

UMBRELLA ACADEMY

Where Leaders Grow, Communities Thrive



Student & Family Handbook

2026 – 2027 School Year

Fostering Leadership, Community & Academic Excellence

UMBRELLA ACADEMY

6140 E Peak View, Cave Creek, AZ



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Welcome to Umbrella Academy!

Dear Umbrella Academy Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year! Umbrella Academy is a private school and so much more than a typical classroom — it is a living, breathing community built on what we call the Umbrella Way: showing up fully, caring deeply, learning boldly, and lifting each other higher every single day — all rooted in curiosity, kindness, leadership, and joy. Every single child who walks through our gate brings something irreplaceable, and we cannot wait to learn alongside your family this year.

This handbook is your go-to guide for everything you need to know: our daily rhythms, policies, programs, and the values that unite us. Please read it together as a family, keep it handy, and reach out any time with questions. Our door — and inbox — are always open.

Here's to an extraordinary year ahead.

With love and excitement,

The Umbrella Academy Team



Meet Our Team

The heart of Umbrella Academy is our people. This year, your child is in wonderful, capable, and caring hands.

Julia Piedmont — Head of School & Director

On-site and full-time, Julia leads Umbrella Academy with a hands-on approach and an open-door philosophy. With a background in psychology and teaching, a perspective shaped by years of world travel, and life as a devoted mom of three, she brings warmth, insight, and deep intentionality to everything she does. Julia partnered with Primer Microschool to open and successfully launch their Scottsdale campus before founding Umbrella Academy on a simple, powerful belief: that education can be deeply personal, joyful, and meaningful. She built our school around hands-on learning — giving children the chance to take what they discover in the classroom and bring it to life with their own hands. Umbrella Academy runs on a proven model, and Julia is actively guiding the school toward formal accreditation.

Dillon Eason — Lead Teacher

Dillon brings a rich and varied background in education to our classroom — including years supporting children in group-home settings, experience as a driving instructor, and a genuine passion for music. Patient, tech-savvy, and wonderfully steady, he meets every child exactly where they are. Dillon is deeply aligned with the Umbrella Way and our belief that learning can look different, feel joyful, and still be rigorous. As our full-time Lead Teacher, he's ready to bring consistency, creativity, and heart to every single day — mentoring students academically and personally, and helping each child feel known, capable, and inspired.

Kieley McClannahan — Literacy Specialist

Joining us three days a week to lead our literacy sessions, Kieley brings a wealth of experience working with children and building personalized curriculum. She has a real gift for recognizing what lights each child up — and creatively weaving that spark into her lessons to keep learning joyful and engaging. A lover of gardening and botany, Kieley brings the same nurturing, growth-minded spirit to her classroom that she brings to her garden. We are so excited to have her on our team.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US DIRECTLY

You can email us any time with direct questions:

julia@umbrella-academy.com · dillon@umbrella-academy.com · kieley@umbrella-academy.com



Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission

Umbrella Academy is a **private school** dedicated to fostering **leadership, community engagement, academic excellence**, and the Umbrella Way — a belief that education should be joyful, purposeful, and deeply human — all within a nurturing and inclusive environment. Our goal is to develop responsible, resilient, and socially conscious leaders who carry their values far beyond the classroom.

Our Vision

To create a vibrant community of learners who are empowered to make a positive impact in the world — through education, leadership, and heartfelt community service. We believe every child has the capacity for greatness, and our role is to help them discover it.

Our Core Values

■ Growth Mindset

We celebrate effort, curiosity, and the courage to try new things.

■ Community First

We show up for each other — students, families, and neighbors alike.

■ Resilience

We embrace challenges as opportunities to grow stronger and wiser.

■ Creative Thinking

We honor imagination and original ideas in every subject and project.

♥ Kindness

We lead with empathy and treat every person with dignity and respect.



Non-Discrimination Policy

Umbrella Academy is a private school committed to a policy of non-discrimination in all of its educational programs and activities.

