



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kinder Counts

Free full-day kindergarten at La Paloma Academy

Tucson, AZ (February 17, 2017) – La Paloma Academy, the largest charter school system in Southern Arizona, is currently welcoming kindergarten student enrollment for the 2017-2018 academic year. The school has all the benefits of a private school education—small classrooms, highly qualified teachers, a rigorous academic and values-based curriculum—without tuition. Plus, kindergarteners attend school for a full day at no extra cost, better preparing them for future classroom involvement.

La Paloma Academy serves grades K-8 with three convenient Tucson campuses: Central, near Grant and Wilmot; Lakeside, near Golf Links and Pantano; and South, near 12th Avenue and Drexel. Kindergarten classes are capped at 25 students in order to facilitate individualized instruction. La Paloma implements an academic curriculum which aligns with the Arizona State Standards, with subjects that include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and safety, and character education, promoting values like trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

While many schools have reduced their kindergarten classes to only a half-day or a full-day at an extra charge to parents, studies show the benefits of full-day care, like that offered at La Paloma. According to the National Education Association, “full-day kindergarten helps make sure that students build the strong base of learning they will need to succeed throughout school and life.”¹

The National Association of School Psychologists lists many advantages of full-day kindergarten over half-day kindergarten, including higher long-term achievement, higher achievement for disadvantaged and low-income children and for those receiving Title I services, higher reading scores in the early grades, higher test scores, greater creativity, and access to nutritional breakfast and lunch.²

“Everyone at La Paloma Academy firmly believes that kinder counts,” said Jackie Trujillo, Superintendent. “We recognize that all-day kindergarten can truly make a difference for young learners by helping them develop and practice social skills, prepare for elementary school, and lay the groundwork for future success by boosting their academic abilities.”

Further setting La Paloma Academy apart from other schools, is its offering of free breakfast and free before- and after-school care featuring an enriching program that promotes the physical, intellectual, and social development of each child.

Parents can enroll their children at La Paloma Academy by visiting the front office of any campus to fill out the required enrollment forms.

To learn more about La Paloma Academy, which offers tuition-free education for grades K-8, or to receive an on-site tour, please visit www.lpatucson.org.

¹National Education Association, "Full-Day Kindergarten Facts," Accessed February 2017, http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HE/mf_fdkfactsheet.pdf.

²National Association of School Psychologists, "Kindergarten – Full Vs Half-Day: Information for Parents and Early Childhood Educators," Accessed February 2017. http://www.naspcenter.org/assessment/kindergarten_ho.html

To find out more about La Paloma Academy, please visit LPATucson.org or call (520) 721-4205.

About La Paloma Academy

As the largest and fastest-growing charter school system in Southern Arizona, La Paloma Academy continually discovers new fun and innovative ways to make the educational experience at each of its campuses entertaining and challenging. In just a few short years, La Paloma experienced unprecedented growth, expanding from one campus in Tucson with 350 students to three campuses with more than 1,800 students. Raena Janes, the founder and charter holder of La Paloma Academy, focuses her efforts on education with individualized instruction, incorporation of extracurricular activities and emphasis on the importance of family and community values. La Paloma Academy was awarded the State of Arizona's 2005 Excellence in Education Award. In addition, Ms. Janes was named as one of Tucson's 40 Under 40 in 2006, Phoenix's 40 Under 40 in 2011 and Tucson's Mentor of the Year in 2008. Visit the school's website at <https://lpatucson.org/>.

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