

Sonoran Foothills School
Home of the Bobcats!

Family Handbook
2026-2027

32150 N. North Foothills Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85085
623-445-8400

WWW.DVUSD.ORG/SONORANFOOTHILLS

School Information

www.sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org

School Hours
8:45 AM - 3:30 PM
Students will be allowed
on campus at 8:30 AM

Office Hours
7:45 AM - 4:15 PM

Early Release Hours
2:00 PM
On Scheduled Fridays
Please refer to the district calendar for scheduled early release days.

Half Day Hours
12:05 pm release

SONORAN FOOTHILLS
IS A
SMOKE FREE,
DRUG FREE,
WEAPON FREE, AND PET FREE
CAMPUS

School Colors:
Cobalt blue, silver, and black

School Mascot:
Bobcat



Sonoran Foothills Mission:
In partnership with students, families, and community members, Sonoran Foothills School seeks to create a challenging and diverse learning environment through engaging instruction, allowing for individual differences in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect.

DVUSD Vision:
Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world.

Attendance Line: 623-445-8490

Please enter this number in your phone!

Staff Contacts		
Principal Asst. Principal	Samantha Colangelo Amy Goff	623-445-8404 623-445-8404
Secretary	Martha Reuter	623-445-8404
Accounting Clerk	Julie Massie	623-445-8405
Registrar	Olga Wagner	623-445-8406
Nurse	Christine Wetzel	623-445-8410
Library/Media Ctr.	Brittany Harker	623-445-8413
Cafeteria Manager	Madeline Holland	623-445-8414

Please visit our website at http://sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org for teacher contact information including phone extensions and email addresses.

The format for all staff e-mail is firstname.lastname@dvusd.org
(for example john.smith@dvusd.org).

Sonoran Foothills School Family Handbook
2026-2027

Dear Sonoran Foothills Community,

Welcome to another exciting school year at Sonoran Foothills! We are thrilled to partner with you once again as we continue building an engaging and supportive environment where every Bobcat can grow and thrive.

At Sonoran Foothills, our priority is fostering a positive school culture rooted in safety, connection, and belonging. We believe that strong relationships between home and school, grounded in open communication and collaboration, are essential to student success. This family handbook is designed to clearly communicate our school-wide policies, procedures, and expectations, ensuring consistency and transparency throughout the year.

Families play a vital role in our school community. You can stay connected and involved by:

- Checking your child's progress regularly in PowerSchool,
- Using student planners and communication folders,
- Visiting our website at http://sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org for the latest news and events, following us on social media (Facebook, Twitter (X), and Instagram)and
- Keeping your contact information up to date to receive important messages from the school and district.

On behalf of the entire Sonoran Foothills staff, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We are honored to be a part of your child's educational journey and look forward to a successful year—*One Team, One Goal, Success for All.*

Warmly,
The Sonoran Foothills Team

Bobcat Character TRACKS

Sonoran Foothills Bobcats are:

Trustworthy

Respectful

Accountable

Creative

Kind

Safe

What Is TRACKS?

At Sonoran Foothills Schools, we are dedicated to fostering a positive, inclusive, and safe learning environment for every student. We achieve this through a proactive, school-wide approach known as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). At the heart of our PBIS framework is **Tier 1 Behavior Support**, where we explicitly teach, model, and reinforce our core behavior expectations, embodied in our **TRACKS** values: **Trustworthy, Respect, Accountable, Creative, Kind,** and **Safe**. These values guide students in their daily actions inside and outside school to ensure they demonstrate positive behaviors in all settings.

Our Tier 1 support is designed to create consistency in behavior expectations across all areas of the school, from classrooms to other areas, such as playgrounds, hallways, and bathrooms. By embedding these principles into every aspect of school life, we aim to help students develop lifelong skills for personal and social success, ensuring a positive atmosphere where all students can succeed academically and emotionally.

At Sonoran Foothills Schools, we believe in recognizing and celebrating positive behavior. Students who exemplify our **TRACKS** values—**Trustworthy, Respect, Accountable, Creative, Kind,** and **Safe**—can earn **yellow TRACKS tickets**. These tickets serve as a tangible acknowledgment of their efforts to uphold our behavioral expectations across various school locations.

Each week and quarter, we highlight students who consistently model these positive behaviors, selecting winners who set the standard for others. This recognition not only motivates students to continue making positive choices but also reinforces the importance of maintaining a respectful and supportive school community.

At Sonoran Foothills, we believe, “We leave our **TRACKS** everywhere we go.” Through our PBIS framework and TRACKS values, we are committed to building a positive school culture where

every student is encouraged, recognized, and supported in their journey toward becoming responsible, kind, and successful individuals.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Limiting Interruptions of Learning

Limiting Interruptions to Learning

At Sonoran Foothills, we are committed to maximizing instructional time and minimizing disruptions to the learning environment. While we understand that mornings can be busy and forgotten items happen occasionally, our campus will continue implementing limited item drop-off procedures during the school day.

This approach not only protects valuable classroom learning time but also helps students build responsibility, organization, independence, and problem-solving skills.

Tips to Support Your Child's Independence:

- **Set up a lunch account** for your child as a backup plan in case they forget their lunch. This allows them to confidently problem-solve without added stress for you or a trip back to campus.
- **Prepare materials the night before** to reduce the chances of forgotten items.

Item Drop-Off Guidelines:

- **Emergency health/safety items ONLY MAY** be dropped off in the office, including:
    - Medications (as prescribed and pre-coordinated with the health office)
    - Glasses or hearing aids
    - Water bottles
    - A Lunch
    - Jackets (if weather conditions shift unexpectedly)
    - Chromebook/Charger

All items must be clearly labeled with the student's first and last name.

Items That Will NOT be Accepted for Drop-Off:

To preserve instructional time and reduce classroom interruptions, the **office will not accept or deliver**:

- Homework assignments
- Instruments
- Projects
- Classroom supplies
- PE clothes/Shoes
- Toys/personal items
- Other non-essential materials

We appreciate your partnership and understanding as we work together to create a focused, safe, and productive learning environment for all students.

Celebrations & Food Deliveries:

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, all Arizona public schools are required to follow the new Arizona Healthy Schools Act, a statewide law designed to promote healthier food options for students.

As part of this legislation, schools may no longer serve or distribute foods that contain any of the state's banned ingredients during the school day. This applies to food brought onto campus by parents, visitors, volunteers, and outside vendors—not just food sold by the school.

What Does This Mean for Birthday Treats at Sonoran Foothills?

