



## Go Dragons!

### Welcome back Mesa Arts Academy!

Dear Mesa Arts Academy Families,

I am pleased to welcome you back to the 2020-21 school year! I would like to extend a special welcome to all of the new families joining MAA this year, as well as welcome back all of our returning families! I am honored to be your principal. Our goal at MAA is to work together to provide our students with a rich learning environment. My vision, as the principal, is to ALWAYS put kids first! My belief is that all students can learn. As educators, we need to discover how each child learns in order to differentiate our instruction to support diverse learning styles. In a collaborative effort, we want children to thrive in all ways possible. My hope is that all children will LOVE school and nurture a learning environment that is positive, safe, warm, and caring, and a fun place to learn and grow, as well.

Student success is attributed to the partnership and the relationships we build within our community and this is MOST important now more than ever. It truly does take a village and, at MAA, we value teamwork and collaboration! Education is a joint venture, and Team MAA greatly appreciates the support you provide for your children at home and at school to help them meet their learning goals. Without the support of parent contributions through our extraordinary Mesa Arts Academy Parent Organization, we would not have many of the programs that make MAA so unique and successful. Please consider joining the MAAPO monthly meeting in September.

Although this year looks different than any other year, we are dedicated to providing your child(ren) a memorable, interactive, and engaging distance-learning experience. In spite of the differences this year, MAA will be focusing on all the positives that we can take from this experience; as the role models in our little dragons' lives, it is important that we display a positive attitude towards distance learning each and every day. I encourage you to do the same at home.

Miranda Koperno

Principal  
Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley  
Mesa Arts Academy  
480-844-3965  
[miranda.koperno@bgcaz.org](mailto:miranda.koperno@bgcaz.org)

## Kindergarten

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! The school year is going to be an exciting adventure. This is such an unprecedented time for us all. Even still, this is an exciting time for your child, although he/she may be a little apprehensive about going to "online" school. This is a time of mixed emotions for everyone. The first day of school is one of the most important milestones in your child's life. I'm so glad I get to be a part of it.

Be assured that I will do my best to make this school year an enjoyable time for your child, but also a time filled with real learning. The skills we practice daily in kindergarten are the building blocks for your child's future success in school and in life. I know if we all work together, we can make this a wonderful year for our students and help them reach each goal that is set for them.

If your child does not already know how to write their name or tie their shoes, helping with those skills provides you with a great opportunity to contribute to their success in school.

## 1st Grade

What a start to the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you families for all of your support and patience during these unprecedented days. Starting the year off virtually has certainly presented its challenges, but it has also provided so many opportunities to learn new things and processes. It's been wonderful getting to know our students and families in our Google Classroom. Everyday, routines are getting stronger and we are moving forward with our academics. Reading is large focus in first and second grade. First grade will be working on phonics and reading fables. In math, we will begin with concepts such as number sense and geometry. If you have any questions please let me know via email and we can set up a time to meet.

## 2nd Grade

Thank you students and parents for your support and patience during this transition. You all have been great! Please continue to communicate with me via email, Google Classroom, or through Remind. I am here to help! We will continue to take things slow as we move forward in learning how to navigate through all the different sites and classrooms. I hope you are getting a routine in place. In math, second grade will continue to work on even & odd, place value, adding and subtracting within the numbers 1 - 20. I will be starting small groups this month. During small groups I will be reading with your student at their reading level. We will attempt to read from our CKLA curriculum, as students really enjoy the stories. Make sure your child is reading at least 20 to 30 minutes a day, Monday through Friday.

## 3rd-5th Grade

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for an amazing, although different, school year. In third grade, Mr. Rendon is back as our classroom teacher, with Mr. Hunt as a one-on-one aide. Mrs. Kush is still our fourth grade teacher, and in fifth grade, Mrs. Kartchner (Miss Rogers got married over the summer!) is back as the classroom teacher. Miss Amy is now the 3-5 instructional aide. As we start the school year, remember we are here for you and your students. Please don't hesitate to contact us regarding any questions or problems that you may have. Together we will have a fantastic year !

