

2024-2025

Shaw Montessori
Family Guide

Shaw by the letters: A brief overview of the Montessori journey!

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A



Accessing Teachers:

Teachers use various communication methods: email, phone, text, and apps.

Connect with your teacher during Back-to-School Night to find out which method they prefer to keep up to date on everything in your child's classroom.

Athletics:

Shaw offers competitive and club sports. Sports include soccer, softball, basketball, flag football, and volleyball.

6th graders can join clubs.

7th and 8th graders can join competitive teams;

No cost for families.



Attendance:

Your child's attendance not only impacts our school's letter grade, but also their ability to fully engage with the rich Montessori curriculum.

The Arizona Department of Education considers our daily attendance rate when determining our school's letter grade. When your child arrives late or leaves early, it contributes to an increased rate of absenteeism for our entire school community. By prioritizing attendance, we can create a more successful learning environment for all students.

B

Back-to-School Night:

Back-to-school night is a crucial event that takes place at the end of summer. It provides a great chance for parents and teachers to meet and build a strong connection, bridging the gap between school and home. Make sure to stop by the cafeteria to get information on extracurricular activities, before and after school care, PTA, and busing. It's best to leave the kids at home for this one. If you can't make it, be sure to reach out to your teacher.

Birthdays:

To celebrate your student's birthday, collaborate with your teacher to understand if and how birthdays are recognized in the classroom. If your teacher permits snacks or gift bags for birthdays, strive to offer healthy options that do not disrupt the learning environment. Additionally, it is important to communicate with your teacher a few days in advance to coordinate and plan accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation in making birthdays a special and inclusive experience for all students.

Book Fair:

In December, Shaw Middle School students organize a Scholastic Book Fair in the library (Media Center). The funds raised from the fair are used to support educational field trips. At the fair, students have the opportunity to purchase a variety of literary items such as books, journals, posters, and other related merchandise.

Busing:

Shaw Montessori offers transportation services to students residing within the district. To schedule transportation, please coordinate with the Shaw office manager. claire.kooyahoema@phxschools.org

C

Calling Out / Leaving Early

If your child will not be attending school on any given day, please notify their teacher and also contact the front office (602) 257-3914. Part of the educational journey involves managing the health and well-being of your students. Every family will inevitably have to make the decision of whether or not to send a sick child to school. In the event that your child falls ill while at school, please be aware that students are only sent home by Nurse Rose. It is recommended that you save her contact number, 602-257-3900, in your phone so that she can easily reach out to you if necessary. If you have made plans and need your student to leave school early, please inform their teacher in advance. For early pick-ups, you must sign out your student at the front office. To avoid disrupting end-of-day procedures, the latest time for early pick-up is 3:05 on full days and 12:05 on early release days.

Class Talent Show Baskets:

One of the fundraising traditions at the Shaw Talent Show is the class basket raffle. Each class chooses a theme and puts together a basket to be raffled off during the show. Your room parent will send out an email with the class theme so families can donate items to the basket. Students will receive raffle tickets to sell, which can be purchased by filling them out and sending back with cash, or you can buy tickets at the talent show. You don't have to be present at the talent show to win, but the baskets are first come, first served!

Class Snacks:

Make sure to check with your child's teacher to see what they prefer and to get specific instructions. Some teachers might have a sign-up sheet that they give out on back-to-school night, send requests through email, or create a list on signup.com.



D

Differences between grade levels

At Shaw, we have four grade categories. PRIMARY, Pre-K through Kindergarten.
LOWER ELEMENTARY, grades 1-3.
UPPER ELEMENTARY grades 4-6, and MIDDLE SCHOOL grades 7 & 8.

District Boundary

Utilize this [link](#) to view the boundaries for PESD #1.

Dress Code:

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school in order to promote a positive and focused learning atmosphere. It is important that students wear closed-toed shoes for safety reasons, such as protecting their feet when opening doors and participating in recess and PE. Additionally, it is recommended that primary students avoid wearing clothing with cartoon characters or other distracting designs. Layering clothing is also recommended to ensure comfort in varying temperatures.