To ensure we remain in compliance with state law, Sonoran Foothills will no longer be able to accept store-purchased birthday treats such as:

- Cupcakes
- Cookies
- Donuts
- Brownies
- Other individually packaged treats brought from home

We understand that celebrating birthdays is an important tradition, and we're excited to offer a safe, easy, and compliant alternative!

🎉 **Celebrate with a DVUSD Birthday Bucket!**

Our DVUSD Food & Nutrition Department offers Birthday Buckets, which include approved snack options that meet the new Arizona Healthy Schools Act requirements. Birthday Buckets make celebrating simple while ensuring all treats provided on campus meet the state's nutrition guidelines.

To order:

- Complete the attached Birthday Bucket Order Form.
- Orders must be placed at least two weeks in advance and coordinated with your child's teacher.

- You may:
    - Email the completed form to madeline.holland@dvusd.org
    - Send the form to school with your child for the teacher
    - Drop it off in the front office

Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we implement this new statewide requirement. We appreciate your support in helping us provide a safe, healthy learning environment while continuing to celebrate our Bobcats' special days! 🐾

Arizona Healthy Schools Act

Academics

Grades, Report Cards, and PowerSchool

Detailed information on grading practices in DVUSD can be found on the district website under the Grading and Reporting link.
www.dvusd.org

DVUSD Beliefs about Grading and Reporting:
All students must graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary success in college, careers, and citizenship. Learning standards define what students must know and do to be college and career-ready. The purpose of grading and reporting is to communicate students' academic progress toward meeting learning standards. Effective communication between school and home is a contributing factor to academic success. A positive and productive teacher-parent or guardian relationship contributes to cooperative efforts toward a student's academic achievement. The following means of communication are used to keep parents informed of their children's progress.

DVUSD grading is based on the following policies and procedures:
See Procedures and the Promotion, Retention and Graduation Manual**:**

K-6 2026-2027 PRAG

7th-8th 2026-2027 PRAG

- Gradebook categories in PowerSchool are set up as 80% Assessments, 20% Coursework, 0% Practice
- At least 1 meaningful grade each week, a minimum of 4 graded assessments per quarter
- Missing work is marked "Missing" and if never turned in a 50% is given at the end of the unit.
- Students can have 5 days (grades 3-8) to submit the missing work for full credit IF they meet the set criteria by the teacher. Grades K-2 have until the end of the quarter.
- Students should be allowed to re-take an assessment for a higher score within 10 school days after receiving the score in the gradebook.

- No extra credit can be given.
- Dedication of scores or grades will not be applied for student misbehavior

***IMPORTANT* Every parent should set up a PowerSchools account**, which allows you to access grades from a home computer or the PowerSchool App on your smartphone. **Parents may pick up a PowerSchool log-in and password at the front office after showing a photo ID.**
*PowerSchool may be accessed via the following URL: http://ps.dvusd.org/public

Home Practice (Homework)

Home practice—commonly referred to as homework—is a valuable extension of classroom learning. Its primary purpose is to reinforce and apply skills taught in class, helping students move closer to mastery of course standards. When used effectively, home practice supports increased student achievement, encourages responsibility, and helps develop strong study habits and self-discipline.

Homework should be:

- Directly connected to grade-level standards and classroom instruction,
- Appropriate to a student's age, grade level, and individual learning needs, and
- Designed to be completed **independently** based on prior classroom teaching.

Teachers may differentiate home practice to support the diverse needs of students. Participation is essential, as it allows teachers to assess understanding and provide feedback that supports growth.

We ask families to help promote independence and preserve the integrity of this learning process. You can support your child by:

- Reviewing assignments together,
- Asking questions about *what* they are working on and *why*, and
- Offering encouragement as they develop their own learning habits.

Questions or concerns regarding home or class work: Please reach out directly to the teacher via email. Teachers are here to help your student succeed and are the primary point of contact for any issues regarding your child's academic progress.

You can find your teacher's email address on our school website under the "Departments" section: https://sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org/departments

Attendance/Absence Procedures

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school, please call the automated attendance line using the voice mail telephone number at (623) 445-8490. Follow the prompts to record your child's absence. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you need to speak directly with the attendance clerk, you may do so by dialing (623) 445-8406.

An unreported absence will result in an automated telephone call to the parent at the primary phone number listed on the emergency card. Arizona State guidelines for student attendance are as follows:

- 0% to less than 50% of instructional time equals full day absent
- 50% to less than 75% of instructional time equals half day absent
- 75% of instructional time and up equals full day present

Medical and dental appointments are excused absences; however, please try to schedule these before or after school hours. REMEMBER: Students must be fever-free for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.

Our first priority is the well-being of our students. When students are absent, they have one day for each absence to make up their work upon their return. If your child is absent due to illness for multiple days and you would like to request some work, please allow 24 hours for teachers to provide the assignments.

Any unexcused absence (without the prior knowledge and consent of parent/guardian and/or without notification to the office), including an unexcused absence from even one class period a day, is considered a truancy.

The CUTS (Court Unified Truancy Suppression) Program is the Arizona truancy diversion program. **Arizona State law says that it is unlawful for any child between the ages of six and sixteen to fail to attend school during the hours school is in session, unless there is a valid excuse.** The child will be considered truant when there is not a good reason for not attending school. If a parent fails to ensure that the child attend school, the law states that they are guilty of a Class 3 Misdemeanor. When the parent does not provide a valid excuse for the child's absence, a law enforcement officer may cite the student, parent or custodian directly into court for violating the state truancy law.

- A habitually truant child is a child between the ages of six and sixteen who has five (5) days of unexcused absences or five (5) unexcused absences from a single class within a single school year.
- A student who is habitually truant from school may be issued a criminal citation.
- An administrator will attempt to notify parents that the citation may be issued, and the parent will be required to appear in court with the student.
- Students who are absent 10% of the school year (18 days) may be retained.
- Students will be dropped if absent 10 days consecutively unexcused.

Tardies

Circumstances outside of the student and/or parents' reasonable control will be considered an excused tardy (school bus problems, doctor/dentist visits). If a student exhibits a pattern of tardies or absences due to medical issues, parents should consult the school nurse to discuss options and policies for chronic health conditions.

Unexcused Tardies:
Administration will contact parents to discuss possible solutions to support the student being on time.

Middle School Tardies:
Middle school students will have a passing period of 3 minutes. Students who are late entering their classroom will be sent to the office to sign in and get a pass to class. Every 5 tardies will result in an after school detention with administration.

