

AUGUST 2025

RATTLER REPORT

Principal's Note

Good Day Rattler Families,

It has been a great start to the 25-26 school year at DRJH. As I have moved through classrooms I have seen students working collaboratively, being challenged academically, and doing it with a zeal for their own learning. On several occasions it has been commented that this group of Rattlers is the best cohort of students in many years, a testimonial to your investment in your students life skills and education.

As we move beyond the first weeks of school our campus clubs and programs become active. Sports, music, STEM, school dances, electives all find their stride. In addition our first academic progress checks happen. We are super excited to see what our students can do!

Go Rattlers!

NEW TOOLS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Desert Ridge Junior High has added two new systems for the classroom this year, SmartPass and Attendance Scanners. SmartPass is a digital pass that allows us to track student movement on campus without a paper pass. Students use their I.D.'s in order to generate a pass to go to the restroom, get water, or go to the nurse. The benefit to this system is that we are better able to track the number of students moving about the campus at any given time, as well as long term data regarding which students are moving where, and from what rooms. The Attendance scanners allow teachers to take attendance as students enter the classroom by scanning student I.D.'s. We are hopeful that this addition will help improve our attendance accuracy during the school day.



Parent/Pick-Up and Drop-Off

Parent Pick up and drop off continues to be a smooth, but busy time. Please be patient as hundreds of students are transitioning to and from campus in about 10-15 minutes.

If you pick your student up along Laguna Azul Ave. Please be mindful of the homeowners in that area. There have been reports of cars blocking driveways and not permitting residents to leave or enter their property.

DRJH thanks you!



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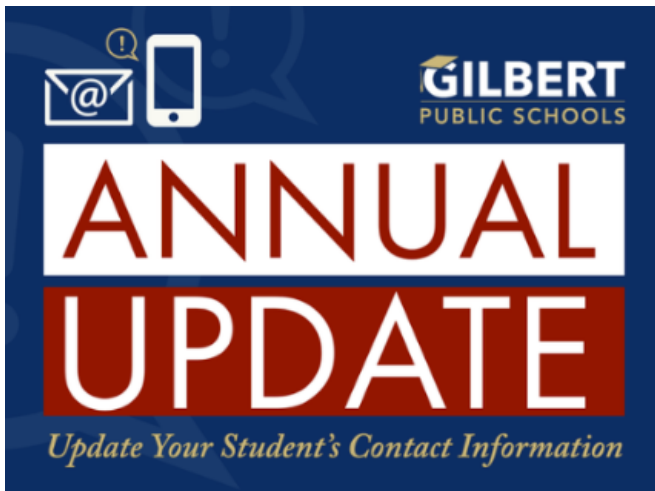


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Desert Ridge Junior High School

Reminder – Annual Update



If you haven't already, please take a moment to complete the online 'Annual Update' for your student(s). In order to ensure we can communicate with you regarding your student, or in case of an emergency, it is important that we have your up-to-date contact details. Even if there are no changes, we ask you to please complete to confirm the information we have is accurate for this school year.

Please [log in to your Infinite Campus parent portal](#) and complete your student's Annual Update today. For more details, visit [Annual Update - Gilbert Public Schools](#)

GEF's Annual Power of One Campaign

GEF's Annual Power of One Campaign

Join the Gilbert Education Foundation's annual Power of One Campaign and make a lasting impact! Every fall, we ask for just \$1 per student and employee to fund our Innovation Grants, student scholarships, STEM education, and enrichment programs that benefit EVERY STUDENT, EVERY EDUCATOR, and EVERY CAMPUS in Gilbert Public Schools. But we can't do it alone – we need your help!

Your donation not only transforms educational experiences but also gives your student's school a chance to win valuable prizes for supplies, equipment, and enrichment. Together, let's create educational magic and help our schools thrive.

[Donate today](#) and be the Power of One!



Don't Forget Your Student I.D.

District-issued ID badges fulfill several critical functions for both staff and students. Not only are they a security measure, enabling staff to quickly identify authorized individuals on campus, they are used for attendance, hall passes, and to purchase lunches.

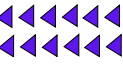
It is essential for everyone to maintain their ID badge in good condition and display it visibly at all times to help ensure a secure environment.



RESOURCES AND EVENTS

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

AUGUST 22ND – SCHOOL DANCE 3:30-5:00PM
AUGUST 27TH – ½ DAY EARLY RELEASE @ 12:30PM
SEPTEMBER 1ST – LABOR DAY, NO SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2ND – PTRO FUNDRAISER CHALLENGE KICK OFF



PTRO Parent Calendar

Follow Us!

Stay in the loop on school events

INSTAGRAM PTRO



FACEBOOK PTRO



**SUPPORT DESERT RIDGE JUNIOR
HIGH PTRO!**



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Desert Ridge Junior High School

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Project Connect



One-stop resource event connecting vulnerable individuals to essential services, housing assistance, benefits connections, heat relief, and employment resources.