In accordance with IRS requirements for 501(c)(3) organizations and applicable federal and state law, Umbrella Academy does not discriminate on the basis of **race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial status, pregnancy, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law** in its admission policies, educational programs, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and extracurricular activities, hiring practices, or any other school-administered programs.

This policy applies to all students, families, employees, volunteers, and contractors who are part of the Umbrella Academy community.

Umbrella Academy affirms that all children deserve to learn in a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment. Any concerns regarding discrimination should be directed to the school director:

REPORT A CONCERN

Julia Piedmont | julia@umbrella-academy.com | (480) 694-5438 | 6140 E Peak View, Cave Creek, AZ



School Policies

Attendance

We do not enforce a strict attendance policy; however, **regular attendance is warmly encouraged**. Consistent presence supports continuity of learning, peer relationships, and full participation in community activities. If your child will be absent, a quick note or email is always appreciated.

Friday is an optional school day. Students are warmly welcome and the day runs as normal — but attendance is entirely your family's choice. Please note that Friday is the one day we do not provide food: if your child comes on a Friday, send them with a **packed lunch and a morning snack**.

Dress Code & School Uniform

There is no dress code or school uniform at Umbrella Academy. We encourage students to dress comfortably and appropriately for active days that include outdoor adventures, art projects, and physical activity. Clothes that can get a little dirty are always a great choice!

Code of Conduct

- Respect for all community members — peers, teachers, staff, and visitors — is expected at all times.
- Bullying, harassment, and discrimination in any form are not tolerated.
- Students take responsibility for their actions and contribute positively to our school environment.
- Disagreements are resolved through open, respectful conversation.
- We celebrate differences and champion a culture of inclusion.

Health & Safety

The well-being of every child is our highest priority.

- Students follow all health guidelines, including proper hand hygiene throughout the day.
- Please keep sick children at home to protect the whole community.
- Regular safety drills are conducted and our campus is kept secure at all times.
- Sunscreen and a sun hat are highly recommended daily — we are in Arizona! Please apply sunscreen before arrival.
- Any allergies, medical conditions, or medications must be communicated to Julia in advance.

Arrival & Pick-Up

	Time	Details
Arrival	8:30 – 8:45 AM	As you pull in through the gate, parking is immediately to your left and will be clearly marked — please use it so the driveway stays open. Students may be walked in or dropped at the door. If you need accommodations, just reach out and we'll see what we can do.
Pick-Up	2:15 – 2:30 PM	Please pull through the driveway into the pick-up lane. Students are released through the front door as cars pull up. Only authorized individuals may pick up a child. If you would like to add or update who is authorized to pick up your child, please let us know. Need after-school care? Just reach out — we are happy to discuss options.



Your First Day of School

What to Expect

First days are full of magic and a little bit of nervous energy — and that's completely normal! Here's what you and your child can expect when you arrive on **Wednesday, August 5th, 2026**:

✦ A warm welcome at the door

Our teachers will be waiting at the front door to greet every child and family personally. As you pull in through the gate, parking is immediately to your left and will be clearly marked — please park there so we can keep the driveway open.

✦ Coffee & pastries for families

Coffee and pastries will be offered in the morning — stay a while, meet the other families, and see your child settle in. We kindly ask that families say their goodbyes and head out by **9:30 AM** so the children can ease into their first day together.

✦ A tour of our campus

Students will explore classrooms, the yard, cubby spaces, the garden, and all of our amazing outdoor project spaces.

✦ Meeting your people

A cozy morning circle to introduce everyone — no pressure, just warmth and fun icebreakers.

✦ Settling into your cubby

Every student has their own dedicated cubby to store personal items, school supplies, and their house shoes.

✦ Making the space our own

Part of the first day is spent planting flowers, hanging up art and decor, and beautifying our campus together. This has been left undone *on purpose*. Umbrella Academy is ever-evolving and student-led, and that includes the room itself — we deliberately leave space for students to help set up and shape the environment they'll be learning in all year. A school that children helped build is a school they take care of.

