



Nursery School - 8th grade

Student and Parent Handbook 2021-2022

*A handbook for Arches Academy Students and Parents
of the school's policies, procedures, and guidelines.*

Last updated: November 1, 2021

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An *Arches*
ACADEMY
Student is...



A 21st Century Leader

Our students learn and practice the 7Cs of the 21st Century.

We are:

- **Connected Global Citizens:** accepting of others' unique qualities and talents, aware and caring of global issues, respectful of various cultures and religions
- **Community Builders:** courteous, friendly, encouraging of others' success, positive, cheerful, respectful of rules and policies; a team player
- **Collaborators:** organized, well-rounded, willing to share and compliment others, flexible, confident, respectful
- **Critical and Computational Thinkers:** responsible, hard working, analytical, focused on studies and learning
- **Communicators:** cooperative, listeners, honest, problem solvers, reliable
- **Creative and Innovative:** proactive, resilient, imaginative, inventive, perseverant, driven to continually progress
- **Curious and Inquisitive:** inspired, explorers, insatiable, self-motivated; a life-long learner

Our Students make
our school and our world
a better place for everyone.

Welcome

Welcome to Arches Academy! We are so happy that you are a student at Arches and a part of this great community. Students at Arches Academy come from Utah as well as many different parts of the world, and we welcome your talents, perspective, culture, and voice that will contribute to our unique educational environment.

Arches Academy is an independent, liberal arts private school, managed by qualified, exemplary teachers. Founded in June 2012 by Meridian educators, these teachers are dedicated to offering a student centered Nursery School-8th Grade program in a secure and nurturing environment where students' talents, interests, needs, and capabilities help shape the personalized, unique curriculum.

Please read the following information to become familiar with the school's standards, policies, and aspirations that are the defining features of Arches Academy.

Our Philosophy

- All students are capable of learning and are equipped with innate talents and multiple intelligences. Recognizing, training, and enhancing these talents empower students to achieve their highest potential in core academic subjects and beyond.
- There are essential elements that contribute to the education of a child: namely, attitude and ability of the student; support of home and community; and a nurturing, yet challenging educational environment.
- A school should nurture a climate in which the worth of each individual is continually affirmed, and in which students can have meaningful experiences in a stimulating environment where they feel safe, inspired, challenged, and creative.
- An educational program must be comprehensive, develop critical thinking skills, foster curiosity and a balanced intellectual appetite, encourage practices for a healthy body and mind, and teach how to cope with a changing and global society. As part of that comprehensive program, special efforts must be made to ensure that students demonstrate competencies in the critical areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, mathematical foundations, and computational thinking. Students should also have an understanding and appreciation for the impact that arts, science, and technology have on each person's life and the world.
- The instructional programs and teaching strategies should be flexible in order to provide for individual exploration and self-expression, be validated by research, and stay abreast of an ever-changing society. We champion the efforts and expertise of our professional staff as they strive to promote excellence.
- A proper education should prepare students to be contributing citizens in our world community in which individuals are constantly engaged in collaboration, problem-solving, and experiential learning. Educated and prepared students demonstrate a commitment to being positive, involved global citizens who recognize their responsibilities, as well as their opportunities, as a part of the broader community.

Diversity Statement

Arches Academy respects the diversity in our students, faculty, and administration, including differences in culture, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender, learning and physical abilities and socioeconomic status. Arches Academy does not discriminate against any legally protected class.

Honor Code

Arches Academy fosters an environment where care and respect for one another is our foundation. Students, faculty and administration contribute to an atmosphere that is inspiring, inclusive, nurturing and safe for everyone.

The Honor Code expects students to conduct themselves with honor, integrity and respect for others. Arches students do not lie, cheat, steal, or inflict physical, mental or emotional harm to others or their property. Students pledge to follow all school rules as outlined in the Code of Conduct. At the same time, students are not to tolerate the actions of others who do not uphold the Code of Conduct, and should report such activity to the faculty or administration. It is of utmost importance to the administration and faculty that students thrive in a secure environment where learning and a love for learning flourish, while enabling students to develop their potential and a better global understanding of the world in which they live.

Code of Conduct

Each Arches Academy student is responsible to know and adhere to the Code of Conduct. Parents are also responsible to understand these school rules and support their students in abiding by them.

Behavior

All students are expected to be attentive and respectful in class. Any disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. All students should treat school administrators, teachers, and each other with respect. This includes refraining from offensive language and inappropriate physical action. Arches Academy does not tolerate aggressive, demeaning, or bully-like behavior, either on-campus or off-campus, including online and through social media.

***Physical or verbal bullying may result in the suspension of the student, for at least the remainder of the day the offense occurred, and any subsequent days, as determined by the Head of School.*

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| <p>Federal law prohibits sexual harassment of any kind by students or employees of Arches Academy. Any joke, gestures, physical contact, negative or offensive comments, written or verbal that is humiliating or derisive, or that creates an uncomfortable learning environment. Violations will result in immediate suspension or other appropriate action.</p> |
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Cheating and Plagiarism

Honesty is expected of everyone in all activities. Any student caught cheating on assignments or tests will receive a score of zero. Plagiarism is copying others' work without proper and explicit credit. This includes downloading information from the internet and passing it off as one's own. Students must put into their own words what they have learned from research or cite resources appropriately. Plagiarized work will not receive course credit, nor can the work be made up.

Student Internet/Computer Use

A student's use of computers and the internet is a privilege. Use of computers and the internet are for educational purposes, as required for class assignments, and students agree to obey all state and federal laws and regulations. It is not acceptable for students to post inappropriate messages, view illicit sites, threaten or disparage members of the school community online or through social media. Violating these rules will result in a loss of network privileges and disciplinary action will follow.

Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol

Arches Academy has zero tolerance for the use of and distribution of cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol. Any student found with cigarettes, drugs and/or alcohol during school or at a school-sponsored activity will be suspended or expelled without a refund of tuition. Any student coming to school or a school activity intoxicated or under the influence of drugs will be suspended or expelled immediately without a refund of tuition.

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| <p>Any illegal activity may result in suspension or expulsion from Arches Academy without refund of tuition, even if it does not take place at or during school.</p> |
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Cell Phones and Electronics

Cell phones and other electronics are best left at home. These items tend to isolate students (due to interacting with others rather than who they're with), exclude students who don't have them, and disrupt the academic focus we strive to achieve. There is no need for phones and electronics at school, as students may use the school phone to communicate with parents during the day and after school for transportation arrangements. If students still choose to bring these items, they will be checked into their teacher for safe keeping during school hours, and returned to the student at the end of the school day, upon pick up. Phones or other electronics used during the school day without permission will be confiscated and returned only to the parent upon pick up of the student. Parent will need to park and come into the office to pick up any confiscated devices.

