

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(520) 896-3070
P.O. Box 1720
2618 W El Paseo
Oracle, AZ 85623
www.OSD2.ORG



July 26, 2021

Dear Mountain Vista Community,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It has been a busy summer at Mountain Vista K-8 School. Our teachers and staff are prepared to start the school year strong. We know our students will need support in certain areas and may need opportunities to accelerate in others. We look forward to meeting your child where they are, helping them fill any academic gaps from the previous school year, prepare for the next grade level. We know we will need to help students build and rebuild friendships, practice classroom and campus procedures, develop important social skills, and provide support for emotional development too.

Please mark the following important dates on your calendars:

- Updated bus stop schedules will be available on our district website at www.osd2.org on **Tuesday, July 27**.
- Class lists for Grades K-8 will be posted on the school office and district office windows this **Friday, July 30** at 3:30 PM.
- Back to School Night will be held on **Tuesday, August 3**, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This Mountain Vista tradition is a good opportunity for parents, guardians, and students to locate and visit their child's classroom, meet their child's teacher, and discuss their child's transportation for the first days of school. The school office will not be open for registration during Back to School Night. This will encourage families to spend the evening meeting teachers and not congregating in the school office. Families that need to register their students may do so during regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- The first day of school for Grades K-8 is **Thursday, August 5** and school will begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Dismissal on the first day of school will be at 12:45 PM. Dismissal for Friday, August 6 will be at 2:45 PM.
- The first day of preschool will be **Monday, August 16**. Our morning session for 4 year old children will begin at 8:00 AM and the afternoon session for 3 year old children will begin at 12:30 PM.

If you have stopped by our school or follow us on Facebook, you know we are in the midst of some exciting construction projects. Please review the following related to our construction projects:

- The purpose of our construction projects is to improve the safety of our school campus. With that in mind, the safety of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority throughout the duration of the construction projects.
- Our construction projects, funded by a \$13.2 capital bond approved by voters in our community officially started on June 1, 2021 and will continue through the 2021-2022 school year.

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(520) 896-3070
P.O. Box 1720
2618 W El Paseo
Oracle, AZ 85623
www.OSD2.ORG



- This summer, our parking lot was completed remodeled to provide a safe bus loop, specific parking areas, and an assigned student drop-off/pick-up loop. In addition, our asphalt was sealed and many patches of worn asphalt was replaced.
- Also this summer, our student restrooms were remodeled and are now ADA compliant. Due to materials shortages, temporary restroom stalls have been installed and will be replaced within the first few weeks of school.
- The large cement ramp outside the Gym was completely rebuilt and is also now ADA complaint.
- Our kitchen was completely demolished, renovated, and rebuilt. When complete, it will also contain new equipment to provide nutritious food for our students. Although the kitchen is not yet complete, we have an agreement with a neighboring school district to deliver nutritious breakfast and lunch for all of our students, each school day until our kitchen is ready to open in September.
- When the construction projects are complete, we will also have a new 10-classroom building for Grades 5-8, an expanded library, a new playground for Grades 1-2, and an upgraded school office that will improve the safety of our campus.

Questions and answers regarding COVID-19 mitigation procedures:

Q: Will students and staff be required to wear face masks this school year?

A: No. As of July 1, 2021, Arizona schools are lawfully not permitted to require face masks to be worn on school campuses. Therefore, students, staff, and visitors to Mountain Vista K-8 School will not be required to wear face masks while on campus or while on school buses. Any student, staff member, or visitor that chooses to wear a face mask will be allowed to do so. Face masks will be available for any student, staff member, or visitor that asks for a face mask.

Q: Will distance learning be available for my child if we wish for them to stay online?

A: Mountain Vista K-8 School will be open for full in-person instruction on Thursday, August 5. This is consistent with current legislative mandates for the school year. While we know most students thrive by being in their classrooms among peers and with their teachers, this is not an absolute truth for all. Although we will not start our school year with the option of in-person or online instruction, we understand any family that chooses to enroll their child in an online school this year.

Q: Will students and staff be expected to stay home if they are sick, not feeling well, or have symptoms of COVID-19 this school year?

A: Yes. Any student, staff member, or visitor that is not feeling well, is sick, or has symptoms of COVID-19 should not expose others and should stay home. Any student that stays home while ill will not be denied access to their education. Our

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(520) 896-3070
P.O. Box 1720
2618 W El Paseo
Oracle, AZ 85623
www.OSD2.ORG



staff will make sure that work is provided for students and will provide tutoring, instruction, and support for students when they return to campus.

