



**2016-17**

# **Family Handbook**

The IDEA School | 1300 S. Belvedere Avenue | Tucson, Arizona 85711  
info@explorebuildlearn.org

**NEW SCHOOL NUMBER: (520) 589-4933**  
(cell phone; text messages welcome)

[www.ExploreBuildLearn.org](http://www.ExploreBuildLearn.org)

 The IDEA School

 "The IDEA School Parents Forum"

 theideaschool

 theideaschool

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## MISSION STATEMENT

At The IDEA School, students are engaged in their learning and love it.

## VISION STATEMENT

All children are intrinsically motivated learners and constructors of knowledge. All children can develop a deep sense of empathy and compassion for others. The IDEA School promotes these qualities and helps our students build upon them, for the benefit of themselves, their families, our community, and the world.

The IDEA School provides an inquiry-based educational experience for children that is engaging and collaborative. We nurture students' ability to take on challenging problems and do meaningful work, and help them become compassionate, intelligent learners.

## STAFF

**Adrienne Crawford**  
[adrienne@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:adrienne@explorebuildlearn.org)

**Collaborator, Grades K-1**

**Debbie Towle**

**Coach, Grades K-1 (9:00-1:00 M-F)**

**Matthew “Faffs” Riederer**  
[faffs@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:faffs@explorebuildlearn.org)

**STEM Collaborator, Grades 2-6**

**Sally Rodgers**  
[sally@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:sally@explorebuildlearn.org)

**Language Arts Collaborator, Grades 2-6**

**Jaime Johnson**  
[jaime@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:jaime@explorebuildlearn.org)

**Co-Director & Lead Collaborator**

**David Higuera**  
[david@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:david@explorebuildlearn.org)

**Co-Director, Administration**

## CURRICULUM

At IDEA School, our collaborators (teachers) design and plan curriculum for each semester guided by their interests and areas of expertise, and the interests, expertise, and questions our students bring to the table as well. We supplement this emergent curriculum with outside resources as needed, including in math/problem-solving, to deepen understanding and offer students opportunities to connect their learning with broader academic concepts.

Students explore topics through provocations thoughtfully planned by collaborators that are meant to engage and inspire students to discuss, ask questions, and look more deeply. Additionally, we plan both expert visits and field studies on a regular basis - these opportunities to interact with the greater Tucson community offer students exposure to multiple professions, vocations and perspectives, and the chance to explore the world beyond the classroom.

Twice yearly, students have the opportunity to share their learning process and some of their work with family and other community members at our Fall and Spring Exposition Nights. Expo Night is one example of how we incorporate real-world audiences into our work with students.

## *21st CENTURY COMPETENCIES*

As a result of our understanding of developmentally appropriate practice and extensive reading into research-based methods of teaching and learning, we leave behind the traditional model of teaching and evaluating students that is heavily teacher-directed and teacher-dependent. Instead, we build opportunities throughout the day, week, and semester for students to engage authentically and collaboratively with new concepts, data, learning techniques, and each other. And we emphasize that at the end of the day, students are responsible for their learning.

We believe that reading, writing and math matter, and we help our students progress in all these areas in an environment that stresses personal growth and collaboration over competition or a letter grade. We also believe that in today's world, emphasizing language arts and math competency alone is not enough. Students must be critical thinkers. They must know how to *identify* a problem, not just solve it. They must be creative and collaborative. They need to have a high level of self direction and self-efficacy, knowing that they can learn anything they wish to learn, and knowing how to find the resources they need to get there. We aim to build 21st Century competencies in everything we do. To achieve this goal, we have a decidedly non-traditional schedule, non-traditional curricula and pedagogy, and a non-traditional classroom set-up.

Our classrooms are multi-age peer groups, so that students can work at their level and learn from each other. Within this collaborative learning environment, students work to identify their strengths and to ask for, or offer, help when needed. Older students model perseverance, empathy and explicit learning strategies for their younger peers. And younger students get to lead as well.

## EVALUATION

Throughout the school year our students are evaluated on competencies that include: creativity and innovation; problem solving and critical thinking; finding and evaluating information; and communication and collaboration. We also facilitate and monitor social and emotional growth and development.

*Creativity and Innovation:* Every day our students have an opportunity to spend time on creative endeavors. This might include executing a design plan on a sewing machine or in the wood shop, or even trying out a new creative writing style. Students are expected to plan for and document this time which allows them to build a variety of skills, improve on previous creative attempts, and reflect on their process. Given the time and space to freely express themselves and explore their ideas and theories, students learn the importance of adding creative detail to everything they do.