Drop Off:

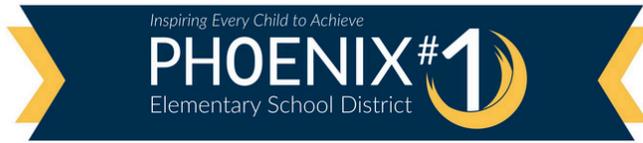
If you're dropping off your student, you have two options: you can park and walk your student to the drop-off gate, or you can use the drop-off lane. If you choose to park, feel free to park in the school lot or on one of the nearby streets. Make sure to check out Shaw's Parking Book, which is distributed each year in the Shaw newsletter. And don't forget to pay attention to street signs and road markings.

If you decide to use the drop-off lane, remember that the driver must stay in the vehicle at all times. It's important that your student is able to get out of the car independently so that the line can keep moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation in following these guidelines!

E

Early Release

At PESD#1, Wednesdays are typically when students get out early, but it's always a good idea to double-check the district calendar [HERE](#) and the See Shaw Shine newsletter. Sometimes, early release might happen on a different day of the week, especially during parent-teacher conference weeks. Pre-K early release is 11:35am and K-8th early release is 1:40pm.



July 2024 – June 2025

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

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

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

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

2024-2025 School Year Calendar Family View

Important Dates

July	
New Staff Welcome Week	July 18-24
Teachers Return	July 25-31

August	
First Day of School K-8	Aug 1
First Day of Preschool	Aug 12
*Early Release Wednesdays	Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

September	
Labor Day Holiday	Sept 2
40th Day	Sept 26
*Early Release Wednesdays	Sept 11, 18, 25

October	
*Family/Student/Teacher Conferences	Oct 3-4
End of First Quarter	Oct 2
Fall Break (No School for Students)	Oct 7-11
Staff Professional Development Day - No Students	Oct 14
*Early Release Wednesdays	Oct 2, 23, 30

November	
Veterans Day Holiday	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Recess (No School for Students)	Nov 25-29
Thanksgiving Recess (District Offices Closed)	Nov 27-29
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	Nov 28
*Early Release Wednesdays	Nov 6, 20

December	
*Family/Student/Teacher Conferences	Dec 19-20
Winter Recess (All Schools & District Offices Closed)	Dec 23-Jan 3
End of Second Quarter	Wed, Dec 18
*Early Release Wednesdays	Dec 4, 11, 18

January	
Staff Professional Development Day - No Students	Jan 6
Classes Resume	Jan 7
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Jan 20
100th Day	Jan 22
*Early Release Wednesdays	Jan 15, 29

February	
Presidents' Day Holiday	Feb 17
*Early Release Wednesdays	Feb 5, 12, 26

March	
*Family/Student/Teacher Conferences	Mar 6-7
End of Third Quarter	Mar 5
Spring Recess (No School for Students)	Mar 10-14
Staff Professional Development Day - No Students	Mar 17
*Early Release Wednesdays	Mar 5, 26

April	
Spring Holiday (All Schools & District Offices Closed)	Apr 18
*Early Release Wednesdays	Apr 2, 9, 23, 30

May	
Last Day of Preschool	May 15
*Last Day of School for K-8 Students	May 22
End of Fourth Quarter	May 22
Memorial Day Holiday	May 26
*Early Release Wednesdays	May 7, 14

June	
Juneteenth (All Schools & District Offices Closed)	June 19
*Half-Day Schedule	

Legend

First/Last Day K-8	1	1	Staff Professional Development - No Students
First/Last Day Preschool	1	1	*Early Release Day
Legal Holiday	1	1	*Family / Student / Teacher Conferences
District Closed / No School			
School Recess			

F

Field Trips:

To enhance your child's learning experience, teachers may organize field trips throughout the school year. If you want your child to join a field trip, make sure to sign and return the permission slip that will be sent home along with any necessary fees. Chaperones are always welcome on field trips and it's a fantastic opportunity to earn volunteer hours. Be sure to follow any instructions and guidelines provided by the teacher to ensure your child doesn't miss out on any exciting adventures outside the classroom!

Free Breakfast and Lunch:

PESD#1 provides free breakfast and lunch for all students. At the start of the school year, you will need to fill out meal reimbursement forms, either [online](#) or in paper forms. This initiative is available to all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, and even if they do not intend for their children to partake in the meals. All parents need to complete the online application or paper forms to ensure the continuation of this beneficial program.

