



JAMAICA ELEMENTARY  
 3437 JAMAICA BLVD S  
 LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86406  
 854-7280 fax: 854-7299



August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear Jamaica Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Jamaica Elementary School!

**PBIS**

At Jamaica, Crocodiles Rock! Our goal is to create a safe and positive learning environment where every student is able to achieve his/her highest potential. We are proud of our PBIS program, which stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. It includes a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies that help students learn and to become good citizens. Character intervention takes place through direct instruction, modeling and practice in the classrooms, halls, cafeteria, and playgrounds. You may hear your child talk about earning a “Croc Compliment” for positive behavior. Earning compliments increases the chances for their class to earn a reward as the winning “Class of the week” or individually as the “Croc of the Week.” Every morning, we recite the Croc Pledge:

Croc are:  
**C**aring and Careful  
**R**espectful and Responsible  
**O**n Time, have a  
**C**an do Attitude, and are  
**S**afe and Successful  
**C.R.O.C.S.** Rock!

**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Parents need to know their child is safe and well-cared for before they can concentrate on academic growth. At Jamaica, we take safety of our students, staff, and guests seriously.

1. It is critical that all guests, including parents and guardians, check in at the front office and sign in for a visitor’s badge. We do not permit parents to go into the classrooms without an appointment or unless on campus for an event.
2. Please also refrain from coming into the school to wait for your child at pick up time. We have a limited waiting area inside. Students will meet you outside after the 2:30pm bell.
3. Pets are not welcome on campus. (If it is too hot in the car, please leave them at home.) Exceptions are working animals, pet partners, or other principal approval. (ex. K-9 demo)
4. We meet all State requirements for fire, tornado, and lockdown drills. These are practiced monthly with your students.
5. In the parking lot, we ask for your help in following the traffic pattern rules for the drop off and pick up. Parents are NOT permitted to ask students to cross through traffic to get to cars. All students and parents MUST use the crosswalk at all times.
6. The school will not be responsible for any issues students have off campus. Our goal is the safety of every child and we can’t do this without your help.

**ATTENDANCE**

We are proud of our attendance at Jamaica and look forward to continuing our low student absence rate. With that said, if your child is sick, please be sure they are healthy before they return to school. It is critical for students to be in school to learn and just as important that they are in the classroom when the bell rings. Every minute counts for the highest level of learning! We will recognize those classes periodically who have the lowest number of absences and/or tardies. Unfortunately, we must follow procedures if a student has excessive absences or tardies. This includes both excused and unexcused tardies. Absences are considered excessive if they exceed four per quarter. We will contact you directly should your child exceed the number of absences allowed by law. If you have a note from a doctor please send it with your child or contact the nurse to verify and document the illness.

**STANDARDIZED SHIRTS AND UPDATED DRESS CODE INFORMATION**

LHUSD elementary standardized shirts must be worn Monday through Friday. (Jamaica green or any school or district spirit shirts are permitted to be worn on Fridays.) Please also note that according to governing board policy, all bottoms (shorts, skirts, pants) should be at least fingertip length with no rips, tears, or holes above the knee.

**MORNING ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL**

Students having breakfast are not to arrive before 7:30 am. All other students are not to arrive before 7:45 am. **THERE IS NO SUPERVISION OUTSIDE BEFORE 7:45.** Students should line up in their designated line when arriving on campus. All parents and guests are EXPECTED to check in at the front office at all times to ensure campus safety. Dismissal is at 2:30 pm daily, with the exception of early release days. This year, Kindergarten will return to pickup at 2:30pm along with the other grades. All students should be picked up in the parking lot below or meet families at a designated spot (if age appropriate).

**CELL PHONES**

Must be turned off and kept in backpacks **UPON ARRIVAL** on campus. Please encourage them to turn off their cell phones immediately as they arrive on campus. If a student violates this policy, the phone may be taken and parents may be required to pick up the phone. In addition, students may lose privileges of having phones on campus if policies are not followed on campus. Only with teacher approval may devices be used in the classroom with careful supervision and planning.



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**EARLY RELEASE THURSDAYS**

Our district early release schedule has changed for the new year. This year, we will return to an early release schedule on Thursdays. Dismissal time on early release days is at 1:00pm for all elementary schools. Early Release will be **EVERY** Thursday at 1 PM.

