

From the Desk of Mr. Jiles

August 3rd, 2022 | August Community Correspondence

Dear Desert Heights Family,

Welcome! It has been so exciting seeing so many new and familiar faces this week! Our students seem happy and prepared to take on the new school year and our staff has worked diligently throughout the summer to prepare for a great year! We have so many new staff members who spent last week getting acclimated to our community. We are so thankful that we have been able to recruit such strong, energetic, and capable teachers and staff to join our team. We are equally thankful for the new and returning families that have chosen Desert Heights Charter Schools as their educational destination!



For those of you who are new to our community, we take great pride in many things! One of these points of pride is the fact that we are structured to matriculate children from PreK all the way to 12th grade. Our preschool staff and leadership are consistently ranked as one of the best preschool programs in the west valley, as evidenced by a rigorous evaluation process from First Things First, Arizona's early childhood agency committed to the healthy development and learning of young children from birth to age 5. After preparation in these very formidable developmental years, many students transition to our K-4 charter elementary program. Here, the developmental milestones essential to continued growth and success, both academically and socially, continues, as we emphasize the importance of being kind and being great HOWLERS! Once the K-4 journey concludes, we work to create a smooth transition to our prep campus that accommodates grades 5-12. Once at the prep, the process of academic responsibility and developmental independence and accountability take shape. As students continue to move through their respective grade levels, the emphasis on our Three Pillars (Academic Excellence, Integrity of Character, and Social Awareness) becomes more pronounced, and the work with their student advisors starts in 7th grade, marking the beginning of the important process of preparing for College and Career! By grade 12, our students are incredibly prepared for life beyond our walls! So, we hope that you decide to remain with us through this incredible journey, and if compelled to do so, tell a friend about our educational offer and family-oriented community!

Community Connections!

At Desert Heights, we also take great pride in communication and transparency. Throughout the month, we send communication about our communities so that you, our stakeholders, are kept abreast of developments, activities, and community needs. Please make it a priority to read our communications throughout the month. It is essential to maintaining the bond that we hope to foster between home and school, and it supports your ability to plan in advance for events we will have on campus throughout the year. And as always, if ever you have a question or concern about anything, we encourage you to contact us so that we can work to resolve any concerns or issues you may have.

Our Commitment to Excellence Contract

As we work to build, refine, and sustain the relationships most essential to a successful

school year, we have come to realize that defining expectations and striving to be transparent, above board and beyond reproach with all stakeholders is imperative. Our Commitment to Excellence Contract is a binding agreement designed to accomplish just that; define expectations. Please take a moment to familiarize yourselves with its content. The purpose of the contract is to define expectations of staff, student, and parents, and serves to help us establish the core values that need to be in place to facilitate a prosperous, healthy experience for all stakeholders.

Governing Board Updates

At our August 2 governing board meeting, our Governing Board unanimously approved the following agenda items:

- FY23 Teacher Evaluation Rubric for Desert Heights Charter Schools
- FY23 increase of Employer Contribution for Employee Medical Plans from \$225.00 to \$325.00/month
- FY23 Employer Sponsored Medical Plan for Employee Only Tier of Cigna \$5000-80% HSA Plan

No date has been set for the September board meeting. If you have interest in learning more about, or joining, our school Governing Board, please feel free to contact me at mark.jiles@dhschools.org

Best Regards,

Mark Jiles, President of Desert Heights Charter Schools

Desert Heights Charter Schools
dhschools.org

