

Just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have a student enrolled at Desert Heights Preparatory Academy. Don't forget to add [noreply@desertheightsschools.org](mailto:noreply@desertheightsschools.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

# DESERT HEIGHTS

## PREPARATORY ACADEMY

### Middle School & Junior High Dean's Newsletter

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#### Dean's Message

Dear Middle School and Junior High Coyotes and Families,

First and foremost, thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked on starting school safely! I know I share the same sentiments of all administrators and summer staff when I tell you how grateful I am for our community. No matter what happens, I am confident that we have developed a plan, made up of phases that address every possible school scenario, that meets needs, and we can only do that with the trust you place in us to make decisions that are good for our students.

A virtual start is not how any of us pictured the 2020-2021 school year beginning, but we are committed to following guidelines to keep students safe. Teachers are learning best practices for teaching online, and putting an emphasis on social and emotional learning, including building relationships and an online class culture. While everyone is nervous about not being able to be in the same space, I think we will all be pleasantly surprised when we see what wonderful and creative things our teachers have planned.

I appreciate all of you who have reached out to ask questions and share your thoughts. These are uncertain times and to be honest, it is scary. While I won't always have the answers, please know that I will do my best to find them for you, or to connect you to those who will have them. There is so much information to process, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. I hope that you are finding ways to enjoy what is left of this unprecedented summer!

This month's newsletter is lengthier than normal because of all of the necessary information, and because some of it is different for Middle School and Junior High. Please be sure to scroll through to make sure you don't miss anything!

## Desert Heights Phased Reopening Plan

Desert Heights Administrative Team has developed a 4-phase plan to return to learning. Each phase is determined by the metrics and benchmarks set by the Arizona Department of Health as well as recommendations from Kathy Hoffman, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As of now, our school will begin in phase one on August 17, 2020 and our team will continue to evaluate benchmarks to determine when we can take the next steps.

### **Phase 1:**

All K-12 is virtual. Essential populations can be supervised on site as necessary. More information below on what constitutes essential.

**Phase 2:** Hybrid Model-Kindergarten-6th grade. On-site instruction available Monday-Thursday for those who chose this option and enrolled prior to August 1, 2020. No more than 16 students in a classroom, students will be clustered for the day and will not travel to other areas on campus unless they receive essential services. In person participants must wear face coverings.

**Phase 3:** Parent/Student Choice. All who chose in person instruction are on-site 5 days per week, on the regular bell schedule. In person participants must wear face coverings. All who chose virtual will continue to study online, but with the possibility of a different schedule that will allow for a smoother transition into phase 4.

### **Phase 4:**

All students return to campus and clustering is no longer necessary. Determination will be made regarding face coverings at that time.

Please [click here](#) to see a more detailed version of Desert Heights phases plan.

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## Vulnerable and Essential Students

Governor Ducey's Executive orders 2020-41 and 2020-44, regarding returning to school safely, state that schools must offer on-site supervision of student learning for vulnerable populations as well as children of essential workers. Desert Heights will provide a space on site during regular school hours for students who fall into this category and are signed up by a parent or guardian by August 12, 2020 at 5:00pm.

We must have this information in order to provide adequate supervision. During their time on campus, these students will participate in the virtual learning under support staff supervision during "live times" scheduled for their grade level. If these students must remain on campus during independent work time, it is highly encouraged that they bring things to work on or do during that time.

Activities will not be provided by the support staff for time outside of live classes and due to social distancing requirements, students will not be permitted to share items. Masks/Face coverings will be required, students must be in Desert Heights uniform, and social distancing will be in place.

- Vulnerable students include: Special Education, English Language Learners, McKinney-Vento, or Foster Care students
- Essential workers are defined as: healthcare, childcare/teachers, critical community service workers

If your student falls into one of these categories and requires on site supervision email [Mrs. Davis](#) for any student in 5-8 by **August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**

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## Breakfast and Lunch in Phase 1

Families must still order through our ordering system; however, food service will be available for all who order. Free and Reduced lunch students are still eligible. If you are eligible to receive Free or Reduced lunch, but have not completed the application, please do so. We want to ensure we take care of all families.

### Breakfast

Pick-up is available from 8:00am-9:00am on Mondays and will be given for the entire week at that time.

### Lunch

Families can come anytime between 10:30am-1:30pm each day if they need to pick up lunch. You can also email [Sydney Pisano](#) if you need to pick up from one campus or if you need delivery options for your family.

## Virtual Food Service Plan

## **StudentVUE<sup>®</sup>** StudentVue Update! powered by Synergy<sup>®</sup>

Students, please note that all StudentVue logins have been successfully changed to your school email and password. All 5th & 6th students, including new students, will review this information with their teacher during the teacher's phone call on **Thursday, August 13th, or Friday, August 14th.**

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## Middle School Only

### Meet the Teacher Phone Calls

On Thursday, August 13th, or Friday, August 14th, Middle School teachers will be calling the students and families in their classes to touch base and make you aware of what is needed for the first day. Teachers will also direct you to their class websites for more information.

