



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

Home of the Scorpions • The higher we climb, the better the view!

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal

Mr. Steve Whynott
Assistant Principal
April 2019

A Message from Ms. Smith

So proud! We accepted the challenge of using Chromebooks for all AzMERIT and AIMS Science testing and it has been going very well for us. We are proud of our students' great efforts and dedication to the state testing. The support of your child's attendance during testing has been greatly appreciated as well.

- **ASU Dream Academy** was a great success with nearly 30 parents from DF and Acacia graduating from the Academy on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. The eight-week program provided parents with information and tools to support their child to be college bound. We are so pleased and proud of all of the parents for their dedication.
- **Future Sun Devil Family Day – Saturday, April 27, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to noon at ASU West Campus** It's never too early to plan for college! Parents and students are invited to ASU to learn about college preparation and affordability. RSVP: <https://fsdfdaywest2019.eventbrite.com>
- **Summer Academy Programs 2019!** Registration for our Free Summer School ASA Program for incoming seventh graders & eighth graders will begin soon! GUHSD offers a free eighth Grade Summer Academy in math. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2xfqe44> or www.guhzdaz.org
- The excitement of summer approaching brings new behaviors. As we come to the end of another school year, please support us in finishing the year strong with our **students' dress code, attendance and academic standing.**
 - As a reminder, please no short shorts, tank tops, spaghetti straps or bare midriff shirts as well as no shirts with inappropriate slogans or designs.
 - Students are required by law to be in school at least 90% of the school year. Students are allowed no more than 18 excused absences (five unexcused). Once a student exceeds that allowed number of absences, we are expected to file a citation with juvenile court and/or with the WESD Truancy Prevention Unit.

- Desert Foothills students must meet the minimum academic requirement of a D average in all five core classes. Letters and enrollment forms in our after school class, Scorpion Pride, have already been sent home to families who have a student in danger of not promoting. Scorpion Pride provides students with an opportunity to improve their current grades in the class (es) that they are in danger of not passing.

- For seventh grade students who do not meet the promotion criteria, summer school at Desert Foothills is mandatory. Eighth graders will have the option of attending Project Sharp with their high school in GUHSD for free. There is no cost for summer school and bus transportation will be provided for all regular bus routes. Please make sure that you are accessing your child's grades on ParentVue to get an up-to-date grade report and are communicating with your child's teachers. More information will be provided soon on our Summer Academy.

- **Promotion Ceremony for our eighth graders is Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in our gym. The transition from middle school to high school is an important milestone in every student's life. We look forward to celebrating this achievement with you this year. Each student will be given four tickets for the ceremony. If your family would like more than four tickets, your child can request additional tickets in his or her homeroom. If your child does not need four tickets, please return the extra tickets to your child's homeroom teacher. More information will be coming home soon.**

9:15 a.m. Ceremony: Team Phoenix & Team Wolves

10:45 a.m. Ceremony: Team Eclipse

Principal Susie Smith



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • www.wesdschools.org

Governing Board: Aaron Jahneke, President • Tee Lambert, Vice President
Bill Adams, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Nikkie Whaley, Member

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

CONGRATULATIONS, Mr. Matt Dennis,



PE teacher.
Mr. Dennis is the recipient of the **Lamp of Learning Award,**

WESD's most prestigious award. Matt Dennis is committed to excellence for every child, every day, every opportunity as a twenty-one year veteran teacher in the Washington Elementary School District. He serves all students with a focus and belief that failure is not an option. Matt builds positive relationships with students, staff and parents in the Desert Foothills Community through investing in them academically and socially. Students and staff are better from Matt Dennis' support and compassion for excellence.

In Matt's 21 years in WESD, he has taught in the elementary grades and seventh and eighth grades at Desert Foothills in Social Studies and PE. Matt has been an influential teacher leader on the DF Leadership Team for several years representing the Electives Dept. and supporting the instructional practices and 90 Day Plan for DF. He has made the shifts in instruction in his own PE classes to support the ELA Standards and climate and culture practices of **Every Day at DF**. Matt improves the teacher morale at DF by acknowledging the great instructional practices and climate and culture in teacher's classrooms that are observed each quarter in Learning Walks by the DF Leadership Team. He presents at PLCs to motivate and encourage our teachers while building strong relationships with all staff members.

School Hours

8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M., T., Th., F.
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M., T., Th., F.
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday

Open Gym

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Important Numbers

Attendance Line – 602-896-5521 (24 hours)
Office – 602-896-5500
Health Office – 602-896-5510