Tardies & Late Arrival Procedures

Instruction begins promptly at 8:45 am each morning. Students arriving after 8:45 am are considered tardy and **must be signed into the front office by a parent/guardian** before reporting to class.

To ensure student safety and accurate attendance records:

- Students arriving late may not walk into campus or classrooms independently.
- A parent/guardian must accompany the student into the office and complete the sign-in process.
- Students will receive a tardy pass from the office before proceeding to class.
- Staff members are unable to admit tardy students to class without an office-issued pass.

We ask families to make every effort to have students at school on time each day. Frequent tardiness disrupts instruction, classroom routines, and impacts student learning. Consistent on-time attendance helps students begin the day successfully and be ready to learn alongside their peers.

Early pick up

If it is necessary to pick up your child during school hours you need to report to the school office to sign him/her out. **Once you sign your child out, a staff member will call your child to the front office**.

For your child's protection:

- Your child will not be released to anyone except his/her parents or the contacts you have indicated on the Emergency Card.
- Picture identification will be required.
- A note or telephone call is NOT sufficient to have your child released from school.

- To maintain student safety and minimize disruptions to the learning environment, students should **not** use their personal cell phones to contact parents during the school day to request early pick-up. Likewise, parents should **not** text their child asking them to leave class or come to the office to wait for parent/guardian to arrive.

- If a student feels unwell or needs to go home, they must go through the **nurse's office or front office**, where staff will assess the situation and contact families as appropriate. This ensures all students are accounted for and that proper procedures are followed.

- **No changes to dismissal will be accepted after 3:15pm.** Only in special situations will students be excused from 3:15- 3:30 PM**.** Academic time is valuable, and we need to work together to protect it. 15 minutes a day over the course of a month represents almost a full school day. Releasing students early for non-medical reasons is disruptive and interferes with the teacher's closure procedures.

Withdrawal

Parents are requested to notify the school office when a student is to be withdrawn from school. The parent must sign an official withdrawal form when a student is withdrawn. This will enable us to send your child's academic records to his/her next school. Students are responsible for returning all school items, library books, etc. upon withdrawal from school. Replacement fees will be charged.

Sonoran Foothills School Parking Lot Procedures & Safety Guide

A shared commitment to keeping every Bobcat safe.

Why this Matters

At Sonoran Foothills School, the safety of our students, families, and staff is our highest priority. Each day, more than 900 students arrive and dismiss from campus in approximately 15 minutes. With buses, parent vehicles, walkers, bicyclists, and staff all sharing our parking lots and surrounding streets, it is essential that everyone follows the same procedures.

Parking lots are among the highest-risk areas for accidents on school campuses. The procedures below are designed to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, eliminate blind spots, and most importantly, keep every Bobcat safe.

Thank you for partnering with us by modeling safe, respectful, and patient behavior during arrival and dismissal.

GENERAL PARKING LOT EXPECTATIONS

Students may not arrive on campus prior to 8:30am unless attending a supervised activity. Sonoran Foothills staff being morning duty at 8:30am and thus, there is no supervision prior to 8:30am.

Speed limit: 15mph near school grounds and 5mph on campus.

No phone use

Curbside parking is not permitted.

One-Way Traffic

Please follow all posted directional signs and arrows.

- Enter and exit only where designated.
- Do not drive against the flow of traffic.

Crosswalk Safety

Crosswalks are provided by the City of Phoenix and DVUSD for student safety.

Parents and students should:

- Always use designated crosswalks.
- Follow directions from crossing guards.
- Never cross through parking lots or traffic lanes outside designated crossings.

Parents play an important role by modeling safe crossing habits for our students.

ADA Parking

ADA parking spaces are reserved exclusively for vehicles displaying a valid ADA placard or license plate.

These spaces must remain available for families who rely on them for medical or mobility needs.

Unauthorized use may be reported.

Late Pick-Up

Students not picked up by 3:40 p.m. in the South Parking Lot will be relocated to the front parent pick-up area.

Students remaining after 3:45 p.m. will be escorted to the front office.

Community Center Parking Lot

The Sonoran Foothills Community Center is not operated by Sonoran Foothills School or Deer Valley Unified School District.

Because there is no school supervision in that parking lot, we strongly encourage families to use one of the school's two designated parking lots for student drop-off and pick-up.

Student Transportation

Permitted:

- Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Non-motorized scooters

We recommend these be used by students in grades 3–8, and that all riders wear helmets.

<u>Not Permitted:</u>

- Motorized scooters
- Mini-bikes
- Motorcycles
- Hoverboards
- Roller blades
- Heelys (wheel shoes)

<u>Students must:</u>

- Walk bikes, scooters, and skateboards while on campus.
- Secure them in the designated bike rack.
- The bike rack is locked during school hours.

Pets

For the safety of all students and staff, pets are not permitted on DVUSD property.

Morning Arrival

Choose the option that works best for your family and use that same option consistently whenever possible. Consistency helps improve traffic flow and keeps all students safe.

Front Parking Lot
🚗 Parent In-Vehicle Drop-Off

Best for families who want to remain in their vehicle.

- **Stay in your vehicle.**
- **Pull all the way forward.**
- **Students should be ready to exit quickly.**
- **Students exit on the passenger side when possible.**
- **Follow staff directions.**
- **No parking or unattended vehicles in the loop.**

South Parking Lot
🚶 Park & Walk

Best for families who prefer to park and walk their child to campus.

- **Park only in a marked parking space.**
- **Walk students using sidewalks.**
- **Use designated crosswalks.**
- **Never walk through traffic lanes or between vehicles.**

Walkers/Bikers
🚲

Students walking or riding to school should:

- **Use designated sidewalks and crosswalks.**
- **Follow crossing guards.**
- **Walk bikes and scooters once on campus.**
- **Lock bikes in the designated bike rack.**
- **Helmets are strongly encouraged.**

Afternoon Dismissal

Families have two designated dismissal options. Please choose the option that best meets your family's needs.

Front Parking Lot
🚗 Parent In-Vehicle Pick-Up

Best for families who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Stay in the designated pick-up lane.
- Pull all the way forward.
- Students load only in designated loading areas.
- Follow all staff directions.
- Please remain attentive and avoid cell phone use while in the pick-up line.

South Parking Lot
🚶 Park & Walk

Best for families who choose to park and meet their child.

Parent Expectations

- Park only in a designated parking space.
- Walk to the Parent Pick-Up Zone.
- Wait in the designated area.
- Meet your child before entering the parking lot.

Student Expectations

- Report to the Parent Pick-Up Zone.
- Do not walk through the parking lot unattended.
- Use the designated crosswalk with your parent/guardian.

