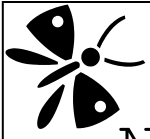


Academy for Children

A Montessori School
and Child Care Center



July 2026 Newsletter



Summer Registration

The summer has been going great! The themes are exciting, and we've had many families join us for fun. We currently do not have any openings for our center, but if you wish to be placed on a waiting list, please feel free to let the Academy office know.

Academy Closed July 3rd!

The Academy will be closed Friday, July 3rd, to observe Independence Day. We will be open for child care on Wednesday and Thursday. If your child will be absent, please let the office know. Have a safe holiday!

July Themes

June 29 – July 3	Child Care, Closed July 3 rd
July 6 – July 10	Andres Valencia: Artist Like Me
July 13 – July 17	A Midsummer Night's Dream
July 20 – July 24	Wacky Wonders
July 27 – July 31	Mushroom Forests



Island Park

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, we enjoy the warm summer weather by going to Island Park! We love packing our wagon full of yard toys including chalk, stilts, frisbees, bean bags, balls, and more! We also provide cold water for the children to drink while they play at the park. On park days please be sure that your child has good walking shoes and easy to play in clothing!

Open Swimming at the YMCA

The Academy staff have been taking groups of children swimming at the YMCA indoor kiddie pool on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays! The children leave school around 1:15 pm and return around 3:00 pm. The preprimary children divide into two groups, with half of the children going on Monday and the other half of the children going on Wednesday. The elementary children go together as a large group on Fridays. The children greatly enjoy spending time going down the slide, swimming under the waterfall, and playing in the water with their friends! Please be sure that your child has a labeled towel, swimsuit, good shoes for the pool, and a swimsuit coverup (if wanted) at school on Mondays. Swimming items will be sent home to be washed for the weekend on Thursday evenings for Preprimary children and Friday evenings for Elementary children. Thanks!

Movie Field Trips

There are a couple movie field trips for the Preschool II and Elementary children. Be on the lookout for reminders for these events. If you feel that the movie isn't something that you would like your child to attend, be sure to let the office know. The children leave the center at 12:30 and return at 3:30. The children sure love these special trips.



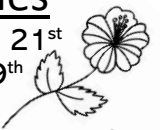
Elementary Sleepover



The elementary students will once again have their annual sleepover at the Academy. The event will take place on August 7th from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. All children who have been in our elementary program during the summer are eligible to attend. The cost of the event is \$55 per child or \$70 per family.

Elementary Activities

Fargo Theatre July 7th, 14th, 21st
 Plains Art Museum July 9th
 Street Fair July 16th
 Carnival July 15th: 9:00-11:00am at AFC
 Concordia College Science at AFC July 23rd
 Mushroom Presentation at AFC July 27th
 Talent Show July 29th: 3:00pm at AFC



Classroom News



Elementary News – Ms. Shay

What a great start to our summer program we've had! Our summer began with the theme "Backyard Critters," where students had the opportunity to investigate the fascinating insects, birds, and animals that share our outdoor spaces. Through observation, exploration, and nature-based activities, we developed a greater appreciation for the world around us. Even though we only had a few students here for this first week, we enjoyed our first field trip to Island Park to search for real backyard critters. For our food prep activity, we created a slimy, slippery snack of gummy worms and Jell-O!

In our second week, "Ancient Cities," we traveled back in time to discover past civilizations and the ways people lived long ago. For our field trip, we went on a historic downtown walking tour. We explored architecture, inventions, maps, and daily life while making connections between the past and present through engaging projects and discussions. Our food prep activity was hummus and veggie cities- the students got to experience a simple food that has been enjoyed in many ancient cultures throughout history. We also had a spa day at school this week, which the children loved!

Week three brought us into the imaginative world of the "Works of Maurice Sendak." We enjoyed storytelling, creative writing, and art activities inspired by Sendak's beloved characters and illustrations. We created our magical red door art project. Students were encouraged to use their imaginations, express themselves creatively, and explore the power of stories. For food prep, students made "Wild Thing" snack mixes inspired by "Where the Wild Things Are," combining fun ingredients to create their own imaginative treats. We also had a great time exploring many different authors at the Fargo library. Another favorite of this week was going to Events4All to play in the bouncy houses; Thanks to Scott Reiter, Elementary parent, for this fun opportunity!

Our fourth week, "The Great Academy Bake-Off," combined learning and fun through cooking-inspired activities. Along with creating paper cupcakes as an art project, students practiced measuring, following directions, problem-solving, and teamwork while exploring the science and creativity behind baking. During food prep, students decorated their own cake pops, putting their creativity to work while practicing kitchen skills. This week's field trip was to Nichole's. We also had a special tea party in our classroom this week with baked goods and real tea.



We are excited for a summer filled with discovery, creativity, and memorable experiences together!

Preprimary II News – Ms. Rachel

This has been such a fun and exciting first month of summer! We've been going to the park and went to our first movie to end the month of June. We've also enjoyed going to the pool and getting to be outside as often as possible. The children are busy at work and play all day long!

