

Conejos Connections

August 2023, Issue #30

5401 Homestead Dr NW Albuquerque, NM 87120505-897-5174 @ChamizaConejos on Twitter

Principal - Mrs. Heidi Dudley Dean of Students - Mrs. Christine Aguilar

New Bell Schedule

1st Bell 8:05 am

Tardy Bell 8:08 am

Dismissal Bell 3:05 pm

First day of school only, doors will open at 7:30 am for families to confirm teacher and room numbers, as well as play on the playground. The remainder of the year, the earliest students may be dropped off is at 7:50 am.

One day of absence takes three days to make up - be here on time, every day!

AIM - Accept. Identify. Move.

We are continuing to hone in on meeting the social-emotional needs of all of our students and staff.

We will continue to use the AIM curriculum that we have used in the past, but we will also be adding some new concepts that align with Stephen and Sean Covey's book, "The Leader In Me". We are lucky to have consistent support this school year with our full-time counselor, full-time Dean of Student Success, full-time behavior redirector, and part-time social worker. If at any time your student is in need of extra love and support, please rest assured we have them covered.

Thoughts from the Principal

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

We are so excited that each of you will be joining or returning as Conejos! This year will be full of changes with regard to our school schedule, calendar, and free meals - but what hasn't changed is that we are dedicated to ensuring each student is learning to be the best student they can be. One change that has impacted Chamiza this year more than years before is our enrollment. As our community has begun to age, our enrollment has declined in number. This requires us to adjust our traditional planning of class lists. This year we have combo classes at each grade level. We will continue to monitor student enrollment and if numbers are higher or lower than anticipated we may need to make adjustments at the 20th Day of school. If your student will be impacted you will receive a letter from me directly on what happens and when to expect changes. Students are placed to equitably balance classrooms. Accordingly, teachers and administration consider gender, ELD status, academic needs, peer compatibility, Special Education supports and parent/guardian feedback via the Teaching Style Request Survey, which is sent out at the end of each school year. Once we have made the final placement decisions, we do not move children lightly. It is our firm belief that all children will learn in our classrooms. No requests shall be considered during the first 20 days of school. If a parent request to move a student occurs there is a process that will be followed. This process is lined out in our Student Placement Policy, which is laid out below. We look forward to seeing all of our 1st through 5th graders tomorrow and our kindergartners on Monday. As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or celebrations. We are so excited to TEAM with YOU to ensure all of our students are successful!

Principal Dudley

Upcoming Calendar Events

Thursday, August 3rd - First Day for 1st-5th Grade
Friday, August 4th - Expectation Assemblies
Monday, August 7th - First Day for Kinder
Monday, August 7th - Kinder Parent Meet & Greet
Friday, September 1st - No School - Labor Day Break

Chamiza Mission Statement

At Chamiza Elementary, our mission is to instill the love of learning to create lifelong learners who are academically, socially, and emotionally strong and who know how to advocate for themselves. We achieve this through purposeful communication, consistent teaching, and providing life experiences that help our students grow.

Conejos Connections

Summer 2023, Issue #29

5401 Homestead Dr NW Albuquerque, NM 87120505-897-5174 @ChamizaConejos on Twitter

Principal - Mrs. Heidi Dudley Dean of Students - Mrs. Teresa Montoya

PTA Updates

All Meals are FREE!!!!



I'm so thankful for our PTA! I'm happy to share that the 2023-2024 Executive Board is:

- Frank Barela, President
- Monica McCown, Co-Vice-President
- Larryssa Monaghan, Co-Vice-President
- Megan Martin, Treasurer
- Sarah Arroyo, Secretary

PTA still needs YOU! Please consider joining PTA for the 2023-2024 school year. If you have any questions please email ptachamiza@gmail.com or PTA sign-up (friendly reminder that everyone has to re-join every school year as memberships don't roll over):

<https://chamizapta.memberhub.com/store>

PTA committees sign-up (more will be added throughout the year):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F45A4AE29ABFCI-ptacommittees>

Chamiza Mission Statement

Please use the QR code above to complete an application to help document the needs all throughout our city. Your income will not impact your student's ability to receive breakfast or lunch - this is solely to help collect data on the needs of APS families. Students who want to purchase a second meal or milk only may do so for a cost.

How do you want to volunteer?

There are two categories of volunteers who receive differing levels of background check clearances and badging: Unsupervised School Volunteers and Supervised School Volunteers.

If you want to help out in the classroom, support school-wide PTA events, such as Jog-A-Thon, or attend field trips as a supervised chaperone then you'll need a Supervised School Volunteer Clearance. You can apply for this clearance online at <https://www.aps.edu/community/volunteer-with-aps>.

