

ZORROS NEWLETTER

HOME OF THE ZORROS



Reading Curriculum

Our school has adopted Benchmark Advanced, Adelante (Spanish Reading), and ESL reading materials. We will be using Benchmark Advanced as our Core Reading Program at our school. Teachers will be communicating with you regarding their teaching so you can support them at home. We also purchased the digital materials for your children to access books online on a laptop, computer, tablet, or cell phone. That way, the children can do their nightly reading.



SCHOOL SPIRIT SHIRT LOGO

TUTORING

We are implementing tutoring before and after school through Title I. We hope that you support us in assisting your children with participation in tutoring. To help them improve their reading and math skills. Progress reports have been sent home to inform you about how they are doing with their progress. This is an excellent opportunity for you to contact your homeroom teacher(s) about tutoring opportunities for your children. If you feel they could benefit and improve their academic skills.

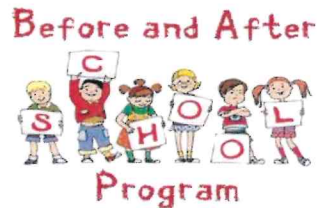
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We are also offering many after school activities through the Community School Initiative grant provided by the City of Albuquerque. The activities include Chess Club, Sports, French, Guitar, Baile Regional, among other activities. The calendar of events was sent home, but we sometimes understand school communication doesn't make it back. So please contact the front office for a schedule of activities, so you can encourage your children to participate. We must have a minimum of 12 students participating in these activities for us to keep the club and meet the grant expectations. We will have to close clubs not meeting minimum grant requirements. Many students are already participating, and we wish to thank you for your continuous support.

RGEC

Rio Grande Educational Collaborative

We are also working with the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative (RGEC) to offer the before and after school program for our families who need this service. We are encouraging our families to also apply through CYFD for before and after school, so when the grant expires, we can continue to pay RGEC through CYFD for this wonderful service. For more information, please contact Ms. Angie or the main office. We want to support our families and our students as much as possible!



GUITAR CLUB, FRENCH CLUB, TABLE GAMES, BASKETBALL, CHESS CLUB



CHRISTINE DUNCAN BASKETBALL TEAM AT PRACTICE BEFORE A GAME.



MR. JESUS MONCADA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

PARENT LIAISON

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS

We are also pleased to inform you the t-shirt sales are going well, and we still have some available. We had to increase the price to \$13.00 to cover expenses. We appreciate those of you who have already purchased a t-shirt. School t-shirts can supplement the uniform policy!

GOVERNING COUNCIL

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The governing council has approved a revision to the uniform policy to include navy blue pants. We have some navy-blue pants that were donated to our school. We also have some new shoes that were donated. Also, our school offers uniform vouchers for families in need. If you are experiencing hardships and cannot afford uniform clothes for your children. Make sure you contact Ms. Theresa Bustos, our school's social worker, and she can help you with shoes and clothes. If you have uniform clothes in good condition, we also invite you to donate them to our school for other children. We are a family school that takes pride in helping each other!



CDHA**SCHOOL CALENDAR & ATTENDANCE**

In reviewing the school calendar, we noticed our Spring Break did not align with that of APS. So we have revised and approved our Spring Break to align to that of APS. Please plan your vacations accordingly, so your children's education is not impacted by your planned vacations. We appreciate your continuous support in getting your children to school daily and on time. Our four-day week calendar is terrific, but when your children miss one day, they lose many hours of instruction. We encourage you to bring them to school every day. Also, if your child is absent, please contact the school to excuse the absence and provide us with a doctor's note or a written excuse. Attendance is essential for school funding, and we must have documentation to justify the absence. Please continue to support us with this endeavor.

**STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Our school has transitioned from PowerSchool, the school's information system, to Synergy to align with APS. We have experienced some bumps along the way and are working with APS to make sure Synergy works as efficiently as possible. We had to adjust to many changes with the new system but are working hard with APS to make sure it works for all of us. We are currently working on getting the robo-calls changed from PowerSchool to Synergy. So we have been sending paper copies to communicate with you, so please check your child's backpack for any "green" documents with school announcements. You will soon have access to ParentVue through Synergy to monitor your information, make changes to the data, and check your students' progress. We will be sending you information on how to create an account. For those of you who have other children in APS, you can now view your CDHA student information through Synergy. Or if they attend another APS charter schools as many of them have also transitioned to this Student Information System (SIS).

**SCHOOL MEALS**

Moving to Synergy also impacted the way we take meal counts and are working on getting a new system called MyMealTime to track our meal counts. Your children will soon have to memorize a number to enter as they grab a meal. Please encourage your children to eat our school's breakfast, lunch, supper, fruits and vegetables, and snacks for those students attending the after-school program. Just a reminder we apply for many grants to keep our children well-fed and all we feed them is FREE! We also started Kids Cook! Students learned how to cook in classrooms, but had some bumps along the way, so the program is on hold until further notice. This is also an excellent opportunity for our students and hopes we can soon have the program back in place! We now have a vending machine with water and Gatorade, please encourage your children to use the appropriate change, so they do not break the machine. The profits will be used to support staff and students with incentives and celebrations. We are also waiting for new water fountains for our school!

