

Parent Handbook

School Year: 2025-2026

LOCATIONS

| ALA-Anthem | ALA-Gilbert South | ALA-Mesa | ALA-Signal Butte |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4380 N. Hunt Highway | 1750 E. Riggs Rd. | 4507 S. Mountain Rd. | 22512 S. Signal Butte Rd. |
| Florence, AZ 85132 | Gilbert, AZ 85298 | Mesa, AZ 85212 | Queen Creek, 85142 |
| (480) 344-9800 | (480) 344-9894 | (480) 420-2110 | (480) 344-9893 |
| | | | |
| ALA-San Tan Valley | ALA-Applied Tech | ALA-West Foothills | ALA-Mesa North |
| 34696 N Village Ln | 7729 E. Pecos Rd. | 17608 W. Olive Ave. | 5901 E Thomas Rd. |
| Queen Creek, AZ 85142 | Mesa, AZ 85212 | Waddell, AZ 85355 | Mesa, AZ 85215 |
| (480) 420-2100 | (480) 896-9960 | (623) 288-6240 | |
| | | | |
| ALA-Sierra Vista | ALA-Ironwood | ALA-Vistancia | ALA-Gilbert |
| 3039 Leadership Way | 650 W. Combs Rd | 28800 El Mirage Road | 3155 Santan Village Pkwy |
| Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 | Queen Creek, AZ 85140 | Peoria, AZ 85383 | Gilbert, AZ 85295 |

REGULATION OF FACILITY

Facilities are regulated and/or in compliance with the Arizona Department of Health Services (AzDHS). Any questions or concerns you may have about this or any other child care licensed facility may be addressed to:

Arizona Department of Health Services
Division of Assurance and Licensure Services
Bureau of Health and Child Care Review Services
Office of Child Care Licensure
150 North 18th Avenue Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ 85020-4610

(602) 364-2539 (800) 615-8555 (602) 861-0674 – FAX

The campus' Parent/Student Handbook will apply to any situation or policy not included in this Handbook.

Little Leaders reserves the right to amend this document at any time and without notice.

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ALA Vision

Learn, Lead, Change the world!

ALA Mission

In support of the family, provide the best educational experience to as many students as possible in a moral and wholesome environment.

ALA Values

Little Leaders are taught the RAISE values as part of their learning experience. These universal values are woven into daily lessons across all subject areas and your Little Leader will be encouraged to try hard each day to live up to these values.

PRESCHOOL OFFERING, COSTS AND ELIGIBILITY

| Half Day Options | Days | Times | Price Per Month |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------------|
| AM | MWF | 8:15-11:15 am | \$315.00 |
| AM | MTWTHF | 8:15-11:15 am | \$430.00 |
| PM | MWF | 11:45-2:45 pm | \$315.00 |
| PM | MTWTHF | 11:45-2:45 pm | \$430.00 |
| Full Day Options | Days | Times | Price Per Month |
| Full Day | MTWTHF | 8:15-2:45 pm | \$675.00 |
| Full Day* (At select locations) | MWF | 8:15-2:45 pm | \$450.00 |

^{*}All classes are based on availability and are subject to change. Monthly tuition rates may be adjusted between school years but will remain fixed during the current school year.

Little Leaders welcomes potty-trained students ages 3-5.

- Students must be three years old to enroll in Preschool. Enrollment of three-year-old students will cease after December 31st of each school year.
- Students who turn five prior to May 31st of the previous school year may be enrolled in Pre-K
 upon approval.

REGISTRATION FEE

A non-refundable \$100.00 registration fee is due within 7 days of enrollment. If the registration process is not completed within 7 days, you may be placed on the waitlist.

ENROLLMENT

Families will enroll students using the online application through Infinite Campus. The following documents will be required for registration:

- 1. The child's birth certificate
- 2. The child's record of vaccinations
- 3. Court documents, if applicable
- 4. Proof of residency
- 5. Emergency card must be turned into the campus before school starts.