✦ A gentle, joyful day

Our first day — and our whole first week — is about connection, building trust, and feeling good. There is no pressure and no testing of anyone's patience: just exploration, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

✦ A delicious lunch

We'll share a fresh, homemade lunch together as a community.

✦ Pickup celebration

From **2:00 to 2:15 PM** we'll gather for a mini send-off with music and a little treat for every student. Pick-up follows from **2:15 to 2:30 PM**.

Bring one item from home that tells your story. On the first day, every student is invited to bring a single item to share during our icebreaker circle — something small that says something true about them. A few ideas: a favorite book, a photo of family or a pet, a souvenir from a trip, something they made themselves, a treasured toy or stuffed animal, a rock or shell from a collection, or an object from a hobby (a soccer ball, a paintbrush, a musical instrument). There is no right answer — whatever they choose is exactly right.



Before the First Day

FIRST DAY CHECKLIST — WHAT TO BRING ON AUGUST 5TH

- ☐ House shoes & closed-toe ankle boots
- ☐ Labeled water bottle (32 oz minimum)
- ☐ Sun hat
- ☐ Sunscreen (optional — a labeled bottle to keep at school)

Traveling in August? Please let us know. We understand that a few of our families will still be traveling and will be joining us a little later in August — and that is completely okay. Please fill in our travel form at family.umbrella-academy.com/travel.html so we know whether your child will be with us on August 5th. This helps us plan lunch, cubbies, and our welcome morning for every child. The same form works for any trip later in the year.



First Day Schedule

Our first day is carefully crafted to ease every child into the rhythm of school life with joy, wonder, and zero overwhelm.

8:30 – 8:45

Arrival & Welcome

Teachers greet families at the front door. Park to your left inside the gate. Walk in together!

8:45 – 9:30

Coffee & Pastries with Families

Stay and hang out! Coffee, pastries & good conversation while the kids settle in. Families head out by 9:30.

9:30 – 10:00

Campus Adventure Tour

Explore every corner of our amazing space together.

10:00 – 10:45

Getting-to-Know-You Icebreakers

Show & tell with the item from home, art, storytelling, and games — purely joyful.

10:45 – 11:00

Snack Break

A morning snack break in the yard under the shade.

11:00 – 11:45

Making Our Space Our Own

Plant flowers, hang art and decor, and beautify the campus together — left undone on purpose, for the students.

11:45 – 12:15

Story Time & Read-Aloud

A magical book about adventure, community & belonging.

12:15 – 1:00

First-Day Lunch

A fresh, homemade lunch, shared together as a community.

1:00 – 1:30

Outdoor Play, Planting & Nature Walk

Get the flowers in the ground, explore the yard, meet the garden, breathe the fresh air.

1:30 – 1:50

Our School Community Pledge

Students craft and sign their personal community promise.

1:50 – 2:00

Reflection & Gratitude Circle

What was your favorite moment today?

2:00 – 2:15

Celebration & Send-Off

Music, high-fives, and a little first-day treat for everyone.

2:15 – 2:30

Pick-Up

Pull through the driveway into the pick-up lane. Students released from the front door as cars pull up.

Our whole first week follows this spirit. Connection first, trust second, curiosity always. Academics ease in gently, and the classroom keeps taking shape as the students shape it — what matters most in week one is that every child leaves feeling safe, known, and glad to come back tomorrow.



What to Bring

Daily Essentials

Here's everything your child needs to thrive each day at Umbrella Academy:

◆ **Water Bottle** (the one daily must-have)

A reusable water bottle is essential — Arizona is hot and staying hydrated is non-negotiable! We require a **minimum 32 oz (1 liter)** water bottle, though we strongly encourage 40–64 oz for active outdoor days. We have a cold-water refill station on campus, so it can be topped up throughout the day. Please label it with your child's name.

◆ **House Shoes**

A comfortable pair of indoor shoes (slippers, soft-soled shoes, or similar) to wear inside the classroom. These stay at school in their cubby and are swapped at arrival.