## Middle School Team

The new school year is well under way! Thank you, families, for all your support and flexibility during this time of transition, and your patience as we establish our new processes for virtual learning. The Middle School students are still adjusting to this new format, but we are so impressed with their resiliency and willingness to jump right in!

Students can find all their work and expectations posted in their Google Classrooms. They should also be referring to the agendas we post for them weekly in Google Classroom to see what assignments to complete. This year the school is using a program called Acellus: this is where the majority of classwork will take place for ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and some electives. Our expectation is that students access both Google Classroom and Acellus on a daily basis. Students have "live" Google meetings with their core teachers Monday through Thursday: there are two meetings scheduled everyday (9:00 am and 1:00 pm). Students are required to attend both of those meetings. Please help ensure their success by reminding them to attend their daily meetings and following up with them daily to make sure they are on track with completing their work.

Teachers are available to meet with students in Google Meet every day throughout the week if they need additional support or just have questions. As a parent, you can also request a meeting. If you have questions, or concerns about your student's progress, please email us – we would be happy to schedule a virtual meeting with you.

# News from the Art Department

## Welcome Back

Hello! My name is Rachael Jacobs Houston and I am the Director of Arts and Special Events here at Mesa Arts Academy. I am incredibly excited to get to know each of your students and watch as they expand their artistic horizon. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your child's educational journey. I look forward at all the exciting things we will be doing in our arts program this year! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [rachael.jacobs@bgcaz.or](mailto:rachael.jacobs@bgcaz.or)

## Virtual Fall Performance

We will be doing a virtual performance via video showcasing what our students have been learning! More information will be coming soon in their arts classes.

## Meet the Team!



Mr. Morales:  
Computers and  
7-8 Music



Coach Chris:  
Physical  
Education



Ms. McWilliams: Social  
and Emotional Learning



Rachael Jacobs Houston  
Art Director



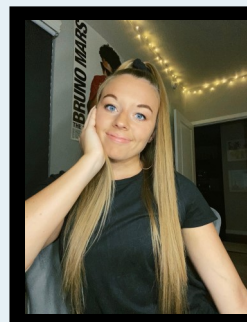
Mr. Lollie:  
Visual Arts



Ms. Meaghan:  
Musical Theater/  
Drama and  
Storytelling



Mr. Marty:  
General Music, Gui-  
tar, and Ukulele



Ms. Kahri: Dance



Ms. Nahil: STEAM



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Hello Parents and Guardians of a Mesa Arts Academy student(s),

We wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves and let you know about some ways you can get involved and support your students this year.

Whether you are new to the school, or a returning family, as a parent/guardian of a Mesa Arts Academy student, you are a member of the Mesa Arts Academy Parent Organization (MAAPO.) We are excited you are part of this organization! We look forward to helping you to be informed and get involved!

The purpose of MAAPO is to support our students, our staff, our school, and each other. There are several ways this can be done. MAAPO will be communicating activities, fundraisers, and information about what is going on at the school. Money raised by MAAPO is used for items not in the school budget, such as Family Fun Night, improvements around the school, teacher appreciation day, and so on.

We know this school year is different than any other. As school is starting with remote learning, it can be a fun and challenging time. When my family was new to Mesa Arts Academy, I wanted to be involved and informed but I didn't know how to go about those things. The school and MAAPO both have Facebook pages where information is communicated and updated regularly. Also, with your permission, MAAPO can also communicate with you via text message, phone, and/or email.

We will let you know when our first official meeting is scheduled. We look forward to getting to know each of you!

