

Christine Duncan Heritage Academy

Zorros Newsletter

Message from Dr. Moncada

Greetings! This school year has been quite different! We had to change our school calendar three times... Christine Duncan is a K-3+ School and we have been implementing the program since 2012 as we believe it benefits our students. This summer we were not allowed to implement the program due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We did apply for the program so we were allowed to implement the program starting August 10, 2021 so we started the school year "online" with the K-8+ Program, being only one of four schools in the Albuquerque area to have implemented the program!! However, this caused for the school year to extend through June 30th... We applied for the K-8+ Program again this upcoming school year and we will begin classes on July 19th. Please plan your vacations accordingly since students will only have a few weeks off this summer. We need to recover from the learning loss that has taken place this school year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and ask for your support.

Also, we are pleased to inform you our school was awarded a grant called New Mexico Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). This grant will support our students in grades 7th and 8th in multiple ways:

- Opportunities to explore college life and careers
- Opportunities to gain leadership skills
- Opportunities to participate in AVID Education
- Additional Tutoring in math and reading

As we launch for 2021 GEAR UP programming, please refer to the link below for an inspirational video created in partnership with Little Globe Media and GEAR UP students during their last grant cycle. It provides insight into the GUNM mission, vision, initiatives, and student experience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu-P7p9wb2E&t=48s>

The grant is for the next seven years and we are very excited for the opportunities coming up for our middle school students attending CDHA. Please help me welcome GEAR UP Program Coordinator, Ms. Melissa Mendonca, and Math Instructional Coach, Ms. Rachel Gamboa. We look forward to continuing our partnership with our families as we embrace GEAR UP!!

We are excited to inform you we have completed three weeks of in-person learning and have 212 students attending school in-person. We have made many changes to our regular school operations to ensure student and staff safety; drop off and pick up procedures, Covid-19 Protocols, Covid-19 vaccines for faculty and staff (87% vaccinated), purchased lot of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and technology, added more custodians, feeding students lunch outdoors, and the list goes on and on. Please bear with us as our teachers navigate in-person and online learning. They are doing their best to meet the needs of all students. Do feel free to contact me if you have any ideas on how this could best be addressed. We are always open to your suggestions! Also, we are working with the district, Albuquerque Public Schools, on a Strategic Plan for the next five years with the purpose of increasing Student Academic Performance. We will be increasing school resources to support our students in reaching their full potential and will provide you with updates as we move forward. Your assistance in sending your children to school daily and on time will be a huge factor in us reaching our school academic goals. We are planning on hiring additional math and reading coaches, a school program coordinator/Dean of Students and either a full-time school counselor or a social worker. In addition, we will have a second math teacher in the middle school so they can have math instruction on a daily basis. More information to come, stay posted, visit our school's website at christineduncan.org for frequent updates.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and look forward to working with you as we conclude the 2020-2021 school year.



April CHARACTER COUNTS Student Recipients

Sofia Mireles: Pre-K

Amiyah Perea: Kindergarten

Camila Duran: Kindergarten

Eli Portillo: 1st Grade

Alileahyea Castillo: 2nd Grade

Gerardo De Leon: 2nd Grade

Angelina Sisneros: 3rd Grade
Roberto Cruz-Guerrero: 4th Grade

Alexis Astorga: 4th Grade

Julio Meza: 5th Grade

Axiry Tavarez: 5th Grade

Danika Gordillo: 7th Grade

Darwin Perez Trejo: 8th Grade

Issa Meza: 8th Grade



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CDHA Welcomes GueroLoco

GueroLoco will be at CDHA virtually on May 4, 2021. GueroLoco is an award winning bilingual educational hip hop artist who learned Spanish in the US Marines after failing the subject in high school. After the Marines, his new friends from Mexico & Latin America showed him the ins and outs of the language and eventually encouraged him to rap 100% en Español. After successful local and international tours, while winning multiple awards as a Spanish language hip hop & reggaeton artist, Guero began to focus on community-based projects and accepted a position as a middle school bilingual educator. Known to his students and their parents as Mr. GL, it was this life altering experience, along with attending the Berklee School of Music, that helped him to find his passion of using music to educate.

Since 2013, GL has toured the US and Latin America performing for students, educators and parents, while speaking to them about the importance of learning other languages, learning about other people, and learning with music. He has been a guest speaker and performer at several language conferences across the country and has been featured on PBS, Univision, and in Language Magazine. His positive messages and unique musical approach are motivational and fun for any age group or learning level. You can find his videos on You Tube and if you follow this link, you can find out more about his work through his organization, Bilingual Nation USA: <http://www.bilingualnationusa.com/>

CDHA families will have an opportunity to participate in a virtual GueroLoco assembly in May:

- May 4, 2021: PreK-8th with students at designated times.
- May 11, 2021 @ 5pm with PreK families
- May 18, 2021 @ 5pm with K-8 families

Families, please join us via zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5441056329?pwd=RW5EQjVZRUXpSDVZdGUwYnllbkdDZz09>

Staff Member of the Month

This month we would like to recognize Toni Chavez-Gomez, Middle School Special Education. Mrs. Chavez-Gomez shows knowledge, passion, positive attitude, and care towards our students, families, and staff at CDHA We appreciate all her hard work and dedication.

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 3-7, 2021

Our CDHA team has been working extremely hard to ensure our students are re-entering school safely. They have been juggling social distancing, teaching in-person and virtually, along with the normal task of educators. Please take some time thank your child's teacher for all their hard work, determination, and dedication.

Character Counts Trait of the Month: Citizenship

The Character Counts trait for the Month of May is "Citizenship". Citizenship is defined as"

Do your share to make your home, school, community, and the world better.

Cooperate.

Get involved in community affairs.

Stay informed, Vote.

Be a good neighbor.

Obey laws and rules.

Respect authority.

Protect the environment.

Volunteer.

Students will be recognized at our last Student of the Month Virtual Assembly on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 5pm.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/2703541704?pwd=MZTYcE1zejdXUUttUXlUOWNoUUU4Zz09>