A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Camino Montessori School Calendar

2012-2013

School Hours: 8:30a-3:30p
Early Release Mondays at 2:30p

August 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August	
3	Greet the Teacher
6	First Day
27	Professional Devel. Day--School Closed
September	
3	Labor Day--School Closed
October	
8-12	Fall Break--School Closed
29-31	Fall Conferences
November	
12	Veteran's Day--School Closed
22-23	Thanksgiving Break--School Closed
December	
24- Jan 4	Winter Break--School Closed
January	
7	School Resumes
21	Martin Luther King Day--School Closed
February	
18	President's Day--School Closed
March	
4-6	Spring Conferences
11-15	Spring Break--School Closed
18	Professional Devel. Day--School Closed
April	
1	School Recess--School Closed
15-19	Assessment Week
May	
24	Last Day Students--Early Release
27	Memorial Day
28	Last Day Teachers

Proposed calendar pending approval

In order to create our first academic calendar for the 2012-2013 start-up year, we consulted many school examples, and narrowed our samples to the 2012-2013 calendar of Maricopa Unified School District, and the 2011-2012 calendars of three Maricopa charter schools; Legacy Traditional, Pathways Academy, and Leading Edge Academy. We also considered calendar samples from Legacy Montessori (a local preschool we are collaborating with), and Keystone Montessori (the closest Montessori charter school in the Ahwatukee Foothills area).

We extracted all of the common holidays, looked at how each school plans for professional development time, how early release time was used, and for what purpose; we looked at their conference and reporting schedules, and also when and how assessment cycles were scheduled. Finally, we calculated each school's total number of instruction days to get a sense of the range.

We had several considerations we were mindful of as we completed this section. First, we considered our families, their schedules, and the possibility of having one, or more, siblings in other schools, so we set our arrival/dismissal times, our holidays and breaks, and our in-service days to align with other schools in the area as best as we could. Due to our collaborative relationship with Legacy Montessori Preschool, we also aligned our calendar with their calendar. The school day is proposed to begin at 8:30 a.m. for all students. Dismissal for the ½ day Kindergarteners is at 12:00 p.m., and at 3:30 p.m. for full day Kindergarten and 1st-3rd grade students (Monday is early release at 2:30 p.m.).

We wanted to ensure that we devoted ample time for our first year of staff professional development, and we have planned for 2 full days of in-service time, during which the school will be closed, and may add 1 more day before our final calendar is adopted. For our start-up year these days will be used to support our focus on curricular alignment with state and national standards and requirements. (See PMP for further details.) In addition, we planned our early release schedule to allow for necessary meetings, conferences, opportunities for collaboration, and time for teachers to prepare and/or adapt their classroom environments to best meet student needs.

Our proposed calendar indicates 181 days of instruction which exceeds the minimum requirement as stipulated in A.R.S. 15-341/01. As noted in the chart at the end of this section ½ day Kindergarteners will receive 633.5 hours of instruction per year, which exceeds the legal minimum of 356 hours by 277.5 hours. The full day Kindergarten and 1st-3rd grade students will receive 1,054 hours of instruction per year exceeding the legal minimum of 712 hours by 342 hours.

Camino Montessori will offer two opportunities for formal conference meetings during the school year; however, teachers and staff will be available for meetings upon parent request and/or need.

Camino Montessori believes that parent understanding and support of their child's learning process is a critical element for the success of the child and our school. Because the Montessori instructional methods "look different" than more traditional approaches, it is even more important that the adults in the child's life understand these differences and why they work for children. As such, we believe that conferences and classroom observations are pieces of the on-going 'parent education' process.

Our trained Montessori teachers will continually observe and share observations—both formal and informal—with parents. During each conference cycle parents will be provided with a written progress report regardless of whether or not schedule a conference meeting.

As a prerequisite to scheduling/attending a conference Camino Montessori parents will be required to complete a minimum 1-hour observation of their child in the classroom prior to each conference cycle. Conferences are viewed as a time for students to share and celebrate their growth and progress with their parents and teachers by reviewing their portfolios and collectively setting new learning goals, and parent observations provide a more in-depth knowledge and appreciation for their child's learning environment.

Camino Montessori will implement an "in-house" assessment process in order to establish and monitor student 'benchmarks' in the core academic skill areas (e.g., math and reading). We will also comply with all ADE assessment requirements and cycles (e.g., AZELLA, AIMS, and Stanford 10).

Proposed Weekly Schedule & Instruction Time for K-3rd Grades

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30a-12:00p (3.5 hrs/210 min)	8:30a-12:00p (3.5 hrs/210 min)	8:30a-12:00p (3.5 hrs/210 min)	8:30a-12:00p (3.5 hrs/210 min)	8:30a-12:00p (3.5 hrs/210 min)
Kindergarten-3rd grade--*CORE ACADEMICS (e.g., Mathematics, Language Arts, Cultural Studies)*				
12:00p	12:00p	12:00p	12:00p	12:00p
½ day Kindergarten *DISMISSAL*				
12:00p-1:00p (1 hr/60 min)	12:00p-1:00p (1 hr/60 min)	12:00p-1:00p (1 hr/60 min)	12:00p-1:00p (1 hr/60 min)	12:00p-1:00p (1 hr/60 min)
Full day K—3rd grade *LUNCH/RECESS or PHYSICAL EDUCATION*				
1:00p-2:30p (1.5 hrs/90 min)	1:00p-3:30p (2.5 hrs/150 min)	1:00p-3:30p (2.5 hrs/150 min)	1:00p-3:30p (2.5 hrs/150 min)	1:00p-3:30p (2.5 hrs/150 min)
Full day Kindergarten-3rd grade-- *CORE ACADEMICS (e.g., Mathematics, Language Arts, Cultural Studies)*				
2:30p EARLY DISMISSAL	*3:30p DISMISSAL*	*3:30p DISMISSAL*	*3:30p DISMISSAL*	*3:30p DISMISSAL*
Total Core Academics **½ day K = 3.5 hrs/210 min** **Full day K-3rd grade =5 hrs/300 min**	***Total Core Academics*** ***½ day K = 3.5 hrs/210 min*** ***Full day K-3rd grade =6 hrs/360 min***	***Total Core Academics*** ***½ day K = 3.5 hrs/210 min*** ***Full day K-3rd grade =6 hrs/360 min***	***Total Core Academics*** ***½ day K = 3.5 hrs/210 min*** ***Full day K-3rd grade =6 hrs/360 min***	***Total Core Academics*** ***½ day K = 3.5 hrs/210 min*** ***Full day K-3rd grade =6 hrs/360 min***

