

Thoughts from the Principal

Welcome Back, Chamiza Families!

Dear Chamiza Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We are excited to begin another wonderful year of learning, connection, and growth with our Conejos. This year, we are encouraging our entire school community to be audacious—to be brave, think boldly, and believe in what our students can accomplish.

Please review the important back-to-school information below, along with the flyers and letters included with this newsletter.

Meet the Teacher: Wednesday, August 5

Meet the Teacher will be held on Wednesday, August 5, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. only.

Please review the attached Meet the Teacher flyer, which includes a diagram and specific guidance to help the event run smoothly. Please review the Chamiza Student Placement Policy.

During Meet the Teacher, Pre-K and kindergarten families will schedule an individual session with their child's teacher. These one-on-one sessions will take place on Friday, August 7, or Monday, August 10.

First Days of School

Please note that students have different first days based on their grade level:

- Grades 1-5 begin Friday, August 7.
- Pre-K and kindergarten begin Tuesday, August 11.

On your child's first day, all families are welcome to come onto campus and help begin the year together! You may have breakfast with your child, play on the playground, or spend time together in the courtyard.

When the bell rings, we will kindly ask all families to say goodbye and leave campus so students and staff can begin their day. For safety purposes, parents and visitors are not permitted in the hallways after the bell rings. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, calm, and consistent start for every student.

Parent Teacher Association

Welcome, Chamiza PTA!

We are excited to introduce our Chamiza PTA Board:

- President: Sarah Philip
- Vice President: Jamie Tafoya
- Treasurer: Sam Doran
- Secretary: Sarah Lee

Our PTA supports students, staff, family events, and many of the special opportunities that make Chamiza such a wonderful community. Monthly PTA meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Additional information to come. PTA representatives will be available at upcoming events to answer questions and help families join. We encourage every family to become involved in whatever way works best for them!

Online Registration

Please log in to parentvue and complete the 2026-2027 registration if you haven't already done so. Two forms of proof of residence are required every year. If you are registering a new student, a birth certificate and immunization record are required. Please upload required documents into the registration before you submit it.

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.

Drop Off & Pick Up

Please review the attached drop-off and pick-up guidance, even if your family has attended Chamiza in previous years. Following the established traffic procedures helps keep our students, staff, and families safe. We will continue doing our best to provide morning access through the back gate. Families should plan for the gate to be available between approximately 9:00 and 9:13 a.m.

Please be patient and attentive, follow staff directions, use designated crosswalks, and avoid blocking traffic lanes during arrival and dismissal. **No Vehicle Access** to the Back Bus Lane. Due to bus regulations, cars may not drive to the back of the school during these times:

- Morning: 9:00-9:15 a.m.
- Afternoon: 4:00-4:15 p.m.

If you need to access RGE or any of the portable buildings during these windows, please park in the main parking lot and walk through the school. No personal vehicles may enter or travel through the bus lane while buses are arriving or departing. Thank you for supporting the safety of all students.

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School Supplies and Tax-Free Weekend

The school supply list is included with this newsletter. Tax-Free Weekend may be a helpful time to purchase needed items.

We understand that school supply costs continue to rise, with recent reports noting an increase of approximately 8%. We know this can have a significant impact on family budgets. If you are unable to purchase everything on the list, please do not worry. Send what you comfortably can, and let us know if you need assistance. We are happy to help supplement supplies so every student has what they need to begin the year successfully.

Cell Phone Policy

Please carefully review the attached cell phone policy flyer with your child. It includes expectations for student cell phones and other personal electronic devices during the school day. Your support will help us protect instructional time and keep students focused, connected, and ready to learn.

We Love Our Volunteers!

Family and community volunteers are an important part of Chamiza. Whether you have a supervised or unsupervised background clearance on file, we want you here!

If you have not completed the volunteer process yet, that is okay. Families may apply to volunteer at any time during the school year. Volunteer opportunities may have different clearance requirements depending on the activity and level of student supervision. Please contact the school if you need help determining which process is right for you.

OASIS Reading Volunteers Needed

Do you love helping children become confident readers? Consider volunteering through OASIS!

OASIS volunteers provide weekly reading support to a Chamiza student. It is a wonderful opportunity to build a meaningful connection with a child while strengthening their skills and love of reading. More information about signing up will be shared soon.

Student Snacks

Please review the attached snack flyer for specific guidance.

Students may have snacks during morning and afternoon recess only. Students who bring a snack will be required to sit and eat in a designated snack area before returning to play. This expectation helps us supervise students, reduce litter, and maintain a safe playground.

Back-to-School Pizza Party

Join us for our annual Back-to-School Pizza Party!

Tuesday, August 25

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Peter Piper Pizza on Golf Course Road

Come enjoy dinner, connect with other Chamiza families, and meet your child's new friends and their parents. We hope to see you there!

Chamiza Spirit Wear

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Spirit Wear! Families will now have an ongoing opportunity to purchase Chamiza clothing whenever it is individually financially comfortable to do so. There is no limited ordering window, so families can shop when the timing is right for them.

Visit www.chamizaspiritwear.com to view the available Chamiza attire.

You can also review the [Chamiza Spirit Wear information flyer](#). We cannot wait to see our Conejo community showing its Chamiza pride!

What to Expect During an Emergency

The safety of our students and staff is always our highest priority. Please carefully read the separate emergency information letter included with this newsletter. It explains what families can expect from the school during an emergency and how you can help us respond safely and effectively.

Upcoming Calendar Events

- 8/5 - Meet the Teacher 9-10 am
- 8/7 - 1st Day of School for 1st through 5th graders
- 8/11 - 1st Day of School for PreK & Kinder
- 8/13 - Emergency Drills begin - 4 in the first month of school
- 8/13 - Monthly PTA Meeting
- 8/17 - Beginning of Year Assessments begin
- 8/19 - Instructional Council @ 7:30 am - Community Welcome and Encouraged to join!
- 8/25 - Back to School Pizza Party @ Peter Piper Pizza
- 8/31-9/4 - 5th Grade Field Trip - STARBASE