◆ **Closed-Toe Ankle Boots — For Outdoor Play**

Our terrain is rocky Arizona desert, and safety is our priority. Students are required to wear closed-toe ankle boots for all outdoor play and activities. These can be left at school in their cubby, and we'll keep them here all year!

◆ **Sun Hat**

A wide-brimmed or sun hat for outdoor play. The Arizona sun is intense, and a hat keeps your child cool and protected. Label it and it can live in their cubby.

◆ **Sunscreen** (optional)

Please apply sunscreen before arrival each day. You're welcome to send a labeled bottle to keep at school for a quick reapplication before afternoon outdoor play.

◆ **Comfort Item (K–2 Students)**

Younger students (Kindergarten through 2nd grade) are warmly encouraged to bring a comfort item — a small blanket, stuffed animal, or plushie. These live in their cubby and are available whenever needed. There is absolutely no shame in needing a little comfort; we love it.

◆ **Friday Lunch & Morning Snack**

On **Fridays only**, please pack your child a lunch and a morning snack. Friday is an optional school day and the one day we do not provide food. Monday through Thursday, there is nothing to pack.

◆ **Backpack (Optional)**

A backpack isn't required — all your child truly needs each day is their water bottle. That said, if your child has personal supplies or little treasures they'd like to bring, a backpack is always welcome for carrying belongings and bringing artwork home.

MONDAY–THURSDAY — NO PACKED FOOD NEEDED!

Monday through Thursday, there's no need to pack lunch or snacks. A fresh, homemade lunch is provided for every student (see **Our Lunch Program**). All your child needs on those days is a labeled water bottle.

Fridays are different. Friday is an optional school day and the only day we do not provide food — please send your child with a **packed lunch and a morning snack**.



Items That Live at School

The following items can be brought on Day 1 and left at school in your child's cubby all year long — no need to pack and unpack daily!

- ☐ House shoes
- ☐ Closed-toe ankle boots (for outdoor play)
- ☐ Sun hat
- ☐ Sunscreen (labeled, optional)
- ☐ Comfort item for K–2 students
- ☐ Any decorative items for their cubby space (photos, small plants, drawings)



Our Lunch Program

At Umbrella Academy, lunch is **prepared lovingly, Monday through Thursday** — made from scratch with homemade, organic ingredients. We serve **real food**: whole, nourishing meals with nothing processed and no artificial additives, built around fresh seasonal produce and quality ingredients that fuel growing bodies and minds. Lunch here isn't just a meal — it's a daily celebration of nourishment, community, and gratitude.

A Fresh, Homemade Lunch — Made with Heart

Every lunch is cooked from scratch, never packaged or reheated from a box. "Real food" means exactly that: meals made from recognizable, whole ingredients — organic produce, wholesome grains, and clean proteins — prepared with care and served warm. It's the kind of food that helps children feel good, focus well, and stay energized all afternoon.

What to Expect at Lunch

♦ Homemade & Organic

All lunches are made from scratch using organic ingredients, sourced locally when possible.

♦ Warm & Nourishing

We serve hot meals that fuel growing bodies and minds for the afternoon ahead.

♦ Inclusive & Allergy-Aware

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions, allergies, or preferences — we will always accommodate your child.

♦ Community Dining

Students eat together in a relaxed, social setting. Lunch is a time to connect, share stories, and practice gratitude.

♦ Provided Monday through Thursday

A homemade lunch is provided for every student **Monday through Thursday** — there's no need to pack one on those days.

FRIDAYS — PLEASE PACK A LUNCH AND A MORNING SNACK

Friday is an optional school day, and it is the **only day we do not provide food**. On Fridays, please send your child with a **packed lunch and a morning snack**.

Monday through Thursday, everything is taken care of — nothing to pack.

A NOTE ON NUTRITION

We believe food is medicine and joy combined. Our meals are designed to support focus, energy, and wellness. No processed foods, no artificial ingredients — just real, delicious, lovingly prepared food.