Student Expectations

- Students will be released to the designated Parent Pick-Up Zone.
- Students may not walk unattended through the parking lot.
- Students and parents must use the designated crosswalk area when entering or exiting the parking lot.

Bus Lane Safety

The **blue route** on the campus map identifies the **Bus Loading Zone and designated sidewalk.**

For everyone's safety:

- No pedestrians may walk between parked buses.
- Never cross through the bus loading area.
- Drivers may **not** drive through or around parked buses.
- Students walking to the Community Center or park must remain on the designated blue sidewalk.
- Student pick-up is **not permitted** in the bus loading zone.

Parking

Parking is permitted **only in marked parking spaces.**

Parking is prohibited:

- In fire lanes
- Along curbs marked "No Parking"
- In the bus lane
- **In traffic lanes**
- **Anywhere that blocks the flow of traffic**



BRONCO BUTTE SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

To improve safety for students walking, biking, and being dropped off, please follow all traffic laws along Bronco Butte.

No Parking

Parking along Bronco Butte is prohibited.

Parking in these areas:

- **Blocks the bike lane**
- **Reduces visibility**
- **Creates unsafe conditions for students**

Crosswalk Use

All students and families must use the designated crosswalk.

Students should never:

- Cross mid-block
- Cross outside designated crosswalks
- Cross multiple traffic lanes independently

No U-Turns

U-turns along Bronco Butte create dangerous situations for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers and are prohibited.

Crossing Guards & School Safety Officers

Please follow all directions from:

- City of Phoenix Crossing Guards
- Sonoran Foothills School Safety Officers

Their role is to keep traffic moving safely and protect students during arrival and dismissal.

Student Transportation: Bikes, Scooters & More

Allowed: Bicycles, skateboards, and non-motorized scooters are permitted. It is recommended that only 3rd–8th grade students ride to school and that helmets are worn.

Not Allowed: Motorized scooters, mini-bikes, motorcycles, roller blades, hoverboards, and Heelys (shoes with wheels) are not allowed on campus at any time.

Bike Rack Use: Riders must walk their transportation on campus and lock it in the designated bike rack area. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Our bike rack will be locked during school hours.

Crosswalk

Crosswalks and crossing guards are provided by the City of Phoenix and DVUSD for student safety. Encourage your child to:

- Always use the designated crosswalks.
- Avoid crossing in driveways or unmarked areas.
- Follow the direction of crossing guards at all times.
- Parents—please model safe behavior by using crosswalks and respecting traffic safety rules.

Our Shared Commitment

The safety of our students depends on all of us working together.

We recognize that arrival and dismissal can be busy times, and some procedures may occasionally feel inconvenient. However, every expectation outlined above is designed with one goal in mind: keeping students safe.

By following these procedures, respecting our staff, and modeling safe behavior for our children, you help create a safer, more efficient campus for every Bobcat.

Thank you for your partnership, patience, and continued support in making Sonoran Foothills School a safe place for all.

Bus Transportation

Based on the DVUSD policy:

Kindergarten: .5 miles
Grades 1–6: 1.0 mile
Grades 7–8: 1.5 miles

What's Not Allowed on the Bu

- Glass, balloons, animals, insects, motorized scooters
- Use of electronics
- Students riding buses they are not assigned to (unless pre-approved by the school and the Transportation Department)

Bus Rules & Expectation

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a rights

- All students must behave in accordance with school expectations while waiting for, boarding, riding, and exiting the bus.
- The bus driver is legally responsible for passenger conduct and safety.
- Video cameras may be in use to monitor student behavior.

Alternate Bus Requests

If your child must ride a different bus due to an emergency, a written note from a parent must be submitted to the school office. The school will confirm space with Transportation. Notes to the driver are not accepted.

Bus Misconduct & Discipline

Bus suspensions and consequences are handled by the Transportation Department in accordance with DVUSD policy. Misbehavior may result in

- Suspension from the bus
- Suspension from school
- Additional disciplinary actions

Suspended students are still required to attend school by law. Bus suspensions follow a progressive discipline process and begin only after parent contact has been made. Serious incidents may carry over to the next school year.

Students are guaranteed due process, which includes:

1. Notification of the accusation
2. An opportunity to respond
3. Explanation of the situation and an opportunity to present their side
4. The right to a hearing for suspensions exceeding 10 days

For questions or concerns about transportation, please contact the DVUSD Transportation Department directly.

Animals/Pets

On occasion, students may wish to bring pets or animals to school as part of a class project or learning experience. For the safety and well-being of all students and staff, **any animal brought onto campus for school-related purposes must receive prior approval from the principal**. This includes animals being brought before, during, or after school hours. All animals must be properly restrained or in a secure container, have up-to-date vaccinations, and be transported directly to and from the classroom by a parent or guardian. Allergies and other health concerns may restrict animal visits, and families will be notified if such limitations exist. If an animal is scheduled to visit at the end of the day, parents are asked to wait until campus has cleared before entering and exiting the classroom promptly. Parents assume full responsibility for the animal, including any potential injuries, messes, or damages that may occur during the visit. **Pets are not allowed on campus at any time—including fields, walkways, and parking lots—without explicit permission from the principal.** Trained service animals are the only exception.

For everyone's safety, **stray animals that enter campus will be turned over to animal control if the owner cannot be located**, and students should be reminded not to encourage any animal to follow them to school. Additionally, **no animals, insects, reptiles, or similar creatures are permitted on school buses** at any time. These guidelines are in place to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment for all.

Community Education

Before & After School Care Program

Our before & after care program provides a safe, on-site, enriching environment for students before and after their regularly scheduled school day by incorporating activities indoors and out, as well as homework assistance and organized play. Care is available from 6:30 AM until the start of school and after school until 6:00 PM, including early release days. Visit www.dvusd.org/communityed for complete information.

Enrichment Classes

Sonoran Foothills School will offer a variety of extra-curricular programs over the course of the school year. We are dedicated to providing as many different before or after school opportunities as possible. Watch for fliers coming home and information on our website to see what is available. Fliers are also available on Peach Jar, the district's digital flier website.

Custody

If you have a court order that limits the rights of others in matters such as custody or visitation, a copy of that order **must** be on file with us to ensure your child's safety and to allow our staff to follow the limits set forth in the order.

In the event that you leave your child in the temporary custody of a relative or friend the school must have a notarized note. In the event of an emergency, hospitals require this information. In addition, please be sure the friend or relative is also listed as a responsible party on the child's Emergency Card at school.