Fun Run:

The Fun Run is Shaw's annual fundraiser that happens every fall. It's a super fun event that helps raise money for the school garden, outdoor spaces, and other special projects. Best part? It's totally free to sign up! Every kid gets a t-shirt and can join in on the fun, even if they don't collect donations. For every donation a student collects, they can score awesome prizes like sunglasses, bracelets, frisbees, and more. On the big day, students can run or walk laps to reach a goal (usually around 35 laps). There are three runs: one for Pre-K, one for 1st-3rd graders, and a color run for 4th-8th graders. During the color run, staff and volunteers toss colorful powder at the runners. It's a blast! The powder is colored cornstarch and is non-toxic. We use leaf blowers to clean up any extra powder at the end. There are water stations along the route, but feel free to pack your student's reusable water bottles and wear plenty of sunscreen. The Fun Run isn't just about having a blast - it's also a great way to raise money for the school and earn volunteer hours. So lace up those sneakers and get ready to run for a good cause!

G



Garden:

Shaw's garden program is truly impressive. The Pre-K and Kindergarten students have their very own primary garden called the ODE (see Outdoor Environments), while students in grades 1 through 8 participate in formal lessons in the Elementary Garden with teacher James Moench. Every year, Mr. Moench also teaches students the care of farm animals. We have chickens, a rooster, and in previous years, we've even had turkeys and goats! It's a hands-on learning experience that the students absolutely love.

Garden Donations:

There are multiple ways to donate to the garden, but the most important way is through Tax Credit donations. Without these yearly contributions, the garden wouldn't be able to exist. Tax credit donations are what allow Shaw to pay the salaries of the ODE teachers who work in the garden. Another way to help out is by donating Home Depot gift cards, which can be sent to Mr. Moench. The garden also accepts donations of eggshells, brewed coffee grounds, and uncrushed cans. You can drop off these items at the table near the front office. Occasionally, the garden may have other donation needs, so be sure to check the See Shaw Shine newsletter for more details.

H

Holidays:

Make sure to take a look at the [PESD#1 district calendar](#) for upcoming holidays and days off. You can also find more information in the weekly See Shaw Shine newsletter.

24/25 Holidays

Monday, September 2nd / Labor Day

October 7th - October 11th / Fall Break

Monday, October 14th / Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, November 11th / Veterans Day

November 25th - November 29th / Thanksgiving

December 23rd - January 6th / Winter Break

Monday, January 20th / Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 17th / Presidents' Day

March 10th - March 14th / Spring Break

Friday, April 18th / Spring Holiday

Halloween:

At Shaw Montessori, we don't have Halloween celebrations. We believe families should enjoy the holiday at home, following their own traditions. Please avoid sending your child to school in a Halloween costume if October 31st falls on a weekday. This helps keep our learning environment focused and uninterrupted.



International Day of the Child:

International Children's Day is a special celebration at Shaw Montessori that we all look forward to each year. It's a time when we come together to honor different countries and cultures from around the world. Families and children get to choose a part of their heritage to showcase and learn about within our community. The Shaw Stars get all dressed up in their traditional outfits, host a parade, and sing songs promoting peace and friendship. The parade is open to everyone and will be held on the field next to the basketball courts. Don't forget to bring lawn chairs and sunscreen (and make sure your child has sunscreen too). The exact time of the parade will be announced in the See Shaw Shine newsletter. Please remember to sign in at the front office and try to arrive early so you don't miss out on the parade and the children's performances. After the parade, families head to their children's classrooms. The older students will have spent time researching a country of their choice, creating reports full of interesting facts and important details. Classrooms also come together to enjoy a community potluck meal. Your teacher will be in touch before the event to coordinate.

J



Janitors:

Our Shaw janitors put in a lot of effort every day to make sure Shaw stays clean and organized. You can lend them a hand by reminding your students to check the Lost & Found (located in the cafeteria) regularly. Also, please consider labeling your child's water bottle, lunch box, and jackets. This way, if something does get misplaced, it'll be easier for us to return it to its rightful owner. Thanks for your help!

