

THE ACADEMY WAY

Fall-Winter 2024-25

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Superintendent's Corner

As we enter our 38th year at the Academy of Tucson, I am proud to be serving as your Superintendent. It has been my privilege to be part of this school system since 2006, where I've had the opportunity to serve as a teacher, SPED director, principal, and now superintendent. Through these various roles, I've seen firsthand the dedication and excellence that define our school community.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the legacy of our founders, Bud and Shari Stewart, whose grit and vision led to the creation of The Academy of Tucson. Their dream has flourished, and we continue to build on that founda-

tion each year.

At the heart of our success are the relationships we foster with our students and families, as well as our ability to attract and cultivate exceptional faculty and staff. Together, we create an environment where learning and growth thrive. Here's to another successful year!

- Wendi Allardice, Superintendent



Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these Open House dates at each of our campuses!

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Tuesday, March 4

Tuesday, April 1

Tuesday, May 6

All Open House events take place from 4-6 PM.

Come by to meet the staff, take a tour and find the school for your child!



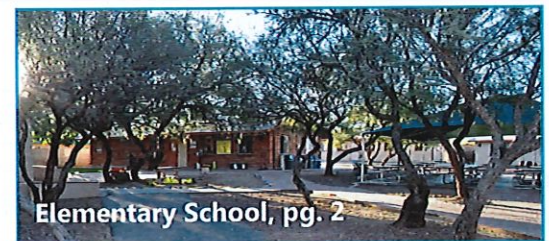
We're thrilled to announce that Academy of Tucson has achieved an impressive #8 ranking in Best School Districts in Tucson on Niche! This outstanding recognition highlights our commitment to provide, prepare, and graduate our students. A big thank you to our dedicated students, exceptional staff and supportive community for making this possible. Your hard work and enthusiasm are truly what sets us apart!

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Engelbrecht

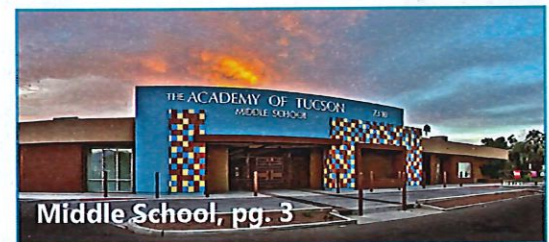
Meet Mr. E—Erich Engelbrecht—a dedicated educator with 23 years of experience across a wide range of grade levels, from Kindergarten through college. Mr. E's journey in education began with a piece of advice from a retiring teacher: "Don't settle for a school, find one you fit in." That guidance led him to the Academy of Tucson, where he's been proudly teaching for the past four years. Mr. E's career at Academy of Tucson began as a long-term substitute in 7th and 8th grade English, and after an exciting journey, he now teaches third grade and runs



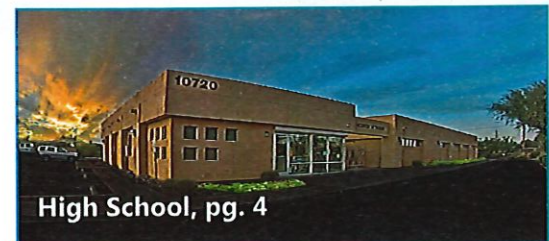
the Robotics club. He's also taught a variety of subjects in fourth grade and continues to share his love for technology through activities like 3D printing and working with computers and robots. A graduate of Northern Arizona University, Mr. E holds two Master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Elementary Education and is pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on Educational Technology. He's passionate about helping students discover the joy of learning and is grateful to his family, especially his mother, for inspiring him to become a teacher. Outside the classroom, Mr. E enjoys art, woodworking, and video games.



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Elementary School

Young Reporters Club

This school year, Ms. Locke's club had some truly exciting accomplishments! Three of our talented 5th-grade students were published in the Bear Essentials newspaper, which is distributed to schools all across Arizona. Even better, their reports can be found on the Bear Essentials website, where their hard work and dedication are showcased for a wider audience.

The club met weekly in Ms. Locke's classroom, where students worked on various projects and reports. It was a fantastic opportunity for

them to grow as writers and researchers. The students' success culminated in an exclusive invitation to the Bear Essentials building, where they had the chance to record their reports. The published students included: William, who reported on fall heat. Scarlett, who shared insights about Winterhaven. Natasha, who wrote about the importance of staying hydrated.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing more students from Ms. Locke's club shine in the future. Congratulations to William, Scarlett, and Natasha for their hard work and dedication!