Animals At School

Students are prohibited from bringing animals to class. School approved activities that necessitate bringing a pet to school may only be brought to that activity, with teacher and/or admin approval.

Care of Facilities

Students are responsible for the care and upkeep of their school. They share this responsibility with the administration and faculty for the condition of the building and grounds. Students are expected to pick up their own trash, keep the area around their lockers neat and clean, and help those around them to do the same. Graffiti and damage to school property will not be tolerated. Students who damage school property will be responsible for full restitution, regardless of the state of damaged property prior to the incident.

Code of Conduct Infractions (for Grades 4-9)

Students in grades 4th-8th grades not adhering to the Code of Conduct will be given infractions, as determined by the teacher or administrator. *(Grades PK-3rd are held to the same standards and consequences listed above, but do not receive infractions. They will receive Misbehavior Notices.)*

Following are possible violations and the number of infractions that are assigned for each:

1. Tardy to class (unauthorized) = 1 infraction
2. Unprepared for class--missing books/supplies or missing/incomplete assignments without parent excuse = 1 infraction, plus Study Hall attendance to complete the assignment
3. Use of prohibited electronic device or cell phone = 1 infraction and confiscation
4. Unauthorized food or gum in class = 1 infraction
5. Disrespectful behavior to teacher and/or classmates or refusal to cooperate = 2 infractions
6. Absent from class (unauthorized) = 2 infractions
7. Inappropriate and/or demeaning language/gesture = 3 infractions
8. Inappropriate physical contact = 4 infractions
9. Dishonesty (lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism) = 4 infractions
10. Damage to school property = 5 infractions and restitution
11. Illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco = Immediate suspension or possible expulsion

Following is a list of consequences associated with the severity of infractions:

- 1 or 2 infractions = Written apology and/or other restitution* (*Expected for each incident)
- 3 or 4 infractions = 1 lunch detention (detention=30 minutes of school service)
- 5 or 6 infractions = 2 lunch detentions, parents & student meet with Head of School
- 7 infractions = 3 lunch detentions
- 8 infractions = 4 lunch detentions
- 9 infractions = 5 lunch detentions, parents & student meet with Head of School
- 10 infractions = 1-3 day suspension or possible expulsion

Repeated violations of the same type of infraction will result in accrual of infractions warranting more serious consequences.

Suspension

Students who violate the school codes and standards may be suspended at the discretion of the Head of School. The consequences of suspension are as follows:

1. Mandatory meeting with parents and Head of School.
2. Zeroes on cheated, plagiarized, or missed work.
3. Student will not be allowed to make up any class work or tests that are given during the suspension. Student's grade will be affected by the loss of work.
4. Participation in any school activity during suspension is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to athletic practices and games, drama performances, competitions, dances, etc.
5. Length of suspension depends upon the offense and the number of warnings a student has been given.
6. Student's permanent record may indicate the suspension from school for discipline.

Dismissal/Expulsion

Students may be dismissed from the school for serious or repeated violations of the Code of Conduct, at the discretion of the Head of School. Students may make a written appeal to the School's Board of Directors within 5 days of dismissal. The Board of Directors will respond within 30 days and their disposition will be final. When a student is dismissed, there is no refund of tuition.

Additional Rules of Dismissal from School (excerpt from the Continuous Enrollment Contract)

Parent/Guardian and Student agree to read, understand, and abide by the rules, regulations, and procedures established by the School and outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook (posted online at archesacademy.com). The School reserves the right to dismiss a student from the school immediately if at any time, in the judgment of the Head of the School, a Student's or Parent's conduct or influence in School or at any School activity is detrimental to the school or not in keeping with these rules, regulations, and procedures. Arches Academy may decline enrollment/services to parents who in the school's standpoint are uncooperative or are abusive to school admin or teachers, or who in the school's standpoint will not be satisfied with Arches Academy's efforts, choices, or services. A Student may also be dismissed from School if their academic standing or progress are not in line with School expectations. A Student may also be dismissed for any Student or Parent misconduct outside of School that negatively affects other students, faculty, or the reputation of the School. Non-payment of tuition as agreed on in the Continuous Enrollment Contract each parent is required to complete and sign will also result in a dismissal. Dismissal for any of the above reasons does not warrant a refund of tuition or fees, nor a release of Parent/Guardian from payment of tuition and fees as outlined in this contract.

Academic Standards

The vision of Arches Academy is to be the standard of excellence for Nursery School-8th Grade educational institutions in the U.S. and abroad in terms of student achievement and best-in-the-world educational practices.

Arches faculty is dedicated to providing students with a learning environment that is engaging, relevant, flexible, challenging, and significant in promoting globally responsible, productive citizens. A liberal arts education, rich in best practices, technology, methodology and measurement, focused on developing the multiple intelligences of its students, is the foundation for the curricular framework. The Arches curriculum is based on the Core Knowledge curriculum, Singapore Math curriculum, and Utah Standards from which teachers will extend and enrich core subjects, concepts, and learning experiences to deepen student understanding and develop higher level thinking skills.

- **Individualized Instruction:** We value each student as a whole individual, focusing not only on their mental needs and capabilities, but also their emotional and social well-being and development. We consider and integrate students' talents, interests, needs, and cultural background as we craft our unique curriculum.
- **Global Awareness:** Our students learn in an environment rich in inter-cultural exchange. International students bring ideas and perspectives that bridge educational and cultural boundaries. Students learn foreign languages and about the countries and cultures where those languages are spoken. It is a culture that inspires children and young adults to contribute in a global society.
- **Interactive Learning.** We empower students by providing hands-on activities and real life learning, both in and out of the classroom. Students have many opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they acquire to real life situations.

*Grades PS-3rd Grading Scale**

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| E | Excelling above the standard |
| A | Achieving the targeted standard |
| M | Making progress toward the standard |
| I | Improvement Needed to be on grade level |
| N/A | Not assessed in the standard as of this trimester |

*Most students will receive an "A" indicating they are achieving the targeted standard. An "E" will only be given when a student particularly excels at the standard.