If you are in 5th grade, you will hear from Mr. Addison Kattinge, Ms. Paige

Shoemaker, or Mrs. Miranda (Woodward) Duran.

If you are in 6th grade, you will hear from Ms. Rhiannon Bird, Ms. Sydni Fuller, or Mr. Kyle Murphy.

### Dress Code

Dress code for online school is a DHPA uniform polo, DHPA Spirit shirt, or CAD shirt.

### Technology Device Needs and Distribution

Thank you to all parents who responded to the survey that was sent regarding your child's needs for technology in a virtual learning phase. The survey asked for responses from all students, regardless of learning preference and outlines the system requirements needed for success in virtual learning.

This data has been analyzed and all of the families who expressed a hardship, and need for devices will be contacted with a solution. We have planned and prepared for the responses we've received. If you have a hardship and are unable to provide a dedicated device to your child, and did not respond to the survey, please contact Mrs. Davis, and ensure that you are receiving our communication so that we are in the best position to support your family. We have a limited number of devices and have reserved them for families in need.

School issued devices will be ready within the first week of school, if not sooner. If you responded needing a device, you will receive a link to sign up for pick-up. It is highly recommended that you purchased the protection plan for the device in the event that something happens to it when in your child's possession. The cost for the protection plan is \$30.00 per device.

### Middle School Documents

Click [here](#) for a copy of the Middle School Policies & Procedures and the Middle School Virtual Schedule.



## **Junior High Only- iPad Distribution and Important Information**

Students in Junior High courses will pick up iPads on **Saturday, August 15th 7am-1pm**. Please **click here** to sign up for a time to come to campus.

Students must have a completed iPad agreement with them, or must have already submitted the agreement. Those who would like to pay for their \$30 protection plan online can do so in ParentVUE once the optional fee has been posted. We are also accepting cash or check during the distribution.

***\*This year, all StudentVUE logins have been changed so the StudentVUE username is the student's school email address and the StudentVUE password is the same as the student's email password. All students, including new students, will receive this information when they pick up their iPads.\****

Student schedules will be available for view on **Tuesday, August 11th**, in StudentVUE. Students and parents will receive an email from their "A Week"

teachers by Friday, August 14th and an email from their "B Week" teachers by Sunday, August 23rd. Teacher's emails will provide information to guide students toward learning more about their teachers and their classes.

Our JH Team:

Advisory: Mrs. Beth Krogmeier

Coding: Mrs. Andrea Guzzo

Dance: Ms. Keely Gilbreath

ELA (Wit & Wisdom): Ms. Jennifer Rogers

ELA (Writing): Mrs. Danielle Johnson

German: Mr. Brett Ward

Math: Ms. Alexandra Guzzo

PE: Mr. Michael Boyd

Performing Arts: Mr. Ross Nelson

Science: Ms. Jaide Epting

Social Studies: Mr. Matt Batham

Spanish: Ms. Courtney Ruttan

Your first "A Week" class will meet via Zoom at **11:30 a.m. on Monday, August 17th**. Dress code for online school is a DHPA uniform polo, DHPA Spirit shirt, or CAD shirt. If for some reason you do not have a school iPad to use on the first day of school, you can use a personal device to access the Zoom meeting for your first class.

Please click [here](#) for a copy of the Junior High Policies & Procedures, the Junior High Virtual Expectations, the supply list, iPad setup information, and the Commitment to Excellence.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Davis.



While you eagerly await the start of school, there are things you can do to make sure you are prepared:

Work on your summer reading assignment. It is due August 17th! Click [here](#) to visit the Summer Reading page on our school's website. If you have any questions, send me an email.

Order your ELA books. Book lists are available by grade level at the site listed below. You may choose to order from whichever bookseller you wish, but our school is proud to work with Thrifty Joe's, a local company that has been gracious to us over the years.

I'm very excited that parents and students can order their books from Thrifty Joe's online this year! Their new website is up and running - [thrifty-joes.com](http://thrifty-joes.com).

1. At [thrifty-joes.com](http://thrifty-joes.com), select Student Reading > Desert Heights
2. Select the student's grade level
3. The books for that grade level will appear. Just select the desired books and add to cart.
4. During checkout, the coupon code **DESERTHTS20** must be used to get Desert Heights special pricing. The discount only applies to the books on the reading list.

5. An option for Free Local Delivery will appear after entering shipping information. The books will be delivered to the student at the school. (They also offer free shipping for orders over \$25.00 for everyone.)



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