*Problem Solving and Critical Thinking:* An important quality we see in our students is the ability to identify and solve problems. Problems generated by collaborators are relevant and meaningful to students, and relate to their daily lives. We also encourage our students to engage in inquiry about issues that are important to them personally. They are eager and motivated to affect positive change, both within their own community and the world at large. When thinking about any type of problem, students ask questions to guide their learning and to gain a deep understanding of the issue at hand. This allows them to see things from a variety of perspectives, and effectively come up with some possible solutions. Students are encouraged to try old strategies, create new ones, and document their problem solving work. Our students reflect critically on field studies, expert visits, project work, and other learning experiences.

*Finding and Evaluating Information:* Our students learn how to research topics to further their own learning, how to organize that learning and how to share that learning. Students are expected to become experts on a topic of their choice and develop the skills to teach what they've learned to their peers. These are skills that will not only prepare them for the upper grades and college, but also for the real world. Because their work is purposeful and personally relevant, our students are intrinsically motivated to work both hard and deliberately.

*Communication and Collaboration:* We know that the abilities to read and write are the most important tools in the acquisition and sharing of learning, but why stop there? Our students also learn how to teach, present, record, and visually communicate their learning, ideas and opinions. We also emphasize the importance of learning to work effectively in a collaborative group. These collaborative experiences nurture leadership, the ability to delegate, respect for others, and an awareness of personal strengths and responsibility.

*Social and Emotional Development:* We strongly believe that emotional and social intelligence is vital to academic, professional and personal success. Students learn to identify and articulate their feelings and needs, and to allow others to do the same. Through in-depth personal identity and multicultural study, our students become self-aware and tolerant individuals. Empathy is nurtured as students identify their own strengths and values, and use them to help others.

Collaborators complete written evaluations based on these competencies during the 2nd and 4th Quarter of the year. The evaluation serves as a tool to guide teachers and parents to provide experiences at both school and home that nurture these competencies.

Students engage in regular written and oral reflection on their work, and collaborators provide consistent 1-on-1 feedback to students on both academic skills and 21st Century skills. Additionally, students maintain portfolios of their work for review with collaborators and parents, and display/reflect on work of their choosing at each Exposition Night.

## SCHOOL HOURS

**Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
With Early Release on Wednesdays \***

Early care available beginning at 8:00 a.m, included in tuition.

Optional aftercare available 5 days/week for additional fee. (Aftercare runs until 5:30 p.m.

M-F, with a 4:30 p.m. pick up option as well. See below for details.)

### \* EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS

**School ends at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesdays** to allow for collaborator planning and meeting time (Returning families, please note: this replaces “Late Start Friday”). *Aftercare is still available on Wednesdays, but costs \$10 more than on other days to account for the extra hour of care.*

## DAILY and WEEKLY SCHEDULES

These schedules guide our day/week but are flexible, except for drop off and pick up times. Schedules are subject to change from day to day according to student and project needs, expert visits and field studies.

### 2nd - 6th Grade Weekly Schedule\*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday - Early Release	Thursday	Friday
8:15-9:30	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE
9:30-10:30	Workshop Sign-Up and Homeroom	Problem Solving	Art/Woodshop (Teacher Planning)	Problem Solving	Homeroom
10:30-10:45	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE	OUTSIDE
10:45-11:45	Problem Solving	Workshop #1	Problem Solving	Workshop #3	Art/Woodshop (Teacher Planning)
11:45-12:45	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH

(cont'd)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday - Early Release	Thursday	Friday
12:45-2:15	EBL (Explore Build Learn)	EBL	Workshop #2	EBL	EBL
2:15-2:30	OUTSIDE / Indoor Play	OUTSIDE / Indoor Play	Workshop #2 cont.	OUTSIDE / Indoor Play	OUTSIDE / Indoor Play
2:30-3:30	Silent Reading	Silent Reading/ Read Aloud	<u>2:30 Reflection Time</u>  <b>EARLY RELEASE at 2:45 p.m.</b>	Silent Reading/ Read Aloud	Silent Reading
3:30-3:45	Reflection Time	Spanish		Spanish	Reflection Time

