



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

3333 W. Banff Lane • Phoenix, AZ 85053 • Office: 602-896-5500 • Fax: 602-896-5520
Nurse: 602-896-5510 • Attendance: 602-896-5521

Ms. Susie Smith
Principal

Mr. Steve Whynott
Assistant Principal
March 2019

A Message from Ms. Smith

Welcome to 4th Qtr.!

Thank you for all of your support and dedication to student success at Desert Foothills. As we complete the 3rd quarter of our school year, we are so proud of our students for their academic and social development.

- WESD Boys & Girls 8th Grade Basketball Champions!
- Two Can Dance! Our students brought 2 cans of food to be eligible for the Two Can Dance. DF brought in more than 1200 lbs. of food for the WESD Food Drive to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank.
- ASU Dream Academy – This program is for all Desert Foothills parents who would like to learn more about supporting your child to be college bound along with great parenting skills and strategies for successful students. Enrollment is still available by attending on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- The AzMERIT Testing window will be longer this year due to all testing completed on Chromebooks. Please mark your calendar for April 8 – 19, 2019 for testing. Attendance is mandatory during our testing dates.
- There will be no before or after classes during the week of AzMERIT Testing.

The faculty and staff of Desert Foothills, along with parents and community members, take great pride in our students and in their tradition of high academic achievement. Please speak with your child about the importance of doing their very best.

As always, we welcome your calls and questions at 602-896-5500 or visit our website <http://desertfoothills.wesdschools.org/>

March/April 2019 Calendar

3/13	Boys Soccer Tournament	4:45 p.m.
	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	ASA Parent Presentation	5:30 p.m.
	Human Trafficking	
3/15	3 rd Quarter Ends	
3/18-3/22	SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	
3/26	AIMS Testing	
	ASU Dream Academy	9:00 a.m.
	ASU Dream Academy	6:00 p.m.
3/27	NJHS Induction Ceremony	7:00 p.m.
4/1	Spring Sports Pictures	4:00 p.m.
4/3	Quarter 3 Report Cards Go Home	
4/9	ASU Dream Academy	9:00 a.m.
	Girls Softball DF@RP	4:45 p.m.
	ASU Dream Academy	6:00 p.m.
4/11	Girls Softball MS@DF	4:45 p.m.
	Parent Presentation	6:00 p.m.
	Cyber Safety	
4/16	Girls Softball PV@DF	4:45 p.m.
	ASU Dream Academy	6:00 p.m.
	Choir Festival @ GWHS	6:00 p.m.
4/17	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	BEST PTO Meeting	6:00 p.m.
4/18	Spring Dance	4:00 p.m.
4/23	Girls Softball RP@DF	4:45 p.m.
4/24	Progress 4 Reports Go Home	
4/25	Track Meet @ GWHS	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Softball DF@CH	
4/29	Team Venom and Team Wolves	
	Field Trip to Wild Life Zoo	
4/30	NJHS Field Trip to Main Event	



AzMERIT Testing April 8-19



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

Checking Out a 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 ahead 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.
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SRO Corner

Parents,

Over the next few weeks, in our Law-Related Education, I will be teaching ***“When You Turn 18.”*** Lessons are specifically designed to prepare students with some basic tools and knowledge, and to assist them, as they become adults.

Lesson topics include Banking/Credit, Juvenile vs. Adult Laws, Rental Agreement/Housing, Jury Duty, Voting, Consumer Protection and Employment.

When you take your children with you to register the car, grocery shop, vote, or even conduct banking, they are learning lessons that will help them in the future. Working together, we can give our students information and practical experience so they can continue to grow and learn to be happy and successful citizens.

Think Safe, Be Safe, Stay Safe!
Kenny Angwin, School Resource Officer

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

Tips from the Health Office

Did you know?

Sleep is crucial to a child’s education and behavior.

According to an article in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine “Children 6 to 12 years of age should sleep 9 to 12 hours per 24 hours on a regular basis to promote optimal health. Teenagers 13 to 18 years of age should sleep 8 to 10 hours per 24 hours on a regular basis to promote optimal health. Sleeping the number of recommended hours on a regular basis is associated with better health outcomes including: improved attention, behavior, learning, memory, emotional regulation, quality of life, and mental and physical health”.

Children and Teens really do need their sleep.

Melissa Clatone, School Nurse

The Music Note

The choir concert on March 7 was absolutely spectacular! We were invited to perform at Greenway High School and the concert featured each of Greenway's choirs as well as our Desert Foothills choir classes. The highlight of the evening was when 170 young musicians packed the stage together as the DF and GHS choirs combined to sing!