EARLY RELEASE

On early release days, all students are released 15 minutes before their campus K-6 students are released. AM and PM students may follow an early release schedule depending on your campus.

POTTY TRAINED REQUIREMENTS

All students must be potty-trained before their first day of school. Students are expected to perform all potty-training tasks independently, including communicating the need to use the bathroom, cleaning themselves after going to the bathroom, and dressing themselves. If your child has an accident during school hours, you will be contacted to assist in cleaning and changing your child as needed. Excessive restroom accidents may lead to disenrollment. Re-enrollment may only be considered when the child is fully and independently potty trained.

TUITION AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Our tuition is billed monthly, with the total annual tuition due divided by the number of months in the school year. For example, there are 10 months per school year, and we distribute costs evenly over 10 months, creating 10 equal payments no matter how many days are in a given month, including days off. These include December, March, and October, which include longer school breaks.

Here's a brief breakdown:

- 1. **Total Annual Tuition**: This is the full cost for your child's preschool year.
- 2. Divided by School Months: The total tuition is divided by 10 school months.
- 3. **Monthly Billing:** The result is billed monthly over 10 months, providing a consistent, equal payment schedule.

Monthly payments and all other fees are due on or before the 1st day of the month of service. A late fee of \$35.00 will be assessed for payments received after the 5th of the month. All late fees will be assessed immediately on the 6th of the month and due on the 10th, along with tuition. Other fees may include late tuition payment, late pickup, lunch, apparel, and field trip fees. Failure to pay all fees and tuition before 3 pm on the 10th day of the month may result in disenrollment or withdrawal of the student from the Little Leaders program. To be eligible to reapply, the account must be current, will be subject to the waitlist, and to a new registration fee.

Preschool offerings, costs, and eligibility are subject to change at any time.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT:

- Checks Please make checks payable to American Leadership Academy and mail them to your campus or give the check to the front office staff at your campus. Checks must be in a sealed envelope, and a receipt will be given
- Cash Please provide payment directly to the front office staff and verify receipt by signing the payment log.
- Online payments through Infinite Campus (major credit and debit cards accepted)

RETURNED PAYMENTS

Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF), returned online payments, or returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee per payment returned. You may be required to provide cash, cashier's check or money order for future payment transactions.

<u>REFUND POLICY:</u> Tuition is not refundable and will not be prorated for absences due to illness or vacation. Tuition is not refundable if parents choose to withdraw their child mid-month.

AVAILABLE DISCOUNTS

Military: 10% off monthly fee (must be verified by current military ID)

First Responder: (EMT, Firefighter, Police) 10% off monthly fee (Must be verified by current ID)

ALA (K-12) Sibling: 10% off monthly fee

Prepay Full School Year: 10% off total fee if received by August 31st.

Employee's Children: Check with Site Administrator for further details. (Employment will be verified)

*One discount per family

A late pick-up fee will be charged if preschool children are not picked up within 15 minutes after class dismissal. The site clock determines the late pick-up time.

- □ 16-30 minutes late = \$15.00
- □ 31-45 minutes late = \$30.00
- 46-60 minutes late = \$45.00

Please contact the site if you know you will be late. After 30 minutes late, the site will start contacting parents. The site will call the emergency contacts if the parents cannot be contacted. If there is no answer with any contact, the police will be called.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If tuition payment is ten (10) days late, the child may be withdrawn from the program. Parents may withdraw their children at any time, with notification to the site administrator. Tuition will not be refunded.

^{*}A \$15.00 fee for each pick-up 15 minutes after 60 minutes will be charged.

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

The curriculum is developmental and academic in nature. Although there are universal and predictable sequences in a child's growth and development, each child moves through this development at their own rate. Little Leaders lessons are aligned to the Arizona Early Learning Standards and connected to the Core Knowledge Sequence.