Daily totals for instruction in core academics are shown in the table above. Part time Kindergarteners receive an average of 3.5 hours or 210 minutes of academic instruction each day, and full time Kindergarten-3rd grade students receive 5 hours or 300 minutes of core academic instruction on Monday, and 6 hours or 360 minutes of core academic instruction Tuesday-Friday.

Our philosophy and method differs from a more traditional approach to scheduling instruction time in that we do not segment the days into academic blocks, but rather approach the delivery of lessons in a more fluid and individualized manner. We believe that children learn best when they are given large blocks of uninterrupted time several days per week to delve deeper into subjects they are interested in, as well as ample time to practice and master core skills such as math and language.

Our Montessori teachers are extremely well trained in observation skills, and continually ensure that students are progressing by monitoring their daily work, work plans, and lessons. Students receive all of the necessary lessons in core academics either individually or in small groups. This approach allows those students who need more time and/or instruction to move at a slower pace, and those that are ready to move on the freedom to do so. Our teachers will track student progress and lessons on a daily and weekly basis by conferring with students, monitoring their daily/weekly work plans, observing and recording their progress both anecdotally and digitally via written records and the MRX classroom software specifically designed to track student progress & mastery in both Montessori curricular lessons and Common Core Standards. By using this approach students are active participants in their learning process and can track their own progress towards obtaining specific learning objectives.

A.R.S. 15-341.01 & A.R.S. 15-901: # Days & Hours (h)/Minutes (m) Per Week/Month							
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	# Early Release Days	Total Days
AUGUST 2012	---	*5 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*4 days*	*3 days*	*19 days*
½ day Kinder	---	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	14 h/840 m	---	*66.5 h/3990 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	---	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	24 h/1440 m	---	*111 h/6660 m*
SEPTEMBER 2012	---	*4 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*3 days*	*19 days*
½ day Kinder	---	14 h/840 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	*66.5 h/3990 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	---	24 h/1440 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	---	*111 h/6660 m*
OCTOBER 2012	*5 days*	*Fall Break*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*3 days*	*4 days*	*18 days*
½ day Kinder	17.5 h/1050 m	---	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	10.5 h/630 m	---	*63 h/3780 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	29 h/1740 m	---	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	17 h/1020 m	---	*104 h/6240 m*
NOVEMBER 2012	*2 days*	*5 days*	*4 days*	*3 days*	*5 days*	*3 days*	*19 days*
½ day Kinder	7 h/420 m	17.5 h/1050 m	14 h/840 m	10.5 h/630 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	*66.5 h/3990 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	12 h/720 m	29 h/1740 m	24 h/1440 m	17 h/1020 m	29 h/1740 m	---	*111 h/6660 m*
DECEMBER 2012	---	*5 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*Winter Break*	*3 days*	*15 days*
½ day Kinder	---	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	---	*52.5 h/3150 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	---	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	---	---	*87 h/5220 m*
JANUARY 2013	*Winter Break*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*4 days*	*4 days*	*3 days*	*18 days*
½ day Kinder	---	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	14 h/840 m	14 h/840 m	---	*63 h/3780 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	---	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	24 h/1440 m	23 h/1380 m	---	*105 h/6300 m*
FEBRUARY 2013	*1 day*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*4 days*	*5 days*	*3 days*	*19 days*
½ day Kinder	3.5 h/210 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	14 h/840 m	14 h/840 m	---	*66.5 h/3990 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	6 h/360 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	24 h/1440 m	23 h/1380 m	---	*111 h/6660 m*
MARCH 2013	*1 day*	*5 days*	*Spring Break*	*4 days*	*5 days*	*2 days*	*15 days*
½ day Kinder	3.5 h/210 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	14 h/840 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	*52.5 h/3150 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	6 h/360 m	29 h/1740 m	---	24 h/1440 m	29 h/1740 m	---	*88 h/5280 m*
APRIL 2013	*4 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*2 days*	*4 days*	*21 days*
½ day Kinder	14 h/840 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	7 h/420 m	---	*73.5 h/4410 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	24 h/1440 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	11 h/660 m	---	*122 h/7320 m*
MAY 2013	*3 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*5 days*	*Summer Break*	*4 days*	*18 days*
½ day Kinder	10.5 h/630 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	17.5 h/1050 m	---	---	*63 h/3780 m*
Full time Kinder-3rd grade	18 h/1080 m	29 h/1740 m	29 h/1740 m	28 h/1740 m	---	---	*104 h/6240 m*

Totals ½ day Kinder

Days = 181

Hours =633.5

Minutes =38,010

Totals Full time K-3rd *grade*

Days =181

Hours =1,054

Minutes =63,240