



May 18, 2021

Dear Families,

We are so excited to let you know that _____
will be one of our new Kindergarten Academy Stars! On behalf of the
entire Academy School community, we welcome you and are looking
forward to working together with you to begin your journey through
elementary school!

Each year our kindergarten students enter school with a diverse range of
experiences, eagerly ready to absorb everything Kindergarten has to
offer. It is such an amazing year filled with growth and learning.
Adventure, exploration, discovery, creativity and academically rigorous
experiences are what we are committed to providing our kindergarten
students, so as to inspire a lifelong love for learning. We work together
as a team to build a positive environment that promotes physical and
emotional safety. We are committed to making children feel comfortable
enough to take risks and stretch their thinking to reach their fullest
potential.

At Academy School, your child will also participate in Forest Kindergarten.
What is Forest Kindergarten? Forest Kindergarten is a chance for young
children to play and explore in nature, and interact with each other in
genuine and spontaneous ways. Your child will go out to the woods on our
school property and be given time for free play and exploration on a
regular basis. Why? Forest Kindergarten has been shown to have many
benefits such as “an increased sense of respect and care for the

environment, improved communication and cooperative social skills, as well as better problem solving skills (O'Brien & Murray, 2006) and "increased motivation for school which has resulted in better math and reading scores (Gesell Institute, "Role of Play." 2010.) Since we have begun our forest kindergarten program at Academy School, we have been amazed by the pure joy, ingenuity, and cooperation that has resulted. We are so excited to have your children join us in this adventure!

There are many ways to be involved in the Academy Community:

- Join our closed facebook group at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Academyschool>
- Read our biweekly newsletter, [The Academy Caller](#)
- Come play on the playground and explore the nature trails after school or on the weekends!
- Join the Leadership Council and PTO "Academy Community Together (ACT)" on the second Thursday of each month, from 5:30-7:00-pm
- Attend the WSESD School Board meeting on May 25th for the Academy School presentation
- Don't forget to check out our virtual [Teddy Bear Tea](#) on May 21st!

Due to a larger than usual enrollment, we will be working throughout May and June to ensure that the Kindergarten classes are balanced and can support all learners. You will be notified in early August of your child's teacher.

See you soon!

Kelly Dias, Principal

Ellen Nam, K Teacher

Maureen Parzych, K
Teacher

Jon Sessions, Asst.
Principal

Emily Marker, K Teacher