



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Paloma South Selected for Program Providing Healthy Snacks

Charter school will receive funding to distribute free fruits and vegetables to every student

Tucson, AZ (November 8, 2017) – The Arizona Department of Education has selected the South campus of Tucson’s La Paloma Academy as one of only 110 schools statewide to receive grant funding for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetable snacks for all students. The snacks, which will be provided to students free of charge, will supplement, but not be a part of, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Funding is provided by the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).

La Paloma South, located near 12th Avenue and Drexel in Tucson, is one of three schools that comprise La Paloma Academy, which include Tucson’s Central and Lakeside locations. Founded in 2002 by Raena Janes, La Paloma charter schools are tuition-free institutions providing a private school experience, most often to those in economically challenged communities.

“We are extremely pleased that the Arizona Department of Education chose La Paloma South to be a part of this important program,” said Janes, charter holder of La Paloma Academy. “My goal has always been to build a solid educational foundation for every child and to provide each student with all the tools necessary to be successful in life. One of the most important things we can give our students is an awareness of good nutrition and healthy eating so they can enjoy long, illness-free, productive lives.”

The FFVP began as a pilot program in 2002, offered to a limited number of states and schools. The program’s purpose was to identify best practices for increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among students, to determine students’ interest, and to examine the feasibility of expanding the program on a national level.

As a result of its popularity, the FFVP was expanded to all 50 states in 2008, and is administered on the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Services. At the state level, the Arizona Department of Education chooses the grant recipients each year and distributes the allocated federal grant money.

The stated goal of the FFVP is to:

- Create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices
- Expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience
- Increase children’s fruit and vegetable consumption
- Make a difference in children’s diets to impact their present and future health

Knowing the importance of proper nutrition on child development, Janes said, “We have four additional schools in our charter—Liberty Traditional in Phoenix and Douglas, and Heritage Elementary in Glendale and Williams. In the future, I would like to see all seven schools chosen to participate in this program. The health of our students is vital. Anything we can do now to help them develop good eating habits will improve their lives for decades to come.”

To find out more about La Paloma's South campus, please visit LPASouth.org or call (520) 807-9668.

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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