North Mesa Elementary

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Dear Parents/Guardians:
As we begin the 2025-2026 school year at North Mesa, I would like to take a minute to let parents and students know how happy I am to be at North Mesa and look forward to another great school year! We have an exciting year ahead of us. **The school hours will be from 7:40 to 3:05. We are asking that students do not arrive before 7:20. After the first day of school parents will NOT be allowed down the hall unless they have an appointment with a teacher or it is their designated class volunteer time. It is District policy and it needs to be followed as part of the safety of your children.**

Please review the following document as it contains vital information concerning upcoming dates, policies and safety procedures. All parents, siblings and extended family that transport students to North Mesa should familiarize themselves with these guidelines. Let's have an extremely safe, positive and productive year. Thanks for your cooperation.

August 6th:
Kindergarten orientation will be held on this date. At 9:00 AM we will meet with the students and parents in the cafeteria. Parents can drop off supplies and pay fees. After the general meeting, students will have an opportunity to ride the bus with Mrs. Raper while parents visit with Mrs. Arguello, Mrs. Harbert and Mrs. Monack.

August 7th: This will be a meet and greet "Popsicles in the Park”/Open House.
This is a day and time your North Mesa students can come in and meet their teacher, drop off supplies, confirm bus schedules, pay class fees, sign up for Literacy Testing times, PTA will be present and signing up members for the North Mesa PTA, and ask any other questions that you might have. We are asking that you come between the hours of 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM. We ask you to go through the outdoor classroom of the teacher. You will need to bring your child to and from the Meet and Greet Day "Popsicles in the Park".

August 11th: This will be the first day of school for all students.
A normal class schedule will be followed beginning at 7:40 a.m. and ending at 3:05 p.m.

August 11th First day of school for preschool students.

August 20 Pastries with Parents from 7:30 to 8:30
This is a PTA sponsored event, we encourage you to attend with your student and become a vital part of our North Mesa Community

September 1st: Labor Day- No school

September 17th: School Pictures

Visitors must check in at the office
All visitors must check in at the office when you come to school. This includes volunteers, visitors, parents/guardians or anyone visiting for any reason. We ask that you sign in when you arrive and sign out when you leave. We have visitor name tags that can be worn to identify you as a visitor to our building. This has to be done before you can visit the classrooms. **Under no circumstances is anyone to go to the classrooms or anywhere on the premises to talk to a child or take them from the building without checking with the office.** You can drop your child off outside the main entrance in the morning or pick your child up outside the main entrance in the afternoon, but we always encourage parents to use the parent drop off loop.

Child's Daily Routine
If there is going to be a change in a child's daily routine, please notify the office by sending a note with your student or calling the office to let us know. Examples of a change in routine would include riding a different bus, or someone else picking them up from school. Please be very specific about who will pick them up. They can meet the child at the office area to pick up. **Please sign and date the note. Do not have your child or student write the note or sign the note. Blue notes need to be given if there will be bus changes, if a student needs to go from parent loop to a bus route or bus route to parent loop.** We are more than happy to accommodate changes in daily routine, because sometimes changes are necessary. We only ask that you notify us by 2:00 in the afternoon, if not sooner. This will ensure that all information will be delivered, and we can notify the student and teacher of the changes. Changes made after 2:00 can and have caused confusion, and this might prevent the change in routine being carried out smoothly. **Please try and make all changes in routine by the 2:00 deadline.**

Medication Policy
Our medication policy allows us only to give medications that are prescribed by a doctor. We are not allowed to give over-the-counter medications or any medications under any circumstance without a prescription from a physician. The following steps must be observed for us to administer medications to your child:

1. A prescription order to administer medication from the doctor must be brought to school before medication can be administered. A medication form with the dosage, duration and time needed to be administered must be filled out by the doctor and signed by the parent.

2. The parent or guardian must bring medication in the original prescription container to school and the parent must pick up any remaining medication as well. Under no circumstances will medication be sent home with a child.

3. If your child needs to use an inhaler you must either keep one at school in the office or the parent/guardian will need to bring it back and forth to school. Please do not ask your child to carry it with them at school. Also, please have the doctor indicate the dosage, number of times to use, and when your child should use the inhaler.

4. If your child is diabetic or any other condition and needs to keep food or drink items at school, please let us know and we will be more than glad to help.

5. Let the school know if there is a change in your child's health situation due to an illness or injury that will require a change in his/her daily routine at school. We will be more than happy to accommodate your child's needs during such times.

Medical forms may be picked up at school prior to the first day of school if the medication of your child needs to happen on the first day of school.

Student Transportation

Before School Drop-off and After School Pick-up
We need your help when dropping students off at school in the morning and picking students up after school. The **earliest drop off time is 7:20 a.m**. We ask that you please do the following:

1. Use the drop off zone in the Parent Loop by the Main entrance; **Students whose parents are parking in the parking lot must escort your child/children to the building.** Parents must wait outside the building for your child.

