



Dragon Dispatch

August 14, 2023

Important Upcoming Dates

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| Tuesday, August 22 | Open House |
| Wednesday, August 23, 5:30-7:30 | No School – Professional Learning Day |
| Monday, September 4 | No School – Labor Day |
| Wednesday-Friday, September 20-22 | Parent Teacher Conferences (Half Days) |
| Friday, September 22 | Picture Day |

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Student Dismissal

Please help maximize the safety of Drachman during dismissal by ensuring that your child is fully aware of how they will be dismissed. Also, please provide advance notice if there will be a change in dismissal for your child. Our student dismissal procedures will follow what we implemented last school year. Students of all grades that ride the busses or get picked up by daycares, as well as students from our self-contained programs of children with autism, will dismiss from the gates off Meyer Avenue. Students who attend the Santa Rosa KIDCO will be walked to the Santa Rosa Center by Drachman staff. Kindergarten students that get picked up by parents will dismiss through our front gates. Grades 1st – 8th will dismiss through our soccer gates by our parking lot. Parents/guardians will wait for their children outside of these gates and will not enter the campus to pick up their child(ren).

Open House on August 22

Open House (and the Annual Title 1 Meeting for Parents) will take place next Tuesday, August 22 from 5:30 to 7:30. During Open House, there will be three sessions for parents to meet their students' teachers. These sessions will contain the same information during each

session so families with more than one student can receive information from multiple teachers/classrooms during the Open House. There will also be three sessions that will be held in the cafeteria with school-wide information about our Title 1 and Magnet Programs.

School-Wide Information Sessions

5:30 – 6:00: Held in Cafeteria

6:00– 6:30: Held in Cafeteria

6:30– 7:00: Held in Cafeteria

Classroom Info Sessions

6:00 - 6:30: Session 1

6:30 – 7:00: Session 2

7:00 – 7:30: Session 3

No School on August 23

TUSD's quarterly professional learning days have moved to Wednesdays this year. Our first one is coming up on Wednesday, August 23. This means there will be no school on that day to allow our staff to attend professional development sessions.

Drachman's After School ACE Program (\$400 Per Child Per Semester)

We had enough students sign up for Drachman's After School ACE Program for the fall semester! The program will operate on most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from dismissal until 4:50 pm, and it will be coordinated by Ms. Eva Muñoz. The cost is \$400 per child per semester, and there are no sibling discounts. If you pay Arizona state taxes, you could receive a tax credit for up to \$200 per year for this expense for an individual taxpayer and up to \$400 for those who file taxes as a married couple. You can still have your child join the fall semester by emailing Dr. Celaya for next steps. To offer the program in the spring semester, we will need at least 15 students to sign up and pay for the program by October 31, 2023. Please [email Dr. Celaya](#) if you are interested or if you would like further information.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Testing Signup

Did you know Drachman Montessori is a GATE cluster school? GATE Cluster programs provide instruction by a gifted endorsed teacher with students "clustered" together in classrooms with GATE-identified and open access students. These classrooms, from 1st to 5th grade, provide gifted instruction full time, five days per week. In addition, 1st to 5th grade GATE-identified students receive 90 minutes of pull-out GATE services weekly. GATE instruction continues at the middle school level, with some core classes designated as GATE and a GATE open access elective, taught by GATE endorsed teachers.

A student is identified as a GATE student through testing. All 1st and 5th grade students are automatically tested if they are not already qualified for a GATE self-contained program.

Students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 6th grade can also be tested by parent request. You can sign your student in these grades up for full GATE Testing by going to the [GATE Testing signup form](#). The deadline to sign up for testing at Drachman during the school day is August 25th, 2023. (If you sign up after that, there will be make-up sessions available.)

For more information about gifted and talented education, visit [TUSD's GATE Department website](#).

Permissions for Dragon of the Month and Photos

During registration, you were given the opportunity to opt out of sharing directory information and photos of your children. Opting out has some implications of which you may not be aware. For example, it can prevent us from sharing your child's first name in our monthly list of Dragons of the Month. It also makes it difficult for us to share photos with you of what's happening on campus. If you opted out of any of the permissions, a Drachman specific permission slip was sent home with your student to allow some of these specific things. If you have questions, please [email Wendy Gordon Weeks](#), Magnet Coordinator.

Clothing Donations Needed

Our health office is asking for donations of new underwear and socks in all sizes and new or gently used basketball shorts, pants, sweats and leggings of all sizes (kindergartener through adult).

Drachman Non-Perishable Food and Hygiene Pantry

We are establishing a non-perishable food and hygiene pantry here at Drachman. We are currently in need of donations of non-perishable food items (for example: canned foods, nuts, dried fruits and vegetables, nut butters, grains such as pasta and rice, jerky, granola and protein bars, cereal and oats) and hygiene items (for example: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, bodywash) so we can get it up and running as soon as possible.

Montessori Spotlight: Montessori Pillars of Practice at Drachman Montessori

At Drachman Montessori, we focus on five pillars of Montessori practice to guide us in creating a Montessori experience:

- 1) **Respect Children and their Work:** We guide students through questions and invitations, rather than commands. We avoid interrupting students' concentration by maintaining a peaceful space and using quiet voices. We explicitly teach students grace and courtesy.
- 2) **The Environment:** We set up our classrooms to be aesthetically pleasing, uncluttered, and organized, child-centered spaces. This helps the students to focus and enables some of the other pillars, including independence.

- 3) Independence: Student work is done independently and is self-directed. Students have input and choice when possible. Students take ownership of their work and the environment.
- 4) Individualization: Lessons happen individually and in small groups through the use of work plans. Work and expectations can be tailored to students' interests, needs, and ability levels, allowing students to move ahead when ready and spend extra time when needed to master a concept.
- 5) Hands-On Learning: Learning is primarily hands-on and discovery based, utilizing Montessori materials, helping students to understand concepts more deeply and remember them better.

Drachman Montessori K-8 Magnet nurtures the whole child, helps students discover their cosmic task and role as citizens of the world, and guides students to achieve individual excellence.



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