K



Kindness:

Kindness is a fundamental principle of Montessori Education, intentionally woven into the fabric of Shaw Montessori. Rooted in Dr. Maria Montessori's peace pedagogy, kindness at Shaw is designed to cultivate the spirit of each individual. Dr. Montessori firmly believed that young people hold the key to a peaceful world, and that it is the responsibility of educators and families to guide them towards realizing their full potential as compassionate human beings.

Montessori educators at Shaw are dedicated practitioners who prioritize creating a nurturing environment that supports the holistic development of every child. Our school features designated peace tables for conflict resolution, cozy corners for self-soothing, and classroom gardens that provide a hands-on experience of the cycle of life.

Through these intentional practices, Shaw Montessori fosters a culture of kindness and empathy, empowering students to become thoughtful, caring members of their community and the world at large.

L

Laundry:

At Shaw, families will be asked to wash classroom napkins, towels, and/or rugs twice per academic year. Please follow any instructions given by your child's teacher. Avoid using fabric softener or dryer sheets, and don't worry about folding - the children will take care of that in the classroom!

Library (Media Center):

At Shaw, even our youngest students in Pre-K can enjoy the Shaw Media Center. It's a cozy spot filled with books to borrow, comfy reading nooks, and plenty of space for the children to explore. We just ask that students treat the materials with care and return books in a timely manner.



And if you're looking for even more reading options, we have 2 Free Little Libraries on campus for sharing books with others. Happy reading!

Literacy Night:

Literacy Night is a fun-filled evening of reading and book enjoyment for the whole family! You're invited to join us at the annual event held at Burton Barr Library. This night features student-led tours, puppet making, read-aloud stories, and more exciting activities.

Before the event, library card applications will be sent home with your child. If your student doesn't already have a Phoenix Public Library card, please make sure to return the application to your teacher.

Don't forget, Literacy Night is a fantastic opportunity to earn volunteer hours. Keep an eye out for more information in the weekly See Shaw Shine newsletter.

M

Montessori:

Your children and teachers at Shaw Montessori are great resources for learning about the Montessori method in the classroom. Shaw Montessori fosters curious learners who have a thirst for knowledge. Here are some additional resources to help you on the Montessori journey:

Montessori Accreditation

[American Montessori Society](#)

[Association Montessori International/USA](#)

Montessori Information

[Shaw Montessori Resources](#)

[Montessori.org](#)



Photo of Dr. Maria Montessori with children.
photo courtesy: amshq.org

Dr. Maria Montessori, born in Italy in 1870, is renowned as the philosopher and founder of Montessori Education. Initially aspiring to become an engineer, she later decided to enroll in medical school, becoming one of the first women to do so in Italy. Graduating with honors, her groundbreaking research, innovative methods, and educational philosophy have left a lasting impact on the global education landscape.

At Shaw Montessori, our educators possess advanced, accredited Montessori training, in addition to Arizona Teacher Credentials. This unique combination of expertise ensures that our students receive a high-quality, holistic education that nurtures their individual growth and development.

N

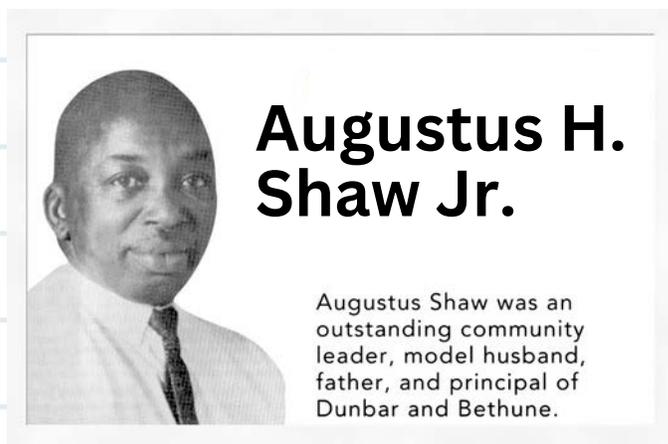


Photo of Augustus H. Shaw Jr.

photo courtesy: [instagram.com/phxschools/](https://www.instagram.com/phxschools/)

Namesake:

Our school is proudly named after Augustus H. Shaw Jr., whose legacy is honored on the Shaw campus. If you visit the conference room in the main office, you will find plaques and artwork dedicated to his achievements.