Life Skills & Communication

At Umbrella Academy, we believe that **how students show up in the world matters as much as what they know**. Our Life Skills and Communication curriculum is woven throughout the week — equipping students with the practical tools, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills to thrive in school, at home, and out in the community.

Life Skills

◆ Personal Organization & Independence

Students learn to manage their time, organize their space, plan their work, and take ownership of their responsibilities — building genuine independence day by day.

◆ Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking

Through real challenges and creative projects, students develop the ability to think flexibly, weigh options, and find solutions with confidence.

◆ Emotional Regulation

We teach students to identify, name, and manage their emotions. Using mindfulness, reflection, and practical strategies, students build the self-awareness to navigate big feelings with grace.

◆ Financial Literacy

Age-appropriate lessons in budgeting, saving, giving, and understanding the value of money prepare students for real-world financial responsibility.

◆ Household & Practical Skills

From cooking and baking to basic repair and organization, students build hands-on competence in everyday life tasks that matter.

◆ Household Skills & Cleaning

At Umbrella Academy we believe that caring for your environment is an act of self-respect and community respect. Students learn practical household skills: tidying and organizing shared spaces, washing dishes, sweeping, wiping surfaces, doing laundry, and taking pride in a clean and beautiful environment. This is the Umbrella Way — we take care of our space the way we take care of each other.

◆ Self-Advocacy

Students learn to express their needs, ask for help, set healthy boundaries, and stand up for themselves and others — with respect and clarity.



Communication Skills

Strong communication is one of the most powerful life tools we can give a child. Our curriculum explores the full spectrum of how humans connect:

◆ Understanding Communication Styles

Students explore the four primary communication styles — assertive, passive, aggressive, and passive-aggressive — learning to identify them in real life and develop their own healthy, assertive voice.

◆ Verbal Communication

Public speaking, storytelling, debate, and discussion build confidence and clarity. Students learn to speak with purpose, listen actively, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

◆ Non-Verbal Communication

Body language, facial expressions, tone, and presence — students become aware of what they communicate without words and how to read others with greater empathy.

◆ Written Communication

From journaling and letters to emails and creative writing, students develop the ability to express themselves clearly and powerfully on the page.

◆ Digital Communication

In an increasingly connected world, students learn responsible, respectful, and effective communication in digital spaces.

◆ Active Listening

One of the most underrated communication skills — students practice truly hearing others, asking thoughtful questions, and responding with care.

◆ Conflict Resolution

Real-world frameworks for navigating disagreement, finding common ground, and repairing relationships with honesty and compassion.

◆ Cross-Cultural Communication

Exploring how culture, background, and identity shape the way we communicate fosters deep empathy and a genuine appreciation for diverse perspectives.



UMBRELLA ACADEMY 2026 / 2027

August						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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January						
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February						
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March						
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April						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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May						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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31						

June						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

KEY DATES

- 8/5 First Day of School (Wed)
- 8/12-13 MAP Testing
- 9/7 No School / Labor Day
- 9/14 PTO Meeting
- 9/25 No School / Teacher Planning
- 10/5 PTO Meeting
- 10/9 No School / Teacher Planning
- 10/12-16 Fall Break
- 10/12 No School / Columbus Day
- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/2 PTO Meeting
- 11/11 No School / Veterans Day
- 11/20 No School / Teacher Planning
- 11/23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Day
- 11/27 No School / Black Friday
- 12/7 PTO Meeting
- 12/9-10 MAP Testing
- 12/18 No School / Teacher Planning
- 12/21-1/1 Christmas Break
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 1/1 New Year's Day
- 1/4 PTO Meeting
- 1/15 No School / Teacher Planning
- 1/18 No School / MLK Day
- 2/1 PTO Meeting
- 2/12 No School / Teacher Planning
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 No School / Presidents Day
- 3/1 PTO Meeting
- 3/12 No School / Teacher Planning
- 3/15-19 Spring Break
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/26 No School / Good Friday
- 3/28 Easter Sunday
- 4/5 PTO Meeting
- 4/16 No School / Teacher Planning
- 5/3 PTO Meeting
- 5/19-20 MAP Testing
- 5/21 No School / Teacher Planning
- 5/28 Last Day of School (Fri)
- 5/31 No School / Memorial Day
- 6/1-30 Summer Break

