



VISTA VERDE JAGUARS

VVMS Admin. Office

2826 E Grovers Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85032

July 27th, 2023

Parents & Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! My name is Heidi Wright, and I am honored to serve Vista Verde Middle School this year as Principal.

I share in PVUSD'S vision of empowering every VVMS student for *a lifetime of success and commit to ensuring the safety and well-rounded education of each child* every day as Principal.

I have been a proud educator for the past 13 years, starting my career teaching in full language immersion programs in South Korea and ending my time in the classroom directing award-winning high school performing arts programs in Phoenix. During my time in the classroom, I also served as an instructional coach to support fellow teachers. The past three years I have served as a high school assistant principal here in Phoenix along with serving at the college level as an adjunct professor preparing future teachers. My background teaching overseas and in diverse communities here in Arizona has afforded me extensive research and practical experience that has well prepared me to educate, develop, and lead the community of Vista Verde Middle School.

As we prepare to launch the 2023-2024 school year, my priorities will be creating and building community, bringing a laser-focus to instruction through data analysis to improve student achievement and outcomes, and ensuring that students understand the supports and expectations to ensure their success. I will be intentional about collaborating and listening to our teachers, staff, students, and families to better understand any concerns, hopes, or goals for Vista Verde. We, as a community, will work together to create intentional action plans to harness our potential, continue traditions of excellence and take our school forward.

Students, I greatly look forward to meeting you, building community with you, and supporting you as you move through Vista Verde in preparation for high school.

Parents and Families, thank you for entrusting me with leading your child's school and being a part of their educational journey. I look forward to working together, alongside our faculty and student body, to make Vista Verde a premier middle school experience in the Valley.

Please review the information on the following pages to ensure a smooth start to the year, and please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Ms. Heidi Wright, M.Ed.
Principal of Vista Verde Middle School





VISTA VERDE JAGUARS

Upcoming Dates:

- **Friday, 7/28/23 - Jaguar Jumpstart**
 - We invite all of our incoming 7th graders to attend our annual *Jaguar Jumpstart* orientation day. *Jaguar Jumpstart* is a day where each student will receive an overview of everything Vista Verde. The camp will be held on our campus from 9am-1pm. Students will have an opportunity to tour our campus and get to know our amazing teachers and staff members. This event is for students **only** and lunch will be provided. If you have any questions please feel free to call our office at 62-449-5300.
- **Thursday, 8/3/23 - First Day of School**
 - School hours are from 8:00 - 2:40, *but* students should arrive on campus at 7:40am for the first day of school.
 - Students report directly to the cafeteria to identify their homeroom class. Student schedules will be distributed through homeroom *Jag Time* teachers starting at 8:00am.
 - We will have helpers to guide students around campus. Students will receive the beginning of the school year packet. Please take the time to **read** this information and **return** all required forms.
- **Tuesday, 8/22/23 - Open House & Curriculum Night**
 - Come join us to meet your child's teachers, learn more about VVMS, your child's course curriculum, and get acquainted with our school community.

Follow Us!

Follow VVMS on Facebook and Instagram @vistaverdejaguars for updates and more!



Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

We encourage all families to apply for Free and Reduced lunch. The Nutrition & Wellness Department will return to charging students for their meals based on their free, reduced, and paid meal application status during the 2023-2024 school year. The 2023-2024 Free & Reduced Meal Application can be completed at EZMealApp.com; this paperless option is encouraged because online applications can be processed within 24 hours of their submission. Paper meal applications will be available in school front offices or can be printed from the Nutrition & Wellness website to be submitted to the department. All families are encouraged to apply because meal applications can be used for additional benefits aside from meals, such as:

- Funding for student programs and services
- Reduced registration fees for AP, SAT, and/or ACT tests
- Free or discounted fees to participate in most sports
- Discounted rates on fees associated with applying for college
- Eligibility for discounted rates on internet services

It is extremely important for families to complete and submit the 23-24 SY meal application in order to avoid potential negative account balance charges.

Schedule Change Requests

- Schedule request changes during the first week of school will be prioritized for students who:
 - Are missing a class period.
 - Require a placement change
 - Special Education
 - Structured English Immersion (SEI)
 - Honors
- The master schedule is built based on student course requests that were completed the prior school year. To ensure balanced classes and equity for our students, schedule changes based on teacher preference cannot be accommodated at this time.
- **Electives:** Should a student wish to change their elective course, they may submit a request via Google Form to our counselor, Ms. Yvette Morales, through Wednesday, August 9th, 2023. Request approval is based on seat availability and class capacities and will be considered in order in which they are received. Details on how to submit a schedule change request will be shared with students through their homeroom teachers.