In November, Ms. Egan put together a Thankful Concert featuring Academy of Tucson Elementary School students and staff! Our kindergarten and first grade classes had a blast performing for their friends and family!

Our elementary school staff performed "We Are AOT Family" during the Thankful Concert. We loved seeing our students and staff get together and celebrate Thanksgiving!



Elementary School Fall Events



Trunk or Treat provides students with the opportunity to dress up with their friends! It was a great time with hot dogs, popcorn, and desserts. Students could also get balloons and get their face painted!

Upcoming Events at the Elementary School

Science Fun Fest

1

Friday, March 6 ·
ES campus · All Day

Grand Canyon Trip

2

April 10 ·
5th Grade Classes

3

Water Day

May 16 ·
ES campus · All Day



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Middle School



Pima Air and Space Museum

Our 7th grade students enjoyed a spectacular trip to the Pima Air & Space museum. Students got to connect the knowledge they acquired from books and conversations in the classroom with historical artifacts from the past, present and insight

into the future. Students were able to take tours in person with real-life flying heroes and hear their experiences in combat. This allowed students to put themselves behind the con-

trols of a device that could overcome gravitational forces, and how the technology from the past has been used everyday to take man from state to state in just hours and eventually into space. Our students were ready to jump into many of the airplanes sitting on the expansive campus from the presidential, business to the military planes. Students took that experience back to the classroom and wanted to find out more about space sciences.



Oh the places you will go! Eighth graders took the opportunity along with their teacher, Mrs. Wilson with parent support to the Flandrau Planetarium on the site of the University of Arizona campus. It was a great opportunity for the 8th grade students to apply what they learned in the classroom regarding the rock cycle to observing a collection of rocks from meteors to other space phenomena. This experience allowed them to touch, identify, and put to use the vocabulary learned in the classroom to practical field experience.

Flandrau Planetarium



Students experienced life in the field as scientists experiencing, identifying, and naming parts of the rock cycle while remembering those facts from the classroom. It was great for students to get their hands dirty and don the safety glasses while having the field experience. Observation is a big part of scientific inquiry and they had a great chance to observe and take note of their surroundings! Scientific experiences are great and now the students have the knowledge and field experience that goes with being a scientist. They are well on their way to their own scientific discovery. It was great for them to be able to spend time on a major research and innovation university.



Upcoming Events at the Middle School

1 **Disneyland Trip**
Feb. 20 - 22 · STEM ·
Anaheim, CA

Music Performance
March 3 ·
Music Class · Devon
Gables Rehab Center

3 **Book Fair**
March 24 - 28 ·
On Campus



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High School

Music Program

Our award-winning music program inspires students to achieve their highest potential in vocal and instrumental arts.

The Advanced Women’s Choir is a shining example of excellence, consistently earning top marks in competitions across Arizona. Last year, they had the honor of performing at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City and have been invited to return next year!



Our guitar program is equally dynamic, with a newly introduced advanced section due to overwhelming student interest. This competitive group showcases their talents alongside the choir at events throughout Tuc-

son, including the University of Arizona’s Festival of Books, and Old Tucson. Join us and be part of a program that nurtures creativity, fosters excellence, and builds unforgettable memories.

Academy Adventures

The Academy Adventures Club at Academy of Tucson High School offers students an unparalleled opportunity to broaden their horizons through travel and cultural exploration. This club is dedicated to enriching students’ education by connecting their classroom learning to real-world experiences. By visiting historical landmarks, immersing themselves in diverse cultures, and tasting authentic cuisines, students gain a deeper appreciation for global history. Next summer (2026), the Academy Adventures Club is preparing for its most exciting journey yet: Japan! From the bustling streets of Tokyo to the serene temples of Kyoto, students will experience the unique blend of tradition and modernity that defines Japanese culture. Through these incredible trips, the club fosters a lifelong passion for learning and an appreciation for the world’s rich diversity.



Our students had a great time exploring London, Paris, Milan, Florence, and Rome

Japan—Land of the Rising Sun 2026

Scan QR Code for Info

- Tokyo
- Kamakura
- OWakudani
- Kyoto



Upcoming Events at the High School

1

Sing for the Suns

January 12th · 7 PM ·
Footprint Center, Phoenix AZ

2

Drama Production

January 29 - 30 · 7pm ·
Santa Rita High School

3

Jazz-Madrigal

February 6th - 7th ·
Choir · Flagstaff AZ



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