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Desert Shadows MS || 8.1.2022

1 message

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Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 4:20 PM

Paradise Valley Unified School District



August 1, 2022

Desert Shadows Middle School Families,

When the calendar turns to August, the start of school becomes real for our students and families. Our Sidewinder Camp brought most of our 7th grade students to campus last week, teachers will arrive back this week, and the DSMS Walkthrough Event is on Friday. We are building up to Tuesday, August 9th when we'll welcome everyone for our first day. Please read these announcements carefully to be well informed about everything that is happening at DSMS!

Sidewinder Camp Success

Our new students always bring a bright and enthusiastic energy to our campus in August. Sidewinder Camp 2022 is now in the books and it was a big success. Special thanks to our teacher, staff, and student volunteers, as well as to Shawn Bell, our Dean of Students. Here are [a few pictures](#) from Sidewinder Camp - 2022.

DSMS Athletics

Festival sports is an amazing opportunity for DSMS students to try a new sport, make friends and build confidence. All students are invited to come out and join our festival sports program. No one is cut, and all students are invited to play in Festival (a one day tournament at the end of the season). An All-Star team will be chosen after Festival. Our first group of All-Stars (Boys Basketball and Girls Softball) runs from September 19 - October 18th where an additional 7 games are played against other middle schools in the Paradise Valley Unified School District. Please check out this slideshow for more information ([Festival Sports Presentation 22/23 BB/SB](#)). If you have any questions, please email Shawn Bell at shbell@pvschools.net.

First Day Packets

Our DSMS [First Day Packet](#) is a group of assembled documents that will be helpful in orienting new and returning families to the upcoming school year. We will continue to add to this folder as more information is produced. You will find school maps, PVUSD Family Student Handbook, DSMS school expectations, and more. [Click Here](#) to explore now, but also check back to see what's new.

Student Schedules

Students and Families will see class schedules on [Infinite Campus](#) beginning Sunday, August 7th. At DSMS, we will be printing and making available an early copy of schedules for the Classroom Walkthrough Event. [Infinite Campus](#) will always carry the most current class schedule.

Classroom Walkthrough Event

On Friday August 5th, 5-7p.m. families may pick up a schedule and walk around the campus to familiarize themselves with buildings and classroom locations. Teachers will not be present for the walkthrough event, but administrators and

others will be here to see that everyone gets from room to room, and is set for the first day of school. Feel free to arrive anytime during this two-hour window and start in the cafeteria for schedule pickup. If your schedule does not allow you to attend this event, don't panic. We always have a lot of help on the first day of school.

Reminder Regarding Schedules

When you collect your schedule, look this over carefully. If you find a problem or mistake with your schedule, you may reach out to your grade level counselor by email. [Kelly Chin](#) is our 7th grade level counselor. [Erin Kirsits](#) is our 8th grade level counselor. Our aim is to make corrections when possible prior to August 9th.

DSMS Staffing

This year's Arizona teacher shortage has made it significantly more challenging to find teachers and staff to fill a few vacancies throughout the state. While I am confident in and excited about our new and returning teachers this school year, two classroom teacher roles will be filled with certified substitutes to kick off our school year. In a campus of 42 certified teachers, the impact is not widespread, but I want to make our community aware of this real challenge. Families can help out with your support and understanding should one of your student's classes be filled with a substitute teacher.

A listing of the certified teaching positions that are still on the board for [DSMS can be found here](#). If you know of a properly certified teacher that may be interested in one of these roles, please share the posting or have them reach out to me. Often our best candidates come from connections in our own community of families.

First Day of School

Tuesday, August 9th is our first full day of school. Please remember to drop off in time for students to collect their final schedule in the gym (7th Grade) or cafeteria (8th Grade). Our gates open at 7:00AM, but we suggest a dropoff at 7:30 AM on this first day. We'll have students for the full school day from [8:00AM to 2:40PM](#).