April/May 2019 Calendar

4/17	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O. Meeting	6:00 p.m.
4/18	Spring Dance	4:00 p.m.
4/22	Home Stretch Dinner	5:30 p.m.
4/23	Girls Softball RP@DF	4:45 p.m.
	ASA Play Performance	6:00 p.m.
4/24	Progress 4 Reports Go Home	
4/25	Track Meet @ GHS	4:30 p.m.
	Girls Softball DF@CH	4:45 p.m.
4/29	Teams Venom and Wolves	
	Field Trip	9:30 a.m.
4/30	NJHS Field Trip	9:30 a.m.
	Girls Softball RP@DF	4:45 p.m.
5/2	Track Meet @ Cortez H.S.	4:30 p.m.
	Sixth Grade Parent Night	6:30 p.m.
5/3	Team Eclipse Field Trip	9:30 a.m.
5/7	Band/Orchestra Concert	7:00 p.m.
5/8	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O. Meeting	6:00 p.m.
5/9	Track Meet @ TBHS	4:30 p.m.
5/15	Promotion Dance	6:00 p.m.
5/17	8 th Grade Field Trip to	
	Castles and Coaster	9:30 a.m.
5/20	Promotion Rehearsal	
	Talent Show	
5/21	Team Venom Field Trip	9:15 a.m.
	Teams Wolves and Phoenix	
	Promotion	9:15 a.m.
	Team Eclipse Promotion	10:45 a.m.
	Quarter 4 Report Card Go Home	
	Last Day of School	

Checking Out Your Student

1. Picture ID is required when checking out a student.
2. We cannot call your student to the office before we check ID. Always plan and allow 10 minutes for your child to arrive in the office.
3. Emergency contacts can only check out students in an emergency and must be a minimum of 18 years old. Picture ID will be required.
4. Students are not released after 3:45 p.m. on regular school days and 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.
5. Please pick up your student on time.

SRO Corner

Desert Foothills is excited to introduce two new programs for the 2019-20 school year.

SRO Challenge Coin Program

The *SRO Challenge Coin Program* concept stems from the military tradition of carrying coins symbolizing camaraderie, unity and pride. Based on this military tradition, the *SRO Challenge Coin Program* challenges students to make positive decisions and to become role models, both in their homes and throughout the community. The *SRO Challenge Coin Program* embodies the values of:

Commitment – Honor – Respect – Integrity – Loyalty

Participating students receive a challenge coin they are required to carry with them at all times. The coin serves as a physical reminder of the challenge they have accepted. The coin also represents the Phoenix Police Department's commitment to Community Policing and the partnership it shares with schools.

Wake Up! Club

Wake Up! Club is a City of Phoenix program in partnership with a local block watch designed to instill a community pride through knowledge and action. The program started in 1994 after a child was tragically killed in a drive by shooting. Together, community members and the police department created this program to educate children, prevent juvenile crimes and provide opportunities for youth to become positive community members. Participants will attend after school meetings and some Saturday events. *Wake Up! Club* teaches participant how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Members learn communication skills, teamwork, self-confidence, leadership and respect. Students develop social skills and community pride by assisting with community service project.

Think Safe, Be Safe, Stay Safe!

Kenny Angwin, School Resource Officer

Tips from the Health Office

Did you know?

Spring has sprung and the weather is beautiful so it is time to go out and play! However, according to AAOMS, "Spring often brings a flood of patients suffering with head, mouth, and facial injuries resulting from sports-related accidents to doctors' offices and emergency rooms. Many oral and facial injuries can be easily prevented with the use of sports safety equipment like helmets and mouth guards." April is National Facial Protection Month so remember to have fun, but play safe, protect your mouth, head and face!

Melissa Clatone, School Nurse

Congratulations Quarter 3

A-Team Students

Student Listed Below Achieve a 4.0 GPA

Aaron V.	Adelina I.	Alicia A.
Alina R.	Amber S.	Andjela S.
Andrew B.	Andrey A.	Annalica W.
Anthony B.	Arianna M.	Arysa L.
Ashley S.	Ashlynn J.	Ayla N.
Briseis E.	Caitlin R.	Christopher G.
Damone B.	Daniel M.	Diana N.
Elizabeth T.	Emi F.	Ethan R.
Faustino R.	Gracie D.	Gracie L.
Halle F.	Harlee S.	Isaias G. III
James S.	James T.	Javon H.
Jeff H.	Jermiah N.	Jessica S.
Joehanna H.	Johanna H.	Jose G. JR
Joshua U.	Justin S.	Karla V.
Kathlyn F.	Kathy L.	Kaydance K.
Kaylee S.	Kiera C.	Laila M.
Leo V.	Ligia P.	Linda N.
Madison B.	Madison O.	Mario L.
Matrim A.	Megan U.	Melaina H.
Micha W.	Molly U.	Olivia S.
Omar K.	Percephone C.	Peyton N.
Reagan D.	Renata M.	Riky H.
Ryan O.	Sebastian S.	Serenity C.
Tania M.	Tony N.	Trevor G.
Vanessa H.	Victoria S.	Xavier R.
Xitali V.	Zahraa A.	Favor M.

Congratulations

ASU American Dream Academy Graduates



Congratulations to our graduates of our **ASU American Dream Academy!** What an amazing group of parents who committed to this great program and our community. We are all so proud of them.

Thank You Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent, Susie Smith, Desert Foothills Principal and Christine Hollingsworth, Acacia Elementary Principal, for providing the opportunity for parents to participate in this program.

A very special thank you to Michelle Z. for her dedication and commitment to Desert Foothills students and parents.