The curriculum resources build early literacy and mathematical foundational skills. It addresses all areas of a child's development, including language, literacy, and communication; social and emotional development; mathematics; science and technology; social studies; physical development and health; fine arts; and approaches to learning.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED

Before your child's first day of school, parents will receive information about the requirements for his/her class, in general all students need to have the following supplies

- Regular-sized backpack with first and last name on it.
- Lunch box (if eating lunch at school) with first and last name on it.
- Water bottle with first and last name on it.
- A complete change of clothes (in a zip-sealed bag) in their backpack at all times with first and last name on it.
- Full Day Students: A blanket and fitted crib sheet to be used for cover at naptime to be sent home for washing each Friday.
- A snack or two, according to the child's teacher's instructions

We ask that students refrain from bringing items from home that are unsafe or distracting.

DRESS CODE & UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- Red, white, navy blue, or ALA polos. A Little Leaders shirt is also acceptable.
- Magnetic school logo pins for preschool are not allowed for safety reasons
- Any color bottoms. Jeans, athletic shorts, and leggings in good condition are allowed.
- Shorts, skirts, or dresses must be no shorter than mid-thigh when standing.
- Girls should wear shorts underneath dresses and skirts.
- Shirts and bottoms should be appropriate size and clean
- Closed-toed shoes are required for safety.
- Hair should be above the collar for boys. Extreme hairstyles are not allowed.

STAFF PERSONNEL

Designated, qualified staff members, including, but not limited to, the Health Aide, Nurse, Administrative Staff, Teacher's Assistants, Substitute Teachers, and Specials Teachers, may assist the Little Leaders classrooms and students with day-to-day duties.

DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE

The Little Leaders discipline plan reflects the Little Leaders R.A.I.S.E. values (Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.) In addition to our values, we use positive discipline to create an environment conducive to learning. Staff facilitates the development of self-control in children by designing classroom environments that emphasize routine and consistency. Staff uses positive guidance techniques such as modeling, natural consequences, encouraging expected behavior, redirecting children to a more acceptable activity, direct teaching of appropriate behavior, positive redirection, setting clear limits, and instruction in problem-solving skills. Staff help children foster respect for self, others, and property. Children are taught to develop skills to help them make appropriate choices and resolve conflicts. Although our program promotes positive reinforcement and redirection, harmful behaviors are not tolerated. Students who repeatedly display physical or verbal aggression toward other classmates or staff members may be disenrolled from the program. Little Leaders emphasizes the importance of working as a team with parents/guardians to help students become successful in their early learning environment and will involve parents/guardians as needed throughout the positive guidance process. Parents should follow the same R.A.I.S.E values when interacting with staff to promote a positive example when working in an educational environment.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Our goal at Little Leaders is to serve as many families and students as possible, including students of all abilities. Our preschool program, however, does not offer special education services to our students, though these services may be available when they move into the public charter program, which begins in Kindergarten. If your preschool child requires special education services, we encourage you to work through other local providers, which may include a local district school to ensure your student accesses the services they need.

DAYS AND HOURS OF ATTENDANCE FOR LITTLE LEADERS PROGRAM

Full Day: 6 1/2 Hour Program

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:15 am-2:45 pm

Half Day: 3 Hour Morning or 3 Hour Afternoon Sessions

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15 am-11:15 am or 11:45 pm-2:45 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:15 am-11:15 am or 11:45 pm-2:45 pm

DAILY SCHEDULE

This list provides a general idea of the daily routine of your child's day. Little Leaders' curriculum is based on a full-day, five-day-a-week program.

FULL DAY PROGRAM

| Meet & Greet | 10 minutes |
|---|---------------|
| Circle Time/Story Time | 25 minutes |
| Learning Centers with Small-Group Instruction | 60 minutes |
| Snack Time | 10 minutes |
| Circle Time/Story Time | 25 minutes |
| Outdoor Time | 25 minutes |
| Lunch | 30 minutes |
| Read Aloud: Children's Choice | 15 minutes |
| Quiet Time | 15-60 minutes |
| Songs and Fingerplays | 10 minutes |
| Circle Time/Story Time | 25 minutes |
| Learning Centers with Responsive Instruction | 30 minutes |
| Outdoor Time | 25 minutes |
| Closing | 10 minutes |

HOLIDAYS/SCHEDULE CHANGES

Little Leaders Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classrooms observe all holidays in accordance with the ALA calendar. Early release days release times differ between campuses, but in most cases, your student will be released 15 minutes before elementary school. Check with your site administrator for more specific information regarding early release days.