Grades 4th-8th Grading Scale

The following scale will be used for determining grades:

| Letter Grade | Numerical Value | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| A | 4.0 | 94% - 100% |
| A- | 3.7 | 90% - 93% |
| B+ | 3.4 | 87% - 89% |

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| B | 3.0 | 84% - 86% |
| B- | 2.7 | 80% - 83% |
| C+ | 2.4 | 77% - 79% |
| C | 2.0 | 74% - 76% |
| C- | 1.7 | 70% - 73% |
| D+ | 1.4 | 67% - 69% |
| D | 1.0 | 64% - 66% |
| D- | 0.7 | 60% - 63% |
| F | 0 | 59% - |

Arches Academy Academic Honors

Honor Roll is recognition for students with a GPA of 3.4 and higher and with no grade C+ or below and no incompletes in any course taken during the semester.

High Honor Roll is a distinction for students with a GPA of 3.7 and higher and with no grade C+ or below and no incompletes in any course taken during the semester.

For a student who makes Honor Roll both semesters in an academic year, the student is recognized as an **Arches Academy Scholar**. When a student achieves High Honor Roll both semesters of the school year, the student is awarded **Arches Academy Scholar with Distinction**. These honors will appear on the student's transcript.

Academic Probation

Students in Grades 4th-8th will be placed on academic probation any time they have a grade of D or F in at least one class.

- Students placed on probation will not be allowed to participate in mini-courses, field trips, class parties, school sports, and/or other extra-curricular activities until he or she has brought their grade up to C- or above. Students on probation **will still attend school** on field trip days or special event days to use the opportunity to complete missing assignments and work on improving their grades.
- Students will be required to attend Study Hall (or Homework Club--extra fee) until their grade is satisfactory. This will allow them to receive the extra support and time needed to remedy their academic status. Students assigned to Study Hall are expected to attend until they are notified by the administration that they have been taken off probation. Private tutors may also be required in certain cases. We are eager for our students to succeed and strive to support them in their efforts.

Each student's situation will be considered individually; effort, attitude, overall academic performance, any accommodations, and behavior will all play a part in the probation decision.

Students who are on academic probation two or more times during a school year will be in jeopardy of losing their enrollment at the school.

Please note that for all Core Subject classes, a student must receive a grade of C or higher in order to pass and move on to the next level.

Attendance Policy

Students may arrive between 8:15 a.m. when our doors open for the regular school day. **Classes begin promptly at 8:30 am.** *Students should be at the school no later than 8:25 so they have time to get to their classroom and be ready to begin classes at 8:30.* All students are expected to be on time to each class. A student's success in any subject is dependent upon regular attendance and participation in class. Excessive absences and tardiness negatively affect a student's ability to do well in school.

Tardiness

School begins at 8:30 a.m.

Students should be at school no later than 8:25 a.m. to be on time for class.

Please plan to arrive by 8:25 a.m., so there is time for students to go to their locker and walk to class. All students who arrive after 8:30 am must check in at the Front Office and pick up a tardy slip to take to their homeroom or first period teacher.

A class tardy is issued to any student arriving up to 5 minutes late to his/her class. Any student arriving later than 5 minutes to class without an approved note from a parent or administrator is considered to have an unexcused absence.

Arches Academy teachers manage their classes in such a way that meaningful instruction occurs “from bell to bell.” It is unfair to distract a teacher's attention away from the majority of students who are at school, on time, and ready to learn by requiring the teacher to reteach or re-administer activities to students who arrive late. Therefore, parents need to know that their child's learning and academic progress may suffer due to missed work and tardiness.

- Teachers and Arches admin will employ various rewards for students who arrive on time.
- Teachers will not shame or draw negative attention to students who arrive late, in that these students are dependent upon adults to bring them to school on time.
- Teachers will issue verbal and/or written warnings and request conferences with parents who habitually bring their children to school late.
- If the behavior persists, parents of habitually tardy children will be asked to meet with Arches' administration to discuss the student's place at the school since habitual tardies impede our ability to teach and have each child succeed.
- School work and tests missed due to tardies will need to be made up. The teacher will not be held responsible for re-teaching content missed, and the student will be responsible for all make-up work. This may require them to attend Morning or Afternoon Enrichment (extra fee).
- Chronic tardiness is disruptive to the classroom environment and may result in disciplinary action.

Absences

Absences should be avoided as much as possible. Regular attendance is necessary for a student's success in school. **A student will be given an unexcused absence if there is no contact from his/her parent/guardian within 24 hours.**

Policies and Parent Responsibilities:

- For *any* absences, the teacher will not be held responsible for re-teaching content missed, and the student will be responsible for all make-up work. This may require them to attend Morning or Afternoon Enrichment (extra fee).

- Absences due to illness, funerals, and other emergencies deemed allowable by the administration must be excused by email to the student's teacher and administration. Email must be received by 9:00 am of the current school day, or the absence will be considered unexcused.
- In addition, if medical absences continue for more than 5 days, a written notice on official medical practitioner letterhead must be submitted within 1 day of returning to school.
- Travel and vacations during the semester should be planned during school holidays as much as possible. If families *must* travel while school is in session, parents should contact teachers well ahead of time (2 week minimum notice) to obtain school work that will be missed. Missed work must be turned in within the number of days missed (if you miss 2 days, you have 2 days to turn in the work, etc.,) or by the end of the quarter, whichever comes first.
- Doctor, dentist, orthodontic, and other appointments should be scheduled before or after school.
- Students who are absent from school due to illness are not eligible to participate in special school activities that are held on the same day (mini courses, field trips, etc.). This is to prevent a student from being sick for their academic periods but then being well enough for special activities.
- If a student is absent 10 consecutive school days without prior written approval, he/she may be in danger of forfeiting their seat at Arches Academy.
- Students who are absent for 25% or more of the total class hours within a quarter will not receive credit for the class, unless absences meet qualifying excused absence guidelines. These students will also be in danger of not graduating to the next grade. A summer placement assessment will be given to assess whether they are ready to advance.
- Students who are not on track to receive Arches school credit by law will need to register as homeschool students or enroll in another school. See Utah Compulsory Education Law: <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53G/Chapter6/53G-6-S202.html>
- Students with excused absences are personally responsible for making up and turning in all missed school work. Missed work must be turned in within the number of days missed (if you miss 2 days, you have 2 days to turn in the work, etc.,) or by the end of the quarter, whichever is first.
- Students with unexcused absences will not be able to make up missed work.

School's and Teacher's Responsibility

- Arches Teachers will employ various positive rewards and recognition for students who have good attendance.
- School will notify parents of excessive absences and tardies. A student's attendance record on the online student information system (Educate) can also be checked by the parent at any time.
- Teachers will provide a disclosure document stating expectations of each student in their class (i.e. grading, attendance, participation, etc.)
- Participation points may be deducted from the student's grade for tardies and absences. The student's overall grade can be affected, as outlined above and in the teachers' policies.