Mandatory Reporting

According to Arizona state law, school employees are mandated reporters and **cannot ignore any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect**. This includes suspected non-accidental injuries, sexual abuse or molestation, and any form of physical or emotional neglect. **All suspicions must be reported immediately to both the Department of Child Safety (DCS)**—formerly known as Child Protective Services—and the Phoenix Police Department.

Individuals who are legally required to report are **protected under state law from civil or criminal liability** when reports are made in good faith. These measures exist to ensure the safety and well-being of every child.

Discipline, Interviews, Searches, etc.

Please see the DVUSD 2026-2027 Student's Rights & Responsibilities Handbook here for all discipline and behavior guidelines and expectations

Student Interviews and Parent Notification

School officials may question students about school-related matters at any time. If the interview may lead to serious disciplinary action, parents will be contacted. Students may decline to be interviewed by a School Resource Officer (SRO) or other peace officer.

Child Abuse or Abandonment Cases

If a child protective services worker or police officer comes to interview a student due to suspected abuse or abandonment, the school will allow the interview. Proper identification is required, and a form must be signed. If the student is taken into temporary custody, the agency is responsible for notifying the parent, but the school may also contact the parent after six hours.

Non-Abuse Cases (No Immediate Safety Threat)

If a police officer requests to interview a student for reasons unrelated to abuse or school safety:

- The school administrator will be notified.
- Parents will usually be contacted for consent.
- If the officer says the interview involves criminal activity by the parent and requests no contact, the school will comply.
- If parents cannot be reached the same day, the officer will be asked to arrange the interview outside of school.

Interviews for School Safety Concerns

If the interview is at the school's request due to safety concerns, parents will be notified only if the student is taken into custody or faces serious discipline.

Reporting Requirements

School staff must report any serious crimes or threats on campus to the Superintendent, who will contact law enforcement. Incidents involving bullying or harassment will be handled according to school policy. Parents will be notified if their child is involved in any suspected crime or serious conduct, as allowed by federal law.

Searches of Student Property

To maintain a safe and healthy school environment, school officials may search student property (including items like backpacks or personal belongings) if there is reason to believe harmful or unsafe materials are present. School property assigned to students, such as lockers and desks, remains under school control and may be searched at any time, with or without notice or specific cause. Students should not expect privacy regarding these items. Strip searches are not allowed without approval from the School District's legal counsel.

Promotion Activities and Events

Promotion activities and events are a privilege, not a right. Therefore, appropriate student behavior throughout the school year is directly related to a student's opportunity to participate in these events. Students who engage or participate in behavior (a single event or a series of discipline issues) that violates any of the DVUSD standards for student conduct will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary consequences and may forfeit the privilege of participating in the promotion events.

Student Dress Code

Sonoran Foothills will follow the DVUSD Student's Rights and Responsibilities handbook regarding dress code.Please refer to this section for the full explanation of DSVUSD's dress code (page 13) but we have highlighted a few important ones below:

The District encourages students to take pride in their attire related to the school setting. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, considers the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of self and others.

- Clothing must cover the entire buttock and not be see-through. Shirts and tops may not expose bare midriffs, or bare shoulders, nor be deeply or narrowly cut in the front, back, or under the arms. Halter tops, spaghetti straps, and strapless tops are not acceptable. Clothing that exposes undergarments will not be allowed.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as PE, cheer, etc. **Please NO CROCS during PE** as this is for the safety for students. They will not be allowed to participate in PE if in Crocs.
- Jewelry shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard.
- Defamatory writing, obscene language, or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol on clothing or jewelry are prohibited.

Students dressed in attire that does not meet these guidelines will be required to get a change of clothes from our nurse or call home for new clothing to be brought to school. Multiple infractions of violating the dress code may result in a disciplinary referral. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these

expectations with your child to maintain a safe and productive learning environment for all students. Detailed information on these policies can be accessed on our school's website, and we encourage you to stay informed and engaged throughout the school year.

School Meals & Nutrition Information

Deer Valley Unified School District participates in the USDA National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, offering nutritious meals at affordable prices.

Meal Options

- K–8 Schools: Students choose from 3–4 entrée options daily (one is always vegetarian). Meals include 5 components: fruit, vegetable, grain, protein, and milk. Students must select at least 3 items, including a fruit or vegetable.
- High Schools: More variety is offered, including yogurt, breakfast sandwiches, salads, and international food choices like Mexican, Asian, Italian, and deli items.

Additional servings of fruits, vegetables, and a la carte snacks are available for purchase.

Visit your school's cafeteria website or the DVUSD Food & Nutrition page for:

- Menus
- Nutrition and allergy information
- Special diet accommodations
- Wellness policies
- Smart Snacks & fundraising rules
- Nutrition education

Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Families may apply for free or reduced-price meals. Applications and instructions are:

- Sent at the start of the school year
- Available online at www.EZMealApp.com or www.dvusd.org/mealassistance
- Available in the school office, cafeteria, and the DVUSD Food & Nutrition Office (21421 N. 21st Ave., Building 2, Phoenix, AZ 85027)

Meal Payments & Account Info

- Pay by cash, check, or online at www.EZSchoolPay.com
- Use EZSchoolPay to monitor spending and receive low balance alerts (free for families)
- Account balances carry over from year to year and between DVUSD schools
- For graduating or leaving students, balances may be:
    - Transferred to siblings
    - Donated
    - Refunded (request by June 30 each year)
      Refund requests: Email DV.Lunch@dvusd.org with the student's name, ID, parent name, and mailing address.

Unpaid Meal Charges

- Grades Pre-K–8: Students will always receive a full meal, even with no funds. The account will be charged, and families will be contacted.
- Grades 9–12: One unpaid meal is allowed. After that, students receive an alternative meal. No unpaid meals are allowed during the last 10 days of school.
- All Grades: A la carte items cannot be purchased with a negative balance. If a negative balance exceeds 10 meals, the principal or counselor will contact the family to help resolve the issue, including sharing meal assistance options.

Safe and Healthy Eating

Please remind students to:

- Sit upright while eating
- Chew food slowly and carefully
- Avoid eating while walking, running, or playing
- Never participate in games that involve catching or stuffing food

Lunch is a time to be social and enjoy food, but cafeteria behavior expectations must be followed. Privileges may be removed for unsafe behavior.

