



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 30, 2025



KEY DATES

Veterans Day- No School
November 11

Sports Banquet
November 13

Mini Matadors Begins
November 17

3-5 Music Concert
November 19

Last day of Archway Clubs
November 21

Thanksgiving Break- No School
November 26-28

Winter Showcase
December 10



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

www.maryvaleprep.org



YouTube



MARYVALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

Hello Maryvale Prep Families,

As many of you may have seen and read already, our High School was recognized by the U.S. News and World Report's 2024 Best High Schools. Maryvale Prep was recognized as follows:

- #29 out of 342 in Phoenix, AZ Metro Area High Schools
- #41 out of 599 in Arizona High Schools
- #409 out of 3,022 in Charter High Schools
- #2,195 out of 17,656 in National Rankings

Additionally, we were also the 2nd highest ranked Great Hearts Academy in Arizona.

Beyond this great news, we were thrilled to find out yesterday that Maryvale Preparatory Academy has earned an "A" letter grade from the Arizona Department of Education.

This achievement reflects the dedication, hard work, and partnership of our entire community and we are so proud!

We are thankful to you all for entrusting us with your scholars and we are thankful to our students who strive for excellence each day. Your partnership, in bringing them to morning academic clubs, in ensuring they are punctual and in attendance, your engagement at Family Partnership Nights, Parent Teacher Conferences, and across daily school endeavors, makes a remarkable impact on their success!

None of this would be possible without our faculty and staff, who pursue this work relentlessly with the deepest and most sincere belief in our students. They serve with excellence to provide a rich and rigorous education to every child.

Additionally, we are so thankful for the support from our Great Hearts network, our board, and our philanthropic donors who continue to champion our mission of bringing classical education to the heart of Maryvale.

Receiving these recognitions is one of many reflections of the order and joy, perseverance and of the commitment and dedication that are very much alive within these walls. While we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain grounded in our purpose. We did not reach this point by narrowing our focus to standards or test preparation. Instead, it has been the effort of integrating standards coupled with our commitment to a classical education, one that is rich in the liberal and fine arts, continues to shape both the intellect and the character of our scholars. We will continue pursuing an A letter grade while steadfastly maintaining the beauty of our curriculum and the formation of our students' souls.

We are so proud of our scholars and so grateful for your ongoing trust and support. This accomplishment belongs to all of us, and we look forward to continuing to grow together in truth, goodness, and beauty.

Dr. Crystal Cruz | Archway Headmaster

Ms. Rachel Mercado | Prep Headmaster

SPORTS MP

- Sports Banquet is on **Thursday November 13th** save the date
- HS winter sports begin **Monday, November 3**, Our next season of Mini Matadors begins on **Wednesday, November 12**. Please be sure to sign up ahead of time and note all pick up logistics. Middle School sports (5th and 6th grade included) also begins the **week of November 10th**. Information about all things athletics can be found on the athletics

26-27 OPEN ENROLLMENT & RE- ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment for new students for the 2026–27 school year is **now open!** If you have a child who will be new to Great Hearts—or know friends, neighbors, or relatives who are interested—now is the perfect time to **submit an application**.

Open Enrollment Dates are October 20 – December 31, 2025

New Students:

If you have a child entering Kindergarten or a sibling who is not yet enrolled, please be sure to submit a new application during this Open Enrollment window. Applications submitted by December 31 are included in the lottery.

Re-Enrollment for Current Students starts Tuesday, February 17, 2026

- All current Great Hearts students will complete the re-enrollment process on this date to secure their spot for the 2026–27 school year.

Thank you for being a part of the Great Hearts community and for sharing your positive experiences with others. We do still have seats available for this school year. Please share with your family and friends. Additionally, we are hosting an Information Night for Prospective Parents on **11/6**. Please encourage them to reach out for information and to join us!

ENROLL

Dear Athenaeum families,

Effective immediately, we will no longer be using the current online attendance link for updates. Please send all Athenaeum attendance changes by either:

- Text: (480) 247-1532 (site phone)
- Email: Programs.Maryvale@greathearts.org

This change allows our team to respond and clarify details quickly when needed. An updated attendance link may be introduced later this year; until then, text or email is the required method.

