



Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 School Year

Dear Desert Heights Elementary Families,

We hope all of our families, students, staff, and community members have been staying healthy and are doing well. As we are preparing for the safety of our students and staff, we want to make sure we are communicating accurate information to you. We know there are many questions and concerns and want to be responsive to your needs. I will continue to update you as things are ever changing. Please make sure you are following our social media (website, Facebook, and twitter) as we can update that often.

The Washoe County School District Board of Trustees has reaffirmed the July 7th action for Elementary School Education which includes the In Person Learning and Full Time Distance Learning.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings are mandatory and are required by all students (PK-6th), staff, parents, guardians, and visitors on school property at all times. If a student does not have a face covering, one will be provided to them. School administrators may approve exemptions for students who are medically fragile (IEP or 504 plan), who received a doctor's note in accordance with the governor's directive, or as a disability that might prevent them from wearing one (doctor's not needed). If a student, parent, or guest to the school chooses not to wear a mask, they will not be allowed on campus or their parents will be called.

SUGGESTION: <https://bit.ly/30HeETI>

Arrival Procedures

The gates to the playground will be unlocked at 9:20 am each day. Students are not allowed on campus prior to 9:20 am unless if they are signed up for Sierra Kids. There will be no recess or play in the morning. Students will go directly to their line up area. During the first week of school, all teachers will be outside to assist with students getting to the correct location. Teachers will be monitoring students and reminding them to wear their masks and maintain social distancing. To ensure safety of all students and staff, parents will be expected to be wearing masks and keeping themselves 6 ft. apart from other adults and children when possible. Parents and visitors will not be allowed in the building in order to maintain staff and student safety.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up/Transportation

All students riding buses are required to wear a mask, sit in assigned seats, and maintain social distancing. The routes with times and locations for stops will be published on WCSD website in the days just before school starting.

Dismissal

In order to allow for students to maintain social distancing, a staggered dismissal time has been implemented. Students in grades 4-6 will be dismissed at 3:27 pm (M, T, Th, F) and 2:42 pm on



Wednesdays. This will allow the older students time to begin walking, riding their bikes, getting in line for the bus, or meeting parents for a ride. Students can also determine a meeting spot for younger siblings. The students in grades K-3 will be released at our normal dismissal of 3:30 pm and 2:45 pm. Teachers will be walking their students out each and every day to ensure everyone is wearing their masks and maintaining social distancing.

*Students riding a bus will directly board their bus and sit in their assigned seat.

*Students that are walking will head directly home.

*Students being picked up will wait at the Kiss & Drop.

Duty teachers will monitor that students continue to wear their masks and maintain social distancing. At dismissal, all available exits will be used to minimize numbers in any particular area.

Family/Community Access to Building

Parents and families are encouraged to call the school at 775-677-5444 prior to entering the school. Most requests and situations can be successfully addressed over the phone. We will significantly limit the number of non-staff or student entrance into the building. All visitors must wear a mask and will be limited to the front foyer or main door entrance. Two people at a time will be in the waiting area. This is to limit the potential exposure in the building and keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

Inside School Logistics

- **One-Way Traffic Routes** - When students enter the building, they will need to maintain social distancing (they will not be able to congregate in any area) and proceed directly to their class. Students will follow the directions of the staff and enter one class at a time when coming in from recess. There will be directional arrows on the floor in the school.
- **Restrooms:** Only 1 student will be permitted to leave the room at any time. Signs are up for students to hand wash and sanitizing stations are located outside the bathrooms, as well. Only two students at a time will be permitted in the bathroom.
 - **Suggestion:** Have students go to the bathroom prior to coming to school.
- **Clinic/Medical:** We will be dividing the clinic into 2 separate areas; one for students and staff presenting with contagious/virus symptoms and one for non-COVID or virus reasons (personal hygiene, medication, first aid). Should any student or staff member be officially diagnosed with COVID-19, Desert Heights will work closely with and follow all directions of WCSD Health Services and Washoe County Health Department.
- **Hand Washing:** Any classroom or learning space with a sink will have a hand washing station (soap and paper towels) set-up. Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day.

Breakfast/Lunch

- **Breakfast:** Breakfast will be served in the classroom like we did last year. Staff will take all necessary precautions when distributing food to students in order to keep them safe.
- **Lunch:** Lunch will be served in the classroom and not in the cafeteria. Staff will take all necessary precautions when distributing food to students in order to keep them safe.



Classroom Logistics

- **Seating:** Each classroom is equipped with an individual desk and chair. Students are spaced, at a minimum of 3 feet apart.
- **Supplies:** Each student maintains the supplies they will use in class. Additional supplies will be provided as needed to individuals, but there will be no shared supplies that are not sanitized between use.

Distance Learning

If you have chosen Distance Learning as an option, we are still waiting on Human Resources to let us know how many Distance Learning teachers we will have. More information this week will be communicated about Distance learning.

Classroom Teacher

Once we receive confirmation on the Distance Learning Teachers from the school district, we will then be able to let you know who your classroom teacher will be.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this document, we are confident of a successful implementation with all of us working together. We will update as more information becomes available. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please reach out to an administrator directly.

Looking forward to seeing many of our Coyotes and families soon! Remember, if you need to reach the office, our number is 775-677-5444.

Sincerely,
David Frydman, Principal
Desert Heights Elementary School