AGBU MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL
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MARIE MANOOGIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-2027

Mission

AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School is a preschool through twelfth-grade school committed to instilling Armenian heritage and fostering academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment. Our college preparatory program inspires students to become critical thinkers who value their Armenian culture and identity, and are equipped to face the ever-changing world.

School Information

AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (AGBU MDS) is a college preparatory school owned and operated by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the largest Armenian philanthropic organization in the diaspora. The school was founded in 1976. AGBU MDS has had a diverse representation of Armenian families, with some hailing from many different countries of the world, including Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, and parts of Central and South America. In addition, the student population reflects a diverse range of socioeconomic backgrounds, with financial aid available to qualifying students. The school has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 1992.

Enrollment

Preschool through 12th grade: 1,022 students
Kindergarten through Grade 5: 416 students, with three sections per grade level.

Campus and Facilities

Elementary students learn and play on a campus with a school gym, cafeteria, library, soccer field, playground, and computer lab. Our state-of-the-art learning center, the MSCC, adds dedicated space for hands-on learning.

Elementary Division Overview

The elementary division serves students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 in three sections per grade. Each section has a dedicated homeroom teacher who builds meaningful relationships with students, ensuring that every child is known, valued, and supported. Students attend eight periods a day, forty each week, blending core academics with Armenian language and culture, specialty classes, and character education. The elementary school day runs from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Academic Program

The elementary curriculum is aligned with state standards and the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students learn by doing, through hands-on projects, collaborative group work, and individual attention that responds to each child's needs. Teachers use informal and formal assessments throughout the learning cycle to guide instruction and confirm mastery. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 take NWEA assessments three times a year, and teachers review the results closely to track progress. Standards-based grading reports mastery of each skill separately from effort, so families can see exactly how their child is growing. Students in Grades 2 through 5 receive weekly homework, and every grade is expected to read at home each night.

Armenian Language and Culture

Armenian heritage is the cornerstone of AGBU MDS, with the youngest students building that connection in their first years. Through reading, writing, speaking, and storytelling in Armenian, children develop a lasting love for their language and culture. Instruction is led by both Eastern and Western Armenian teachers. Students also take Armenian Dance, and students in Grades 4 and 5 study Armenian Culture and Religion.

Elementary School Faculty

The elementary faculty of 37 includes a homeroom teacher for each of the three sections in every grade from Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students also learn from Eastern and Western Armenian teachers and from specialists in physical education, dance, computer science, and music. Every Kindergarten classroom has a dedicated assistant. Student support is provided by a school counselor, three resource teachers, a student affairs officer, and a full-time nurse.

Contact Information

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Specialty Classes

Students work with specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Computer Science, and Armenian Dance. Media is added for Grades 2 through 5.

Character Education and Student Support

Character Education is taught every day, not in a single lesson. Each week, students practice a new *Titan Trait*, and they earn "Titan Tickets" when they are caught following it or simply "caught being good." The school counselor shares a weekly video on breathing techniques and coping strategies, and teachers reinforce the lessons all week. Upper Elementary students meet monthly in community circles to talk through grade-level concerns together. Age-appropriate assemblies throughout the year focus on kindness and respect, and peer conflicts are worked through with the Counselor in social groups. The Student Affairs Officer helps students grow into strong team players who meet challenges constructively, and holds quarterly homeroom assemblies on school-wide policies.

Performances and Leadership

Every grade level presents a performance in Armenian that celebrates language, culture, and heritage. Homerooms create themed performances with songs, poems, and costumes, and students may also join a musical performance on the instrument of their choice. Fifth graders can run for Student Council and learn the election process firsthand. Students vote, and two students from each homeroom are selected. Council members meet weekly with their advisor, make school announcements, and serve as role models for their classmates.

Field Trips and Enrichment

Each grade level takes dedicated field trips throughout the year, and in-house field trips and events bring the curriculum to life on campus. In the fall and spring, families can enroll their children in optional after-school enrichment classes, including cooking, art, music, LEGO robotics, and theater.

Athletics

Students can take part in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track and field, and they have the opportunity to compete against other schools in CIF and KAHAM. Athletics build sportsmanship, communication skills, and school and team spirit.

AGBU-MDS TITANS