*\* Schedule subject to change.*

## K-1 Daily Schedule - First month of school

*(Schedule will evolve to best meet students' needs)*

*Snack 9:15*

*Read a book*

*Circle time: 30 min*

*Song*

*Math game*

*Book*

*Outside play (about 1 hour)*

*Circle time: literacy*

*Lunch 11:30-12:00*

*Read aloud (kids can draw) 12:00-12:45*

*Circle time: songs*

*Invitation to play inside 1:00-2:30*

*3 art invitations 2:30-3:15*

*Science invitation 2 x a week*

*Clean up*

*Circle time: music or problem solving*

*Gratitude circle*

## DISCIPLINE

We believe that it is extremely important to support our children emotionally and socially. We provide a safe, connected environment where children are encouraged and learn to express needs and feelings. As collaborators, we model the language of healthy conflict resolution and self-regulation.

We do not use time-outs, punishment, or shaming. Children are required to respect the schoolwide rights and fulfill their responsibilities. For students having consistent problems, a parent conference will be arranged and a plan for improvement will be created.

### **En Lak'esh**

*Tú eres mi otro yo.*

You are my other me.

*Si te hago daño a ti,*

If I do harm to you,

*Me hago daño a mi mismo.*

I do harm to myself.

*Si te amo y respeto,*

If I love and respect you,

*Me amo y respeto yo.*

I love and respect myself.

## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

### ***What to bring:***

Every day, please bring the following items for your child:

- Water bottle labeled with your child's name; VERY important!
- Sun Hat (and umbrella) -- for extra sun protection
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Casual activewear / Clothing you don't mind getting dirty
- Optional/as-needed: labeled sunscreen, labeled medication (see HEALTH & HYGIENE POLICIES for details).

### ***Snacks:***

We eat snack in the morning and in the afternoon. Please send your child with snacks for these times, five days a week. If your child is enrolled in the After School Program, be sure to pack extra snacks for late afternoon, too.

Special Occasion Snacks (birthdays, etc.) are fun for the entire classroom, but may not include soda, candy, or high-sugar snacks. Often we prefer to have special occasion snacks during lunch or the end of the school day. We can use the staff freezer to keep popsicles frozen until shared.

## ***DROP OFF and PICKUP***

The school day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends promptly at 3:45 p.m. Please bring your child to school on time and pick up your child on time. After Drop-off and before Pick Up, the IDEA School gate will be closed and locked. If you need to pick up early, please let your Collaborator know that morning at drop-off, or call the school phone, 589-4933, and let us know what time you'll be arriving.

If your child is staying home sick or will otherwise be absent, or if you need to arrive late (e.g. doctor's appointment), **please email your child's Collaborator and David as soon as you can** to let us know the plan. You can also call or text us on the school cell phone, 589-4933. For extended absences such as out-of-town trips, please email both your child's Collaborator and co-directors David and Jaime with your plan.

**NEW ENTRANCE:** Please use the new walking path on the south side of the Admin building to enter the IDEA School through the gate for all drop-offs and pick-ups at the normal drop-off/pick up times. If dropping off late, or picking up early, use the high school's Front Office and call the school phone when you arrive so David can come get you.

Anyone needing ADA accessibility to enter the IDEA School will continue to use the high school's Front Office, and proceed through the center hallway to our main classroom. *All families should use the Front Office in case of inclement weather.*

**Signing In:** Once in the main classroom (2nd-6th grade room), sign your child in on the appropriate Sign-In Clipboard (**K-1 or 2-6**), which can be found on top of the student cubbies as soon as you enter.

Once your child has set his/her things down in their cubby, we'd like all **2nd-6th graders** to head out to the Wash, through the gate on the west side of campus, where two or more of our collaborators will be supervising free outside play every morning.

**For K-1 students:** If you get here between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., sign your child in, have them leave their things on top of the cubbies or just outside the door to the central courtyard, and take them out to the Wash to where the kids are playing. If you get here after 8:30, direct them to Adrienne in the center courtyard area.

## PICK-UP AUTHORIZATIONS

Only those grown-ups listed on your child's current Registration/Emergency Contact Form are authorized to pick up your child from school. If there is anyone else you'd like to also authorize to pick up your child, please email the specifics, including the person's name, relationship to you/your child, and their best phone number, to [info@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:info@explorebuildlearn.org), with Subject Line: "**Authorized to Pick Up [Child's Name]**" and cc your child's Collaborator as well.

Any adult unknown to IDEA School staff will be asked to produce a photo I.D. and may be asked to wait in the front office until we can contact you to verify his or her status.