If you want to volunteer in the above ways AND attend field trips that will allow you to lead a group, if necessary, then the best option for you is an Unsupervised School Volunteer Clearance. You can apply by emailing Principal Dudley @ Heidi.dudley@aps.edu the following information and she will initiate the application process:

©Name

©DOB

©Phone #

©Email Address

©Street Address

©Last four of SSN

Student Placement Policy

Students are placed to equitably balance classrooms. Accordingly, teachers and administration consider gender, ELD status, academic needs, peer compatibility, Special Education supports and parent/guardian feedback via the Teaching Style Request Survey, which is sent out at the end of each school year.

Once we have made the final placement decisions, we do not move children except in very particular instances. It is our firm belief that all children will learn in our classrooms. No requests shall be considered during the first 20 days of school.

If a parent request to move a student occurs the following process will be followed:

Teachers and Parents meet to discuss concerns, schedule a parent classroom observation, and then a follow-up meeting to discuss observation.. Hopefully, any concerns can be addressed and solved during these meetings.

If the concern has not been resolved the adult requesting the change will need to email the principal to request a meeting explaining the concern, the dates of the original and follow-up meeting as well as the observation date, and the outcome of the meeting(s).

During the Principal-Parent-Teacher meeting concerns, observations & meeting notes will be reviewed and discussed. Unless there is a verified safety concern, a plan will be created to address the concerns that support the students in remaining in the original classroom.

The timeline of this plan will be determined at the meeting but shall be no less than two weeks. The principal will follow up with the involved parties nearing the end of the timeline to determine the effectiveness of the plan. Should an additional meeting be needed one will be met.

Chamiza's 2023-2024 Arrival and Dismissal Guidance

To ensure your family's arrival and dismissal at Chamiza is as quick and safe as possible we have four options for student arrival and departure from school. Please review the boxes below to determine the style(s) that work best for your family. All families are asked to put your phones away and stay alert when you enter the parking lot. A distracted driver is dangerous. Please use this time to help ensure your students have their backpacks and personal items ready when exiting the car. This will help expedite the process for when teachers begin their duty time at 7:50 am for arrival, and 3:05 pm for dismissal.

Breakfast will be provided for students upon arrival, to eat in the classroom

If you need to pick up your student prior to the end of the day, please ensure you arrive to the school no later than 2:35 pm. Students will not be checked out the last 30 minutes of the school day as this poses a disruption to the classroom, as teachers are finishing with end of day instructions.

Walk-Up Drop-Off/Pick-Ups Families who wish to drop off or pick up their students up, by walking to the front of the school may do so. If driving to the school, we ask you to park in the main parking lot only and cross over with your student. Please wait for guidance from the staff member on duty to cross at the cross walk to ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians. We will support pedestrian crossing between the main entry and the parking lot every 2-5 minutes or until all cars have passed through, whichever is sooner.

Walking Families Students who live in the neighborhood north/north-east of the school will be able to enter the school grounds using the gate to the field, that enters into the neighborhood. This gate will be open prior to school beginning, as well at the end of the day. Students who need to arrive before 8:05 am or leave after 3:15 pm will need to enroll in one of the before or after-school programs. The accessibility of the field/neighborhood gate is available if the gate remains functioning to ensure the safety of Chamiza students/staff.

If you are picking your student up at the front of the school to walk home, please stay on the sidewalk when leaving the school grounds and model safety by only crossing streets at a pre-identified crosswalk and/or with the crossing guards.

Parent Drop Off/Pick Up To minimize our lines before and after school we will be allowing our Kindergarten & SCS students (and their siblings) to be dropped off/picked up at the west parking lot. A placard will be given to you to display in your front window. If you need more than one please let your student's teacher know. All other students will be able to be dropped off and picked up at the east parking lot drive through loop, which is directly in front of the main entrance. When dropping off or picking up students at parent drop off/pick up, please help keep students safe by:

- Not letting your student enter or exit the car, until fully stopped.
- Please do not put your car in reverse when in the drop off/pick up lane to enter the drive thru lane. When the car in front of you moves forward is when you will be able to move forward and change lanes.
- Please do not exit your car. If you need to get out to support them exiting or wish them well, please park in the parking lot and refer to the Walk-Up Drop-Off/Pick-Up Guidance
- Not dropping students off in the parking lot

Bus Pick Up/Drop Off Please go to <https://mybusstop.aps.edu> and enter your address to confirm your bus stop location. Please remember, kindergarten students riding the bus will need to have an