SERVICES*

- Medical care
- Clothing and hygiene packs
- Shower/haircuts
- DES
- MVD
- Identification services
- Pet supplies/services
- Shelter resources
- Spiritual support
- Breakfast and lunch
- Bus passes
- Substance use disorder help

*Each event is different and may not include all services listed

EVENT

August 20th, 2025
8am to 3pm

Arrive by 1:00 PM for services

Redemption Gilbert
1820 W Elliot Rd.,
Gilbert, AZ 85233



BlueCross
BlueShield



For more information go to: www.keystochangeaz.org



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Desert Ridge Junior High School

RESOURCES AND EVENTS



DESERT RIDGE JUNIOR HIGH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 VS. BOSTON RED SOX - 1:10 PM

D-BACKS BAND DAY

Bring your family and friends to Chase Field on Sunday, September 7 as the D-backs take on the Boston Red Sox!

Come support the Desert Ridge Jr. High Band as they perform the National Anthem on the field alongside other local school bands during D-backs Band Day!

Tickets are specially discounted, and a portion of each ticket purchased through your school's ticket link/QR code will be donated back to your school's band!

We look forward to seeing you there!

DISCOUNTED SEATING OPTIONS

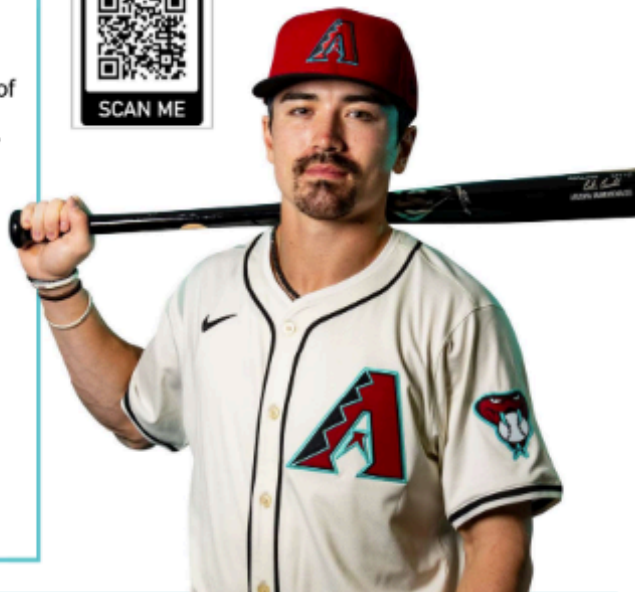
- Baseline View: Section 307 - \$35
- Bleachers: Section 103 - \$45
- Baseline Reserve: Section 111 - \$55
- Baseline Box: Section 114 - \$70 (additional fees apply)

With questions, please contact:
David Larkins
david.larkins@gilbertschools.net

ORDER ONLINE:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/drjh25>

All sales are final.



• **DBACKS.COM | 602.462.4600**

CHASE FIELD • 401 EAST JEFFERSON STREET • PHOENIX, ARIZONA



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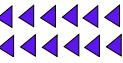


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Desert Ridge Junior High School

RESOURCES AND EVENTS



DRJH Cheer Prep Clinic **Fundraiser**



Wednesday, August 20 2:30-4:30
Thursday, August 21 3:30-5:30
Saturday, August 23rd 9am- noon



Parents are invited to an athlete showcase in the gym on Saturday morning at 11am. An informational meeting will follow.



Cost is \$60 per participant (includes all 3 days)

Learn the fundamentals of cheerleading in order to prepare for tryouts in October. This clinic is NOT mandatory to try out. Attending the event does not guarantee a spot on the cheer team.

On Thursday and Friday students will need to dress out quickly after school and meet Coach Waters promptly in the courtyard. Clinics will take place in the cafeteria or gym depending on availability. Pick up will be in front of the school immediately after the event each day.

Email questions to Coach Waters: beth.waters@gilbertschools.net.

Complete all registration information below. Detach and include with payment.

Registration and payment must be received by Tuesday, August 19th

Participant Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Phone #: _____

Signature below is an agreement to the statement below:

"As a condition precedent to participation, I, as the parent and/ or legal guardian of the registered participant, agree to maintain health insurance for my child while he/ she participates in the event. If I do not maintain health insurance for my child, I agree to purchase the student accident insurance policy offered through the school district".

Parent Signature _____ Email _____

Drop off completed form and cash or check made payable to Desert Ridge Junior High School Cheer Club. Both registration and payment must be in envelope. Label envelope: DRJH Cheer Event- attention Kimberly Weamer, Athletic Secretary.



RESOURCES AND EVENTS



**SCHOOL PARTNERS!
LET'S RALLY
TOGETHER!**

Mention your school at check-out.

BACK TO SCHOOL
SAVINGS ARE IN SESSION

THROUGH AUGUST!

Purchases supporting your school through August earns a chance to win a



Purchases anytime of the year count!
**BUT, let's RALLY to kick off and
Support your new school year!**

Purchase ONLINE at AFW.com, at any store, or by phone at 800-992-7997.

INVITE OTHERS to participate. Friends and family can help too!
2% donation on any purchase; 4% on Beautyrest or Serta mattresses!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