Q: Will the temperatures of students and staff be assessed upon entrance to campus this school year?

A: No. Students, staff members, or visitors will not be asked to have their temperature checked upon entrance to campus this school year. However, if a child does not feel well or develops symptoms of an illness while at school, their temperature may be taken by the school medical assistant.

Q: Will our students have the opportunity to participate in sports this school year?

A: Yes. Student athletes will be expected to adhere to established health and safety procedures outlined in our new Mountain Vista K-8 School Student Athlete Agreement. The parent/guardian of student athletes as well as the student athlete will be required to review and acknowledge they understand and will follow the school's health and safety procedures.

Q: Will we welcome visitors back to campus this school year?

A: Yes. Parents, guardians, family members are welcome to walk their child to the classroom each morning and may park in our newly renovated parking lot and walk to their child's classroom each afternoon. All visitors will be required to sign-in at the school office when they visit campus. No visitors will be permitted to access campus without first visiting the school office to sign-in.

Q: Will we welcome volunteers back to campus this school year?

A: Yes. Staff members that would like a volunteer to assist in their classroom or program will reach out to the District Office and request a volunteer. The District Office will connect interested staff members with a volunteer that has expressed interest in serving the school community in a way that meets the needs of our school. All volunteers are required to first complete a volunteer application and pass a background check before volunteering at our school.

Q: How will we prevent the spread of viruses and illnesses including COVID-19 this school year?

A: With good hygiene, common courtesy, and consistent sanitation, we will work together to prevent the spread of viruses including COVID-19. We will continue to teach students to wash their hands, cover their cough or sneeze, and stay home when they are sick. New this school year, we will emphasize the importance of wearing clean clothes to school each day, staying hydrated with our own water bottle that is not shared with others, and cleaning up after ourselves. We will

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(520) 896-3070
P.O. Box 1720
2618 W El Paseo
Oracle, AZ 85623
www.OSD2.ORG



continue to sanitize surfaces including the inside of our school buses, desks, counters, door knobs, restrooms, shared classroom supplies, and in our preschool program, toys. We respectfully ask that students in Grades K-8 not bring toys from home to school this year.

Q: Will students or staff be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school or report to work at Mountain Vista K-8 School?

A: No. By law, no Arizona student or school staff member will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend school or work at a school.

Q: If a student or staff member is aware that they have been exposed to COVID-19, will they be required to quarantine?

The Oracle Elementary School District will depend on the families of students and our staff members to respectfully disclose if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantine for a period of time as recommended by health officials. At the time this letter was written, that period of time is 14 days. This respectful disclosure is a common courtesy and will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others and will also prevent the future need for our school to transition back to full distance learning in the event of an outbreak at our school.

Often, individuals are not aware of their exposure to COVID-19. If an individual is unaware of a possible exposure but develops symptoms, they will be sent home to isolate for a period of time as recommended by health officials. At the time this letter was written, that period of time is 10 days from the onset of symptoms. As mentioned above, students will not be denied access to their education during this time and work will be provided for the student. When the student returns to school, tutoring, instruction and support will be provided.

Q: If a student or staff member is exposed to COVID-19 and under quarantine or has developed symptoms and is under isolation, will their absences from school or work count?

A: Yes. Student absences are documented and reported to the Arizona Department of Education, as required by law. This is a unique challenge as we understand student attendance is important and we also know it is important for students to stay home when they are sick. We will work with families to make sure students have access to their education while they are home and we will continue to stress the importance of consistent student attendance when students are healthy.

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(520) 896-3070
P.O. Box 1720
2618 W El Paseo
Oracle, AZ 85623
www.OSD2.ORG



As we look forward to the new school year, we must take a moment to reflect on the previous school year and the challenges that made the school year difficult for each of us. Without our students, families, and staff, the Oracle Elementary School District does not exist. While we look forward to the upcoming school year and the opportunity that exists, we must take a moment and thank you for trusting us to keep your children safe and provide a quality educational experience that will prepare them for their bright and promising futures.

We wish each of you a wonderful last week of summer and we can't wait to see you next week!

Crystle Nehrmeyer
Superintendent
Oracle Elementary School District
cnehrmeyer@osd2.org
520-896-3074 office

Shannon Soule
Principal
Mountain Vista K-8 School
ssoule@osd2.org
520-896-3003 office