## LATE PICKUP; FEES

Pick-up is at 3:45 p.m. on M, T, Th, and Fri. Pick up is at 2:45 on Wednesdays (Early Release).

If you are not enrolled for after-care, *have not arranged for drop-in aftercare*, and you arrive for pick up after 4:00 p.m (or 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays), you will be charged a Late Pickup Fee. Late Pickup Fees are as follows:

### **MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY (School ends at 3:45):**

Arrive between 4:00 and 4:15:	\$15 fee/student
Arrive between 4:15 and 4:30:	\$20 fee/student
Arrive after 4:30:	\$25 fee/student

### **WEDNESDAYS: (Early Release; School ends at 2:45):**

Arrive between 3:00 and 3:15:	\$15 fee/student
Arrive between 3:15 and 3:45:	\$20 fee/student
Arrive after 3:45:	\$25 fee/student

## DROP-IN AFTERCARE; RATES

Any family needing drop-in aftercare is welcome to sign up the same day. You **MUST** notify the school by call or text message **by 3:30 p.m.** indicating your need for aftercare that day. Please use the new school cell phone, (520) 589-4933, to notify us. Text Message preferred.

**Drop-in Aftercare Rates:****M/T/Th/F:** \$15 flat fee; care up to 5:30 p.m.**Wednesdays:** \$12 for care until 3:45 p.m.; \$19 until 4:30; \$25 until 5:30 p.m.

**Going home with another student or with a different ride:** If it is necessary for a student to go home with another student or with a different ride, written notice from the parent to David and Jaime is required (Text message (520) 589-4933 or Email David and Jaime; Note on the Sign-In Clipboard that morning also works). In the event of an emergency, please call the main number, (520) 589-4933, as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that messages received at the end of the school day will be delivered in a timely manner.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Often, school staff and parent volunteers will take students on field trips. Parents must have completed the **Field Trip Consent** that was included in the **2016-17 Registration Packet**, which authorizes field trips on a regular basis. On these trips we will travel by bus and foot, as well as by personal vehicles driven by collaborators and parent volunteers, and occasionally by chartered van driven by collaborators.

**COMMUNICATING WITH COLLABORATORS**

Your collaborators are committed to working together with you to provide the best possible education for your child, and part of this is healthy two-way communication. That said, collaborators are not available to receive calls or respond to text messages during the school day. If you have a quick logistical matter you need your collaborator(s) to know, you should call or text the school's cell phone, 520-589-4933, and they will get the message.

*If you'd like to discuss a more substantive matter, please email your collaborator(s) at their [explorebuiltlearn.org](mailto:explorebuiltlearn.org) email address.* Be sure to let them know if you'd like to schedule a time to have a face-to-face or phone meeting. As a special note, please keep in mind that our collaborators' cell phones are their personal phones, and that their time outside of teaching and planning is extremely limited. Please help us keep our collaborators and staff healthy and sane by respecting their personal time and utilizing email as much as possible. Thank you.

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent/Student/Collaborator Conferences will take place in September and again in February. On these dates school will end early, at 12:30 p.m., to allow time for these 30-minute conferences with all families. **There is no aftercare program on these dates;** however, special arrangements can be made for families that have no other option for after-school care on these dates. Please call David.

*September 15 & 16*                      *Parent/Student/Collaborator Conferences (school ends @12:30)*

*February 9 & 10*                        *Parent/Student/Collaborator Conferences (school ends @12:30)*

Closer to the dates, Collaborators will pass out a sign-up sheet for their classroom/homeroom. Parents sign up for the slot of your choice, first-come-first-served.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We believe that one of the greatest strengths of any school is its community of families, and we offer families the opportunity to participate in the life of the IDEA School in any and all ways that make sense for the school and the family. Outside of joining a Work Day, there is no volunteer requirement, but we strongly encourage and appreciate all volunteering!

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to participate in the **Parent Club**, which meets according to the schedule determined each year by its members, and may take on any activities it deems appropriate to help the school increase its presence in the community, raise funds, support collaborators, etc.

Parents/Guardians are also welcome at the school during school hours. We encourage you to volunteer! If you wish to volunteer at the school for 1-3 hours a week, please make arrangements with either Jaime (for classroom volunteering) or David (for front office/admin volunteering). We will work with you to find the volunteer job that's right for you and best supports our students and staff! Classroom volunteers are supervised by teachers, who all have fingerprint clearance; at no time are volunteers allowed to be alone with children unsupervised.