Congestion in the parking lots before and after school is to be expected in the first weeks as parents adjust to procedures. Please be attentive, patient and safe. Most importantly, students should only exit a vehicle on the schoolside curb - never in the middle of the parking lot or the "thru lane" on the left, which is reserved for folks who have already dropped off students and are heading out. Please do not drop students off in the parking lot and have them walk through parked cars.

Bus Routes

All routes to and from DSMS are now available on the [PV Schools transportation website](#). Busses drop off in the morning and pick up from the back parking lot off Emile Zola. If your child is a bus rider, it is a great idea to have your student ride the bus to and from school the first few days so they can learn the routine. We support students in learning these routines in the first weeks of school.

DSMS Curriculum Night

On Tuesday, August 23rd, from 6-8p.m. we invite families to get to know our teachers. This evening is run on a specific time schedule that follows your child's class schedule. Parents/Guardians will visit each class (in order) from 1st period through 8th period to hear a 10-minute presentation about the class curriculum, how parents can help, and strategies for student success. This year's in-person event is highly anticipated because we've held these virtually for the past two years. We're happy to welcome families back to campus!

School Supply Lists

A solid and sturdy backpack and water bottle are important at DSMS. Middle school supply lists will be posted on teacher websites or Google Classrooms. Families should not be concerned or overspend on supplies for the first week. Supply lists will not be too significant except for a few classes. It's best to wait for more information from specific teachers.

School Pictures and Student IDs

On Tuesday, August 16th, [Dorian Studios](#) will be on campus to take student pictures for the 2022-2023 school year. Retakes will be offered on November 9th.

Annual Update

We'd kindly ask all families to log into [Infinite Campus](#) and complete the Annual Update. Providing this information ensures that we have the latest and greatest health and safety information to start the school year. Thank you!

Chromebooks and PV Assist Website

All DSMS students will be issued a Chromebook for school related purposes. Returning 8th grade students should have their Chromebook from last school year. New 7th and 8th grade students will receive their device during the first week at school. For questions and tips about use, families are encouraged to become familiar with the [PV Assist](#) website.

Student Lunch 2022-2023

School lunch has been offered for free for the past two years, however, we'll be returning to a fee based lunch program this school year. Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch [Forms](#) are available in the front office. See our [Nutrition and Wellness site](#) for more information.

Nurses Office

[Jennifer Bryant](#), our school nurse will be accepting and checking in medications for students on Monday, August 8th. She will also be here on Tuesday, August 9th, but there may be delays as the first day is a very busy morning.

A free Childhood Immunization Clinic sponsored by Maricopa County will be held on Saturday, August 6th at North Canyon High school. [Click here for details](#).

PE Dress

This year we will expect students enrolled in Physical Education to change into appropriate athletic attire as we did pre-covid. The required dress is black athletic shorts, a plain white or light colored t-shirt and tie athletic shoes. These can be found at just about any clothing store. Many students and families choose to purchase a DSMS signature PE uniform. Our vendor, Cleats, has established a website for this purpose. Orders will be delivered to the school prior to the dress requirement setting in. **Families should wait to see PE on your student's schedule before completing the order.** <https://cleats.chipply.com/dsms/>

Sidewinder PTO

We still have an open Fundraising Chairperson position on our executive board. This is an important position that helps us meet our goals so that we can provide fun activities for the kids and help support our teachers and staff. Contact president@sidewinderpto.com if you're interested in this important position.

The Sidewinder PTO looks forward to partnering with teachers, staff, parents and students for an incredible year ahead.

Calendar Items

Aug. 5 DSMS Walkthrough Event 5-7pm
Aug. 9 1st Day of School
Aug. 16 School Pictures
Aug. 23 Curriculum Night 6-8pm

As you can see, DSMS is a very busy school. We are highly committed to supporting all students and families well. When questions come up, please don't hesitate to call our main office at 602.449.6800.

Sincerely,

Derek Hummert
Proud Principal
Desert Shadows Middle School

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