

THE ACADEMY WAY

Fall-Winter 2018

Volume 1, Issue 3

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5 reasons THE ACADEMY OF TUCSON is the right choice for your child!



1 SMALL CLASS SIZES
The student-teacher ratio at all Academy schools is 15:1 or less. Classes are capped at 25 students at the middle and high schools!

2 CARING FACULTY & STAFF
Teachers at The Academy care about the success of every student, and the administration supports the staff in that mission!



3 ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES
Students at The Academy get the education they need to become members of the global community, while also being offered opportunities to learn outside the classroom, whether it's through field trips, science fairs, athletics, and more!



4 STUDENT-DRIVEN
Small class sizes allow for teachers to forge relationships with their students, which in turn help them make the best decisions about instruction for each student at an individual level.

5 IT'S FREE!
We are tuition free, public charter schools that offers a rigorous traditional learning environment.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Dougherty

Janet Dougherty has been teaching at the middle school for six years. She is pictured on the right in the school's butterfly garden, a project she spearheaded.



In her words, "I consider myself extremely fortunate in that I have had two very rewarding careers: Air Force officer and middle school teacher. This is my sixth year at AOTMS and I still wake each day anxious to get to school to see what experiences and adventures await! I cannot say enough about the incredibly dedicated and caring staff/faculty at the middle school, including tremendously supportive parents. It is also a great joy to witness the fifth graders mature into such impressive young men and women through the eighth grade as they prepare for high school.

"I have been teaching for over 15 years, beginning with Air Force ROTC cadets at both Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona. After retirement I taught at-risk youth for five years both in northern Virginia and here in Tucson. I worked at a southside charter school for several years, both as an elementary teacher/team leader and the principal for three years. When an opportunity to teach at a university in central China became available, I spent a year and a half in the city of Zhengzhou in the Henan Province. I have also taught elementary children in eastern Kenya, hoping to return next summer."

Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these **Open House** dates at all of our schools from **4-6 PM.!**

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Tuesday, May 7, 2019



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What people are saying about Academy of Tucson Elementary School ...

“ I absolutely love teaching at Academy of Tucson. There is such a warm, caring atmosphere here that allows students to learn in a positive and individualized way. The Academy of Tucson offers students so many opportunities, such as field trips, guest speakers, hands on manipulatives, after school activities, small class sizes and more. I only wish I had know about Academy of Tucson when my own children were elementary aged.”

- Mrs. Soderman, 3rd grade teacher

“AOT is a great school because the teachers here are nice and all the subjects are fun! Also, the students here are so nice. This school is the best school in the world!”

- Maya P., a 4th-grader

“ My daughter has gone to Academy of Tucson Elementary for the past 3 years. The staff and teachers are wonderful and my daughter is flourishing from all the support and help she has received.”

- Ms. Woodley, a parent

“Academy of Tucson has been a great school, very caring and attentive to my child's needs. My child always comes home with a smile on his face. I am so thankful to have found a school with such a great and fun staff, admin to teachers.”

- Mr. Ishikawa, parent

Call TODAY to schedule your tour!

Academy of Tucson Elementary School
9209 E Wrightstown Rd
Tucson, AZ 85715
520.886.6076

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL happenings



In the Classroom

The elementary school provides a unique and diverse curriculum, as the top photo demonstrates. Gregorio, an explorer on the Anza Trail, came to the fourth grade to share his experiences on the Anza Expedition in the American Southwest in 1775-1776.

Tucson Water brought in their program called “Our Water, Our Future” to fourth grade, pictured on the bottom left. Our students had a great time learning more about how Tucson not only gets its water from the ground into our homes, but also about how to conserve our precious resource. It is so great at Academy to be able to offer our students these really valuable, engaging opportunities to learn outside of a textbook! It creates a great balance for learning opportunities.

On the bottom right, students at the Academy of Tucson Elementary enjoy going to the library where they read and learn new words. Each week students are presented with a Word of the Week (WOW).



On Field Trips

Students are able to experience hands on activities and attend events that are impactful and meaningful. Student learning is enhanced when they are engaged with their school and community. It is the school's philosophy that field trips provide this exposure.

On the right, a second-grader engages with a chicken at Tucson Village Farm. Below, Academy of Tucson first-graders get hands on experience at a local Fry's grocery store, while learning about the five food groups.

Students also visited Sabino Canyon, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and more! Upcoming trips include a visit to the Grand Canyon!



School Events

The elementary school offers a wide variety of experiences that supports the whole child and its surrounding community.

On the right, Mrs. Cain, a second grade teacher, and one of her students enjoy the Fall Carnival held at the elementary school in October. The school also hosts biannual book fairs, as well as other educational events.



MIDDLE SCHOOL *happenings*



In the Community

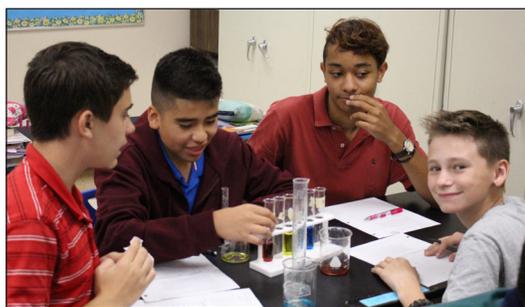
Middle school band members and National Junior Honor Society members (pictured above) honor the service of our veterans by playing patriotic songs, waving flags, holding posters, and encouraging vehicles to honk if they support a veteran during the annual Veteran's Day fundraising drive. An NJHS member (pictured right) participates in a monthly community service project at the elementary school.



