

Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten!

Hi Pre-K Students!

This is my 16th year teaching PreK and seventh teaching at Arches. My teaching philosophy, in a nutshell, is that if a child feels safe and loved, they can learn just about anything! I love Arches Academy and the dedication to educational excellence! I believe that when parents and teachers work together, every child can succeed.



Children learn best when it is fun! Our Arches PreK math program is a series of interactive, hands-on lessons and games that are designed to give students a deep understanding of mathematical fundamentals: Numbers, Geometry, Sorting and Classifying, Patterns, Measurement, and Data Collection. Our Language Arts program features hands-on engaging lessons, dramatic play, and free play opportunities that prepare students for a rigorous Kindergarten year at Arches and challenge each student from where they are mentally, socially, and emotionally.

This year we will be studying Classic Tales, Important People in American History, All About Me, Families and Communities, Animals, Plants and Habitats. Arches motto is *Interactive Learning Empowering Kids*, and this is never more apparent in PreK! I am so excited for our students this year who will get to turn our classroom into a self-portrait art museum, participate in a PreK Career Day, turn a classic tale into a mini class play with all animal characters complete with student made sets and costumes, cultivate, plant, investigate, and harvest our own garden grow box, and design and paint habitat murals in small groups...just to name a few! We will also go on numerous field trips (health and safety permitting) to performances, a farm, the aquarium, the library, and more. We will have a busy, happy year together!

I have a fabulous husband, and two grown children. I grew up in British Columbia, Canada and feel like I have seawater in my veins. I love the beach and Disneyland equally! I also love spinach, sushi, raspberries and chocolate.

Some important information about our class:

Class begins at 8:30 or 12:30, however you may drop your child off 15 minutes early without registering for our before school program. Classes end at 11:30 (for morning students)

or 3:30 for afternoon and full day students. Please note that if your child is earlier than the stated drop off times, or later than 15 minutes beyond your child's scheduled pick up times, a fee will be added to your child's account.

Each child needs to bring a school bag/backpack every day.

Show & Tell will be on Mondays ONLY. Your child may bring one thing to show us and tell us about it. NO weapons are allowed, including water guns, light sabres, swords etc, and no live animals due to possible allergies. These also need to fit completely within their backpack.

PreK does NOT follow a daily uniform policy, but we do have a "Dress Uniform" for a designated day of the week (TBD), field trips and performances/special days. The Arches' uniform policy will be enforced for these special dress days. We do ask that all sandals have a heel strap (flip flops fall off too easily) and if your child wears a dress/skirt, please wear dance shorts/leggings underneath.

Please **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.** Please refer to our official school policy for direction. Sick students will be sent home and need to be picked up **within 30 minutes.**

We have numerous field trips throughout the year and we will need booster seats for these events. (**Car seats are ok too, but boosters are much easier to work with. Parents are required to be present to install car seats to ensure proper installation.**) Plenty of notice will be given for these excellent, hands on learning activities. We do need parent volunteers to drive and chaperone.

In addition to field trip support, we will also be occasionally inviting parents into our classroom for special events – a career day, culminating events to celebrate what we've learned, class parties, and teaching mini missions (previously called mini courses) on Fridays. I will be sending out a tentative schedule of these events for you to look over. Please consider signing up to help or facilitate these events; your children look forward to seeing their parents in our classroom.

I am available via text, email, phone call (typically not during school hours), and Bloomz.

Thank you for trusting us with the care and early education of your child! We are going to have a fantastic year and I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ralls