



Drachman Montessori K-8 Magnet School

Mission: Drachman K-8 Montessori Magnet nurtures the whole child and helps students discover their cosmic task.



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Dear Drachman Families and Community Members,

I'm excited to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. We are eager for continued success this year and we thank you for choosing Drachman. We have submitted our application to become a Magnet Schools of America Magnet Certified School, and we are hopeful to add "MSA Magnet Certification" to our previous awards! Please review the following information, and thanks for sending your child to school each day on time and ready to learn:

School Hours: The hours for K-5 students are 8:35 – 2:45 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the hours for K-5 students are 8:35 – 1:45. The hours for Middle School students are 8:35 – 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the hours for Middle School students are 8:35 – 2:25.

See the Teacher/Staff Event: At 10:00, on 7/30, all staff will report to the cafeteria for our "See the Teacher/Staff" event. You are welcome to attend. As in the past, this will be a chance for teachers and staff to waive at families and students for about 10 minutes and then to return to their workspaces to lock themselves in and continue setting things up. After wards, I will tour families and offer a Q and A session. This event is not for families to communicate with classroom teachers since they will be preparing classrooms, and it is mainly designed for new students and families to tour the campus. If you need to communicate to your child(ren)'s teacher(s), please send them an email that they will respond to by the first day of school. Teachers will also send their first email to you by 9:00 on 7/30 that will include a wish list of school supplies they'd like for families to obtain for their students.

Student Placements: Most K-5 families are already aware of the teacher their child(ren) are assigned to, but if you still need this information, please contact our front office or log into ParentVue from 7/29 – 7/31 to find out placements. Middle School student placements and schedules will not be available from our front office or ParentVue until noon on 7/31.

Student Drop-Off/Arrival: The earliest that you may drop off your child each morning is **7:45 a.m.** since we do not have the adult staffing to supervise children earlier. We will continue our student drop-off procedures we implemented last school year. If you drive children to and from Drachman, we expect drivers of automobiles to drive safely throughout our parking lot, and to park within appropriate parking spaces. The only location where parents/guardians should drop off students in the morning, without parking and walking with them into campus, is off of **Meyer Avenue at our Student Drop-Off Bay** outside of the southeastern area of our playground. It is important to note that Meyer Avenue is a one-way street that only has traffic driving in the south direction. **We only want students to enter the school through the front entrance if they walk to school or if they are accompanied by a parent/guardian, and WE DO NOT WANT children dropped off in our parking lot by themselves. Please note that the parking spaces closest to our main building are designed for TUSD Staff only.** Also, an additional parking lot is located on the west side of 10th Ave. that should be used if our main parking lot is full if you plan to park and escort your child(ren) into campus.

Student Dismissal: Please help maximize the safety of Drachman during dismissal by ensuring that your child is fully aware of how he/she will be dismissed. Also, please provide advanced 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 pick up by daycares, and 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 to not enter the campus to pick up their child(ren).

Dismissal/Supervision of K-5 Siblings of Middle School Students: We provide supervision of K-5 students who have middle school siblings every day from the K-5 dismissal time until the middle school dismisses. Families are welcome to have their K-5 students dismiss at the regular time of the K-5 dismissal, or they may elect to have their K-5 child(ren) wait on campus to be supervised by staff until the middle school dismisses. Please notify our front office and/or me via email if you want your K-5 middle school sibling to remain with others on campus until middle school dismisses as soon as possible.

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 dismissals 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 me 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, 2024. Please email me if you are interested or if you would like further information.

Open House/Annual Title 1 Meeting for Parents: Open House (and the Annual Title 1 Meeting for Parents) will take place on August 19th During Open House (5:00-7:00), there will be three sessions for parents to learn information from teachers during the event. These sessions will contain the same information during each session so families with more than one student can receive information from different teachers/classrooms during the Open House. There will also be three sessions about school-wide information about our Title 1 and Magnet Programs that will be held in the cafeteria.

School-Wide Information Sessions

5:00 – 5:30: Held in Cafeteria

5:30 – 6:00: Held in Cafeteria

6:00– 6:30: Held in Cafeteria

Classroom Info Sessions

5:30 - 6:00: Session 1

6:00 – 6:30: Session 2

6:30 – 7:00: Session 3

Drachman's Bullying Prevention Program: Our students and staff are continuing to learn about, and take an active part in, our bullying prevention program. In our program, we teach about the differences between bullying, rough play, and fighting. We also teach ways for children to support others who may experience bullying by being active defenders of the victim and/or reporters of bullying incidents.

Drachman's School Rules Against Bullying are:

- We will act peaceful towards others.
- We will help students who are bullied.
- We will make it a point to include students who are left out.
- When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.
- We will receive consequences and apologize if we show bullying behaviors. If we keep showing bullying behaviors, we will get a greater level of consequences.

We ask for your support of the program by ensuring that we are made aware of incidents that your child may report to you as soon as possible so we can respond. It is not okay to ignore instances in which children are treated negatively, and it is okay to report issues that may seem "minor." These may be incidents your child observes happening with other students or ones he/she experiences himself/herself. The key to preventing bullying is open and frequent communication between home and school so that we can work with the families of children who show bullying behaviors, and who may experience bullying, to encourage positive decision-making and peaceful choices.

Please contact me if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas.

Sincerely,

Jesús Celaya, Ph.D.

Director/Principal/Coach, Drachman K-8 Montessori Magnet