Parents/Guardians may also help the school in other ways, ranging from help with development of a new funding opportunity to organizing an IDEA School Table at a community event, to helping with building and grounds maintenance, to being an expert visitor, to serving on our volunteer Board of Directors (see David if interested). We are eager to hear your ideas for how you'd like to be involved!

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### ***Medication:***

We shall administer prescription and over-the-counter medication to a child *only if* directed in writing/authorized by a parent or guardian. Parents/guardians must fill out a detailed Medication Administration Form (we will provide) and provide medication in its original container, labeled with the child's name. All medications are stored outside the classrooms in a locked cabinet in a staff-only area.

### ***Sun Protection:***

We go outdoors on a daily basis. To prevent sun damage, bring your child's sun hat and apply sunscreen to your child before school begins. If you want sunscreen reapplied, please inform your child's collaborators and bring sunscreen labeled with your child's name. We keep sunscreen out of the reach of children.

### ***Fire Drills:***

Once a month we engage in a Fire Drill to ensure that all students know how to safely exit the building in case of a fire. Staff ensure accountability for all students in case of any evacuation.

### ***Accidents & Incidents:***

In the event of an accident resulting in an injury to your child that prevents them from engaging in regular activities, you shall be notified. If your child is unable to continue to participate in normal activities due to injury or illness, we will contact you to come pick him/her up. If the injury does not require first aid, we will show you an “ouch report” at pickup time or send you an email detailing what happened and how it was resolved.

If a serious accident or injury occurs, you shall be notified, appropriate first-aid shall be administered, and a physician or hospital shall be contacted immediately. Please ensure that your child’s Emergency Contact Form is current and accurate..

### **HEALTH & SAFETY ADDENDUM**

We are working with one of our parents, Amber Villafane, RN, on creating and implementing a more comprehensive Health & Safety Plan for the school. Stay tuned for more information.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The afterschool program runs from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 2:45 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays (Early Release).

It is overseen by IDEA School staff, with the potential involvement of specially screened Changemaker High School students as well. We provide time and space for structured and unstructured play, both indoors and outside.

Students may participate for one, two, three, four, or five days a week, depending on family need.

**Please let David know at the beginning of each month which days/weeks you want aftercare.** Aftercare fees are billed monthly, for the upcoming month, and are based on the number of days/weeks of participation needed.

### *Aftercare Fees:*

If signed up *ahead of time* (ie. the beginning of each month), aftercare costs are:

#### **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays:**

\$6/day for care extending until 4:30 p.m.; or

\$12/day for care extending until 5:30 p.m.

#### **Wednesdays (Early Release @ 2:45 p.m.):**

\$10/day until 3:45 p.m.; or

\$16/day until 4:30 p.m.; or

\$22/day until 5:30 p.m.

### *Drop in/As needed:*

Any family needing drop-in aftercare is welcome to sign up the same day. You **MUST** notify the school by call or text message **by 3:30 p.m.** indicating your need for aftercare that day. Please use the new school number, (520) 589-4933, to notify us. Text Message preferred.

#### **Drop-in Aftercare Rates:**

**M/T/Th/F:** \$15 flat fee; care up to 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** \$12 for care until 3:45 p.m.; \$19 until 4:30; \$25 until 5:30 p.m.

## TUITION SCHEDULE

### 2016-17 School Year

**TUITION:** Full Posted Tuition for the 2016-17 School Year is \$6,240.00, and is due, payable to “The IDEA School,” as follows:

DATE	AMOUNT DUE - Full Tuition (Your Adjusted Tuition can be found on your Financial Aid letter )	LATE FEE (if tuition not received by the 7th of the month, excepting August and holidays)
08/10/16	\$624.00	\$20
09/01/16	\$624.00	\$20
10/01/16	\$624.00	\$20
11/01/16	\$624.00	\$20
12/01/16	\$624.00	\$20
01/01/17	\$624.00	\$25
02/01/17	\$624.00	\$25
03/01/17	\$624.00	\$25
04/01/17	\$624.00	\$25
05/01/17	\$624.00	\$25

Except for August, tuition payments are due on the 1st of the month. If the 1st falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due on the next business day.