When you contact us, please include:

- Student's full name.
- Date(s) of the change and what's changing (days attending that week, absent, different pick-up person, extra day, etc.)
- Any other details we should know

If this has already been your method of Athenaeum attendance communication, please disregard this message.

Thank you

for your cooperation and for helping us keep your scholars safe and accounted for.



GreatHeartsArizona.org/athenaeum



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

For all scholars who received a non-compliant immunization notice, please note the **deadline**

for submitting documentation is **one week away!** After such time, your scholar may be excluded from school until such documentation has been received. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the health office.

Attention Kinder, 2nd, and 6th grade parents! Please be on the look-out for a consent form for a free program offering dental screenings and sealants at school on **November 20**. Consent can also be given electronically.



OCTOBER LUNCH MENUS

BREAKFAST MENU

KINDER LUNCH MENU

1ST-8TH LUNCH MENU

9TH-12TH LUNCH MENU



ARCHWAY NEWS KINDER- 6TH GRADE

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHWAY HEADMASTER DR. CRUZ



Hello Maryvale Prep Families,

We hope you all had a great time at our annual Fall Festival! A huge shout out to our Parent Service Organization for this and so many other events and ways they support our school and engage our community! As you can imagine hosting these events is a big undertaking. It is our hope to continue hosting events and identify more ways our PSO can help with teacher appreciation and needs of the school community. We hope that each new event will also spark interest in growing out our amazing group of volunteers. We encourage you to join our PSO team. If interested please email PSO@maryvaleprep.org. Thank you for the ways you engage!

UPCOMING FIELD DAYS

On **Wednesday, November 5th**, 1st and 2nd grade will have their Athletic Field Day. Parents are welcome to come as spectators but must drop their child off as normal and then return to park and enter through the main office **no earlier than 8:15 am**. Parents must sign in and will be escorted to the lawn. Game rounds begin at **8:30 am**. Parents must leave campus at **10:35 am** at the end of Round 4. Your child may wear their class colors or their uniform. If they were class colors and athletic shorts or leggings they must be uniform length and free of holes, graphics, or pop culture. They must wear athletic shoes. Students should not bring a backpack that day. They can bring a water bottle and lunch if they usually do. Kinder field day will take place on **11/19** and details are forthcoming.

- 1A** -Integrity (White)
- 1B** -Humility (Yellow)
- 1C** -Citizenship (Red)
- 1D** -Responsibility (Orange)



- 2A** -Honesty (Green)
- 2B** -Wisdom (Blue)
- 2C** -Perseverance (Purple)
- 2D** -Courage (Black)

Maryvale Preparatory Academy
GreatHearts
K-6 INFO NIGHT

Help Us Spread the Word!
Great Hearts is hosting Info Nights at all of our Archway Academies soon, and we'd love for you to invite friends, family, and co-workers who may be considering school options.

NOVEMBER 6 | 5 PM

At Info Night, prospective parents will:

- Tour the campus
- Meet teachers, leaders, and families
- Learn more about our classical education
- Connect with representatives from our Prep schools who can answer questions

Your voice makes the biggest impact, please share this opportunity with families in your circle so they can experience firsthand the welcoming community that makes Great Hearts unique.

LINK: [ENROLLINFO.NIGHT](https://enrollinfo.night)

3RD-5TH GRADE MUSIC CONCERT

Please save the date for November 19th for our Fall Concert for 3rd-5th grades. Times are as follows and students must arrive 15 minutes before their performance time. Student and family entrance will take place at Gates 6 & 7.

- 3rd grade will perform at 4 pm
- 4th grade will perform at 5 pm
- 5th grade will perform at 6 pm

Student attire is: white tops (solid color/no vests), black dress bottoms, and solid black shoes. Hairbows, if worn, must be black or white and modest.





DRESS CODE REMINDER

Please be sure to review our uniform and dress code policy 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.

