



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal

Mr. Steve Whyntott
Assistant Principal
August 2018

Thank you for your support and attendance at the Ice Cream Social and Open House. It's so important for parents and teachers to work as a team for all of our students' success. We are off to a fantastic start of our school year. We are very pleased with our new DF Staff this year including **Mrs. Michelle Reid teaching seventh grade Language Arts on Team Champions, Sierra Bridwell teaching seventh grade Science on Team Champions, Robin Verges teaching seventh grade science on Team Venom and Lauren Civer teaching eighth grade Language Live. Karla Green is our Behavior Support Advocate and Desiree Montelongo is our Social Worker.** Each of them bring an amazing piece of the success of Desert Foothills. We feel so blessed to have such wonderful people join our Desert Foothills Family.

Volleyball and girls' Soccer try-outs are in full swing. Cross Country begins September 4. Our after school program, After-school Academy, **ASA, begins on Monday, September 24, 2018, from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Monday through Friday for the morning classes and from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Every Wednesday, we will have the PLC Wednesday Vendor Assemblies from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. ASA provides support and interventions for math and reading classes as well as offers enrichment classes in KODU, Robotics, Drama/Theatre, STEM, and Fitness.** Bus transportation in the afternoon is provided for our regular route bus riders. More information will be coming home soon on this amazing program.

Midterm Reports for first quarter will be sent home on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. Please support your child's academic success by checking their current grades on ParentVue and communicating with your child's teachers.

Please consider attending our next **Site Council meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. and the BEST/PTO Meeting at 6:00 p.m.** to support our Scorpions!

We have a great group of students at Desert Foothills. Even though the two years of junior high goes so quickly in your child's life, they are such influential years. Please know that my door is always open for you to share any concerns or issues that we can address to help make your child's school year a success. The Desert Foothills staff and I welcome you and look forward to a great school year.

Principal Susie Smith

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE @
<http://desertfoothills.wesdschools.org/>



August 2018 Calendar of Events

8/14	B.E.S.T. Ice Cream Social	6:00 p.m.
	Open House	6:30 p.m.
8/15	Girls Volleyball Tryouts	4:00 p.m.
	Boys Volleyball Tryouts	6:00 p.m.
	BEST PTO	6:00 p.m.
8/16	Girls Volleyball Tryouts	4:00 p.m.
	Girls Soccer Tryouts	4:15 p.m.
	Boys Volleyball Tryouts	6:00 p.m.
8/17	Girls Volleyball Tryouts	4:00 p.m.
	Girls Soccer Tryouts	4:15 p.m.
	Boys Volleyball Tryouts	6:00 p.m.

To view Desert Foothill's online calendar, insert the URL address below into your Internet browser, <http://desertfoothills.wesdschools.org;> click on Desert Foothills Calendar.

Gifted Services

Washington Elementary School District provides a continuum of services for students identified as gifted. Testing for placement in the gifted program takes place three times a year on ALL campuses. If you feel your child demonstrates the traits of a gifted learner, please complete the screening form found on the Gifted Services website (www.wesdschools.org/Page/18) or contact your child's teacher to arrange for testing. A brochure describing services provided to gifted students and a list of common characteristics can be found on the website as well. Feel free to call or email the Coordinator of Gifted Services, Dr. Jason McIntosh, with any questions you may have (Jason.mcintosh@wesdschools.org / 602-347-2651). The gifted teacher on your campus can be reached by email at Michael.vechiola@wesdschools.org or by phone at 602-347-3328 as well.



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Governing Board: Bill Adams, President • Aaron Jahneke, Vice President
Larry Herrera, Member • Tee Lambert, Member • Nikkie Whaley, Member
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

Peachjar Digital Flyer Platform and Email Updates

The WESD is committed to educational excellence and ensuring that parents stay informed about important activities and events that enhance their child's life. In an effort to improve parent and community engagement, we will be implementing Peachjar to send digital flyers and school newsletters directly to parents via email. Additionally, all flyers and newsletters will be posted to each school's Web site. Parents will be able to click to register their children for youth sports, enrichment programs, and community events. By using this new system, we expect to eliminate the need to print roughly 2,688,000 sheets of paper per year— nearly 322 trees! The WESD will continue to communicate with parents and community members as we make the transition to Peachjar via the District Web site, social media and email. Please ensure that the WESD has a current email address on file. You will receive emails from the District in case of an emergency as well as for updates about your school and the District. Contact the front office to update your email address today!

Maintenance and Operation Budget Override Election - Nov. 6, 2018

The Maintenance and Operations budget override would continue to fund programs currently serving District students.

This override supports the District's efforts to maintain present levels of service in all Maintenance and Operations programs, including:

- comprehensive services for students who require focused intervention to succeed;
- enhanced programs for students in art, music (general and instrumental), and physical education;
- full-day academic programs for kindergarten students;
- choices for parents regarding special programs (e.g. Gifted) and specialized school settings (e.g. traditional school, Cardinals Preparatory Academy);
- opportunities for WESD to add teachers or additional support in classrooms when enrollment rises;
- helping to maintain competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified instructional staff.

WESD strives to make responsible decisions that demonstrate we are accountable to ensure effective fiscal management.

WESD has consistently operated within all approved budget limits each fiscal year, including the override authority previously given.

The override was originally approved by

voters in 1990 so it will not be a new tax for our community – it has been in effect for nearly thirty years.

What is a maintenance and operations (M&O) override?

An M&O override is a special election, called by a school district governing board, which asks voters within the district to approve additional maintenance and operations funding for their local schools, earmarked for specific educational purposes and generated through local property tax levies.

Why do you need this funding when the governor and legislature already approved additional money for school districts?

The money approved by the legislature increased the base support budget for school districts. The additional budget was intended to be used to increase teacher salaries. WESD utilized this funding for the intended purpose. The override funding currently exists and will be used to continue existing programs and services for students.

Why does the District want its override renewed?

The District currently provides full-day instruction for kindergarten students, enhances Art, Music, and PE opportunities, and provides focused intervention programs beyond the classroom. We would like to continue these programs and services for students.

What is the District's history of overrides?

The District has had an override in place since 1990 and voters have approved to continue through the most recent election in 2013 – nearly thirty years.

What happens if the M&O budget override is not approved?

If the override is not approved, the current 15% M&O override would continue through the 2018-2019 school year.

The District will plan to reduce the budget by over \$6 million in each of the following three years until the budget capacity is completely eliminated at the end of 2020-2021. Ultimately, current student programs and services may have to be reduced or eliminated.

For more M&O Override Information, visit wesdschools.org

Student Safety

Anyone coming to take a student out before the school day ends needs to provide ID. The office personnel will verify this individual is listed on the student's information sheet.

Only people listed on your student's information sheet will be allowed to pick up your student. If you must pick up your child early for an appointment or family emergency, please pick your child up before 3:00 p.m. On early release days, please pick your child up before 1:30 p.m.

Parents who arrive between 3:45-4:00 p.m. or 2:15-2:30 p.m, will be asked to wait until the dismissal time.