Student's Responsibility with Homework and Tests

All students are responsible to obtain missed assignments or make-up work from their teacher due to tardiness and absence. Students must make up the work, unless unexcused, within the time frame noted above. If a student is absent on a test day, the teacher is not obligated to allow the student to make up the test. Prior arrangements with the teacher should be made for planned absences.

Health and Safety

Parent Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide Arches Academy with all necessary forms/paperwork required to be able to properly assist a student in the case of accident, illness, or injury. Each year, the specific forms in our enrollment packet are needed from parents to maintain current records on each student. Arches Academy will make every effort to collect all forms, but the responsibility to ensure accurate records are on file for their students is on the parent/guardian.

Illness and Injuries

Your child's health is important to Arches Academy. A healthy child is more ready and able to learn than an unhealthy one. During school hours, students who are injured or ill will be directed to appropriate school staff for treatment. The staff will provide basic first-aid as appropriate and/or medication if needed, as allowed on the Enrollment Packet. If the injury is serious and warrants further care, the student's emergency contact will be notified immediately by phone. Arches Academy will take all necessary steps to ensure the care of the student. It is the responsibility of the parent to be certain that all emergency contact information and specific requests are up-to-date in the Student Information System (Educate).

Conditions that warrant exclusion from school

- Fever with temperature over 101 degrees F (any method)
- Vomiting - 2 times or more in previous 24 hours
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain - lasting 2 continuous hours or intermittent associated with fever
- Mouth sores with drooling child cannot control
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes

Parents will be asked to pick up their child within 30 minutes or to designate another adult to pick up the child within this time frame.

Children must be free of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school. *For example, a child's fever is gone by 4 p.m. on Day 1. The child must stay home the next day (Day 2) and be free of fever through 4 p.m. on Day 2. The child may return to school the morning of Day 3 if the fever has not returned.

**Note: The American Academy of Pediatrics says children do not need to be excluded from school for common colds, runny noses (regardless of color or consistency of nasal discharge), coughs, yellow, green, white, or watery eye discharge without fever, even if the whites of the eyes are red (pinkeye), or rash without fever and without behavioral changes.*

Medication

Arches Academy must be informed of any prescription medication that a student is required to take at school. If a student needs to take non-prescription medication (i.e. Tylenol) during the school day, permission must be granted by a parent/guardian on the school Medical Information Form. The school nurse will administer non-prescription medications as permitted.

Emergency Procedures

Arches Academy emergency evacuation and response plan is detailed below:

1. For any building evacuation all students and employees meet on the grassy area north of the school building.
2. If evacuation of the premises is needed for safety or due to inclement weather, Orem High School has agreed to allow us to be sheltered in their facility until students can be picked up. If this is the case, parents will be notified by a) a phone call, b) a note on the front of the school door, or c) a note attached to the light post in the school parking lot if neither of the other two options are available.
3. Educate has an emergency notification system that will be used to contact you in emergency situations. Please be sure your phone number is current on Educate.
4. Each teacher will have a copy of the Emergency Contacts in their emergency backpack. Students will be released **ONLY** to an adult listed on this sheet. Any other adult showing up may stay **WITH** the student, but they will **NOT** be permitted to leave with them.

Emergency Drills

Fire drills are conducted four times a year. Lock Down and Earthquake drills at least once each school year.

1. Fire: When the alarm is sounded, all teachers and students evacuate the building, following the documented evacuation routes, and meet in class lines on the north side of the playground field. Head of School, admin, and each class teacher account for all students. Students stand without talking in order to hear any announcements. Once the “All Clear” announcement is made, students return to their classrooms.
2. Lock Down: (Intruder) When the alert is given, students hide and take cover in their classroom out of sight of any windows or doors. Teachers lock the classroom door, cover the door window, turn off lights, and draw the blinds. Teachers use cell phones to communicate with admin or each other. Students outside do not enter the building; teachers guide them to the nearest safe building. Any fire alarm sounding during this time is ignored, as the school would not be evacuated with this method.
3. Earthquake: When the alarm is sounded students seek cover under the nearest desk or table and hold on to table or desk legs. When notified, students use a hardcover book to cover their head as they exit the building.

Student Check-out and Pick-up

In the absence of a parent, students will only be released for an early check-out or at dismissal to the adults indicated on the student’s Emergency Contact list in Educate. Identification may be requested from the person picking up the student. Arches Academy does not allow students to travel from Arches via Uber, Lyft, or any other ride-sharing service unaccompanied by an adult or legal guardian.

Uniform Policy

The purpose of the uniform policy is threefold: 1) encourages attention to a student's character and talents rather than to his/her appearance, 2) eliminates distractions in the classroom, and 3) establishes a sense of order and respect for the school and its community. Information about where to purchase uniform clothing is available on our website, as well as detailed below.

Student Responsibility: Students are expected to adhere to the uniform policy as outlined. If a student is out of uniform at any time during the day, he/she will be asked to comply with the uniform guidelines, and if needed, a phone call will be made to parents to assist in the matter. Students who are out of uniform will be given 3 violation warnings. Parents will also be notified of these warnings. For any following violations, the student will be given an infraction and will need to call a parent to bring the correct uniform item to change into. If the parent is unable to bring the needed item, the student can look for the item needed in the used uniform cabinet to change into. The items are \$5.00 each. If we have extra unused items available, the student can pay extra to buy the item new. Students 1st-8th grade are encouraged (but not required) to keep an extra uniform set in their locker. Students NS-K are expected to always keep an extra set of clothing on hand at the school.

Parent Responsibility: Parents are expected to know the uniform policy and ensure their students are properly dressed for school. If parents are contacted regarding their student's uniform, they are expected to bring appropriate clothes to their child or make arrangements for them to change, or to purchase a used item for \$5.00 or a new item for an additional cost for their child to change into.

Teacher Responsibility: Teachers check uniform dress before they begin each class. If a student is still not adhering to the policy after 3 warnings, the front desk is notified to make a call to the parents to bring a change of clothes. If a parent is unable to bring the clothing item needed, their account will be charged for either a new or used item for the student to wear the remainder of the day. Teachers enforce the uniform policy throughout the day.

Grooming Guidelines

The appearance of the student body affects the environment of the entire school. Uniforms can contribute to a safe environment and the appropriate educational and moral climate. In addition to the uniform, students are expected to dress and groom in a neat, clean and modest fashion. Students are to maintain these standards while on campus, including before and after classes, and when representing the school during off-campus activities.