DAILY SIGNING IN AND OUT

Students must be signed in and out by a parent, guardian, or another adult specified and approved by the parent or guardian written on the student's Emergency Card. Written permission for pickup by a designated individual must be provided prior to the time of pickup. Designated emergency contacts must present a government-issued photo ID each time a student is checked in or out. As each campus is different, please check and follow your specific campus's drop-off/pick-up procedures. An adult must escort Little Leaders to the designated check-in/check-out area. The elementary school drop off/pick up car line may not be available for preschool-aged students. Little Leaders must be escorted to the designated check in/out area by an adult. We do not offer before and after-school child care services. If your child needs to leave campus at any time, they must be signed out by a parent or guardian. Acceptable signatures include your full name or first initial and full last name. Failure to complete licensing documents correctly may result in a fine.

HEALTH INFORMATION

HAND WASHING

Hand washing is a part of the daily routine in the preschool setting. It not only helps children to remain healthy, but it also promotes a healthy lifestyle. At a minimum, children wash their hands when they enter every day, after using the restroom, and before and after eating a meal or snack.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Parents of children entering the preschool program will need to provide verifiable documentation of immunizations required by law. At time of registration, the registrar will require a copy of your child's immunizations. Your child cannot start at the school until immunizations are on file. When your child has updated immunizations, please provide those to the registrar. Any immunizations received after school starts will need to be shared with the health aide. If you need help in determining if your child requires immunizations, please contact the school health aide. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services Child Care Licensing, the only exemptions allowed for preschool children are for medical or religious reasons. If your child requires an exemption for either of those reasons, please let the school know so you can fill out the appropriate form.

Per A.R.S. §15-871 and A.A.C. §R9-6-701-708, before a child may attend the Little Leaders program, their parent/legal guardian must provide the child's immunization record to school staff. The immunization record is typically given to parents/legal guardians by their doctor or clinic, and must show the date each required vaccine dose was received as well as the signature or stamp of the health care provider.

Acceptable forms of immunization records to enter school include:

- A copy of the Arizona Lifetime Immunization Record.
- A copy of the vaccine administration record from the health care provider.
- A computer-generated immunization record from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS) or from an immunization registry of another state.
- A signed and dated Arizona School Immunization Record -ASIR109R form completed by a school the child has attended (a copy is acceptable).
- An immunization record generated by a school's immunization software system, as long as the school name, school address, school contact person, child's name, child's date of birth, and child's immunization dates are included.
- A signed and dated immunization record or school/child care immunization record from another state.

LITTLE LEADERS IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Authorized school personnel must review each child's immunization record(s) prior to the time of enrollment. Children must obtain required immunization(s) or sign a medical or religious exemption form prior to attending school, or they may be excluded until (s)he is compliant with the requirements. If a child requires more than one dose of a specific type of vaccine, the child may continue to attend school during the minimum interval between doses. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, children who are exempt may be excluded from school until the risk period of exposure ends. Please provide proof of completion of these immunizations to your campus health office as soon as possible.

ILLNESS

Children who are ill or who have had a fever or vomiting in the past 24 hours will not be allowed to remain at school. Students may return to school once they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. If a child becomes sick during the day, the staff will separate the child and give them a place to rest until the child can be picked up. The school staff will call the parents/guardians to pick up the child. If no one can be reached, the staff will call the other authorized persons listed on the emergency card until someone is reached. It is expected that the child will be picked up immediately. If no authorized contacts can be reached in a timely manner, the school may contact emergency services or local law enforcement for assistance.