Augustus H. Shaw Jr. was born in 1914 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and later moved to Flagstaff to pursue his education at Arizona State College, now known as Northern Arizona University. After earning a master's degree in education, Augustus dedicated himself to serving the El Centro community as a teacher.

A devoted father of two, Augustus also bravely served in the U.S. Army during World War II, starting as a private and rising through the ranks to become a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. Despite his military success, Augustus's true passion lay in education, and he continued to inspire and educate others throughout his career.

In addition to his role as an educator in the classroom, Augustus was also a talented coach, leading Carver High School to become state champions. He concluded his educational career as the principal of PESD#1's Mary Bethune Elementary School, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of countless students.

Augustus H. Shaw Jr.'s dedication to education and his commitment to excellence serve as an inspiration to all who walk the halls of our school. We are proud to carry on his legacy and strive for greatness in all that we do.

0



Outdoor Environments (ODE):

Shaws Outdoor Environments (ODE) encompass the Primary Garden and Elementary Field Garden, serving as an extension of the classroom curriculum. These gardens provide students with a unique opportunity to apply their lessons and gain hands-on experiences that foster the creation of new knowledge. The ODE serves as an outdoor learning space where children practice self-control, demonstrate respect for nature and others, and engage in activities such as planting, digging, and nurturing plants.

The Primary ODE, catering to Pre-K through Kindergarten students, is conveniently located near the primary classrooms. The Elementary Garden, designed for 1st through 8th graders, is situated to the west of the playground. Notably, the Elementary Garden features a learning lab equipped with an outdoor kitchen where students collaborate with our garden teacher, Mr. Moench, to cultivate their gardening skills.

Shaws Outdoor Environments provide a dynamic and enriching environment for students to explore, learn, and grow while fostering a deep appreciation for nature and sustainability.

P

Parking:

We kindly ask that you demonstrate responsibility and consideration when utilizing the Shaw parking lot. Please refrain from parking in designated disabled spots unless you possess disabled parking plates/placards, a reserved spot, in the fire lane, or blocking fire hydrants. It is important to remember that our actions are observed by our children, and it is essential for all members of the Shaw community to contribute to its smooth and efficient operation.

Picture Day:

Picture Day occurs in the fall season. Students have the opportunity to have both individual and class photos taken, with the option of including sibling photos as well. Following Picture Day, proofs will be sent home for families to review, with scheduling information if re-takes are desired. Please refer to the See Shaw Shine newsletter for details on the specific date of Picture Day and instructions on how to order photos.

PTA:

The [Shaw Parent-Teacher Association](#) (PTA) is dedicated to serving as a strong advocate for public education, a valuable resource for families, and a voice for all Shaw Stars. Their primary focus is on fostering strong partnerships between parents and teachers supporting the success of our students. This includes recruiting and coordinating volunteers, planning events, organizing teacher appreciation activities, and much more.

Membership in the Shaw PTA is open to anyone who shares this mission and is committed to making a positive impact on the education, health, and welfare of our children. Household memberships are available for \$10 per year. By joining, you have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers, families, and staff to provide enriching experiences and opportunities for your students.

PTA meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and free childcare is provided for children ages 3 and up. We invite you to become a part of our community by [joining online](#) today.

Q

Questions:

We understand that navigating all aspects of Shaw Montessori School can be overwhelming. This family guide is designed to provide answers to some of your questions. If you have additional inquiries, please reach out to your child's teacher, as they possess a wealth of knowledge. Another valuable resource is connecting with other Shaw parents. There is a private [Shaw Montessori Community Facebook Group](#) available for you to join, where you can receive prompt answers to your questions. While the Shaw Montessori Community FB Group is not officially affiliated with the school or PTA, it serves as an excellent resource for parents. Additionally, you can visit the [Shaw Montessori PTA page](#) for any further questions.