- **Grooming:** Uniforms must be kept clean and in good repair. No torn or cut off pants. Shirts must have shoulder straps. No off-the-shoulder styles. Shoes and socks must be worn at all times while on campus.
- **Hairstyles:** Hairstyles must be conservative and should appropriately reflect the environment of the school. Hair should be clean and well kept. Long hair should be kept out of eyes and face. (Ponytails, buns, and top knots are allowed for students with long hair--below the eyes and/or below the collar—in order to keep hair out of eyes and face.) Extreme hairstyles are not allowed and students may not be allowed to attend school until remedied. *Unacceptable* hairstyles include, but are not limited to:
 1. Bright, unnatural colored hair
 2. Shaved heads or designs shaved into the haircut
 3. Mohawks or long, spiked hair (more than 1 inch high)
 4. Dreadlocks, Jedi Braids, Rat-tails, etc.

- **Accessories:** Boys and girls may wear *simple* accessories, such as a watch, a ring, a bracelet, or a single necklace. No long, dangling necklaces or large necklaces. No large chains, spikes, dog collar necklaces/bracelets, bandanas, or neck scarves are permitted. Girls may wear one pair of earrings. No other visible body piercing is permitted. Girls may wear a matching headband or hair bow. Hats may *not* be worn at school, except on designated “hat days.” Winter hats can be worn outside only, as weather dictates. Hair and face glitter are inappropriate during school hours. Belts must be worn with pants. Belts in solid black, brown, or navy only. No other color or design.

Special Dress Days

Spirit Days are held twice a month, on the first and third Fridays of the month. Students can wear jeans and a t-shirt, as described below, or their uniform.

- An Arches Academy t-shirt: the navy Arches t-shirt, t-shirts from our school plays, or t-shirts from our writing rallies. The t-shirt does not have to be tucked in.
- Arches Academy hoodies are acceptable on Spirit Days.
- Jeans, uniform pants, or nice casual pants—no sweat pants, gym shorts, etc.
- Tennis shoes

WOW (Wear Own Wardrobe) Days are held twice a month, on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. This is a day when students may choose to wear regular clothes to school. Clothing must still be appropriate for school activities and the weather. *Grooming and Accessory rules still apply.* Additional WOW days may also be issued for special activities. Students will be notified of additional days in advance. Open toe shoes are allowed on WOW days in “non-winter” months of August-October and April-May. (No flip-flops. If the student has PE on WOW days, please bring tennis shoes.) Hats are not allowed except on special event dress days.

Fieldtrip Days

Teachers will notify students and parents of the dress that has been deemed appropriate for the trip being taken. Most field trips will be dress days, so we can represent our school the very best. Lanyards may be distributed by teachers and students must wear these at all times.

Purchasing Uniform Clothing

Our main uniform supplier is French Toast. The link to our school uniform page is on the school website. If you find uniform items at other companies that have the SAME look (fabric, cut, and color) as the items on our Visual Uniform guide, they are acceptable. Some items *must* have the school logo so those should be purchased from French Toast.

The Arches Academy plaid jumper can be purchased from Global School Wear (globalschoolwear.com) A few other approved uniform items are available there as well.

We also have some gently used uniform items at the school. These items can be purchased for \$5.00 each, or exchanged 1 item for 1 item.

Uniform Requirements

The purpose of the uniform policy is threefold: 1) encourages attention to a student's character and talents rather than to his/her appearance, 2) eliminates distractions in the classroom, and 3) establishes a sense of order and respect for the school and its community. Uniforms contribute to a safe environment and the appropriate educational and moral climate. **See our Visual Uniform Guide for links to French Toast.**

Nursery School, Preschool, Pre-K

Dress Day requirement as below. No daily uniform.

Dress Uniform Days (For Mondays & Special Event days): **1 set required** (Can be worn daily as well.)
Girls: French Toast Ruffle Pique Polo Dress with school logo, white socks, solid black/brown/navy shoes.
Boys: Lt Blue polo with school logo, navy pants or shorts, solid color socks, solid black/brown/navy shoes.

Kindergarten-5th Grade:

Dress Uniform Days (For Mondays & Special Event days): **1 set required** (Can be worn daily as well.)
All: solid black/brown/navy shoes
Girls: Custom Plaid Jumper, white Peter Pan blouse with logo, white socks, navy cross tie
Boys: Lt blue oxford with logo, navy pants/shorts, solid color socks, plaid tie, belt

All other days:

| | |
|--|--|
| Shirts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White Polo with school logo ● Red Polo (no logo) ● Girls: White Peter Pan blouse with logo ● Boys: Light blue Oxford shirt with logo | <p>All shirts must be worn tucked in. Shirts must be in good repair, fit appropriately, and must not be dirty or stained.</p> <p>Long or short sleeves allowed. (Long sleeve shirts <i>under</i> short sleeve shirts are not allowed.)</p> |
| Sweaters, Jackets, Blazers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navy or Red Cardigan, Crew, or V-neck ● Navy or Red V-Neck Vest ● Fleece Pullover or Blazer with Logo | <p>All students should have a sweater or jacket for cold days.</p> <p>School logo on sweaters optional.</p> <p>No coats or non-Arches jackets in class.</p> |
| Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Skort s (No shorts Nov-Mar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navy only ● Solid Navy Leggings: <i>ONLY under skirts, not as pants alone.</i> | <p>No torn or cut-off pants are acceptable.</p> <p>Skirts, skorts, and shorts are to be no shorter than fingertips-at-thigh length.</p> |
| Jumpers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'Classic Navy White' plaid | <p>Purchase custom plaid at GlobalSchoolWear on their Arches Academy uniform page.</p> |
| Shoes, Socks, Tights (Boots: Nov-March only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoes in solid black, brown, or navy. Laces and soles must be in same color. ● Solid color socks or tights in white or navy | <p>Shoes must be closed toe and heel. No designs, glitter, jewels, or more than one color. Light-up, platform, high heeled, or roller-skate shoes are not permitted.</p> |
| Belts (No belts for K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leather or fabric belt in solid color: black or brown only. | <p>A solid color belt must be worn with pants/shorts.</p> |
| Ties: Navy or plaid--optional for daily wear | <p>Plaid available for purchase only at Arches</p> |

Gym Clothes: Gym clothes are NOT required for NS-4 students. Students may bring tennies.

Accessories and Grooming: please refer to the Grooming section of the Uniform Policy.

