

KUA News

September 2023 Newsletter



Empowerment Through Opportunity

Our mission: to break down barriers for students by providing more instructional time, enriching programs and a high-expectations, no-excuses environment to ensure high school graduation, college success and career readiness are reasonable goals for all students regardless of race, language, ethnicity, gender, economic status or zip code.

Administrators' Message

Congratulations, Kids Unlimited Academy families! We've completed a full month of school while others locally are just getting started.

The new school year comes with new curricula at Kids Unlimited Academy. Instructional coaches attending our August Site Council meeting reviewed Amplify Reading, iReady, Open Up Math and Ed Gems with parents.

Amplify Reading is grounded in phonics — or letter sounds — and encompasses reading, writing, speaking and listening. Social sciences and English language arts are integrated for middle schoolers this year.

Three different math curricula are assigned this year according to grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The youngest group uses iReady, which meets students where they're at with the expectation they can start achieving at grade level. All students have their own workbooks, instead of copies of worksheets.

Open Up Math for grades 3-5 builds on student communication, explaining the problems and how they got their answers. It comes with student-friendly Google slide presentations. One of students' favorite features are the "sprints," or timed quizzes.

Ed Gems, used for grades 6-8, is proven to improve students' state test scores through specific alignment with Oregon's math standards. This research-based curriculum is designed to foster a growth mindset.

Fostering familiarity with curricula and school operations is a key goal of monthly Site Council meetings. This is an opportunity to meet staff, ask questions and enjoy dinner freshly prepared by our

Food Program.

Site Council attendance fulfills one hour toward families' required six KUA volunteer hours each year. If you're unable to attend, stay up to date on each meeting by reviewing the minutes on our website, <https://kuaoregon.org/site-council>

Families attending Site Council also heard about KUA's new morning enrichment block. The format already shows progress with student preparedness for the school day, which starts at 8:30 a.m.

Just as we cannot stress enough the importance of arriving on time for school, it's equally important for students to remain at school until 3:30 p.m. Critical learning takes place even in the last few minutes of the day, when some grade levels have their literacy blocks.

Distractions from the learning environment include toys at school, as well as students buying and selling items – all in violation of school rules. Toys and money can easily be misplaced at school, and transferring anything of value – even edible items – between students risks everyone's safety, including allergic reactions.

Please keep toys at home and encourage kids' entrepreneurial spirit (other than school-sponsored activities) during their free time.

Lindsay Ochs – KUA Principal, lindsay.ochs@kuaoregon.org

Lupita Vargas – KUA Director of Educational Services, lvargas@kuaoregon.org

Emmanuel Balan – KUA Director of School Culture, emmanuel.balan@kuaoregon.org

Crystal Hidde – KUA Director of Early Learning, chidde@kuaoregon.org



In Gratitude

Please join us in celebrating former KUA Board President Michelle Atkinson during our school's first family night of the year at 6 p.m. Sept. 12. KUA wouldn't be where it is today without the leadership of Atkinson, who is vacating her seat after election to the Medford School District Board of Education. Read more about Atkinson's service and pivotal contributions to our public charter school in KU's latest news.



[Read More](#)

Why year-round school?

We can't speak highly enough of our year-round academic calendar, which is overwhelmingly supported by our families. Below are a few key reasons why we decided in 2021 to become Oregon's first year-round public school.

- Students retain what they learn all year, rather than experience summer learning loss.
- Additional time for authentic hands-on learning opportunities, excursions and field trips.
- Additional school days help to close the achievement gap.
- Increased opportunities for extra help and tutoring.
- Consistent routines lead to better-adjusted students – and teachers
- Easier access for vacations during the school year.
- Decreased teacher and student absences.



Fall Break Camp

Secure your student's spot at KUA Fall Camp!

The deadline is fast approaching for our camp that runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 26-29, during KUA's fall break. The cost is \$25 per student per day.

Registration forms are available at KUA's front office, where completed forms should be returned no later than Sept. 20.



Attendance matters!

Regular school attendance promotes school success and is **required by Oregon Law**, which mandates that students miss no more than 15 school days each academic year. Any student absent for 10 or more consecutive days will be dropped from KUA enrollment. **Your child may lose his/her spot at KUA.**

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



The loss of learning that takes place when your child is absent cannot be replaced. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades. If you need help getting your child to school on time, please reach out to us!

Always notify the school, by calling the office between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., when your child is absent or going to be absent for any reason. Please provide the student's full name, grade and reason for absence. A doctor's note is required for absences of longer than 3 days.

Medford: 541-774-3900

White City: 541-500-0700



What's cooking?

All KUA students are eligible for free breakfast, lunch and dinner — cooked from scratch using fresh ingredients in our on-site kitchen. We are an equal opportunity provider and employer. Check out monthly menus online at kuaoregon.org/menu.

Our nationally recognized, award-winning food program is unique in the Medford school district, and we take pride in providing students' daily nutrition. Build your kids' healthy habits at home with whole foods instead of processed ones.

Fresh, whole apples have essential fiber in their pulp and peel, which applesauce and apple juice lack. Try autumn's apples in this recipe from Cooking Matters/No Kid Hungry. It can do double-duty as a dessert or afterschool snack. Find more family-friendly recipes at cookingmatters.org

Baked Apples

Ingredients

- 6 apples, preferably tart-sweet varieties such as Honeycrisp, Jonagold, Pink Lady or McIntosh
- 1 large lemon
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped walnuts or other nut of choice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Rinse apples, then remove stems by cutting a 1-inch-wide hole from the top of each apple. Cut into these holes to remove and scoop out apple cores and seeds.
3. Rinse the lemon and cut in half. In a small bowl, squeeze juice from each half, discarding seeds.
4. In a second small bowl, mix the walnuts, raisins and brown sugar.
5. Stuff center of each apple with 1 heaping tablespoon of walnut mixture. Sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon over top of each apple.
6. Place stuffed apples upright in a baking dish. Pour lemon juice around them. Bake in preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes, or until apple skins are wrinkly. Spoon some pan juice over apples about halfway through cooking time to keep them moist.
7. Remove apples from oven. Let cool slightly before serving.

Makes 6 servings.

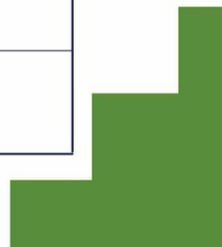


Upcoming Dates

SEPTEMBER 2023



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 No Bus | 2 |
| 3 | 4 No School | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Family Night | 13 | 14 Site Council @ 5:45 p.m. Picture Day | 15 Picture Day | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Spirit Week | 19 | 20 | 21 Spirit Assembly | 22 Jog-a-Thon @ St. Mary's | 23 |
| 24 | 25 No School Fall Break | 26 No School Fall Break | 27 No School Fall Break | 28 No School Fall Break | 29 No School Fall Break | 30 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |



Check out some pictures from August!







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Kids Unlimited of Oregon — Medford Campus

 Facebook

 @KidsUnlimitedA1

 821 N. Riverside Ave., Medford ...

 541-774-3900

 kuaoregon.org