We've been doing lots of fun art projects that relate to our summer themes. With our first theme of "Backyard Critters," we made clothespin butterflies that are displayed on our classroom bulletin board for everyone to see. For our "Ancient Cities" theme, we made our own ancient Greek vases and a rip-and-tear Stonehenge as we talked about these and other places from long ago. We finished off the month with "The Great Academy Bake-Off," and we made blueberry pies, and donuts. What a hands-on way to learn about the science of baking! It was also very yummy!

We have been reading so many great books. The kids especially loved reading "Where the Wild Things Are" as we explored our "Works of Maurice Sendak" theme. We talked about what it means to be an author, and all the hard work and people it takes to create a book. We also loved reading "The Only Way to Make Bread" because it went so well with our baking theme to end the month! The books we read during our baking theme tied in all the skills and learning we've been focusing on during our food prep throughout the month too.

We had a few special events this month. For Father's Day, we made some very yummy barbecue sauce to give to our dads! We had a great time mixing the ingredients together and putting lots of love into our gifts. We gave some leftover barbecue sauce to a few neighborhood friends, and this made us feel good about giving back! We also went on a very exciting field trip to Events4All, where we got to play in bouncy houses!

As we explore and experience summer together, we will continue to focus on our themes and practice skills we will use during the school year. We are looking forward to having lots of fun and learning a lot in the short time we have together!

Preprimary I News – Ms. Ashley



We have had a fantastic start to our summer! During our first theme, "Backyard Critters," we read books and sang songs about some of the creatures you can find in the wild. For art we made a bumble bee out of a paper plate and a snail out of air-dry clay. We did a science experiment to learn how bees and other pollinators help keep everything around us growing! We also got to make a snack ourselves that looked like a cup of dirt and worms. This snack was so yummy! Some very

special guests came to visit us this week as well. Three different families came in to teach us about a special pet they had. They taught us about hawks, hedgehogs, and skinks. It was very interesting!

The next theme was “Ancient Cities.” We read many books that taught us about what life may have been like thousands of years ago. We studied places like Egypt and Rome. For art we made jeweled necklaces as well as a vase decorated using squares of wallpaper samples to look like tiles. We did a super cool science experiment to demonstrate a volcanic eruption like that of Mt. Vesuvius! The kids loved this experiment! We learned that when you put two things together, such as vinegar and baking soda, it causes a chemical reaction and causes gases to be released. For food prep, we made a pyramid using cheese and crackers. The kids had to place the cheese slices from largest to smallest to recreate the Pyramids of Giza!

The third theme, “Maurice Sendak,” taught us a lot about stories and who creates them. We read some of the classic books and sang some songs. We made a king of the wild crown using a paper plate and spent a lot of time grinding coffee for our Father’s Day gift! The kids absolutely love this activity! For our experiment, we demonstrated sink/float! We talked a little about the mass of an object and how that plays a part in whether it will sink or float. We then placed the work on the shelf in our classroom for the children to continue to enjoy. They love anything that has to do with water play. Our snack that we prepared was “Wild Waffles”. We made waffles and then used fruit to make a wild thing monster!

Our last theme for this month was “The Great Academy Bake-Off!” We had a blast with this theme by reading books about baking and making some super fun projects! We made a donut using a paper plate with realistic frosting made with paint and flour and a watercolor macaroon. The experiment for this theme was postponed due to weather, but it will show up in an upcoming theme and I’m so excited to try it! This week’s food prep used diced apples, graham crackers (that the kids crushed themselves) and some cool whip to make an apple pie in a cup.



Toddler II News – Mr. Tank

We really enjoyed our first summer themes this month. Starting with “Backyard Critters,” we talked about the various animals we can find in our yards. We talked about animals like squirrels, birds, rabbits, and raccoons. Using cotton balls and glue, we made white bunnies. We also used cut-outs, blank paper, and paint to craft bird silhouettes. With crayons, markers, and colored pencils everyone was given a squirrel picture to color and make

their own. We also enjoyed seeing the falcon, hedgehog, and skink that our speakers brought.

For our next theme, “Ancient Cities,” our class looked at a few images of old cities like Pompeii and Machu Picchu. During this theme, we did lots of building with various items. We made towers/castles with Legos, wooden blocks, as well as boxes of different sizes and shapes.

“Works of Maurice Sendak” was next. We read “Where the Wild Things Are,” a super fun book with great illustrations. To go along with our book, we used plates and paper to decorate and make our own crowns. Our next book by Sendak, “Little Bear’s Friend,” was also very cute. We made cut-outs of clothes and dolls. Each child colored their dolls and clothes to make them unique. The final Sendak book we read was “Ten Little Rabbits.” We used this book to work on counting, and we counted ten bunnies for each of us!

“The Great Academy Bake-Off” was surely the children’s favorite theme. We made chef hats, and the teachers helped us as we practiced our cutting skills for this project. We also focused on studying reactions that we may see while baking. We tried mixing sugar/salt with water, then flour and water, and finally baking soda and vinegar. We also made a few baked goods to go with our theme! We helped mix all the ingredients to make cookies, and we used powdered sugar to make icing for the cookies. We also made salt dough of various colors, and everyone was able to pick the color, shape, or letter they wanted to add.