Grades 6 through Grade 8 Uniform Requirements

Dress Days (For Mondays & Special Event days): **1 set required** (Can be worn daily as well.)
All: solid black/brown/navy shoes
Girls: Custom Plaid skirt, white oxford logo blouse, logo blazer, white socks, plaid cross tie
Boys: White oxford with school logo, logo blazer, khaki pants, dark solid color socks, belt, plaid tie

| All other days: | |
|--|---|
| Shirt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White Polo with Arches Logo ● Forest Green or Navy Polo (no logo) ● White Blouse or White Oxford with logo | All shirts must be tucked in. A <i>plain white</i> t-shirt or tank may be worn under the uniform shirt. |
| Pants/Shorts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khaki twill or cotton twill blend | Pants, skirts, and skorts should be uniform style--no knit or stretch fabric. Flares, cargos, denim, or corduroy material are not acceptable. No torn or cut-off pants are acceptable. |
| Skirts and Skorts (No jumpers for 5-9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Classic Navy White’ Plaid ● Khaki twill or cotton twill | Skirts, skorts, and shorts are to be no shorter than fingertips-at-thigh length. Purchase custom plaid at GlobalSchoolWear on their Arches uniform page. |
| Sweaters, jackets, blazers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navy Cardigan or Crew ● Navy V-Neck or V-Neck Vest ● Fleece pullover, jacket, or blazer with school logo | All students should have a sweater or jacket for cold days. School logo on sweaters optional. No coats or non-Arches jackets in class. |
| Shoes, Socks, Tights (Boots: Nov-March only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoes in solid black, brown or navy. Laces and soles must be in same color. ● Solid color socks or tights in white or navy. No patterns, prints, or logos | Shoes must be closed toe and heel. No designs, glitter, jewels, or more than one color. Light-up, platform, high heeled, or roller-skate shoes are not permitted. |
| Belts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leather or fabric belt in solid color: brown, black or navy only. | A belt must be worn with pants at all times. No wide extravagant belts permitted. Brown, black, or navy only. |
| Ties: Navy or plaid, optional for daily wear, 1 plaid tie required for Dress Day | Plaid available for purchase only at Arches Academy |

Gym Clothes Required: 5th-9th Students should bring the following for PE classes: gym shorts (finger tip length), t-shirt, gym shoes and socks.

Accessories and Grooming: Refer to the Handbook’s Grooming section of the Uniform Policy.

Planner Policy

Purpose of Planners

Arches Academy purchases student planners for every student to help facilitate the development of good study and planning habits. It is an important component of the 7 Cs of 21st Century Learning which empowers students to take responsibility for their learning and improve executive function.

Students will carry planners with them throughout the day to record homework assignments for their core classes (math, reading, social studies, and science.) Students take the planners home at night for parent(s) to review and sign. Core teachers check the planner at the end of each day for completeness, and record the parent signatures and reading minutes in Educate on Fridays.

K-5 Students should use their planners to write assignments, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Spelling/vocab words
- Math assignments
- Reading minutes and titles of books read
- Upcoming field trips, MISSION presentations, or school events
- **Can write “See Educate” for details of assignments rather than writing them in

***K-1 may glue in a printed copy of items listed above, since they are beginning writers. Writing in planners may also be a center for the week.*

6-8 Students should use their planners to write the following:

- Major Assignment due dates
- Test Dates
- Reading minutes and titles of books read, recorded nightly
- Upcoming field trips, MISSION presentations, or school events
- Personal Activities (music lessons, sports practice, family events, etc.)
- Their various roles, and specific action items scheduled that week to achieve their trimester goals in each role.

Teachers should:

- Give time daily for students to write in their planners.
- Use planners as the exit ticket each day before dismissal
- Require a parent signature each night, and check for this signature each morning (K-5 only)
- Have students keep a binder clip on current date, clipping together the pages that are past so the planner always opens to the current week.
- Keep assignments in Educate up to date

Homework Philosophy and Study Hall

At Arches Academy, we believe that homework is an essential piece of the learning process, where students are able to apply what they have learned at home in another setting, solidifying their understanding, or revealing to the teacher areas that the student needs additional help with.

NO homework should be given in foreign languages, typing/STEAM, PE, art, music, drama.

Math: Xtra math will be done in class as much as possible. K-6: if there are more than two workbook pages of homework, students will complete some in class.

NS/PS/PK Read to your child at home. We recommend 10-15 minutes daily.

K 15 minutes of reading at home plus 5-10 minutes of math

1st 20 minutes of reading at home plus 10 minutes of math

2nd 20 minutes of reading at home plus 15 minutes of math

3rd 20 minutes of reading at home plus 20 minutes of math

4th 25 minutes of reading at home plus 20 minutes of math

5th 25 minutes of reading at home plus 20 minutes of math

6th 30 minutes of reading plus 50 minutes other subjects
 (20 Math, 15 Writing/History, 15 Science)

7th 30 minutes of reading plus 60 minutes other subjects
 (20 Math, 20 English/History, 20 Science)

8th 30 minutes of reading plus 65 minutes other subjects
 (25 Math, 20 English/History, 20 Science)

9th 30 minutes of reading plus 70 minutes other subjects
 (25 Math, 25 Writing/History, 25 Science)

Students who arrive late to school/class and miss work, or come unprepared with their homework incomplete, need to go to Study Hall for their lunch time.

Purpose of Study Hall

To facilitate the timely completion of homework, Arches Academy offers Study Hall. Teachers enroll students in Study Hall each day that the student has not completed his or her homework. Study Hall is a teacher supervised homework time. It is not a guaranteed one-on-one or small group tutoring session, rather it is a quiet, safe, focused place for students to complete their work.

Some homework, like essays and projects, will take longer than the 30 minutes students are enrolled in Study Hall, thus enrollment in Study Hall is not a guarantee that students will finish their work.

Late Homework Policy

Turning in homework on time is essential to the learning process so that teachers can know exactly what their students learned each day and can teach accordingly the next day. To encourage responsibility and timely homework, Arches adheres to this late homework policy for grades 2-9:

| Date Homework is Turned In: | % of Points Earned on the Assignment: |
|------------------------------------|--|
| On the Due Date | 100% |
| 1 Day Late | 90% |
| 2 Days Late | 80% |
| 3 Days Late | 70% |
| 4+ Days Late | Teacher Discretion |

Students with excused absences will have their homework due date deadline moved to the first day that he or she returns to school.

Homework completed during Study Hall will receive 90% credit for their homework.