**TECHNOLOGY**

As a student once told me, "Steve Jobs put the internet in our pockets." Students today need to have a comfort level with technology for their academics and daily lives. Jamaica students have regular access to technology through Smart Boards in every classroom, tablets such as iPads, laptops, and computers. Thank you to our PTSO who always supports our schools serve every student's needs.

**PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE**

It is the intent and practice of the Lake Havasu Unified School District to publish, post or distribute a student's name, photograph, audio and/or video recording, displays of student work or other information related to student achievement (ie: academic/athletic recognition or award) or student accomplishment (ie: a specially selected piece of work). Media includes, but is not limited to, newspaper, audio/video, live broadcast, internet, webpages, and social media. If you do not wish to have your child featured in any form of media, please sign the media portion of the FERPA Opt-Out Form, and we will exclude them from any media photos or publications. If you have not completed an Opt-Out Form, your student will be allowed to participate in human interest stories. The LHUSD Student Opt-Out Form is located on the LHUSD website. The form is valid for one school year.

**PROOF OF ARIZONA RESIDENCY**

Each year you are required to provide proof of Arizona residency at registration. If you did not supply evidence that you are a resident of Arizona, your child **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND** public school until you have done this.

**COMMUNICATION AND CONSISTENCY**

We will begin the year with the monthly School Newsletter being sent home on the last school Wednesday of each month. It will include a calendar of events for you including Early Release Thursdays each week. In addition, our school website includes important dates: see <http://www.jamaica.lhusd.org>. Teachers may also send home weekly newsletters keeping you informed. Our PTSO is very supportive at Jamaica and also has a FACEBOOK page for parent communication and information. We encourage you to get involved. We may also use an automated system to send out reminders of important dates and information.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Tuesday, August 3rd: Back to School Night for Parents of grades 2, 3 and 4

- 6:00 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> go **DIRECTLY** to classrooms for teacher presentations
- 6:30 4<sup>th</sup> parents go to the GYM for teacher presentations.

Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Night for Parents of grades 5 and 6

- 6:00pm 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6:30pm 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents meet in the Gym to meet all teachers and go through a mini schedule of the day.

**FIRST DAY PACKET:** It is very important that you send required forms back **TOMORROW**.

**Sign and Return:**

- The form regarding school policies and fees
- Parent-Student Handbook **READ ONLINE-Please see updated handbook for the 2021-2022 school year.**
- Parent-School Compact
- Student Residency/Homeless Questionnaire

**FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH SERVICE**

This year's application will be online. (See our website, or go to <https://family.titank12.com/>.)

**Additional Informational Forms:**

- Optional insurance information
- District Calendar
- Parking Lot Diagram
- August School Calendar

Finally, thank you for trusting us with your child. The beginning of each year can bring excitement and also nervous energy to your child and your home. The teachers and support staff at Jamaica are veterans at welcoming and nurturing our K-6 learners. We strive to assist every student, every day, as they take the next step in their social, emotional and academic development. With your support and assistance, we will help your children grow and develop to their fullest potential while they are here at Jamaica. Please talk to your child about his or her day. Ask specific questions and encourage them to try their best every day. Give them a hug and a kiss as you say good bye in the morning and again when you see them later in the day. I am sure they will have many interesting stories to tell you about school....and, if you promise to believe only part of what you hear, we will do the same! However, if you hear something that doesn't make sense or you want to know more, your child's teacher is a fantastic resource about what the children are learning. Don't hesitate to email or call as soon as you develop a concern. Not only are we here to nurture and educate your children, it is also our role to offer support to our students' parents. A strong parent-teacher partnership will reinforce the educational process for everyone.

You can email me at [andrea.helart@lhusd.org](mailto:andrea.helart@lhusd.org) or call the office to schedule a meeting or speak to me on the phone. I welcome our partnership and your feedback. I look forward to meeting many of you during our parent orientations, at PTSO meetings, Site Council meetings, and at the upcoming Jamaica events. Together, we can do anything!

Yours in education,  
 Mrs. Andrea Helart, Principal