2. Please do not park your vehicle in a drop off area to come into the building, this can cause a traffic hazard and cause congestion during peak times. If this is necessary, please park in the parking lot, being sure to escort your child into the building if he/she is with you.

3. Always make sure your child is clear from the vehicle before pulling away. Sometimes clothing or backpack straps can be caught in the door and can be a potential safety hazard to your student.

4. No matter who is dropping a student off, please keep the safety of all students in mind by being observant, driving slow, and taking that extra time to make sure safety procedures can be followed. Safety of students cannot be compromised because you are running late and you want to sidestep safety procedures, just this once.

5. Do not park in the bus loading area on the east side of the building off 29th Lane.

6. Students being dropped off before school and picked up after school are to be picked up in the parent loop by the main entrance. Please drive in the parent loop, which is designated with traffic cones. Do not pull out of the parent loop until you have cleared the traffic cones, as it is a safety concern. Please do not use your cell phone while in the parent loop. When using 29th Lane or Gale Road keep to the far left and out of the intersection on 29th Lane.

7. The drop off and pick up route to be utilized is; all vehicles use Everett Road and turn south on 29th Lane and west on Gale Road. After dropping off or picking up your child, turn right heading west on Gale Road towards 28th lane. This is the route for drop off and pick up.

8. The side entrance should never be used during the times of dropping off or picking up. This compromises our ability to guarantee the safety of your child and can put your child in harm's way. Please use the main entrance.

9. Please enter the parking lot on the east end and exit on the west end during designated drop off and pick up times during designated times. Having one-way traffic through the parking lot will ensure good traffic flow and additional safety.

10. Always be cautious of leaving children in cars unattended.

These procedures are for the safety of everyone. Please do your part to protect your child's safety and the safety of others.

School Lunch Program

Students may participate in the school's hot lunch program or they may bring a sack lunch. The school lunch program will follow the following price schedule for this time:
Breakfast: Elementary Free
Middle/High Free

Lunch: Elementary Free
Middle/High Free
Adult $5.00 (Does not include milk)

Students can always purchase additional milk for $.75 extras entree $2.25

No charges will be allowed since breakfast and lunches are free.

I need to emphasize the importance of filling out the free and reduced forms as it directly affects how much funding the school and district receive. No matter your income please fill out the form when updating your info snap information.

PowerSchool Information Update
Please be sure to fill out your student's online information packet by accessing the update from your PowerSchool parent portal. This helps us keep your emergency contact information up to date. Please complete this online information packet by August 15th. Please review all handbooks, bus rules and District policies with your child. Your cooperation in this matter will help immensely.

Dress Code and Cell Phones
Please do not send your child to school in t-shirts that display sarcastic, derogatory, or negative messages. Appearance should be conducive to the educational setting and not distract from the learning environment. The increase in the number of schools going to school uniforms is directly related to the changes in trends and fashions that are not appropriate for the school setting. Please help us maintain a positive and friendly environment by dressing your child in clothes that are appropriate for school and do not try to convey negative feelings toward individuals, work, school or family. We will ask your child to turn the shirt inside out or put another shirt on if necessary. Cell phones need to be brought to the office before school and students can pick them up after school. If you keep your cell phone in your backpack it needs to be turned off. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

School Communication
We want to ensure that the North Mesa Community is well aware of events and things going on at school. To better assist with communication we are moving more to post information online that will include the Student-Parent handbook, school news, school lunch information and things going on in your child's class. We will be sending out school messages via telephone and texts. Most teachers use Class Dojo to communicate what is going on in their classrooms.
We are happy to announce that flier distribution will be through a distribution system called "Peachjar". Utilize the website at http://nme.district70.org
Information on grades and assignments can be accessed through PowerSchool.

Staff Changes
We would like to welcome Chelsey Pool as an ESS teacher. Mrs. Swanson moved from title one to third grade. Mrs Monack is moving from instructional aide to kindergarten teacher. Mrs Arguello will be teaching kindergarten through title one. We hired two new ESS Para Professionals, Paul Porter and Leah Romero. Mrs DiPrince is coming back to her ESS para pro position at NME. Like always, the welfare and education of your son or daughter is always our top priority, and we will make sure that all classrooms are well organized and prepared to begin the school year.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Pueblo County School District 70 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability, need for special education services, genetic information, pregnancy or childbirth status, or other status protected by law in admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its education programs or activities. Additionally, a lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation in activities.Inquiries about ADA, Section 504, Title VI, and Title IX may be addressed to the Superintendent of Schools, 24951 US Highway 50 East, Pueblo, Colorado 81006 719-295-6548 or nondiscrimination@district70.org