Acceptable Usage Policy

The aim of this Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Internet/Computers/Technology (ICT) and Internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. If the school AUP is not adhered to, this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

The school employs a number of strategies in order to maximize learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies include:

- Open Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used where appropriate in order to minimize the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school will regularly monitor students' Internet usage.
- Uploading/downloading and installation of non-approved software will not be permitted. All relevant requests must be made to the ICT coordinator in writing.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of digital storage media in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Students will treat others with respect at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.

World Wide Web

- Students will not intentionally visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials or attempt to circumvent protective software.
- Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials.
- Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- Students will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement).
- Students will never disclose or publicize personal information.
- Downloading materials or images, which are not relevant to their studies is in direct breach of the school's AUP.
- Students will be made aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.

Email/Internet Communication

- Students will not use email for personal reasons. Email, which is used for educational purposes, will use approved email addresses and will be supervised or authorized by a teacher.
- Students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene and/or defamatory, or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.

- Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or other online communication.
- Internet chat/social networking sites: students will only have access to chat rooms, discussion forums, messaging or other forms of electronic communication that have been approved by the school.
- Where appropriate, usernames will be used to avoid disclosure of identity.

School Website

- The website will be moderated to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety of students or staff.
- The school will endeavor to focus on group activities when using digital photographs, audio or video clips.
- Personal student information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.

Student Personal Devices

This section refers to personal devices such as: phones, iPods, cameras, game consoles, PSPs, etc.

- Students' personal devices, unless authorized by a teacher, are not to be used on school premises during school hours of 8:30-3:30. Phones will be checked into each teacher at the start of school. Each student must ensure all devices are SWITCHED OFF in the school building. Note: Devices in 'Silent' or 'Vibrate' mode are not considered 'off'.
- The unauthorized capture of images, video or audio is in direct breach of the school's AUP. Connecting or attempting to connect to the school's network system (wired or wireless) without authorization is in direct breach of the school's AUP.

Sanctions

Misuse of ICT and Internet resources may result in disciplinary action, including written warning, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.

All computer equipment is owned by Arches Academy, and students will thus be required to treat it with care. This includes checking in and out school-owned iPads and chromebooks with an administrator, plugging in student-assigned chromebooks and iPads when not in use, and storing them in a secure place before leaving the school each day. **STUDENTS WHO DAMAGE OR BREAK ANY EQUIPMENT WILL BE CHARGED A REPLACEMENT FEE.**

EACH STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE SCHOOL'S ACCEPTABLE USAGE POLICY. Core teachers are expected to print copies of this policy for each student to sign on the first day of school if deemed necessary.

Student Life and Family/School Connections

Lunch Options and Birthday Treats

Students may bring their own lunch to school, or have the option to purchase lunch items from the school store. Microwaves are available for warming or cooking food. Assistance with cooking food is available. Friday is Pizza Day--\$1.50/slice.

In accordance with Utah County Health Regulations, you may not send homemade and/or home packaged items to be served or sold at school, unless you have a Utah County food handlers permit. This regulation applies to treats you may send for class parties, foods your children may sell for fundraisers. Please send only commercially prepared and packaged foods, unless you have a current Utah County food handler's permit.

Field Trips

Our students get to do a lot of hands-on learning through field trips! Please talk to your student's teacher about being a volunteer parent chaperone. We rely on parent chaperones to make our field trips possible. NS-2nd Grade students need booster seats when they go on a field trip.

By enrolling a student at Arches Academy, parents give permission for their student to participate in off-campus field trips and activities as scheduled by faculty and staff. Parents/guardians will be notified in advance of field trips and may elect to NOT send their student to school during the scheduled field-trip activity. If a parent/guardian elects to send their student to school/class during the scheduled field-trip activity, the parent/guardian recognizes that there are inherent risks associated with any activity or field-trip.

By sending their student to the scheduled field-trip, the parent/guardian acknowledges that such risks exist, but believes the opportunity for learning outweighs these risks. In the unlikely event that the student becomes ill or is injured during a field-trip, the parent authorizes Arches Academy faculty and/or staff to act as an agent on their behalf to secure services needed for the well-being of the student. The parent/guardian further agrees to provide payment for these costs. In the event that the parent/guardian cannot be located during the securing of these needed services, Arches Academy faculty will refer to the Family Health Form information that is on file with the school. ***Special note: If the field trip involves an over-night activity, parents will be provided an additional consent form to be signed for the school.***

School Photographs and Student Work

By enrolling a student at Arches Academy, parents and the student understand that photographs taken by the school or by a third party for school purposes are the property of the school. Arches Academy may transfer or use photographs in school brochures, newsletters, advertising, posters, displays, slide shows, video tapes, catalogues, electronic images on the school's website, social media, and like publications or literature without limitations or reservations. In addition, any student work may also be selected for use in the above-named school publications and social media.

School Photos will be taken each October by Scott Hancock photography. Parents will be able to purchase various photo packages from Scott Hancock.

Special Events and Additional Programs

- Annual School Musical: Each March we put on an all school musical with every student involved in some way. Performance dates are decided at the beginning of the school year to give all families ample time to plan accordingly and save the dates (2-3 nights) so students can see their parts through and not leave the play hanging from an absence. We hope that parents and relatives attend the play to support the students. Every Preschool-8th grade student is involved in the play!
 - Other annual performances: Grandparents Day, fall Fine Arts Gala, Holiday Concert
- Fundraising: We have two all-school annual fundraisers: a fall Fine Arts Gala and a spring Fun Run. Please plan on participating in and supporting these fundraisers. These fundraisers help us keep tuition as low as possible, yet provide great programs and opportunities for our students.
 - Fall Fine Arts Showcase: All students are required to come to perform in the Showcase. Tickets are \$15 per adult, \$10 per student and we ask that each parent carefully consider donating for the focused cause.
 - Spring Fun Run: each student is asked to participate and collect at least \$200 in pledges for running a 5k (3rd-9th grades) or 1 mile run (PK-3rd).
- Additional Costs and Events to Plan Ahead For: All activities and costs are subject to change, and new activities may be added. Items are for all grades, or as noted.
 - Writing Rally Book Publishing: \$10.00/book
 - Gala Fine Arts Showcase: tickets--\$30.00/adult, \$15/student.
 - School play tickets--\$15.00
 - 4th-8th grade overnight field trips (TBD): \$10-20 each, 2-4 per year
 - 4th/5th grade Hope Of America: \$10.00
 - 6th-8th Overnight Space Camp: \$65.00
 - 6th-8th Physics Day at Lagoon \$30.00 per student
 - Special Mini Courses (optional—by student/parent choice) ie: skiing, biking, swimming, pottery, surfing, boat building, etc. \$50-\$350.00
 - Yearbooks: \$55.00
 - 6TH-8TH GRADE OUT OF STATE TRIPS: parents can make monthly payments towards the cost of the trip. The total must be paid in full prior to the trip. These trips average \$1000-1500 per student and are optional. A limited number of parent chaperones may be needed.
- Summer Camps: Each year we design thematic weekly camps for PreS-5th graders. We plan other summer adventures for 6th-8th graders. Summer offerings are usually published in March or April.
- Summer Projects: Over the summer we often have family project days to help upgrade, deep clean, or renovate the building or grounds.