Sincerely,

Your MAAPO Team

Shawndel Graves, mom of Cody in 6th and Caden in 3rd grade

Joaquin Jordan, dad of Gabir in 4th grade

Amanda Moore, mom of Marley in 1st grade

Nicole Sain, mom of Ethan in 4th grade

Jeanette Aldrich, mom of Madelyn in 6th grade



# Mesa Arts Academy

2020		
Wednesday	Wednesday July 29	Final Registration - 5:00 pm
Tuesday	August 17	First Day of Classes
Monday	September 7	Labor Day – No School – Club Closed
Friday	October 2	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter – 12:30 pm Release
Monday – Friday	October 5-9	October Break – No School
Wednesday	November 11	Veteran's Day - No School
Wednesday- Friday	November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break – No School
Friday	December 20	End of Semester – 12:30 pm Release
Monday-Friday	December 21– January 1	Winter Break - No School

2021		
Monday	January 4	School Resumes
Monday	January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. – No School
Monday	February 15	Presidents' Day - No School
Friday	March 5	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – 12:30 pm Release
Monday—Friday	March 8-12	Spring Break - No School
Friday	April 2	Spring Holiday – No School/Club Closed
Thursday	May 20	Last Day of Classes - 12:30 Release
Tuesday	May 26	Summer Food Program Begins
Monday	June 8	Summer School Begins

School begins at **7:30 am.**

School releases at **3:30 pm.**

All students virtual Learning– Onsite Learning Center available

Breakfast and Lunch is served drive through style from 11:00 am until 12:30 pm

# RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

Mesa Arts Academy shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applied to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student may be considered eligible for services as a "Homeless Child or Youth" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living:

- In a shelter, temporary shared housing, or transitional living program
- In a hotel/motel, campground, or similar situation due to lack of alternatives
- At a bus station, park, car, or abandoned building

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, eligible students have rights to:

**Immediate enrollment:** *Documentation and immunization records cannot serve as a barrier to the enrollment in school.*

**School Selection:** *McKinney Vento eligible students have a right to select from the following schools:*

- The school he/she attended when permanently housed (School of Origin)
- The school in which he/she was last enrolled (School of Origin)
- The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides (School of Residency)

**Remain enrolled** *in his/her selected school for the duration of homelessness, or until the academic year upon which they are permanently housed.*

**Participate in programs** *for which they are eligible, including Title I, National School Lunch Program, Head Start, Even Start, etc.*

**Transportation Services:** *A McKinney-Vento eligible student attending his/her School of Origin has a right to transportation to and from the School of Origin.*

**Dispute Resolution:** *If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the school district. The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation until the matter is resolved. The Homeless Liaison will assist you in making decision, providing notice of any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.*

For more information, refer to <http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/homeless/> or contact:

Arcelia Tovar Homeless Liaison  
Mesa Arts Academy  
480-844-3965

Silvia Chavez Homeless Liaison  
Arizona Department of education  
602-542-4963



If at any time you wish to schedule a conference or phone call with your child's teachers or other staff, call the school office to schedule or e-mail staff directly.

**Principal** miranda.koperno@bgcaz.org

**Director of Arts** rachael.houston@bgcaz.org

**Family Liaison** arcelia.tovar@bgcaz.org

**SPED Director** robyn.kotte@bgcaz.org

**Kinder** tanya.harper@bgcaz.org

**3rd Grade** jhonathan.rendon@bgcaz.org

**5th Grade** mercedes.rogers@bgcaz.org

**6th Grade** jennifer.gooding@bgcaz.org

**8th Grade** angelica.buenrostro@bgcaz.org

**Vice Principal** joyce.oyer@bgcaz.org

**Registrar/Health** asucena.tovar@bgcaz.org

**Front desk** patsy.martinez@bgcaz.org

**ELD Director** Charity.kranz@bgcaz.org

**1st Grade** martina.mcfarland@bgcaz.org

**2nd Grade** deanna.jackson@bgcaz.org

**3rd Grade** lisa.kush@bgcaz.org

**7th Grade** janelle.brooks@bgcaz.org

**Speech** sara.botma@bgcaz.org



**You can connect with the School, MAA and the Club all on Facebook!**

MAA: <http://www.facebook.com/MesaArtsAcademy>

MAAPO: <http://www.facebook.com/MesaArtsAcademyParentOrganization>

Grant Woods Branch: <http://www.facebook.com/grantwoodsbranch>





# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Constitution Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

