A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

COMPLIANCE WITH A.R.S. §15-341.01 and A.R.S. §15-901

The 2011-2012 Greenhouse Montessori School (GMS) year will begin on August 8, 2011 and end May 24, 2012. First and second graders will receive 1,092 instructional hours during 180 days, exceeding the minimum required 1,068 hours during 180 days. Kindergartners will receive 450 instructional hours during 180 days, exceeding the minimum required 356 hours during 180 days. GMS kindergartners will receive 2.5 hours of instruction per day and GMS students in grades 1-2 will receive 6.25 hours of instruction 4 days per week and 5.5 hours of instruction (early release) one day per week. This schedule is in full compliance with A.R.S. §15-901 and A.R.S. §15-341.01.

As much as possible, the GMS calendar follows the same schedule as the surrounding Gilbert and Mesa school districts so that families with older children in other schools will have the same vacation days. Like GMS, some of the neighboring public schools also employ a pattern of early release days on Wednesdays to accommodate faculty and staff development. The calendar allows for week long breaks in October and March and a longer break in late December through early January, these match the neighboring Gilbert and Mesa School Districts. Following the Montessori tradition, parents will be expected to come in to the school for in-depth parent/teacher conferences twice a year, scheduled here for October and March.

The elementary school children will arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the preschool, toddler and kindergarten students to avoid congestion in the parking lot. GMS will also offer after and before school care to families with working parents. We believe this schedule will serve the target population nicely.

When the School Board is fully formed, it will conduct a public meeting to discuss and vote on the adoption of HB 2725, which includes a 30 minute, daily, structured exercise period for students K-5th grade. Should this policy be adopted, the School Board may also consider adjusting the daily schedule such that academics are not compromised.

DAILY INSTRUCTIONAL MINUTES

Greenhouse Montessori School 1-2 graders will receive 375 minutes of instructional time four days each week and 330 minute on one day of each week, totaling 1830 minutes per week. GMS kindergartners will receive 150 minutes of instructional time per day, totaling 750 minutes per week.

2011 – 2012 GMS WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Weekly instructional Time, 1-3 Grade, 1830 minutes (30 hrs, 30 min)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Attendance	7:55am	7:55 am	7:55 am	7:55 am	7:55 am
Core Academics	8:00 - 11:00	8:00 – 11:00	8:00 – 11:00	8:00 – 11:00	8:00 – 11:00
Lunch & Recess	11:00-12:00	11:00-12:00	11:00-12:00	11:00-12:00	11:00-12:00
Core Academics	12:00-3:15	12:00-3:15	12:00-2:30	12:00-3:15	12:00-3:15
Dismissal	3:15pm	3:15 pm	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	3:15 pm
Total Daily Academic Time	375 minutes (6.25 hrs)	375 minutes (6.25 hours)	330 minutes (5.5 hours)	375 minutes (6.25 hours)	375 minutes (6.25 hours)

Weekly instructional Time, Kindergarten, 750 minutes (12 hrs, 30 min)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Attendance	8:25am	8:25am	8:25am	8:25am	8:25am
Academic Work	8:30 – 11:00	8:30 – 11:00	8:30 – 11:00	8:30 – 11:00	8:30 – 11:00
Dismissal	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am
Total Daily Academic Time	150 minutes (2.5 hrs)	150 minutes (2.5 hrs)	150 minutes (2.5 hrs)	150 minutes (2.5 hrs)	150 minutes (2.5 hrs)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE RATIONALE

It would not be in alignment with the Montessori philosophy to assign specific blocks of time throughout the day for specific core academics. The Montessori Method encourages fluid movement through the subject areas by each child individually. In order to ensure that each child is receiving a well-rounded educational experience, GMS teachers monitor, record and digitally track each student's work daily and review activity reports at least weekly to guide and redirect the children to areas that may need more attention. MRX classroom software designed specifically for the Montessori setting will be used to record and gauge the amount of time each child devotes to each core academic area. The MRX software is currently being used in the existing preschool with great success.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Teachers and aides will arrive 5 days prior to the opening of school for professional development, training and room readiness. The teachers will stay one day after students leave in May to reflect and strategize ways to improve things for next year and to close out their rooms. Each Wednesday, the children will be dismissed 45 minutes early ('early release') to allow teachers time for teacher prep, school wide meetings and/or individual teacher/director meetings according to the needs of the students and the performance management plan.

2011 – 2012 GMS SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 2011

					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 2011

	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			

16 instructional days (4 ER)

September 2011

				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	

21 instructional days (4 ER)

October 2011

						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					

16 instructional days (5 ER)

November 2011

		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			

19 instructional days (5 ER)

December 2011

				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

14 instructional days (3 ER)

AUGUST

3 - 9 Teacher Prof. Development

10 - Student first day

SEPTEMBER

5 – Labor Day Holiday, no school

OCTOBER

7 - Early Release

10 - 14 Fall break, no school

17 - School resumes

19 - 20 Conferences Early Release

NOVEMBER

11 - Veterans Day, no school

24 - 25 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

16 - Early Release end of semester

21 - Jan 3 Winter Break

JANUARY

2-3 - Winter Break

4 - School resumes

16 - Martin Luther King Day, no school

FEBRUARY

20 - President's Day, no school

MARCH

9 - Early Release Grading day

12 - 16 No school Spring Break

19 - School resumes

21 - 22 Conferences Early Release

APRIL

6 - No school, April Break

MAY

24 - Last day Early Release

25 - Teacher last day

January 2012

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				

19 instructional days (4 ER)

February 2012

			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			

20 instructional days (5 ER)

March 2012

				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

17 instructional days (5 ER)

April 2012

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					

20 instructional days (4 ER)

May 2012

		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		

18 instructional days (5 ER)

June 2012

					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

Annual Instructional Time by Month, Grades 1-3

Month and Year	Number of Early Release Days	Number of Regular Days	Total Number of Instructional Days
Aug 2011	4	12	16
Sept 2011	4	17	21
Oct 2011	5	11	16
Nov 2011	5	14	19
Dec 2011	3	11	14
Jan 2012	4	15	19
Feb 2012	5	15	20
Mar 2012	5	12	17
Apr 2012	4	16	20
May 2012	5	13	18
Total Days	44 days	136 days	180 days
Total Academic Time	242 hours	850 hours	1092 hours

Annual Instructional Time by Month, Kindergarten

Month and Year	Total Number of Instructional Days
Aug 2011	16
Sept 2011	21
Oct 2011	16
Nov 2011	19
Dec 2011	12
Jan 2012	21
Feb 2012	20
Mar 2012	17
Apr 2012	20
May 2012	18
Total Days	180 days
Total Hours	450 hours