Classroom Parties & Food Rules

- Parties are exempt from Smart Snacks standards
- Only store-bought, sealed, non-refrigerated food is allowed

    - Parents may not open items to add decorations

- Fresh fruit and veggies may be brought in if washed, cut, and served immediately in the classroom

- DECA/concession stands may only sell pre-packaged snacks that meet nutrition guidelines

- Food deliveries (DoorDash, etc.) are not allowed during the school day. Items delivered will be held in the office for end-of-day pickup.

Please call the cafeteria at 623-445-8414 with any questions.

Health Center

Keeping students healthy, happy and ready to learn must be a cooperative effort between teachers, the school nurse, student and parent/guardian. The school nurse is the consultant for students concerning health problems which may interfere with your child's learning. Please feel free to discuss any medical/social issues that may hinder this learning process. The nurse's office is not a primary facility like a doctor's office. By law, the nurse is not allowed to make a medical diagnosis, prescribe treatment or administer medications without written permission from a doctor. First aid and medical care provided by the nurse are primarily for illness or injuries that occur on campus during school hours or treatments that have been directed by a doctor.

All medications must be provided by the parent and kept in the health center. All medication must be brought to the health center and the proper permission form signed. This includes pain relievers, anti-itch cream, cough drops, antacids, sinus medication, ibuprofen, and any other over-the-counter medication or prescription medicine prescribed for your child. Prescription medication must be in the original container with specific instructions for use. Instructions that read "As directed" or "As needed" will not be accepted. The health center is not able to provide any stock medications. Students will not be allowed to carry any medications on their person. Special provisions can be made for the use of emergency medications, but must be arranged through the nurse. Students who are carrying medications can be subject to disciplinary actions via the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Do not send your child to school if they are sick. Do not send your child to school if they have diarrhea, vomiting, fever, lice, rash, deep cough or a communicable disease like chicken pox, strep throat, pink eye, etc. Also, children with elevated temperature of 100 degrees or more need to be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before they are permitted to return to school.

Parents are required to complete an Emergency /Medical information sheet for each of their children every year. This form contains information regarding who is to be contacted if your child becomes ill or is injured at school. Students will be released ONLY to those people you have indicated as responsible parties on the student's Emergency Medical information form if they become ill or are injured and must leave school. A note or telephone call is not sufficient

to release a child to any person not listed on this form. List any health problems, including allergies and sensitivities to food, medicine and insect bites that your child may have. **Please keep the health office informed of any new health issues that may develop or any changes in routine medications, even when not administered at school.**

Please contact the office if your address or telephone number at home or work changes during the school year. **REMINDER: It is your responsibility to update all pertinent information at the school.**

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE HEALTH OFFICE HAS A CURRENT RECORD OF IMMUNIZATIONS.

Immunizations:
To comply with Arizona State Law, all students must have a record of adequate immunizations, or an exemption form on file in the Health Office, in order to attend school. Non-compliance may result in disallowing a student to attend school.
Always make sure the school Health Office has a current record of immunization on file.
Please contact the School Nurse at 623-445-8410 with any questions.

If a student is unable to participate in PE a note needs to be given to the PE coaches on the day of class.

Library / Media Center

Our school's Library Media Center (LMC), purpose is a two-fold purpose: to extend our students' learning in the classroom and to promote reading and learning as an enjoyable life-long pursuit. To these ends, you will find an exciting mix of up-to-date topics, with over 10,000 items for checkout, embracing both our students' curricular and personal interests. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, peaceful, and safe learning environment in which students may check out books, read, do research, collaborate, and study.

The LMC is open daily from 8:30 AM-3:45 PM. Visit the LMC website at https://sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org/departments/lmc/lmc-home

Book Circulation

All classes have a scheduled Library time each week for teachers to bring students in. In addition, students may obtain individual passes from their teacher to take advantage of LMC resources and space during the school day. As long as there is no class currently attending their Library session, students are welcome with a pass. Appropriate student behavior is expected in the LMC at all times.

Children from kindergarten through 8th grade may check out books as follows:

K-1st grades:1 book for 1 week 2nd-8th grades: 2 books for 2 weeks

Books may be renewed once if there are no holds on the title. Students are required to renew the book on the due date. Library check-out privileges are suspended until an overdue book is returned or renewed.

It is strongly recommended that students' books be kept in backpacks when not being read. This will allow students to have their books when it's their day to visit the LMC and to protect them from harm. Please be mindful of water bottles placed in backpacks. This can quickly ruin books!

Students and Parents are fiscally responsible for the books they check out. If a book is damaged or lost, the student will be asked to pay for the book. A book is automatically marked as lost 2 weeks after the due date. Until the book is paid for or returned, a student's checkout privileges are suspended. The care of books helps maintain our library collection for all of our students. All books and resources must be returned or paid for prior to changing schools, promoting, etc.

Finally, if parents would like to limit the number of books their child can check out, they may do so by contacting Brittany Harker, Library Media Center Clerk, at 623-445-8413 or brittany.harker@dvusd.org.

Technology

In addition to our print materials, the Library / Media Center also has computers available for student use. These computers are restricted to **academic use only** and are available to all students who have parental permission to use them.

Students in grades 4-8 check out a Chromebook at the beginning of the school year and return it at the end of the school year. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their device. Students are given a Technology Acknowledgement showing that the family has gone over the information and terms of the loan available on the school website under technology, which is due within 1 week after issuance.

Students are responsible for ensuring that their devices are charged nightly and that the device and power cord are with them every day at school. The LMC does have some spare devices for emergencies, however, it is not a guarantee, and it is on the student to be responsible for bringing theirs.

There are troubleshooting guides available in all classrooms, the LMC, and the student handbook. Any issues or damage to the device should be reported to the LMC Clerk as soon as possible.

Students may visit the LMC before/after school, or during with a pass, to receive additional support. Be sure to have BOTH the device and power cord any time the student comes into the LMC for an issue.

Students and parents are fiscally responsible for devices checked out in the student's name. Any damage caused to the device may be charged to the student's account. If a student causes damage to another student's device, the student causing damage may be responsible for the cost ofthe damage.

Optional Device Protection Plans (ODPP) are available for purchase within the first 3 weeks of the student's check-out. The cost is $35 for the school year. This optional protection plan helps

offset the cost of any damage that may occur during the school year. This is ***OPTIONAL, but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED*** as accidents do happen from time to time.

All devices are due at the end of the school year. All devices and any outstanding fines must be returned/paid prior to transferring schools, promoting, etc.

Parent/Community

Smoke Free Environment

It is a Deer Valley Unified School District policy and federal law that our building and the campus (including parking lot) remain "smoke free" in the interest of promoting good health standards for all. This applies to all after school and evening events as well. Electronic cigarettes, vape pens, and smokeless tobacco are not allowed on campus.