Your last chance to catch performances from our Choirs, as well as the Orchestra and Band is on **Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00pm** in the Desert Foothills Gym. Choir and Orchestra will be performing the theme “21st Century Disney,” featuring songs from modern Disney related films. It’ll be a great show and one you won’t want to miss!

Thank You for your continuing support of music and the arts at Desert Foothills!

-Mr. Durnavich

Art News



Congratulations to 8th grader Gianna Loir who was a finalist in the St. Mary’s Food Bank Poster Contest. The finalists’ artwork were posted on the WESD Facebook for online voting. Gianna’s work got the most votes from Desert Foothills Jr. High! Way to go to the artists and all their creative, fun ideas!

Carolyn Naylor, Art Teacher



AzMERIT testing is approaching.

What parents can do to help students succeed.

During the weeks of April 8 - 19, 2019, Arizona students at the 7th and 8th grade levels participate in the statewide achievement test, AzMERIT. The Arizona Department of Education has created helpful resources to help all stakeholders at <http://azmeritportal.org/>

We need all students to be in school when AzMERIT tests are given, unless they are ill. We encourage parents to schedule appointments and other activities outside of school hours.

AIMS Science will be administered on April 1st & 2nd in 8th Grade Science classes.

What a parent can do to help a student do his or her best?











- Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep, generally eight to 10 hours.
- Maintain a normal schedule and keep distractions to a minimum.
- Become familiar with the test your child will take.
- Avoid putting too much pressure on your child.

Testing is a normal part of students' schooling and the goal is to do one's personal best every day, whether it is state testing or daily classroom activities.

Test-Taking Strategies

- **Be physically prepared.** Get plenty of rest the night before. On the day of the test, eat a healthy breakfast.
- **Be mentally prepared.** Try to relax and do your best. View the test as an opportunity to truly show what you know and are able to do.
- **Listen to directions as the teacher explains them.**
Ask about any directions you do not understand.
- **Read the directions carefully.**
- **Look for key words** that will help you identify what the question is asking you to do.
- **Take your time** and work at your own pace. AIMS is not a timed test, but you do want to use your time well.
- **Move on to the next item if you are stuck.**
Be sure to return to it later.
- **Make educated guesses** if you are unsure of an answer: first eliminate choices that are obviously incorrect, then logically select from the remaining choices.
- **Take the time to review your answers** when you are finished.
Re-read your written responses to check that they are clear.

Desert Foothills AzMERIT Testing Schedule 2019

Date	AzMERIT Test	Bell Schedule
Monday, April 1	<input type="checkbox"/> AIMS Science – Part 1	Regular Bell Schedule  Testing in 8 th Grade Science classes
Tuesday, April 2	<input type="checkbox"/> AIMS Science – Part 2	Regular Bell Schedule  Testing in 8 th Grade Science classes
Monday, April 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing – 8 th grade	AzMERIT Writing Testing Schedule  Testing in 8 th grade Homerooms
Tuesday, April 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing – 7 th grade	AzMERIT Writing Testing Schedule  Testing in 7 th grade Homerooms
Wednesday, April 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Make Up Testing	(Early release at 2:30 on 4/3/19) Make-up testing for AIMS Science and Writing
Thursday, April 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Math – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra – Part 1	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 1 and 5
Friday, April 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Math – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra – Part 1	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 2 and 6
Monday, April 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Math – Part 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra – Part 1	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 3/4 and 7
Tuesday, April 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra Part 2	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 1 and 5
Wednesday, April 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Make Up Testing	(Early release at 2:30 on 4/10/19) Make-up testing for AIMS Science and all AzMERIT tests
Thursday, April 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra Part 2	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 2 and 6
Friday, April 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra Part 2	Assessment Schedule  Testing in Math and Reading classes Periods 3/4 and 7
M 4/22, T 4/23, W 4/24, Th. 4/25, and F 4/26	<input type="checkbox"/> All make-up AzMERIT testing	Make-up testing for AIMS Science and all AzMERIT tests

- School start time at 8:52 a.m. and dismissal at 4:00 p.m. all week except early dismissal on Wednesdays is at 2:30p.m.
- Buses will pick up and drop off at normal times all week.
- AzMERIT Testing will be Monday – Friday each week.
- There will be no before or after classes during the week of AzMERIT Testing.