### ***Tax Credit Donations:***

The IDEA School is a qualified independent school in the **Arizona Private School Tuition Tax Credit Programs**, which can help families offset some or all of their tuition expenses with tax credit donations from individuals and corporations. See David for details, as well as our Financial Aid page and AZ Tax Credit page:

<http://www.explorebuildlearn.org/apply/tuition-and-financial-aid>

<http://www.explorebuildlearn.org/az-tuition-tax-credit>

### ***Financial Aid:***

More than 75% of our students attend on need-based aid. During the spring, we will ask you to complete the Financial Aid application for the following school year, if you are requesting financial aid. The qualification for financial aid, and the determination of the financial aid

amounts, will be determined on an annual basis, in consultation with individual families and approved by the IDEA School Board of Directors.

If your family's financial circumstances change during the year, we ask that you please let us know so we can work with you to continue to make an IDEA School education work with your family's finances.

## FEES:

Following are the Fees for 2016-17:

**Registration Fee** for New students \$50; or

**Re-enrollment Fee** for Continuing students \$25

**Quarterly Field Trip Fee \*** \$20/quarter

*Covers all transportation, admissions, and related field trip expenses*

**Quarterly Materials & Supplies Fee \*** \$25/quarter

*Helps cover consumable individual & classroom materials and supplies*

\* *You will receive an invoice for Quarterly Fees totaling \$45/qtr -- Field Trip Fee and Materials/Supplies Fee lumped together -- on or around the following dates:*

*August 15, 2016;*

*October 17, 2016;*

*January 9, 2017; and*

*March 27, 2017*

If these fees present a hardship, please let David know. Any questions should be directed to David at [david@explorebuildlearn.org](mailto:david@explorebuildlearn.org) or (520) 310-3919.

## 30-DAYS' NOTICE -- TUITION OBLIGATION

**We require 30-days' notice if you choose to withdraw your child before the end of the academic year;** your tuition obligation continues during this period.

We understand that sometimes families need to make a different choice. However, for us to successfully meet our obligations to our teachers, staff, landlord and others, we must ensure predictable revenues and time to make necessary adjustments. Therefore, should you choose to leave mid-year, for any reason, **you will be responsible for one month's tuition (prorated) following the date you notify the directors of your decision.** David will send you a final invoice covering this final tuition obligation. Payment is requested within 30 days. Should you require a payment plan, you must request one in writing (email to David) and we will work with you to create one.

# IDEA School

## 2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 8	First Day for Students
<b>August 25 (Thurs), 5:30-6:30p.m.</b>	<b>*NEW* Back-to-School Open House/General Info Mtg</b>
September 5	Labor Day (no school)
September 15 & 16	Parent/Collaborator Conferences (school ends @12:30)
Friday, October 7	Teacher Planning Day (no school)
<b>October 10-14</b>	<b>Fall Break (coincides with TUSD)</b>
October 24-28	Costume Week
November 4	*NEW* Grandparents & Special Friends Day!
November 11	Veteran's Day (no school)
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Recess (no school)
December TBA	Exposition Night #1
Friday, December 23	Teacher Planning Day (no school)
<b>December 26 - January 6</b>	<b>Winter Break (coincides with TUSD)</b>
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no school)
February 9 & 10	Parent/Collaborator Conferences (school ends @12:30)
February 23-24	Rodeo Break (no school)
Friday, March 10	Teacher Planning Day (no school)
<b>March 13-17</b>	<b>Spring Break (coincides with UofA)</b>
March 20-24	*NEW* Wheel Week! (school in session)
Friday, April 14	*NEW* Spring Holiday (no school; coincides with TUSD)
May TBA	Exposition Night #2
May 26	Last Day for Students

## FAMILY WORK DAYS AND PICNICS!

Saturday, July 30	5-7pm	All Family Picnic -- Catalina Park (4th Ave)
Sunday, July 31	8am-1pm	All Family Work Day
<b>Saturday, August 27</b>	<b>8-11am</b>	<b>*NEW* Family Work Day (alternate)</b>
Saturday, September 17	5-7 pm	All Family Picnic -- Brandi Fenton Park, Ramada E
Saturday, October 22	8am-1pm	All Family Work Day and BBQ (coincides with United Way Days of Caring)
Saturday, January 21	11am-1pm	All Family Picnic (location TBA)
Saturday, April 22	11am-1pm	All Family Picnic (location TBA)

**NOTE:** Dates subject to change. Please visit [www.explorebuildlearn.org](http://www.explorebuildlearn.org) for the latest updates.