R



Recess:

On April 4, 2018, [Arizona State Bill 1083](#) was officially enacted into law. This legislation mandates that all Arizona schools serving students in grades K-5 must offer two recess periods each school day. According to the law, recess is defined as a designated time within the regular school day, which may occur before or after a scheduled lunch period, during which students have the opportunity to participate in physical activities or engage in social interactions with their peers. At Shaw Montessori, we fully support this law and encourage students to wear appropriate clothing and shoes to fully enjoy their recess time. So, make sure to dress comfortably and get ready to have some fun outside!

Rolling Start:

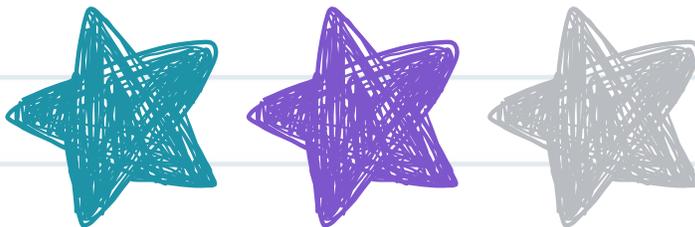
Your preschool student will be assigned a specific start date that differs from the district's first day of school. In other words, the PESD#1 calendar will have one start date for all district students, while Shaw Pre-Ks have staggered start days. Shaw has varying start days for our preschool students to allow parents to adjust to pick-up and drop-offs without feeling rushed or overwhelmed. This also helps campus and carpool lines run smoothly by adding a handful of students at a time. Your start date will be assigned at Back-to-School Night.

S

Safety:

Shaw Montessori conducts regular lockdowns and fire drills to ensure emergency preparedness. These drills are conducted without prior notice to accurately assess any potential gaps in our safety procedures. It is possible that your student may have questions or concerns during these drills. We encourage you to continue the conversation at home and inquire about what procedures your student should follow in the event of an emergency at home or school.

Please be assured that the safety of our school and your student is our top priority. Principal Engdall provides frequent updates regarding Shaw's safety protocols. These updates are shared during Site Council meetings, PTA gatherings, or through special presentations. We strongly encourage at least one caregiver from each family to attend these opportunities to stay informed about our safety measures.



School Colors & Mascot:

The official school colors of Shaw Montessori are teal, purple, and silver, with the Stars as our mascot. Principal Engdall even goes all out by dressing up in a star costume during the Fun Run to pump up the students. Let's all shine bright together at Shaw Montessori!

Supply Lists:

Each teacher's supply list is unique. The specific supplies requested will vary based on the individual needs of the teacher. Some teachers may request supplies to be brought in periodically throughout the school year, while others may require all items to be brought in at the beginning of the school year. School supply lists will be distributed during Back-to-School Night.

S (continued...)

See Shaw Shine Newsletter:

The Shaw Montessori weekly newsletter, known as "See Shaw Shine" (SSS), is a valuable resource for our community. It is distributed every Sunday via email and the [Shaw Montessori Community FB Group](#). See Shaw Shine contains the latest information from our staff and teachers on upcoming events, resources, programs, and various other topics. To ensure you receive this important communication, please provide your email address to your classroom teacher so you can be added to the distribution list.

Shaw Supper Night:

Shaw Supper Night, formerly known as Tasty Tuesdays, offers Shaw families the chance to gather and enjoy delicious food in good company. Proceeds from these monthly events benefit Shaw Montessori, a great cause. This is a simple and convenient way to support our school!

Siblings:

At Shaw Montessori, we prioritize enrollment for siblings of current students. While siblings are not usually placed in the same classes, exceptions can be made in special circumstances.

Site Council:

The Site Council is a collaborative group comprised of staff and family members who partner with Principal Engdall to develop, review, and evaluate school programs and the school budget, all while fostering a positive school culture. The Shaw Site Council is dedicated to asking insightful and thought-provoking questions that benefit the entire school community. Meetings are typically held just prior to the monthly PTA meetings, with free child care available for children ages 3 and up.

Specials:

At Shaw Elementary, our students are excited to engage in a variety of special classes in addition to their regular curriculum. Currently, our students participate in Art, Gardening, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Social Emotional Learning. These classes provide a well-rounded education and help our students develop a range of skills and interests.

