:15-3:15
3rd-4th Grades: 3:30-4:30
Kinder-2nd Grade: 4:45-5:45

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.



DRESS CODE REMINDER

Please be sure to review our uniform and dress code on pages 40-42 of our Archway Family Handbook. Our faculty and staff are doing their best to log any dress code infractions which you should be receiving. One thing we are noticing are hair accessories, jewelry, lunchboxes, water bottles, backpacks, keychains etc. with pop culture/cartoon characters. Personal items should be void of these. Students will be able to choose one keychain to keep on their backpack which helps with identification for some but this should not be in the form of a stuffed animal (**e.g. Labubu's, Squishmallows or larger than finger sized**). Please be sure to examine what your child is bringing to school and make adjustments.

SENIOR CLASS PICTURE DAY DRESS CODE

Senior Photos are special as the last “school pictures” students take. These photos will be in the yearbook, displayed on campus, as well as used for social media and the commencement ceremony.

Ladies - wear a black dress or blouse with black skirt/pants

Men - white dress shirt, black/gray jacket and tie

Notes:

1. We have some clothing items available to loan for the day, please speak with **Dr. Huemer**, or **Ms. Vaughn**.
2. Seniors can wear their senior photo attire all day (shoes should be solid color and safe for walking on campus all day) or change into regular uniform.



9·4·25

PARENT PORTAL

Part of our communication with families is the Parent Portal. Weekly, 3rd – 12th grade families can review homework, participation, quiz, and test grades on the Parent Portal. This is a great tool to use for specific questions you might have on any deficiency notices received, or just to keep up with your scholar's weekly performance.



MID-QUARTER REPORT

On **Friday afternoon, September 5th**, Ms. Vaughn will be emailing the Mid-Quarter Report to families which will show the category totals and overall grades for each class as of that day. The MQR can be accessed via the link at the bottom of the email. This is a snapshot of students' academic performance so far in Quarter 1, which ends in only 5 weeks! As always, the most current and up-to-date grades can be viewed on the Parent Portal. If you do not receive an email, please check the spam folder or email Ms. Vaughn directly at mvaughn@maryvaleprep.org

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

field trip



12th grade field trip to **NAU** on **Friday September 12th**.

Check your email for the required permission slip and configio payment.

Internships available! See Mrs. Ayala for details or send email to gayala@maryvaleprep.org or information about the Moose Youth Awareness program [click here](#) or see Mrs. Ayala for details.



MATADOR SPIRIT WEDNESDAYS

Every **Wednesday** Students are encouraged to participate in school spirit days. Students are allowed to wear Matador Spirit tops and uniform bottoms.



PREP NEWS 7TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Speech (and Debate*) – Mr. Butler

Mondays & Thursdays, 3:05-4:15 p.m.
7th-12th grade

This course is designed in conjunction with Ms. Hill's high school equivalent (Storytelling). Students will compete in a variety of topics in teams of one or two, learn how to memorize passages, generate and present ideas, develop public speaking skills, and throughout the process, strengthen overall English comprehension skills. Students will practice their chosen topic(s) and will compete at multiple speech meets throughout the year.

2. Art – Drawing Studio – Mr. Canisales

Tuesdays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
7-12th grade

Students will have an opportunity to expand on and hone their drawing skills. Members will have conversations on how to improve their individual art. Students will be able to compare new artwork to old artwork to see their progression and produce completed projects.

3. Art & Writer's Workshop – Zines Collaging Club – Ms. Trujillo

Thursdays, 3:45-4:30 p.m.
7-12th grade

Creating "Zines" can be a creative way to summarize a certain topic of interest or study like a short brochure or mini book. Students may incorporate current topics they are discussing in their main school subjects into their Zines to create an interactive/personalized study guide for their academic needs. Student must recall what they are currently learning/discussing in their classes weekly in order for the Zines to be helpful study tools. They have creative freedom with choosing Zine composition/class content but must include clear information, pictures, and/or aids that will contribute to a creative study tool!