The Little Leaders program appreciates your cooperation in maintaining a healthy school environment. Please keep your child home from school if they have any of the following symptoms:

Chicken pox

Exclude until all blisters are scabbed over and dry and fever free

24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications

Pink Eye Exclude until completed 24 hours of appropriate treatment and

signs and symptoms greatly reduced

Fifth Disease Exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever

reducing medications

Diarrhea Exclude until no diarrhea, cramping or fever for 24 hours, students

must be able to tolerate a normal diet

Coxsackie virus Exclude until fever free without use of medication and Doctor

note to return (Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease)

Head Lice Exclude until the student has been treated. Before returning, the

student should be examined by trained staff and can return with a visible reduction of nits. Students with live lice present will be

sent home.

Impetigo Exclude as long as untreated sores are present or until sores have

been treated by antibiotics

Flu (Influenza) Exclude until symptoms subside and the individual is fever-free for

24 hours without the use of medication.

Measles (Rubella) Exclude from the time of onset of illness through the 4th day after

rash occurs. Please contact the campus immediately if your child

has been diagnosed with Measles

MRSA Exclude from school if sores cannot be covered and bandage

kept dry and intact

Mumps Exclude until swelling subsides and child is fever free (or 9 days

after the onset of swelling)

Ringworm Cover affected areas and exclude if infected

Rosella Exclude until fever free 24 hours without the use of medication.

Scabies Exclude until treatment has been completed

Strep Throat Exclude for at least 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics and

student is fever-free

Scarlet Fever Exclude for at least 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics and

student is fever-free

Tuberculosis Exclude until written permission to return by Doctor

Whooping Cough Exclude for 5 days and may return with Doctor note

COVID-19 Exclude until student is fever-free without fever-reducing

medications.

MEDICATIONS

Little Leaders does not give any routine medications. Little Leaders can administer rescue EPI-PENS and/or inhalers. Parents will bring the medication with the original box, which includes the prescription label for these medications. Parents/guardians will fill out the medication authorization form which will be kept with the medication. If these emergency medications are used, parents will be contacted immediately, and the dosage will be recorded. If the student is having difficulty breathing or epinephrine is administered, EMS will be called, and the student may be transported to the nearest hospital. Little Leaders staff shall not transport injured or ill students for medical treatment. If your child needs medication throughout the school day, parents/guardians can come to school to give that medication to their child.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Minor injury: Children will receive basic first aid treatment at school, and an email or written notification will be sent to the parents/guardians.

Other injury: First aid will be administered, and the parent/guardian will be notified by telephone to pick up the child for further care. If the parent/guardian cannot be located, a person listed on the emergency card will be called to take the child for further care.

Life-threatening injury: In case of serious accidents, the paramedics will be summoned for treatment. They will advise whether the child should be taken to the nearest hospital or doctor's office by ambulance. Parents/guardians will be notified as quickly as possible.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to update any changes for emergency contacts.

TRANSPORTATION FOR PRESCHOOL

Student transportation is not provided.

FIELD TRIPS

As much as possible, we bring the fun to the classroom. From time to time, there may be off-campus activities, but parents will be responsible for providing transportation, accompanying their student, and then transporting their child when the field trip is completed. When off-site activities are held, additional fees may be required, which will be communicated to parents in advance. All field trip fees need to be paid by the due date to ensure attendance. Field trips may replace the whole school day; please follow your site's information about the trip.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

Lunch - Full Day Students: Students may bring lunch from home or lunch may also be available from the school's food service provider. A monthly school lunch calendar is available online, and will be sent home each month. The school lunch option may be requested the same day, billable daily and payable through Infinite Campus. All lunch fees are due on the first day of the following month.

Snack - Full Day and Half Day Students: Students are required to bring at least one snack each day. Your student's teacher may request that you bring an additional snack for your child as needed.

FOOD FROM HOME

Due to state policy, we can not allow parents to bring food in for celebrations that are high in sugar (i.e. cake, cookies, cupcakes, etc.) Acceptable foods are fruit and/or low-sugar or no-sugar prepackaged items. No food prepared at home is allowed.