T

Talent Show:

The Shaw Talent Show, held annually in May, is open to all Shaw students. Led by our music teacher, Mr. Pozo, this showcase features a variety of talents including singing, dancing, poetry, and more. Additionally, our MCs raffle off class baskets during the show. Be sure to arrive early to enjoy a delicious enchilada dinner before the performances begin.

Tax Credit:

The Arizona School Tax Credit program offers individuals the opportunity to reduce their tax liability to the state or increase their refund from the state. By making a donation to Shaw Montessori, you can receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. For example, if you donate \$200, your state tax credit will also be \$200. This means that when you file your taxes, your state bill will be reduced by \$200, or if you are receiving a refund, it will be increased by \$200.

By participating in the Arizona School Tax Credit program, you are able to direct your tax dollars to Shaw Montessori instead of the Arizona Revenue Service.

Families have the option to specify how they would like their funds to be used, whether it be for educational supplies, field trips, or any other school needs.

You can easily submit your tax credit [online](#) or by [mail](#), ensuring that you select Shaw Montessori as the recipient of your donation. Take advantage of this opportunity to support our school and make a difference in the education of our students.

Testing:

PESD#1 is a data-driven school district that utilizes a variety of assessments to track student progress. These assessments include AASA, AZMerit, AIMS Science, i-Ready, common formative assessments, and other classroom-level assessments. Each Shaw student (excluding PreK) is tested according to state and district parameters.

V



Volunteering:

Each Shaw family is required to volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per year. Volunteering opportunities include participating in events such as Fun Run, Bingo Night, Parent Work Day in the Garden, Literacy Night, Spring Carnival, attending Site Council/PTA meetings, and chaperoning, among others. Additionally, you can collaborate with your child's teacher to explore classroom volunteer opportunities. Active involvement and service within the Shaw community through volunteering is not only essential but also contributes to the growth and unity of our community. Volunteer opportunities are regularly communicated through See Shaw Shine and your child's teacher. Thank you for your commitment to supporting our school community through volunteering.

Volunteer Hours & How to Track:

To track your volunteer hours, utilize [signup.com](https://www.signup.com). You must first create an account to access this feature. Once logged in, navigate to your Profile Page and locate the Participants Hours Report section. For more detailed instructions, please refer to the [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) FAQ page by clicking on Help and then selecting Search FAQs.

W

Winter Holiday Concert:

Each December, Shaw students come together to showcase their musical talents at the Shaw Montessori Winter Holiday Tax Credit Concert. This event, also known as the Winter Concert, Holiday Concert, and Tax Credit Concert, is a highlight of the school year. Students in grades K-8 are required to participate as part of their music class experience at Shaw.

The concert is split into two nights: K-3rd graders perform on one night, dressed in their finest attire, while 4th-8th graders take the stage on the second night, dressed in all black. To ensure a prompt start at 6pm, students should be in their respective classrooms no later than 5:25pm on concert nights.

In addition to the musical performances, attendees can visit the library for the book fair, the Primary ODE to view a student art exhibit, and the field garden to enjoy delicious s'mores. The Winter Concert is a wonderful opportunity to witness the talent of our Shaw Stars and to show support for Shaw Montessori by submitting your Tax Credit. You can submit your tax credit online or by mail, ensuring to select Shaw Montessori as the recipient.

Work Days in the Garden:

Each year, Shaw adult family members are invited to participate in volunteering opportunities on campus, specifically in our gardens and outdoor communal areas. These gardens play a vital role in the Montessori education curriculum and are cherished by all students. Workdays typically span 4 hours in the morning and serve as an excellent opportunity to connect with other Shaw families, all while accruing volunteer hours that directly benefit our school and students.

Information regarding upcoming workdays and sign-up details can be found in See Shaw Shine. While most supplies are provided for workdays, volunteers may be asked to bring their own gloves, water, or gardening tools, in addition to a positive attitude and strong work ethic.

Y



Yearbook:

Shaw yearbooks are available for purchase towards the end of the school year. These yearbooks are a compilation of class photos, campus events, athletics, student artwork, and snapshots of campus life. They serve as a highlight and commemoration of the past school year. Announcements regarding yearbook sales can be found in See Shaw Shine. It is highly recommended to secure your copy early, as they are in high demand and tend to sell out quickly!

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