4. Book Club – Mr. Echeverria

Mondays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
7-12th grade

Students will read books outside of regular school-day curriculum. Students will read and seminar together.

5. Engineering – LEGO Building – Ms. Maring

Tuesdays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
7-12th grade

Students will get hands-on motor skill practice and instruction following practice. This is a skill that is necessary for any student looking to go into a trade or a detail oriented profession. Students will be allowed to have a final creative project in LEGO Engineering. This is where they will take the skills of following instructions, fine motor skills, and creativity to create whatever they choose, and they must also provide some sort of instructions on how to create/re-create their masterpiece.

6. Instrumental Music – String Instruments Club – Mr. Turner

Tuesdays, 3:05-4:00 p.m.
7-12th grade

This club will focus on learning the basics of string instruments where the students have the choice of Violin, Viola, or Cello. This will help students learn music, apply it to their instrument and have them focus on creating a beautiful sound. Students will play for the teacher and with each other to assess their progress. PLEASE NOTE: Students will need to BUY or RENT an instrument in order to participate in this club.

7. Robotics – Mr. Butler

Tuesdays, 3:05-4:00 p.m.
7-12th grade

Robotics Club is a team-oriented competitive club in which students work together to build a robot throughout the year and program it to compete in events against teams from other clubs through AZ First Tech Challenge.

8. Strategic Games – Checkers – Mr. Ward

Mondays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
7-12th grade

This course emphasizes analyzing game mechanics, anticipating opponents' moves, and devising adaptive strategies. Games are designed to enhance working memory and sustained attention through repeated pattern recognition and scenario planning. This enrichment course will sharpen students' critical thinking and decision-making skills through engaging gameplay, transforming abstract strategy into practical problem-solving abilities applicable across academics and life.

9. Honors Choir – Mrs. Rand-Lowe

Fridays, 3:05-4:00 p.m.
9-12th grade

Experience the joy of singing in harmony and sharing the work in creating beautiful, challenging music. This is an advanced choir for committed students that are ready to focus on singing three-part harmony music. Students will learn several pieces this semester to perform in the Winter Arts Showcase program. Additionally, students will work together to build skills and participate in the full day Great Hearts Honor Choir Festival, singing with schools all across the valley in the Spring.

10. Culinary Arts – Cooking & Baking – Mrs. Myers

Tuesdays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
9-12th grade

This club will focus on teaching students responsibility and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to choose recipes each week, bring in their ingredients, and then make the food. We will enjoy the food together and have a time of fellowship between grade levels in a leisurely setting. Each meal will be the deliverable used to evaluate student performance. If it is edible and delicious, they will have succeeded.

11. Writer's Workshop – Storytelling – Ms. Hill

Mondays, 3:05-3:45 p.m.
9-12th grade

Students will enhance their logic and organizational skills by writing stories and practicing public speaking when presenting their creative work. Students will present their respective stories at the end of the semester to group members/audience.

Student Leadership Options - FREE - DURING SCHOOL HOURS

12. Student Council – Mr. Mendez & Ms. Wolpert

Students interested in joining Student Council, which collaborates with school leadership in the coordination of events like dances and spirit weeks, should express their interest to Mr. Mendez. This group is free and only open to high schoolers, who will be represented on Student Council by representatives (2 per grade level), a vice-president (12th grade only), and a president (12th grade only). In addition to planning events, Student Council members also have important opportunities to mentor younger students, host guests at our school, and lead in other ways. Student Council elections for high schoolers will take place on September 25th.

13. Photography Society – Ms. Vaughn / Dr. Huemer

photography will allow students to learn more about photography and take pictures at spirit weeks, pep rallies, and athletic events to contribute to the yearbook and social media. Photography is open to all grade levels and will meet regularly with Dr. Huemer / Ms. Vaughn to schedule individuals at events and recap photography experiences.

14. Yearbook Design – Ms. Vaughn

Yearbook designers will learn about the elements of graphic design and create a keepsake for the student body for years to come! The design team will be limited to 6 high-school students who must interview with Ms. Vaughn.

**SIGN UP NO LATER
THAN
08/25/25**