



# Dragon Dispatch

September 25, 2023

## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, September 25	Middle School Basketball Playoff Game at home Middle School Volleyball Playoff Game at Valencia
Wednesday, September 27, 2:45pm	School Site Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 3	ELA Benchmark
Wednesday, October 4, 8:45am	Morning Assembly with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Performance
Wednesday, October 4	Math Benchmark
Friday, October 6	No School – Grading Day
October 9-13	Fall Break
Tuesday, October 17	Vision and Hearing Screenings
Friday, October 27, 4:45-6:15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat & Día de Recuerdos

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## Middle School Sports

Our boys' basketball team has their first playoff game today at home versus Robins at 5pm, and our girls' volleyball team will be playing their first playoff game today at Valencia at 5pm. If the basketball team wins, they will play at Mansfeld Thursday, and if volleyball wins, they will play at Roskruge Thursday. Good luck! Drachman Score! Dragons Roar!

Middle school girls' basketball and boys' volleyball begins after fall break. If your student has already had a sports physical this year, they are all set for the rest of the year!

## Reminder: Third Grade Music Performance

Third Graders from Ms. Christina's, Ms. Muñoz's, Ms. Nye's, and Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Elisa's classes will be singing at the next morning assembly, which will be next Wednesday, October 4, at 8:45am. The assembly will take place in our cafeteria or in our courtyard, depending on weather. Students must be on time to school and in class for morning attendance in order to perform, and regular school appropriate clothes are preferred. Families are welcome to join us!

## Drachman Volunteer Application Deadline Saturday!

As mentioned previously, individuals interested in serving as Drachman volunteers must "reapply" for clearance through TUSD's Human Resources Department each school year to officially volunteer. We hope each volunteer from last school year reapplies for this school year. The deadline for previously approved volunteers to apply for volunteering this school year is this Saturday, September 30th! This means that previously approved volunteers will no longer be allowed to volunteer after October 1st, unless they provide Dr. Celaya with proof that they are in the process of getting reapproved by TUSD's HR Department to volunteer this year. If you were not an approved volunteer last year, and you would like to volunteer this year, please apply! [Apply to volunteer](#) now.

TUSD Human Resources will review the online application and conduct a background check. Parents and legal guardians will be required to upload valid photo identification. Adults who are not parents or legal guardians wanting to volunteer will be required to upload valid photo identification and a valid fingerprint card...this includes grandparents and other family members who are not the student's parents or legal guardians. Drachman will pay the \$20 cost for the fingerprinting. Although this process may be cumbersome, it supports our campus safety and security by ensuring Drachman volunteers have passed a background check to work with our students. As mentioned before, Drachman volunteers will be allowed to be on campus before the morning bell to help support the supervision of students and will be able to chaperone field trips.

## Third Annual Trunk or Treat – Invitation and Request!

Our third annual Trunk or Treat will take place on Friday, October 27 from 4:45 to 6:15 in our parking lot. Food will be available for purchase from Bambino Sonoran Hot Dogs, and Student Council will be offering gourmet popcorn and drinks for purchase (cash only). We hope you will save the date and join us to enjoy the decorated vehicles, show off your nonviolent costumes, and "trunk or treat" for candy from the participants!

If you would like to participate by decorating your vehicle, please [email Ms. Amanda Limón](#) or [email Ms. Adriana Manrique](#) by Monday, October 23!

To make this a successful event, we are also requesting donations of candy. Candy should be snack size or minis and must be pre-packaged and store-bought. Candy can be dropped off in the office. (Please state it is for Student Council.)

## Día de Recuerdos

We will be having our second annual Día de Recuerdos in October. Classes will be researching how different countries and cultures honor their loved ones who have passed, and we will be creating a display based on this research. If you would like a picture of your loved one who has passed to be included, please send a COPY of the picture to Ms. Adriana Manrique and Ms. Amanda Limón by Monday, October 23. (Please do NOT send originals; we would hate for anything to happen to your treasured photos!)

The display will be available for viewing during the Trunk or Treating event. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Council by emailing Ms. Amanda Limón or Ms. Adriana Manrique (email addresses given above).

## School Site Council Meeting This Wednesday, September 27

Please join us for our Site Council meeting, which will be this Wednesday, September 27, at 2:45pm in our library and on our [Zoom link for the School Site Council Meeting](#).

## Quarter 1 Benchmarks Next Week!

Children in 2nd through 8th grades will take important tests next week in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. Each test will take approximately 1-2 hours to complete. The data we receive from your child's tests will be available for you to review by the week we return from Fall Break, and what we learn from the students' performance will help our community prepare for state testing in April. The following are important tips to support the preparedness of students for the tests:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep each night and eats a quality breakfast each morning.
- Remind your child to listen carefully to the directions of the teacher. If your child does not understand what to do, let your child know that it is okay to ask the teacher to repeat the directions.
- Let your child know that children are not expected to know the exact answer to every question, but children should provide their best answer to every question on the test.

## Fall Break October 6-13

Remember that Fall Break starts next week, with grading day on Friday, October 6! We'll see you back rested and refreshed on Monday, October 16!

## Health Office Thank You and Request

Thank you for donating new socks and underwear, and gently used shoes, leggings, sweats, and basketball shorts! Your donations help us keep students in class and prevent missed instructional time. If you haven't donated yet, there's still time to help! Please bring your donations to the Drachman health office.

## Drachman Non-Perishable Food, Hygiene Items Still Needed

We maintain a non-perishable food and hygiene pantry here at Drachman. We still need 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. We would love to see the pantry cabinets full thanks to the generosity of our community, so we can support all of our community members.

## Drachman Shirt Orders

If you ordered a Drachman shirt at the beginning of the month, we are expecting them either right before or right after spring break. They will be distributed to the students when they come in.

## Montessori Spotlight: "Isolation of Difficulty"

One driving concept in Montessori education is "isolation of difficulty." This means we present each component or step of the learning individually so the student can master each level of difficulty before working with them as part of a multilayered piece of learning.

One example is in the sequence of teaching addition. First, a student learns single digit addition ( $2+3=5$ ). Next, a student learns double digit static addition ( $25+43=68$ ), where they do not have to regroup (or "carry" a digit). From there, a student will move onto triple digit static addition ( $234+642=876$ ), or problems with even more places!

A next step is to add numbers with differing numbers of digits so they learn place values are kept in line to write and solve the equations accurately ( $714+52=763$ ). Once they have mastered that, they are ready to move onto the next step, double digit dynamic addition. Here one place value adds up to a number greater than 9 and must be "carried" or "regrouped" to the next place value ( $27+34=61$ ). They will first work with only one place needing dynamic addition ( $4392+1583=5975$ ), then on to needing to carry multiple times ( $1862+5476=7338$ ). They have to build all the little in-between skills to prepare them to jump into doing a multi-step problem like  $46,095+66!$

This same concept applies across the subject areas. For example, in reading, they learn phonetic three letter words with short vowel sounds first – cat, hop, beg – before moving on to words with letter blends – plum, snag, trip – before moving on to long vowels and letter blends that change sounds – lane, time, chop, shin. They add one layer of difficulty at a time as the previous one is mastered.

Breaking skills down into these micro-components increases students' mastery. It's something mainstream education models have adopted to some extent, but in Montessori it's fundamental and included across the subject areas.

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.

