



# Dragon Dispatch

August 28, 2023

## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, September 4	No School – Labor Day
Wednesday, September 6	T-Shirt Orders Due
Wednesday-Friday, September 20-22	Parent Teacher Conferences (Half Days)
Friday, September 22	Picture Day
Friday, October 6	No School – Grading Day
October 9-13	Fall Break
Tuesday, October 17	Vision and Hearing Screenings

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## In this Issue

Drachman Shirts for Sale!  
Free Dance Class for Elementary Students  
Open House Follow Up  
Reminder – Permissions for Dragon of the Month and Photos  
Family Resources Available  
Montessori Spotlight: The Child-Centered Montessori Environment  
In Maria Montessori's Own Words...

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## Drachman Shirts for Sale!

We have Drachman shirts for sale with a new design! We have both short- and long-sleeved t-shirts available, and you can choose either black or white shirts, all with a red imprint, in youth sizes XS to XL and adult sizes S to 3XL. Short-sleeved shirts cost \$8 and long-sleeved shirts cost \$10. You may place an order by visiting our [online Drachman shirt order form](#) or returning a hard copy of the order form attached to this email. Please note that orders can only be paid in cash and must be paid by the order deadline. Questions and payments can be directed to Wendy Gordon Weeks, Magnet Coordinator. Orders are due by Wednesday, September 6.

## Free Dance Class for Elementary Students

We are excited to offer a free dance class after school for elementary students on Mondays from 3:45 to 4:30, beginning on September 11. Your student will be able to stay on campus from the end of school through the end of class. To participate, please return the "informed

consent" form attached to this email to Wendy Gordon Weeks, Magnet Coordinator. [Email Ms. Weeks](#) with any questions and scanned consent forms.

## Open House Follow Up

It was great to see all of the new and returning families at Open House on August 22! Attached to this email are documents and information that were presented at Open House by Dr. Celaya, including the TUSD Revised Code of Conduct, the Open House/Annual Title 1 Meeting PowerPoint, and Drachman's Parent Involvement Policy.

## Reminder – 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. Please sign and return the form to Wendy Gordon Weeks, Magnet Coordinator.

## Family Resources Available

TUSD's Family Resource Centers have many great resources available to support families. They have four centers across Tucson, and they offer classes on many different topics, including parenting, health, family finance, and language. Check out the [FRC's September calendar of classes and events](#). They also have many other supports available, including a computer lab, a food pantry, and a clothing bank. Learn where the centers are located as well as more about their offerings in the [FRC Resource Newsletter](#).

## Montessori Spotlight: The Child-Centered Montessori Environment

Montessori environments are designed to be very child-centered. One way we see this in the classroom is that everything is placed with the child as the primary focus. Materials are placed on low shelves so that the children can see and reach them themselves, and art is placed at the children's eye level. Furniture is child-sized and able to be moved by the children.

The rooms are set up to meet the needs of children. They are well organized and uncluttered so students can find things themselves and put things back where they found them. You might see, for instance, color coding stickers to help students know where things should go. There are a variety of seating options and work spaces, from rugs on the floor where children can stretch out, to low level tables where children can sit on the floor but work on the table, to tables and chairs where children can work with others.

Students are encouraged to take ownership of the environment, and teacher space is minimal in the room. Typically, students have jobs to help restore the environment at the end of the day, so that they are responsible for maintaining their space.

The rooms are also calming and aesthetic. Both the wall space and the floor space are intentionally uncluttered, helping to promote focus. The rooms are intended to be beautiful and feel more home-like than institutional, with plants, lots of natural light, and natural materials rather than plastic. What is on the walls is carefully chosen to enhance the environment, and Montessori classrooms have fewer pieces of student work and posters displayed than the average classroom; what is displayed is high-quality and aesthetically pleasing.

## **In Maria Montessori's Own Words...**

"Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor to keep burning within him that light that is called intelligence."

from *Spontaneous Activity in Education* by Maria Montessori

*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.*



[tusd1.org/drachman](https://tusd1.org/drachman)

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