School Events

This season's Scholastic Book Fair theme was Enchanted Forest of Books. The middle school community celebrated the love of reading and kicked off the book fair with its biannual Family Fun Festival. The campus was taken over by wizards, witches, fairies, and a variety of other enchanted beings (above).

Boot Camp is held at the beginning of the school year to welcome new students to "The Academy Way." Students participated in teamwork activities that required problem-solving skills (below).



In the Classroom

Cougars excel in the classroom! The Greek Plays (top photos) were a culmination of 6th grade social studies' Greek Unit. Students wrote myths in language arts class. Then, they worked in groups to present these meaningful stories. Many of the myths had the moral of the story; "Don't judge others by looks but by character."

In the bottom photo, students in the eighth grade are engaged in a volume lab, using science materials to make accurate measurements with solids and liquids.



What people are saying about Academy of Tucson Middle School ...

“ AOT was the right choice for our family. Our daughter was shy as a young girl. Coming from a small church preschool and kindergarten, we anticipated a rocky transition to a larger population. We visited a few schools including AOT Elementary. After the third visit to AOT, we saw consistent happiness and dedication from teachers who had taught there for several years. The class sizes were just right, and the emphasis on citizenship and academics was the perfect fit for us. She is now in the eighth grade and is no longer that shy, young girl. She is academically strong, active in athletics, and a leader in her class. AOT has been a source of encouragement, giving her tools to succeed and great friendships that will last a long time.”

- The McClellans, an AOT family

“Working at the AOT has been an amazing experience. Everyone is welcoming, supportive, and a pleasure to work with. Joining the AOT family has been a positive life change for my family and myself. I am so proud to be a Cougar.”

- Mrs. Wilson, 5th grade teacher

“ I love AOT! I have been going to the Academy since 6th grade. I am now in 8th, and I have enjoyed every year. The teachers are very welcoming and will not let you fully fail. They help you and so does anyone. The students are nice, and we work together.”

Emily R., a student

I have enjoyed my time at AOTMS. Everyone is so welcoming and eager to help. The whole campus works as a team, and we have wonderful parents who are always helping us with anything we need.”

- Mrs. Smith, math teacher

Call TODAY to schedule your tour!

Academy of Tucson Middle School
7310 E 22nd St
Tucson, AZ 85710
520.749.1413



What people are saying about Academy of Tucson High School ...

“ The Academy of Tucson is a rare jewel in the mine of education. Students cannot ‘get lost’ here. They cannot hide, and they cannot slip by unnoticed. The size of the campus assures a rare and precious opportunity to really come to know the students and affords a special treat in watching them mature and develop academically, even when they are not scheduled into one’s class-room! The Administration in AOTHS is the best that I have ever encountered. It strives to support students, faculty, and parents with the ultimate guiding principle of preparing each student for post-secondary success. AOTHS is focused on the short- and long-run!”

- Dr. Leflar, English teacher

“As a senior who’s been attending the Academy of Tucson all 4 years it’s been such a honor and a awesome time! Being a three sport athlete since freshman year as well has allowed me to become more confident in my abilities and be able to make great friendships. The education here is also very good and I’ve learned so much valuable information from it. The environment is also very friendly and I’ve been able to make strong life long friendships from my fellow peers here. Academy gives the students here so many opportunities and they’re truly educating tomorrow’s leaders today.”

- Uriel J., a senior

“ Our family is so thankful for Academy of Tucson High School. The small class sizes have worked well for us. Whether your child is excelling or struggling, the teachers get to know your student and make themselves available to help out after school or as needed. While no system is ‘perfect,’ we are so thankful for a caring staff that listens to your concerns and works with your family to find solutions.”

- Mrs. Davis, a parent

Call TODAY to schedule your tour!

Academy of Tucson High School
10720 E 22nd St
Tucson, AZ 85748
520.733.0096

HIGH SCHOOL *happenings*

Performing Arts



IMPROV NIGHT

The high school Theatre department’s first performance of the school year had students exercising their improvisational skills. The program’s next production, “Twelve Angry Jurors” (a scripted drama), will open the first weekend of April 2019.



MUSIC SHOWCASE

Concerts, which are held quarterly, allow talented students to show off their music ability. Students may choose to participate in the school’s ensemble offerings: Jazz Band Combo (above), guitar (left), Advanced Women’s Choir (top left), mixed choir, and men’s and women’s pop ensembles.



Athletics

The Academy offers a variety of sports for students to participate in. Fall sports include girls’ volleyball and coed soccer (pictured). Girls’ and boys’ basketball are well underway with softball and track to look forward to in the spring!

Academics & Events

Student Council puts on a number of events throughout the school year. Top right, students entertain the crowd with a costume fashion show. Right, a group of friends poses in front of a school spirit display at the Homecoming dance. Bottom right, National Honor Society students gather after a community event to show support.

Students also find opportunities in the classroom. Bottom right, students in physics launch hacky sacks from the catapults they built. Bottom left, a judging contest takes place on the best 3D representation of geographic elements.