With cooler weather approaching, please review the outerwear dress code:

- Sweaters:
- Color: Navy blue with the MVA Crest
- Style: Cardigan or pullover with a ¼ zipper
- **Available from Lands' End**
- Outerwear/Jackets:
- Jackets may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos and messages
- Definition: Waterproof fabric or wool, with zipper or buttons, and a single color scheme – no words or images allowed
- Jackets may only be worn before school, after school, and during recess
- Other items:
- Beanies and gloves are allowed when it's cold but must be single-color and free of logos or messages
- Cardigans with the MVA Crest may be worn inside and outside the classroom
- Long sleeve undershirts are not permitted

Thank you for helping us maintain a neat and consistent dress code as temperatures drop!

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

At Maryvale Prep we 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 not to bring those celebrations in order to focus use of academic minutes wisely and due to the vastness and content of holidays.

Please do not send Halloween treats or candy to class as we will not be having any celebrations and our Fall Festival was aimed towards this already. The only exception in our **2D** pizza party as they won the candy donation contest hosted by **PSO**.

Additionally, **please do not send students in costumes**. We will have opportunities to dress up on the 100th Day of School and on Literary Figures Day in the second semester.

GRADE ACCESS FOR 3RD-6TH GRADES

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 support your child.



STUDENT SNACKS

Students are allowed to bring snacks from home to eat in a designated area during their recess and break times. Please note that any snacks brought must be of individual size and quantity. We have many students bringing family sized shareable snacks. This is causing an uptick in sharing, which is a concern due to food allergies and germ spreading. Additionally, many students are choosing to eat the snacks instead of their lunches. Any family sized snacks brought will be sent home.

Additionally, please ensure your children are not bringing gum to school. Gum chewing is not allowed and ends up creating an unwanted mess if not discarded appropriately.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS ONLY



GRADES 7-12 ONLY

PREP YEARBOOK PRE-ORDER

PRE-ORDER BY DECEMBER 31ST
\$40

ORDER AFTER JANUARY 1ST
\$45

PURCHASE ON CONFIGIO

YEARBOOKS ARE DELIVERED IN MAY

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Coach Jones is the Athletic Director at Maryvale Prep and began work for us this past June.

Coach Jones was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky where he grew up around thoroughbred horse racing and major league baseball. Coach Jones played football, basketball, baseball, and coed softball during his high school years and worked for the Triple-A baseball team in Louisville before entering the U.S. Army shortly after graduating HS. During his military service Coach Jones continued to play basketball, softball, flag football, and others while also beginning his coaching career. In between his various military duties, he earned his Associates of Science in General Technologies with Pierce College and began work on a Bachelor of Science in Sports and Health Sciences with American Public University. After retirement from the military Coach Jones completed his bachelor's degree and began teaching Physical Education in New Mexico before coming to Phoenix. Coach Jones' vast experience in and out the classroom helps him build lasting relationships with his coworkers and athletes through his unconditional caring, respect and desire for them to be better. Coach Jones says, "I came to Maryvale because I believe that there is so much room for growth here. Not just the school itself, but in the scholars and our programs. I hope that I can use my experiences, coupled with that of those around me to bring Maryvale Prep to the forefront of not only Great Hearts, but the Central-Phoenix area."

When not working or supporting one of our athletic programs, Coach Jones loves to support his hometown University of Louisville Cardinals (just look in his office). He also enjoys travelling with his wife and spending time with family and friends.





OUTERWEAR POLICY

As the weather begins to cool, we'd like to remind families of our outerwear policy to ensure all students remain in compliance with the school dress code:

Approved Campus Outerwear:

- Students may wear a school pullover or athletic jacket with the official school crest or approved emblem at all times during the school day.

Non-Academy Outerwear:

- Jackets or coats without the school crest may be worn before and after school, **outdoors only**. These must be free of pop culture references, political messages, or any inappropriate language or images.
- Non-zip-up hoodies are not permitted to be worn at any time during the school day, including drop-off and pick-up.

We appreciate your help in keeping our students focused and in uniform. Thank you for your continued support!

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

- Apply for Scholarships: [Click here](#)
- 10th grade **ACE Application Deadline, Nov. 1st.**
- **AP-Registration** Deadline is Nov 1st.
- 12th Grade It's Time to Order Your Caps and Gowns! **Jostens - Home Page**
- 12th grade University Application Priority **Deadline, Nov. 1st.**



See Mrs. Ayala for details or send an email to gayala@maryvaleprep.org