PARENT/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

There are a variety of ways you can communicate with your child's teacher. Always feel comfortable in calling either directly to your child's classroom and leaving a voicemail, emailing your teacher, and/or calling the office to leave a message. Staff should contact you within 24 hours of receiving your call/email. If you have a specific question or concern and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them directly to schedule an appointment.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Staff is committed to involving parents in the education of their children. Parents are an integral part of the learning process and a variety of opportunities for parental involvement will be offered throughout the school year.

- Opportunities for parents to learn about our curriculum and developmentally appropriate learning activities for young children will be available.
- We will offer parents the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and personally observe the wonderful activities in which their child participates.
- We will request that parents complete a yearly satisfaction survey so that we can continue to improve in the achievement of our goals.

VISITING THE CLASSROOM

Only persons having a purpose and authorization to be in the classrooms will be allowed access. Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit the classroom and have access to any areas that

their child is receiving services. It will be necessary for you to sign in at the office and get a visitor's badge.

FIRE DRILLS

Unannounced fire drills are practiced on campus by each class at least monthly as required by law.

PESTICIDES

Intention to apply pesticides on the school campus will be posted 48 hours in advance of the pesticide application.

INSURANCE

Documentation of liability insurance coverage is available for review upon request.

INSPECTION REPORTS

Inspection reports of this facility are available upon request.

CHILD FIND

Child Find is a component of the IDEA. Child Find is the ongoing obligation of American Leadership Academy to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services within the enrolled population of the school. Arizona Early Intervention Program ("AzEIP") provides early intervention support and services to families of eligible children by providing children ages birth to three (3) years the support and services to achieve desired outcomes related to the children's needs. Contact AzEIP at 602-532-9960 or complete an online referral at www.azdes.gov/azeip if you have a child 0-3 years of age that you suspect may have a disability. If you have a child aged 3-5, who is not enrolled in kindergarten, contact your local public school to learn about preschool evaluation procedures.

PHOTO RELEASE

When completing your child's application through Infinite Campus, all families will be asked to sign permission on a photo release form for us to take photos or videos of your child. This includes individual pictures, group pictures, pictures for the school newsletter or classroom newsletter, and videos made throughout the day.

That permission may be revoked at any time. If permission is revoked at a later date, the parent must sign a new form indicating that decision.

MEDIA RELEASE FORM ELECTRONIC/PRINT MEDIA

Because of the intense interest in public education, print and electronic media representatives sometimes request to visit schools for stories about programs and current events. In accordance with such activities, district policy requires parental approval be obtained before the media may take close up pictures of students, or use a student's photo in non-school publications. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box whether you will allow your child to be interviewed and photographed by the print and/or electronic media.

District Media: In the interest of promoting the successful programs of the American Leadership Academy and improving outside communications, the district is increasingly using and distributing photographs and video footage of students in our schools. This agreement constitutes permission to use photographs and video footage of the student named below in presentations about our schools, programs, and people which may be distributed to by the American Leadership Academy. All photographs and video footage shall remain the sole property of the American Leadership Academy. I understand that no compensation will be made to me for this use.

World Wide Web & Internet Publishing: The American Leadership Academy recognizes the limitless potential for research, information and communication provided by the Internet and World Wide Web. Therefore, American Leadership Academy encourages the creation of school and district Web pages for publication on the Internet. However, all Web publications are subject to the following terms:

- Student work may be published only as it relates to a curricular-related or school activity.
- All Web page documents may include only students' first names.

Please return this signed page to the ALA Office or Little Leader Teacher.

- No confidential student information shall be published or linked to a Web page, unless authorized by the district.
- No names may be associated with pictures.

| Child's Name (Please print using first and last name): | |
|--|-------|
| Yes, I give permission for my child to participate in anyNo, I do not consent to the School and/or District's use and/or name in various media projects. | , |
| Signature: | Date: |