World Religions in Curriculum

Arches Academy is a secular school which means that we do not preach or encourage one religion over another. We do teach facts about various religions from around the world as part of our Social Studies curriculum, which may spark religious discussions. To prepare and guide students for these types of discussions, teachers make sure they understand the following:

The school's approach to religion is **academic**, not **devotional**.

The school strives for student **awareness** of religions, but does not press for student **acceptance** of any certain religion.

The school sponsors **study** about religion, not the **practice** of religion.

The school may **expose** students to a diversity of religious views, but will not **impose** a particular view.

The school **educates** about all religions; it does not **promote or denigrate** any religion.

The school **informs** the students about various beliefs; it does not seek to **conform** students to any particular belief.

- We learn facts about various religions so we can adopt a global perspective.
- Comments about the truthfulness of one religion over another or degrading comments about why/how a person believes or does not believe are not acceptable.
- If a student disagrees with how another believes, the student can basically 'agree to disagree'; it's ok that we believe different things and we can still get along.
- A student should not force their beliefs on another, i.e., insist that they are right and the other student is wrong.

When teachers choose to celebrate a Christian based holiday (Christmas, Easter) in their classroom, they will inform parents what will be talked about and what activities will be done so a parent can choose to opt their student out if they choose to. Class celebrations will be focused on the cultural and secular aspects of the holidays (i.e., children may make a Christmas ornament, but not talk about the religious aspect of the holiday.)

School Musical Concerts: The music performed at concerts is chosen carefully by the music director based solely on its musical merits and the higher level of musical skills that the best music demands of our students. Some of the best world choral music is inherently religious in nature, and is not chosen to teach any particular religious concept but rather to develop and show particular musical skills. The music director will inform parents as to what songs the students will be singing, so a parent can opt their student out if they wish to.

Maintaining Neutrality in Family Disputes

Arches Academy staff will not become involved in issues related to family disputes, divorce, separation, or child custody. We will not make judgments or assertions about the suitability of one parent or another. We will not give information regarding one parent to the other parent. Requests from either parent to teachers or admin for written or verbal statements to attest to certain information will not be granted. Admin and teachers will adhere to remaining neutral in these types of situations. We do not deny parental access to information about their child unless a court order to that effect is in place. If either parent or responsible party seeks to involve Arches Academy staff in domestic or custody matters, he/she will be responsible for all costs and legal fees incurred by Arches Academy and/or its employees.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

During each trimester, parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers one-on-one during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Core teachers will have set times for appointments on a particular day or after school. Elective teachers may block out a period of time when they will be available. Conferences are usually held in the classrooms. Additional Parent-Teacher Conferences may be requested at any time by the parent or the teacher.

Parent Involvement

Our success as a school is due in part to our awesome parent participation, and there are lots of ways to be involved!

- **Arches Parent Organization (APO)**: Sign up to serve on the APO to help with school events, refreshments for events, special themed weeks (Red Ribbon, Seuss Week, Teacher Appreciation, etc.), Book Fairs, School Play, Fundraisers, Sub for Santa, etc.
- **Parent Ambassador**: help us grow the school enrollment by sharing fb posts, writing guest blogs and school reviews, assisting with tours, and answering prospective parents' questions.
- **Room Parent**: Parents often volunteer as a Room Parent for their child's class. This is so appreciated! Room Parents help with class parties, help find drivers for field trips, help prepare supplies for activities/lessons, etc.
- **Field trip driver/chaperone**: We have two school vans to use for trips, and sometimes we also need parent chaperones/drivers. We love having parents go with us on trips! Drivers/chaperones have to meet certain criteria, which is listed on our Chaperone Responsibilities Form.

Payment, Grading, and Communication systems

TADS: This is our online Application, Registration, and Tuition Payment System. Once you have finished your registration you will receive an email from TADS that will include instructions and your code to set up your payment of tuition. You will be able to choose between paying in full or making payments. This is also where we will bill for additional purchases (lunch purchases, school events, year books, etc.)

EDUCATE: This is our online student information system. (TADS is part of this SIS.) Educate is where you will see your child's homework assignments, grades, and other academic communication from teachers. You will receive log-in instructions. Please contact Becca Hardman at becca.hardman@archesacademy.com with any questions.

Bloomz: a social networking and communications platform for our Arches community. It's basically a private Facebook for your student's class! You can see photos of class trips and activities, messages from teachers, and communicate with teachers and other parents. You will be invited to join the group, and you must accept the invitation in order to join. This 'double verification' keeps it safe and private.

Contact your child's teacher: We have formal Parent Teacher conferences twice each year, and we encourage open, regular communication with our teachers. Teacher emails can be found on our website archesacademy.com and you can contact them anytime through email, Bloomz, or through Educate.

Drop off and Pick up Options

- Drop off time is from 8:15-8:25 am. Students should arrive no later than 8:25 so they have time to go to their locker and get to class by 8:30. (During the pandemic, we ask that parents use the drop off lane rather than coming into the building. We need to limit the traffic that comes into the building as much as possible. If you do want to park and come in you are welcome to, but please consider wearing a mask.)
- Drive Through Pick Up 3:15-3:20 and 3:20-3:30: An admin person will be outside to call for students as we see you/your car. Students will exit through the gym door. ****Please drive very slowly!** If you would like to park and meet your student at the gym door, please pull **CAREFULLY** around the pickup lane to do so. Drive-through ends at 3:30.
 - 3:15-3:20 for Nursery School-Kindergarten
 - 3:20-3:30 for grades 1st-5th
 - 3:30--6th-8th grade classes end. Students go to the parking lot to find their rides.
 - If you have kids in NS-8th, come through the pick up lane at 3:25/3:30 for your younger students and then park to wait for your older students.
- After School Enrichment: We have afternoon clubs available (extra fee) for students/parents wanting after school enrichment. After school clubs/care charges begin promptly at 3:30 for K-5 and 3:40 for 6th-8th.