Visitors to School

DVUSD welcomes visitors to all of our campuses. All visitors are required to report to the school office upon arrival on campus. All visitors will be issued a visitor's badge and must sign in and out upon arrival and leaving. For those who wish to visit a classroom during the school day, it is expected that the teacher and the principal be contacted in advance to arrange a day and time for such a visit so as to avoid any conflicts with the school schedule. No person may enter onto school premises, including visits or audits to a classroom, without approval by the principal. (Ref. DVUSD Board Policy KI-RA)

Parents requesting an observation of their child's classroom need to complete a Permission for Visitation/Observation Form in advance, available from the school's office, and submit it to the school's administration for approval. If approved, school administration/designee will then notify parents of the scheduled observation time and accompany them to the observation. School administrators are happy to meet with visitors. Because everyone's time is valuable, please contact the school office to schedule a date and time to meet that works for all parties.

To ensure the security of our students and staff Sonoran Foothills is a secured campus during the school day (8:30-3:30). Parents and adult family members are allowed in the cafeteria for lunch. All visitors must register in the office and present identification prior to heading to the cafeteria. All visitors must wear a visitor's sticker while on campus. **Parents are not allowed on the playground during school hours.**

To maintain a secure and focused learning environment, **children who are not currently enrolled students, including siblings, are not permitted on campus at any time. This practice is in effect during all school hours and exceptions can be made at after hours school events on campus.**

Our campus opens to students at 8:30 AM. Students in grades 1-8 will enter through the gate next to the bike rack (along with bus riders). Parents will say their goodbyes at the gate before the students proceed to the playground or to their courtyards. Staff members will be on duty to ensure all students get to their destination safely.

Lastly, visitors to our campuses are expected to adhere to the same policies and procedures as our students and staff, including dress code. If a visitor causes a disruption or otherwise violates a policy, procedure, or law while on a DVUSD campus and the campus administrator deems it necessary for the safety and security of students, staff, and other visitors, the visitor will be immediately removed and local law enforcement may be contacted. Visitors may be escorted while on campus.

The above information and guidelines are in alignment to the DVUSD Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Linked here.

Please refer to page 54.

Volunteers on Campus

Volunteering is a scheduled, pre-arranged activity. When a volunteer expresses an interest in working at school and wants to assist with the type of jobs for which help is needed, there are District guidelines that must be followed for safety and legal reasons before a volunteer begins to work. For the purposes of these guidelines and procedures, volunteers are defined as those people who donate time in schools or with students on a regular or reoccurring basis or serve as chaperones. Guest speakers (i.e., veterans honored on Veteran's Day) are not subject to these guidelines.

Volunteers **may not bring other children to school while volunteering** in a classroom, the office or on a field trip.

According to District Policy, GCL – Professional/Support Staff Schedules and Calendars - family members volunteering in employee work areas must meet the following criteria:

Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) Volunteer Training

- In accordance with the District Volunteer Handbook guidelines
- Over eighteen (18) years of age
- High School graduate
- Principal Approval

All volunteers must:

- Complete Basic Training
- Complete and update Volunteer Registration
- Sign in when on campus and sign out when leaving
- Wear an identification badge provided by the school
- Volunteers with no familial connection to the school must also complete an application and provide references
- Follow all school rules

Fingerprinting

Volunteers must attend training prior to fingerprinting.

Fingerprinting will be required for all persons (parent, guardian, non-parent) who supervise and/or assist students under the following conditions:

- Overnight field trip chaperones (must be 21 years or older)
- Volunteer coaches
- Persons assisting in areas where students may be vulnerable, such as in close proximity to dressing rooms, backstage areas, etc.

Parent-Teacher-Student Association

The National PTSA is the largest child advocacy organization in the United States and one of the largest volunteer organizations. Each local PTSA is linked through its membership and acceptance of the PTSA objectives and policies to the National and State PTSA.

The Sonoran Foothills PTSA is a valuable part of our school culture. We encourage you to become a member, attend the meetings, and get actively involved. **Our children need PTSA and PTSA needs you!** Please watch for communications from our PTSA during the school year.

Public Concerns and Complaints

- Most concerns and complaints can be resolved at the campus level. Therefore, it is the expectation that when a community member has a concern or complaint, the chain of command guidelines in this handbook (A Guide To Problem Solving) will be followed. However, Policy KE-Public Concerns & Complaints allows an avenue for written complaints. You may find these forms and the process in Policy KE.

Student Safety

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations)

This act regulates school procedures so that we protect the privacy of our students and families. To protect your rights, our employees:

- Cannot share names or other personal information about students with other parents or community members. Sonoran Foothills is not able to share disciplinary information on other students.
- May not discuss students or families in public areas
- Can only allow individuals on the pink emergency card to pick up a student
- Will respect a parent's wishes if they choose not to have directory information released or picture taken for publication (permission form goes home at the beginning of the school year and upon new enrollment).

Safe and Healthy Eating

Please encourage your student/child/ or children to be seated upright when eating and not to be distracted. Encourage them to eat slowly, take small bites, and fully chew and swallow their food before talking or laughing. If you pack a lunch and send it with your child, please avoid food items that could be difficult to chew or which could possibly cause choking. Encourage them not to eat while walking, running, or engaging in other activities. Encourage them to avoid children's games that involve catching a food item in the mouth or putting large amounts of food into the mouth. Eating in the cafeteria should be fun and social, but eating in the cafeteria is a privilege. For those who misbehave or fail to follow these directions, cafeteria privileges may be revoked.

Safe School Drills

Sonoran Foothills prioritizes the safety of all and has established fire and lock down procedures to prepare our students and staff in the event of an emergency. The fire and safety drill procedures follow guidelines set by both the fire department and the school district. Fire and safety drills are practiced regularly during the school year. These drills include monthly fire drills and quarterly lockdown drills. It is

important to practice these emergency procedures so that if an emergency were to occur, our students and staff would know how to proceed to safety in a safe and orderly manner.

School Policies and Practices

Parent Access and Visits During the School Day

The administration is requesting your help to minimize interruptions during the school day. We will call students for emergencies or parent pick up, but we strive to limit the number of interruptions for other reasons as each call to the classroom disrupts instruction. It is essential that classroom instruction is not interrupted. In an effort to reduce the interruptions of instructional time Sonoran Foothills will only allow glasses, and medically required items to be given directly to students. Forgotten homework assignments, backpacks, lunches, projects, water bottles and musical instruments can be signed in at the counter. Classes will not be interrupted to notify students, but the office will email the teacher(s). Communication with your child should be through the office. **Please do not text or call your child's cell phone during school hours.** We need your help to preserve the instructional environment of our classrooms every day of the school year!

