

Conejos Connections

September 2025, Issue #47

5401 Homestead Dr NW Albuquerque, NM 87120505-897-5174 @ChamizaConejos on Twitter
Principal - Mrs. Heidi Dudley Dean of Students - Ms. Kara Sanchez Teaching & Learning Coach - Ms. Mary Kathryn Brudos

Thoughts from the Principal

Happy September Chamizal!

Can you believe we have already been in school for one month?!?! What a whirlwind of a month it's been. But, goodness - I've been so happy seeing so many of you and your children. This is my sixth year at Chamiza - which means that our 5th graders this year, were in kindergarten when I started. I've loved watching everybody grow and learn and become amazing individuals!

September is a busy month - we have already had a day off, started new classes due to a growing community, and analyzed data from your students on what they are interested in learning about during Genius Hour. Over 27% of our students are interested in Art & Expression; 17% are interested in Technology and Creativity; another 17% are interested in Science & Nature; and 17% more are interested in learning more about their personal hobbies and passions such as helping others, making bracelets, creating comic strips. We are excited to dig in more with your students independent learning desires and watch them grow to new levels.

I'm so excited to share about a couple of new positions we have on campus - a Teaching and Learning Coach and a Behavioral Health Therapist. Our Teaching & Learning Coach (TLC) is Ms. Mary Kathryn Brudos - she will be available to help our teachers dig in deeper to their understanding and aligning strategies and skills to your individual students learning needs. Our Behavioral Health Therapist is Mrs. Marlina McCall - who will be able to work with our school counselor, Nancy Luna, as well as our Health & Wellness team and support students in a variety of ways. Ms. Luna has also started to work on identifying students who would benefit from participating in Student Success Groups. These are great opportunities to ensure we are reaching our students social and emotional needs, which will allow their teachers to maximize the learning opportunities created in class.

This coming Thursday is our annual Open House from 5-7 pm. Your PTA will hold their first monthly meeting that same evening to allow you to maximize the time with your family. I encourage you to attend this great family event, as it's an excellent way to see what your student experiences during the day, you can meet teachers, join in at the PTA meeting, and maybe even enjoy a sweet treat from Pop-Pops Ice or a Krispy Kreme Donut!

Can't wait to see each of you and I cannot express how thankful I am for each of your trust and partnership in making Chamiza the best elementary school there is!
~Principal Dudley

7 Mindsets to support SEL

We are continuing to support our students with their Habits, Skills, and Mindsets of being a 21st Century student and a citizen. We are entering our 2nd year teaching your students the 7 Mindsets. We will be working on following mindsets: Everything is Possible; Passion First; We are Connected; 100% Accountable; Attitude of Gratitude; Live to Give; and The Time is Now. Each month I'll share information about one of the seven mindsets and a flyer for you to support your students with the implementation of that mindset.

Parent Teacher Association

There are so many ways to get involved with your student's education. If you're not quite ready to join the PTA please plan on joining the first monthly meeting that will be held during our Annual Open House on Thursday, September 11th from 6:00-6:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Your 2025-2026 SY board: PTA President - Robert Philip; PTA Vice President - Sarah Philip; PTA Secretary - Kasey Baca and PTA Treasurer - Alise Adams.

Parent and Community Involvement



Please complete the [Chamiza Volunteer Sign Up survey](#) if you would like to volunteer on a regular basis.



Attendance

Attendance is crucial for your child's learning. One day of your student missing school takes approximately 3 days for us to work on catching them up. If they miss 2 days of school that means they have more than a week before they are caught up from their missed lessons. Please only let your students miss in an absolute emergency or because they are ill with a fever.

Upcoming Calendar Events

9/1 - Labor Day - No School
9/3 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am
9/10 - TEAM Meetings @ 8:00 am
9/11 - 5th Grade Field Trip
9/11 - Annual Open House 5:00-7:00 pm
9/11 - 1st Monthly PTA Meeting 6:00-6:30 pm - cafeteria
9/12 - Annual Evacuation Emergency Drill
9/15-9/19 - Homecoming Spirit Week
9/17 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am
9/24 - Pre-K Staff PD - No School for Pre-K
10/1 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am
10/3 - Balloon's Aloft @ 7:30 am - students must be accompanied by an adult

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.

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Volunteering Guidance

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, and attend field trips 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>. You can attend field trips as a sponsor with this clearance.

If you want to volunteer in the above ways AND be a PREFERRED volunteer for field trips as a lead/preferred volunteer 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 Number
- Email Address
- Street Address
- Last four of SSN

Safety Supports

To ensure our continued site safety at the beginning of each year we practice four emergency drills. Two fire drills, a shelter-in-place drill, and an evacuation drill. We will be conducting our final drill - an Evacuation Emergency Drill - on Friday, September 12th. Our Evacuation Drill guidelines require us to fully evacuate our school site to a safe location. This drill will occur in the morning, to ensure students are not walking in the heat of the day. We anticipate the entire drill to last approximately 40 minutes. Please visit with your students to remind them of the importance of drills and listening/following directions provided by their teachers. Wearing tennis shoes is a plus!

Please remember that in our parent drop-off/pick-up lines, we ask families to stay in their vehicles. If you would like to give your students a hug and kiss goodbye or a hug to greet them at the end of the day, please park in the parking lot and walk to the front of the school. When families exit their vehicles in line it adds an additional risk for injury as well as significantly slows down the line.

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Successful Conejos read for at least 15 minutes each day! You can read a magazine, a comic book, a cook book, directions for video games. What's your favorite way to read? Write Principal Dudley a note to share your favorite way for a chance to win a \$15 Barnes & Noble Gift Card!