VISTA VERDE JAGUARS

Cell Phone Use at School:

In order to keep classroom distractions to a minimum, all student cell phones must be silenced and put away in students' backpacks during class time. Students will be able to use their cell phones before and after school, at lunch, and during passing periods.

We understand that there will be times that parents need to contact their child during the school day. If there is an emergency situation and parents need to get ahold of their student, we ask that the parent contact the office, and we will provide the student time to come and receive the communication without disrupting class time.

Parents, please speak to your child about our VVMS cell phone policy and partner with us to ensure compliance. We will provide additional information to students during the first week.

Supply List:

Please see our 2023-2024 Student Supply List included below.

Dress Code

- We encourage parents to view our PVUSD [dress code policy](#) (page 23) in regard to back to school shopping in order to provide the appropriate clothing for your student at school. When students do come to school out of dress code expectations, we will follow the behavioral process.

Emergency Card Update

- You should have received an email with a link to update your school Emergency Card. Please take a moment to ensure that you do this in order to have the proper contact information for your child. If you have any questions or need help with this please contact our office.

Bus Transportation

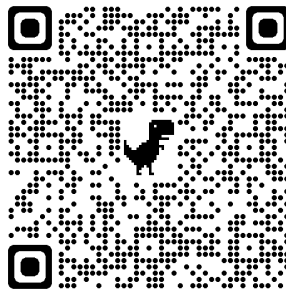
- Bus transportation routes will be available online the week of August 1st on our district website under transportation. The link for transportation can be found here: [Bus Routes - Paradise Valley Unified School District](#)

Office Numbers

- Our office is here to support you in any way. Please feel free to give us a call at:
 - Main Office: (602) 449-530
 - Attendance: 602-449-5301

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

We are looking for highly-engaged, highly-enthusiastic parents and family members to join our PTO this year. If you are interested in joining, please complete this short form by scanning the QR code below:





VISTA VERDE JAGUARS

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

My name is Kimberly Koda Wenger and I am excited to continue as the Assistant Principal here at Vista Verde Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year! I am an Arizona native and product of PV Schools as a graduate of Horizon High School. I have one daughter and it is the best and hardest job I have ever had, so I understand the pressures that come with being a parent and your child's greatest advocate.

I received my Bachelors Degree of Science in Cross Categorical Special Education from the University of Arizona and my Masters in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University. I started my educational journey 13 years ago teaching Kindergarten through 8th grade Special Education and then moved to administrative roles as the Dean and Assistant Principal at Pinnacle High School for three years.. I enjoy being a part of these formative middle years for students as they prepare for high school and beyond. I truly believe that all students learn best when they are appreciated and accepted for who they are and I will work with staff, students, and their families to ensure that the social and academic needs of all students are met.

I am committed to leading our PBIS program as well as navigating discipline systems here at VVMS to ensure student safety and productivity. To be successful, communication is essential, so please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can work together throughout this school year!

Please review the [PV Schools Parent and Student Handbook](#) for Governing Board policies and procedures for all PV Schools. I would like to call special attention to page 12 regarding electronic devices (cell phones and earbuds) and page 23 regarding dress code. Cell phones and other technology must be **silent and away in backpacks** during class time. VVMS follows these policies and will enforce the rules accordingly for students who do not follow technology or dress code rules at VVMS. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Attendance is essential for success in middle school and we appreciate your assistance with this. If students are going to be out or late, please call our attendance office at: 602-449-5301. Any student that is late must be signed in by their parent or guardian in the front office after 8:01 am daily.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Koda
Assistant Principal
kkodawenger@pvschools.net
602-449-5300





VISTA VERDE JAGUARS

2023-2024 Vista Verde Middle School Supply List

These items should be with every student every day to ensure academic success!

- 2" 3-ring binder
- 7 tab dividers
- 3 single-subject spiral notebooks
- 3 highlighters: pink, blue, yellow
- Pencils (*please carry a minimum of 5*)
- 1 2-pocket folder
- Notebook paper
- Colored pencils
- Glue stick
- Graph paper
- Erasers
- Black or blue ink pens (*please carry a minimum of 3*)

****Teachers may share additionally needed supplies for their individual courses.***

These supplies will be communicated during the first week of school.