



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kinder Counts

Free full-day kindergarten at La Paloma Academy

Tucson, AZ (February 2, 2016) – La Paloma Academy, the largest charter school system in Southern Arizona, is currently welcoming kindergarten student enrollment for the 2016-2017 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, because La Paloma Academy teachers and administrators believe “kinder counts,” 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 campuses conveniently located across Tucson (Central near Grant & Wilmot, Lakeside near Golf Links & Pantano, and South near 12th Avenue & Drexel). The school’s curriculum is designed to tie into state standards and kindergarten classes are capped at 25 students in order to facilitate individualized instruction. A rigorous academic curriculum that aligns with the Arizona State Standards is implemented, with subjects that include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health and safety. La Paloma Academy also incorporates a unique character education program that fosters students’ academic and personal growth by promoting important 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

Child Trends Databank further finds that, “full-day kindergarten allows teachers more time to promote formal and informal learning, reduces the number of transitions in a child’s day, and allows children to get used to a schedule similar to that which they will have in first grade. In the short-term, children attending full-day kindergarten programs tend to do better in school than do children attending half-day kindergarten programs, and show stronger academic gains in kindergarten.”²

“At La Paloma Academy, we believe kinder counts,” said Jackie Trujillo, Superintendent. “By that we mean we acknowledge that all-day kindergarten can truly make a difference for a young learner, preparing them for elementary school, helping them socialize, and even jumpstarting school success by potentially boosting academic ability at an early stage.”

Further setting La Paloma Academy apart from other schools, is its offering of free breakfast and free before- and after-school care featuring activities centered around arts

and crafts, technology, sports, and outdoor activities to enhance health and fitness. A snack and an hour of homework time are also a part of the after-school program.

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

The following records are required to process enrollment applications:

- Birth certificate (kindergarteners must be 5 years old prior to September 1, 2016)
- Immunization records (all shots must be current)
- Registration, emergency medical, and first aid forms (available at the school)
- Proof of Arizona residency (i.e., utility bill or lease agreement)
- Picture ID of parent/guardian

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 January 15, 2016, http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HE/mf_fdkfactsheet.pdf.

²Child Trends Databank, "Full-Day Kindergarten," Last modified February 2015, http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/102_Full-day-kindergarten.pdf.

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 www.lpatucson.org.

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