



# ACORN MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

## CHILDREN FIRST, ALWAYS

### Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year

#### Updates & Changes

We are so excited to welcome both our returning and new students to the 21-22 school year at Acorn Montessori Charter School beginning on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. We have learned so much in the last year while we navigated unchartered, and often tumultuous, waters as schools across the country adjusted to what a school day looked like amidst a pandemic. From distance learning, hybrid schedules, full in person, and everything in-between, Acorn teachers, staff, and families exceeded each challenge presented and showed that high quality, rigorous instruction, and learning, could occur despite difficult circumstances, while always placing the health and safety of our students, staff, and families at the forefront of every decision. As we prepare for the school year ahead, please be sure to read this letter in its entirety so that you are comfortable and knowledgeable about the updates, changes, policies, and procedures happening here at Acorn.

- **We are spreading out!** Acorn was able to expand last year and opened our North Campus to spread out and ensure each of our classrooms were as safe as possible. This summer, we moved our preschool program to North Campus to secure more space at both our West and Main Campuses. West Campus (7555 E. Long Look Drive) will be the home to kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Main Campus (8556 E. Loos Drive) will be the home to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **If you have a student going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, please note that they will be remaining at West Campus.**
- **Class Times: Monday – Thursday** - Kindergarten: 8:15-2:30, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 8:15-2:45, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:00-3:00.  
**Fridays** – Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades release at 1:15; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> release at 1:30.
- **Health & Safety Protocols & Updates:** While we have made much progress against COVID-19 with the implementation of health and safety practices as well as encouraged vaccinations, we still take the health and safety of each Acorn family member very seriously. We will continue to follow protocols to ensure that we can remain in person and healthy to the greatest extent possible. With the feedback from our stakeholders combined with the CDC, AZDHS, Yavapai County Health, and Arizona Department of Education guidelines, Acorn Montessori Charter School will continue to follow our modified mitigation plan developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on schools. The following are key points in Acorn Montessori Charter School's plan to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and the community during these challenging times and will be re-evaluated consistently and adjusted as needed.
  - In addition to increased cleaning and disinfecting measures, Acorn will continue to emphasize health and hygiene by teaching students appropriate hand washing and health etiquette. We will encourage more hand washing with youth and staff washing hands upon entry, after each activity, before and after mealtimes. Hand sanitation stations will be set up throughout the school.
  - A full-time janitor is at each campus constantly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces and the entire school.
  - Acorn will self-limit class sizes in each grade level to allow for the most optimum space available for students and low teacher to student ratios.
  - Daily health checks for all students and staff upon arrival will continue daily. Students will have their temperature taken upon entry into their classroom and parents/guardians must monitor for symptoms of illness prior to drop off.

North Campus Preschool & Pre-K: 8085 E. Manley Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 - Phone 928.772.5225

West Campus K - 3<sup>rd</sup>: 7555 E. Long Look Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 - Phone 928.775.0238; Fax 928.775.2638

Main Campus 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>: 8556 E. Loos Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 - Phone 928.772.5778; Fax 928.775.8654

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- While optional, masks are HIGHLY recommended for students and staff. Extra masks will be kept on hand for students and staff. \*Please understand that should the state of COVID reach a significant level and masks be mandated by state and local authorities, or as deemed by the health department, the mask policy is subject to change as needed for the safety of our students and staff.
  - Students will stay in class groups with minimal intermixing with other classrooms. In grades 4-8, recesses will be spread out between the playground and at the park to minimize class cross contamination. Recesses will be extended to allow for more outside time, class cleaning, and travel time to and from the park. In grades K-3, recess will be staggered to allow for cleaning times of play equipment in-between classrooms as well as to minimize classroom cross-contamination.
  - Classrooms will be set up to minimize the spread of germs with the use of more individual desks, flexible individual seating, and limited seating at group tables.
  - Students will have their own materials with any limited, shared materials being cleaned and sanitized after use.
  - Van routes will be limited with all students and staff required to wear masks while in the van. Students will be required to sanitize hands when entering and leaving the van.
  - Our strict health policy will be followed and is included in this packet.
- **Meal Service:** Acorn Montessori will continue to be part of the extended USDA seamless summer option which allows all meals to be served to our students for FREE. We encourage all of our Acorn students to enjoy a free, healthy breakfast and lunch! Please note that a lunch application still needs to be on file for each student and is included in this packet.

Thank you for choosing Acorn Montessori Charter School. We cannot wait to get this year started with all of our students and families. The health, safety, and education of our students, staff, and community is our number one priority. We look forward to seeing you next school year. Please let us know if you have any questions at all.

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