Textbooks / Library books

When a student is issued a textbook, reading book, or checks out a library book, she/he is responsible for it until it is returned to the teacher or media specialist. Textbook prices range from $7.50 to $80.00. Overdue library books must be returned before students are allowed to check out additional books. Lost books must be paid for before students will be allowed to check out additional books. Final report cards will be held in the office if a cafeteria balance, textbooks, or library books are not cleared by the close of school.

Personal Property

Students are not permitted to use personal items such as cell phones, smart watches, cameras, toys, and electronic devices during school hours unless directed by a teacher. Students not feeling well need to report to the nurse's office, not use a personal device to contact a parent to pick them up. We discourage students from bringing large amounts of money or personal valuables to school. Sonoran Foothills School cannot assume responsibility for the loss of or damage to personal property brought to school.

*All student cell phones **must** be put away during school hours unless the teacher gives permission to use the personal cell phone for a class activity. Progressive discipline will be taken with unauthorized use of a student's cell phone:

- **1st time**: Warning
- **2nd time**: The phone will be taken & kept in the office until the end of the day. It can be picked up from the office (by the student) at the end of the day.
- **3rd time**: The phone will be taken & kept in the office. It can be picked up from the Principal or Assistant Principal at the end of the day accompanied with a conference about appropriate use.
- **4th time**: The phone will be taken & kept in the office. It can only be picked up by a parent/guardian and accompanied with a conference discussing cell phone privileges.

No Gum at School

We ask that students, staff, and visitors not bring gum to school. We have a beautiful school and must to work together as good stewards of our facility. Despite best intentions, gum is often found in all sorts of places. There will be no gum chewing at school.

Classroom Celebrations

To protect valuable instructional time and ensure the safety and well-being of all students, please follow the guidelines below when planning classroom celebrations:

- **Coordinate in Advance**: Always communicate with the teacher ahead of time regarding food allergies, celebration timing, and classroom plans.
- **Delivery Procedures**: Any items for the classroom should be dropped off at the front office. Students will retrieve them at a time that works best for the teacher's schedule.
- **Lunchroom Policy**: Please do not bring food to the cafeteria to share with students other than your own child.
- **Invitations**: Party invitations may only be distributed at school if the entire class is invited.
- **Food Guidelines**: In accordance with Maricopa County Health Code and USDA federal guidelines, all food brought onto campus must be:
    - Pre-packaged
    - From a certified kitchen, commercial institution, or commercial food service store
    - Clearly labeled with ingredients to ensure student safety and allergy awareness

Homemade treats of any kind are not permitted at any Deer Valley Unified School District campus. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and learning-focused.

Lost and Found

Students are encouraged to place their names on all personal belongings such as coats, lunch boxes, gloves, sweaters, etc. Lost items will be kept in the "Lost and Found" located outside the multipurpose room. Students may check the lost and found for missing items. Parents are also encouraged to check for missing items when they are on campus. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charitable organization at the end of every month. The school and/or district are not responsible for lost items.

Student Activities

Athletics

Sonoran Foothills School will participate in Deer Valley's conference for k-8 schools. In accordance with the state of Arizona's regulations and Deer Valley's Governing Board Policy, only those seventh and eighth grade students deemed eligible may participate in extra co-curricular activities in which competition is an integral part of the organization. Students must be passing all subjects in order to be eligible. Athletic Eligibility will be determined every week by the Administration and Athletic Coordinator

starting the first Thursday after the week of tryouts. If a student-athlete is failing a class (minimum of 1 F), they will be put on a pending academic list for one week. During this pending period, the student-athlete will still be considered on the team and allowed to participate. If a pending student-athlete is still failing a class (minimum of 1 F) the following week, the student-athlete will be put on an ineligible list for one week. During this ineligible period the student-athlete will still be considered on the team, allowed to practice, but not allowed to participate in games or travel with the team to away contests. If the student-athlete has a combination of three occurrences during a season (pending or ineligible), then they will be dismissed from the team. This will be considered the three strike rule. If a student-athlete is put on the academic pending list, parents will be notified. If a student athlete reaches the level of strike two (a combination of pending or ineligible), the coach should make direct contact with the parent/guardian to inform them of their student's academic eligibility status and a letter will be mailed home.
Grade checks will be run by the Athletic Coordinator and/or the coach using PowerSchools frequently per district guidelines and the pending/ineligible time period will be the following Monday-Saturday. **STUDENTS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AT LEAST HALF OF THE SCHOOL DAY TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. For the 2025-2026 school year there is a $120 per sport fee for each sport.** This fee does not include cross country which is a fee generated from the community schools department of DVUSD.

Clubs

There are many opportunities for students to be involved in a club or activity before and/or after school. Information will be sent home when each club sponsor schedules their activities. Club sponsors are responsible for their students until all of their students have left the school grounds. Students must be picked up immediately (or walk home) at club dismissal. **Students participating in a before or after school activity are not allowed to bring siblings with them to the activity.** There is no supervision for siblings not involved in an activity.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

The National Junior Honor Society is an organization that is designed to promote appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, services, and citizenship. Membership is limited to 7th and 8th grade students maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher and who also meet other criteria determined by the school's Faculty Council.

Field Trips

As a part of their learning experience, students are provided the opportunity to visit places of interest in the community. Field trips are relevant to curriculum content being studied in the classroom. When your child's class is planning a field trip, a permission slip will be sent home giving details regarding place, cost, times, and method of transportation. Siblings and other non-chaperones are not permitted as guests on field trips.

A permission slip must be returned for each field trip with a parent/guardian signature in order for your child to participate. Be sure to complete the medical information portion of the permission slip for your child's safety.

Sonoran Foothills Community,

Thank you for taking the time to become familiar with our school's practices, policies, and expectations. Your support and partnership play a vital role in the success of our students and the strength of our school community.

As we begin this new school year, we look forward to creating meaningful learning experiences and lasting memories together. Please remember that adhering to the guidelines outlined in this handbook is essential to maintaining a safe, respectful, and academically focused environment.

It takes **all of us**—students, families, and staff—working together to ensure our school remains a place where every child can thrive. We're grateful to have you on our team and excited for a wonderful year ahead!

Sincerely,

Sonoran Foothills Administration

Mrs. Samantha Colangelo, Principal

Mrs. Amy Goff, Assistant Principal