

Conejos Connections

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Principal - Mrs. Heidi Dudley Dean of Students - Ms. Kara Sanchez Teaching & Learning Coach - Ms. Mary Kathryn Brudos

Happy October Chamiza!

We are entering one of my favorite times of year. I love the cooler weather, the colors of the leaves, the balloons entering the sky. The cooler temperatures and spectacular foliage encourage us to spend time in nature, which has been connected with improvements in our happiness, wellbeing, relationships, and sense of having a life purpose. So make sure to take some time as a family outside and enjoy the season.

As we continue to dig into our academics and routines it's important to know about our successes. While we are still waiting for our state testing scores to be released (will be soon) we can take success in the other scores we have access too. According to our iReady assessments your Kindergarten through 5th graders have increased in proficiency by 6% in reading from MOY to MOY scores, which aligns with the majority of our end of year scores. This explicitly aligns to our district Goal #1, supporting early literacy. Some ways you can help us - read with your children nightly. On 10-15 minute story brings so much to their learning opportunities - we can't replace that at school. The hl connection time will help build their social emotional currency as well.

This will help us work as a community as we continue to build capacity for each student to meet "The APS Profile of a Graduate". The defining qualities of a graduate are: a critical thinker, a problem solver, a good communicator, an engaged citizen, they're driven by a growth mindset, being socially and culturally aware, being innovative, being collaborative, somebody who perseveres, and last but not least is an advocate - for themselves and others. Each month I will share out different ways we are supporting your students in meeting this profile. It starts now - not when they are 16, 17, or 18.

I encourage each of you to continue to be involved in your student's education. Whether it's reading with them, volunteering at the school, or communicating with their teacher. Being involved is key to supporting their success. When you choose the option of communicating with their teacher I just want to help ensure that families are aware of teacher's duty times and their availability throughout the day to respond to messages. Staff at Chamiza work either 9:00am-4:00pm or 9:15am-4:15pm. Teachers are required to have a minimum of 220 minutes of prep time each week (this is less than 4 hours a week) - this is time for them to create lesson plans, prepare the materials needed for lesson plans, grade student work, analyze the progress students have made in understanding the standards (which helps the teachers better align the lesson plans to their individual needs). Due to the smaller size of our school and the allocation of staff, some of the days, teachers only have a 20 minute prep - which they might choose/need to use for a personal break or a walk to get some fresh air. Please know your teachers are working extremely hard, and may not be able to respond immediately - they will typically respond within 24-48 business hours. If you are sending messages on the weekends or later in the evening and they respond, please know they are volunteering their time. So in that same thought process, if they don't respond please remember they are taking care of their personal needs, as they are off contract. If you don't get a response within the 24-48 hours send a gentle nudge, as technology isn't perfect and will occasionally have glitches (we recently discovered a message that was sent from a parent to the teacher - but it wasn't received on the teacher's end). If it is an emergency that you need to communicate with them please contact the school office and we can relay a message for an emergency. If you have after school pick up changes that are due to an emergency, please don't message the teachers - please text me directly at 505-373-4608. We want to support you and your family during emergencies.

I look forward to seeing you all at our various family events this month! Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

~Principal Dudley

7 Mindsets to support SEL

The Time is Now Mindset is about getting involved in life and making the most of each day. It encourages students to live in the present and take action toward their goals. Instead of waiting for the "perfect time," it shows that small steps today can lead to big achievements over time. By focusing on what they can do now, students learn to avoid distractions, face challenges, and make steady progress. This mindset helps build important skills like resilience, time management, and adaptability, which support both school success and personal growth.

Parent Teacher Association

To help support participation the PTA listened to your needs and has dedicated a consistent day each month for the Monthly General PTA meeting. Please plan on joining virtually, the second Thursday of each month. This is a great way to get involved. If you prefer in person events, they are planning some options that will allow you all to connect in person - but coming to the virtual meetings will help you find that information sooner. See you on Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 pm!

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.

Attendance

As we continue to dig into our education and support plans for our students we want to make sure to remind you all of the importance of your children being at school every day. While we understand the importance of family vacations we ask that you schedule these around dedicated times off to ensure the time we have with your students are maximized. An excused absence is still an absence and a day of learning is missed. Help us earn attendance parties with your student's grade level!

Upcoming Calendar Events

10/1 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am

10/3 - Balloon's Aloft @ 7:00 am -

students must be accompanied by an adult until 9:00 am

10/8 - TEAM Meetings @ 8:00 am

10/9 - PTA General Monthly Meeting @ 7 pm

10/10 - Fall Break - No School

10/13 - Indigenous People's Day - No School

10/15 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am

10/17 - Jog-A-Thon - Details to come soon

10/20 - 4th grade Field Trip

10/21 - Individual Picture Make Up Day

10/22 - Pre-K PD Day - No School for Pre-K Students

10/24 - Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:30 pm

10/31 - Story Book Parade @ 9:45 am



Parent and Community Involvement

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