WELCOME

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Our beautiful school counselor, Mrs. Jenny Chavez, has resigned to her counselor position at CDHA. She had been working hard to support our students through counseling and reliable support systems. The systems as such are the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Health and Wellness. She has brought in additional counselors for site-based advice, and some families are already taking advantage of this service. We will continue working with Family Workshop and offering these services for our students. Please let us know if your child or children are experiencing social-emotional issues so we can help you address their needs. We strongly believe that when children's social, emotional needs are met, they are much more successful in school. I wish to thank those of you already working with us to assist you in improving your children's needs. We wish Mrs. Jenny Chavez the best in her future endeavors. She will be greatly missed. We will be hiring someone else in her position as we know our students need this service. Please contact Ms. Theresa Bustos our social worker with any questions regarding counseling.

NURSE'S OFFICE

We have had many children visiting the nurse's office. You may be contacted by the school to question why they have been to the nurse's office so many times. As it is our goal to keep them in the classroom learning as much as possible. If your child needs medical attention, please notify the school and provide us with a doctor's note. This service is for students in need, but when it is abused, it keeps the nursing staff from taking care of those students who really need the assistance. We encourage you to support us in talking to your children to visit the nurse's office only and if necessary. We want to decrease the number of students visiting the nurse's office for minor stuff. For them to focus on their learning and allow the nursing staff to work with students who really need the service



NOTE FROM NURSE: PLEASE GIVE FORMS TO DOCTORS FOR ALLERGIES, OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS AND EXTRAS TO HAVE AT SCHOOL.

School Security:

School security has now become a massive need in our schools, and we are not an exception... We had to get training on what to do during the event of an active shooter, yes ...it's scary but it's the reality! Our staff has been practicing different types of drills with students, so we know what to do if we have a school crisis. We have had three fire drills, one sheltered in place, and an evacuation drill. We recently had two incidents at Walmart, and some incidents in school (kids throwing rocks or fighting in restrooms). And have decided to allocate some funding to hire a part-time security guard. Starting on October 1, 2019, we will have security at our school. Mr. Alex will be monitoring school grounds, so I encourage you not to park in red zones. He will also be tracking students in the gym, playground areas, and restrooms. Unruly and disruptive parents who refuse to follow directions while in school grounds may be escorted out of school property. Please support our efforts to maintain a safe campus. I encourage you to follow instructions from our staff on duty and do not leave your vehicles unattended in the driveway. We installed outside cameras and have cameras in every classroom also have raised the fence all around the school campus. But do know there is still much more we can do to improve security. So we are looking into a better phone system, a better way for visitors to sign in, and an intercom system. We want to offer you a school that is well secured.

We are here to serve you and your children! Please feel free to provide us with any questions, concerns, or recommendations. We enjoy working with your children!!



CDHA**STAFFING**

Our current enrollment is now at 465 students, including PreK. So, unfortunately, we are currently experiencing staff turnover, and have also been affected by the New Mexico teacher shortage. We have the following teachers working with mentors as they go through the Teacher Alternative Licensure Program, so please support our teachers, so they are successful as new teachers. The following teachers are on this pathway to licensure: Ana Vazquez (first grade), Rosemary Espinosa (first grade teacher), Sandra Orozco (second grade but formerly a middle school teacher), Theresa Bustos (special education teacher), Eva Omelas (special education teacher), and Joel Sandoval (middle school social studies teacher). They all have degrees in other areas but chose to transition into teaching. Mrs. Barbara Skelec is one of our current second-grade teachers and was also trying to go through this process. However, for some reason did not qualify so she will be replaced by Mr. Roberto Muro starting on September 30, 2019. Mr. Muro was a former CDHA teacher for five years and is returning! We also had Mrs. Steward resign to her PE teaching position due to a family situation. She is being replaced by Mr. George Marquez, and he will even begin on September 30, 2019. Our most current resignation is that of Mrs. Brenda Bustamante, PreK teacher. She is resigning after working with us for the last four years. We are currently interviewing for PreK and have some candidates but have not yet made a decision. Her last day is October 6, 2019. We have also hired a full-time educational assistant to join our PreK team, so we will now have two educational assistants in each PreK classroom! Her name is Viridiana, and she will also begin on September 30, 2019. And Ms. Biri Diana Marquez will support grades 3-5 as an educational assistant to support students learning Spanish in those grades as per parent requests. Please help me welcome our new staff and help us support our excellent teaching staff, so they stay with us for many years!!

SCHOOL FACILITY UPDATE

Our governing council has been diligently working on a plan to purchase a facility for our school for the last four years, so we can own the building and can make property improvements to meet our school needs. We recently sent out a survey regarding our facility to gather your input regarding our current facility, and whether you would follow us to a new facility in the event, we were to relocate. If you still need to complete a survey, please visit the main office and request a copy. We want to receive as much input as possible as a move would severely impact our school dynamics and want to make sure we make a wise decision. We currently have two options, to negotiate with the owner on our current facility and/or relocate to a new facility and we have identified a facility near Coors and Paseo del Norte right on Paradise and Eagle Ranch, but nothing is yet finalized. Purchasing a facility is a very complicated transaction, so we will keep you informed as we progress on a decision. We don't want to scare you about us having to move so we will keep you posted, so you make the appropriate arrangements for your children with sufficient time, although we hope that you continue supporting our school. We have volunteer opportunities for you to join the governing council or the school's non-profit foundation. Should you be interested in being part of the decision-making team for our school and we encourage you all to apply. We need individuals with expertise in the areas of law, finance, and real estate. Contact us if you know of someone interested or if you have these credentials.

THANK YOU MRS. BRENDA BUSTAMANTE**FIELD TRIP****OCTOBER 10TH MCCALL'S PUMPKIN PATCH PRE-K - 1**