Toddler I News – Ms. Michell



Summer started off with a bang this year as we did the first theme of “Backyard Critters.” We enjoyed listening to our Tonie, which had nature sounds, as well as animal sounds like birds, ducks, and buzzing bees. We also talked about animals we see at school and home- bunnies and squirrels were our favorites! Our favorite part of this theme was when we got to learn about the animals that came into school. We saw a falcon, who can rest on the handler’s wrist when she wears special gloves. There was also a very cute hedgehog that curled into a ball. The last animal to come in was a blue-tongued skink, which is a type of lizard that lives up to twenty years! We thank everyone for coming in. We enjoyed it so much!

The next theme was “Ancient Cities.” We used Lego dipped in paint to make all kinds of buildings. We talked about how you can travel to see places that are very old.

Following that theme was “Maurice Sendak” week. Of course, we read “Where the Wild Things Are!” We loved growling and stomping our feet like we were Wild Things! We also learned the song “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear” this week, which had us turning around, touching

our toes, and turning out the light! What a great song to help get our wiggles out!

Our last theme was "The Great Academy Bake-Off." We had so much fun making treats for our class! Parfaits, fruit pizza, and pretzels for necklaces were our favorites! We read "The Hungry Caterpillar" and loved seeing the caterpillar eat his way through the food in the book. "Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar" was a funny song we liked singing at circle time to go along with this theme as well.

We are looking forward to more themes and all the activities they will bring!

Infant News- Ms. Connie

It's hard to believe that the first month of summer is already over! This month we've been working on our fine motor skills with our handkerchief work and stacking blocks. Our class has also been focusing on using gross motor skills to reach new milestones, such as rolling over, sitting, crawling, standing, and even walking! As our friends grow, we're also practicing gentle touches, sharing, taking turns, and some new sign language. The signs we have been working on are: eat, milk, please, and all done.

Our themes of the month started with "Backyard Critters." We had fun incorporating some of the animals we see outside into our art. We also learned from our books that some critters aren't for petting, like buffalo. Our second theme was "Ancient Cities." We painted the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids of Egypt, Aztec Suns, and some animals. For our third theme, "Works of Maurice Sendak," we enjoyed reading many books like "Where the Wild Things Are," "10 Little Rabbits," and "Alligators All Around." Once again, we did a lot of art with our hands and footprints. The last theme of June was "The Great Academy Bake-Off." This was our most sensory-forward theme, with activities like lemonade in a bag, Jell-O/pudding digs, potato digs, and more.

Of course, our class has also been having some fun in the sun! Our friends all love water day. We get to sit and dip our toes in the splash pad. When it's too cold to do water day, we like to go on walks in our stroller and enjoy some fresh air.

School Year Music News- Ms. Laura

Ms. Laura is our Music Teacher. She is Montessori certified through NAMC in Infant/Toddlers and was the Lead Teacher in the Twos classroom at AFC several years ago. She studied theatre and music at MSUM and holds a BA in English and Writing. She will be joining us the first week of August to lead our Music Theme Week, "Campfire Medleys." Below is her news from the last month of school before we start summer music!

May was such a special and exciting final month of music class! Our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

continued growing their musical skills as we learned notes B and high C, completing our pitch studies for the year. The children worked so hard singing, listening, and participating in all our musical activities. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow. One of the highlights of the month was our Preschool Graduation, where our graduating preschoolers proudly sang for their families. It was a joyful and memorable event, and we are so proud of all they have accomplished this year. Thank you to all our families for your support and encouragement throughout such a fun year of music making!

Donations

O'Donnell Family – Toys and Clothes

Mehta Family - Clothes

Messerschmidt Family – Swim Items

Ashlynn Kanuch – Books

Holden Family – Toys

Bremer Family – Clothes

Mangen Family – Books and Clothes

Leslie Family – Diapers

Hansen Family – Staff Treats

Restemeyer Family – Children's Snack

Gerdes Family – Clothes

Thanks to all the families who have donated items to the school this past month. The Academy appreciates all the donations as do the children.

Thank you to Melinda Ashe, Dexter Jenson, and Sarah Opitz for bringing in a hawk, skink, and hedgehog to show the children! This was such a fun and unique way to connect with our first summer theme, "Backyard Critters!"

Hand Washing

We are once again asking all families to have their children wash their hands when they arrive and before they leave the Academy. We are looking for ways to cut down on the number of germs entering our center, as well as trying to find ways to reduce the number of germs our families are getting exposed to. Thank you for your assistance in this effort.

SUNSCREEN

We are asking each parent to put sunscreen on their child before they arrive at the Academy every day. The Academy staff will reapply the lotion in the afternoon and/or before pool or outside time. Please check to make sure your child has a labeled lotion sunscreen in the classroom. It's very important that we protect children's skin from harmful rays of the sun. We ask that all sunscreens be lotion or stick verses the spray on kind.