*Dates / Events subject to change

No School Holiday

No School / Teacher Planning Day

School Break

First / Last Day of School

MAP Testing

PTO Meeting · school in session



Academic Programs

Curriculum Overview

We do not hand every child the same book on day one. Instead, we spend our **first two weeks getting to know each learner** — observing them in the classroom, working with them one-on-one, and completing our first MAP assessment. Together these give us a clear, honest picture of where each child actually is.

From there, we **build a curriculum around that child** — designed to strengthen what's solid, fill in what's missing, and stretch them toward new skills at a pace that feels challenging but never discouraging. Core subjects are taught through hands-on, project-based, and rotational learning, and every plan is revisited as the child grows.

WHAT A CHILD'S PLAN MAY DRAW FROM

Depending on what each learner needs, we pull from a range of trusted resources and approaches — including **Singapore Math, IXL, Lexia Core5, Wit & Wisdom, The Writing Revolution, Brave Writer, OpenSciEd**, and the **Core Knowledge Sequence**, alongside workbooks, worksheets, hands-on tools, and real-world projects. Progress is measured with **NWEA MAP Growth**. No two plans look exactly alike, and that is the point.

Core Subjects: Math · Literacy & Reading · Social Studies · History · Science & STEM · Art & Music · Technology & Robotics

Special Programs: Yoga & Mindfulness · Outdoor Activities · Life Skills & Communication · Creative Work Projects · Community Service · Student-Led Workshops

Math at Umbrella Academy

Math is taught through a **rotational learning model** — students cycle between independent practice, partner collaboration, and 1:1 instruction. We use workbooks, worksheets, and hands-on problem-solving tools, and we take math out of the classroom and into the kitchen, the garden, and the outdoors — because math lives in everything. Baking, building, measuring, budgeting: children discover that numbers are not an abstract exercise but a way of understanding the world. Each child is met at their own skill level and challenged in ways that feel like fun, not pressure.

Literacy at Umbrella Academy

Literacy follows the same personalized, rotational model, building reading fluency, comprehension, and creative writing through a mix of leveled texts, hands-on writing work, and real conversation about ideas. Our literacy specialist, **Kieley**, leads sessions three days a week. Students enjoy journal buddies, poetry slams, book presentations, storytelling sessions, and genre exploration. Every child reads at their own level, is challenged just past their comfort zone, and grows at their own pace.



Assessment & MAP Testing

Students complete the **NWEA MAP Growth** assessment (Measures of Academic Progress) **three times a year** — in August, December, and May. This measures individual growth — not grades — and helps us tailor instruction to each child's needs. This year's testing windows are:

- **August 12–13, 2026** — beginning-of-year baseline
- **December 9–10, 2026** — mid-year progress check
- **May 19–20, 2027** — end-of-year growth

The week after each test, we meet with families to celebrate progress and set new goals. **Report cards are emailed after each assessment window** — three times a year. All testing windows are also marked on the yearly calendar.



Special Programs

At Umbrella Academy, special programs are not fixed — they are **living, breathing experiences designed around student interests and current world events**. This is the Umbrella Way: we meet students where they are, follow their curiosity, and let the world itself be the classroom.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ARE REIMAGINED REGULARLY AND MAY INCLUDE:

◆ Boarding a Virtual Plane

Students embark on virtual journeys to countries around the world, learning about cultures, languages, geography, food, art, and daily life through immersive, themed experiences. One week you might be in Japan learning origami and tasting miso soup — the next, in Brazil exploring carnival traditions and the Amazon rainforest.

◆ Going Back in Time

History comes alive when students step into it. Through themed classes built around historical events — from Ancient Egypt to the Civil Rights Movement to the Space Race — students don't just learn history, they experience it through art, roleplay, debate, cooking, music, and storytelling.

◆ Learning Through World Events

Current events shape our world every day. We believe children deserve to understand them. Special programs may be built around relevant global topics — environmental challenges, cultural celebrations, scientific breakthroughs — taught with age-appropriate depth and genuine curiosity.

◆ Student-Driven Themes

When students bring us a topic they are burning to explore, we build a program around it. This is the Umbrella Way — student voice drives the learning, and teachers create the magic around it.

THE UMBRELLA WAY

Our special programs are intentionally flexible. We follow the students, the season, and the world. Expect to be surprised, delighted, and inspired by what your child brings home.



Communication, Technology & Support

Staying Connected

Updates, weekly recaps, and important announcements come to you **via email and on ClassDojo**. ClassDojo is free for families and we will send you an invite before the first day of school — it is where you will see photos and the day-to-day of the classroom, and where you can message us privately at any time.

Everything you look *up* — this handbook, the calendar, the daily schedule, and every form — lives on our **Family Hub** at family.umbrella-academy.com. You can add it to your phone's home screen and it will work even without a signal.



Our Forms

All of our forms live at family.umbrella-academy.com/forms. Each takes about two minutes.

Form	When to use it
Photo consent	Required, before the first day. How we may photograph your child, and where those images may appear. One per child.
Hybrid days	Hybrid families, before each quarter. Which two or three days your child will attend.
Travel plans	Any time you'll be away — at the start of the year or later.
Join us at school	Whenever you'd like to spend a day, part of a day, or a lunch with us.

We encourage families to stay engaged — your involvement is one of the most powerful things you can offer your child's education.

Report Cards

Your child's **report card is sent by email three times a year**, following each MAP assessment window — in **August, December, and May**. It reflects individual growth rather than grades, and the week after each assessment we meet with families to walk through it, celebrate progress, and set new goals together.

WHERE THINGS LIVE

Email & ClassDojo — updates, announcements, photos, and messages.

Email — report cards, three times a year.

Family Hub (family.umbrella-academy.com) — handbook, calendar, schedule, forms, key dates.

Technology Use

Students are provided the technology they need for learning. Responsible, purposeful use is expected at all times. The school provides safe storage for all devices when not in use. Screen time is intentional and always educationally purposeful.

Support Services

We are committed to supporting the whole child — academically, emotionally, and socially. If you have concerns about your child's learning, social dynamics, or emotional well-being, please reach out to Julia or your child's Lead Teacher, Dillon, directly. We work collaboratively with families to ensure every child feels seen, safe, and supported.

PTO Meetings

Parent-Teacher Association meetings are held **monthly on a Monday while school is in session**, generally on the first Monday of the month — with the exception of September, which moves to the second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday. All meeting dates are marked on the yearly calendar:

Fall 2026	Winter 2026–27	Spring 2027
September 14	January 4	March 1
October 5	February 1	April 5
November 2		May 3
December 7		

These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to stay informed, share ideas, ask questions, and strengthen our community. All families are warmly welcome and encouraged to attend.

A sign-up sheet will follow closer to our first meeting on Monday, September 14th — watch ClassDojo and your email for the link.



A Note to Our Families

You chose Umbrella Academy because you believe in something different — an education rooted in love, curiosity, community, and the full potential of every child. We don't take that trust lightly.

This year is going to be extraordinary. We will grow together, laugh together, learn from each other, and build something truly special. Thank you for being part of this community.

"The purpose of education is not to fill a bucket, but to light a fire — and once that fire is lit, nothing in this world can extinguish it. We do not raise children to fit into the world as it is. We raise them to build the world as it should be."

— Umbrella Academy

Umbrella Academy

6140 E Peak View, Cave Creek, AZ

2026 – 2027 School Year