

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 to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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DESERT HEIGHTS

PREPARATORY ACADEMY

High School Dean's Newsletter



A Message from the High School Dean

I am very aware that this year will look and feel different, but I want to start by assuring you all that our goals and support will never change. We are going to be a community that goes through this together and I hope you all know your value to us. Our staff misses you all so much and we can't wait to see you all back in school **Monday, August 17th**. It is important for each of you to review this letter as it has many details and information about the school year.

Our staff have worked very hard since March preparing for the school year and I am so proud of everything we will offer.

- Campus relocation update
- Added tile and carpet in classrooms
- New schedule A/B/C schedule
- Clever (an app that will support many items on the iPad)
- Added 3 College Dual Enrollment Math classes
- Awesome assessment data walls and pillar staircases
- New assessment celebrations all year
- Much more on the way!!

Thank you again and I hope you all know 2020 will be a great year, we just have to all work with the same goal in mind and know that it takes a village!

I appreciate you all!

Courtney Martin

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 and DHPA uniform will be required, 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 [Courtney Martin](mailto:Courtney.Martin@desertheights.edu) for any student in high school courses by **August 12th at 5:00pm.**



Phases and Schedule

Our team has created phases that determine schedules based off the Governor, Superintendent of Education, CDC, and AZ Health Guidelines. Phases can move up or down and we can jump to different phases based off all the recommendations and safety for all. We will also be opening StudentVue and ParentVue schedule portal **Tuesday, August 11th** for all schedules.

Phase 1: Virtual Only:

- All students are virtual, and we offer classes 7:30-11:30am for High School students. (Campus would still be available for student services and essential students, please read below for more details)
- From 12:30-2:30pm we will still schedule breakout sessions, advisory meetings, and mental and emotional check ins.
- **Phase 1 bell schedule:** We will complete A weeks and B weeks. Students have 8 classes but will only take 4 each week and rotate each week to have 4 different class schedules.

Phase 2: Hybrid Schedule:

- This schedule will have no more than 10 students in a classroom for instruction. We will offer 2 days on campus for those that chose in person and 3 days off campus with scheduled check ins. We will also have students that chose virtual to stay in those classes and follow the same schedule.

Class will then resume 7:30-2:30pm but will rotate days of instruction. 2 days of instruction, 2 days of work and collaboration, 1 day of office hours.

- **Phase 2 bell schedule:** We will complete A weeks and B weeks. Students have 8 classes but will only take 4 each week and rotate each week to have 4 different classes. The difference is they will be doing 2 full days of instruction and 2 full days of practice, check ins, and work.

Phase 3: Full in person and Virtual schedule:

- This is a 7:30-2:30pm schedule and students who chose in person will be on campus and virtual students will complete class virtual. Classes will be clustered, and teachers will travel, and students will stay in their classroom with limited movement. (This schedule is what we were starting with this school year until the announcement Thursday August 6th.)
- **Phase 3 bell schedule:** We will complete A weeks and B weeks but will offer A and B classes every Friday for 30 minutes each. The average of students in a class is 18 campus wide. Students have 8 classes but will only take 4 each week and rotate each week to have 4 different classes.

Phase 4: All back to campus and safe:

- We will work with our virtual families, but this would be back in a safe environment with a regular schedule 7:30-2:30pm. Students would switch classes and we would be back to "normal". We will work with anyone virtual to see all options to make sure we continue what we can for all families. This means that the Governor, Superintendent, CDC, and AZ Health have approved full return.
- **Phase 4 bell schedule:** We will complete A, B, and C days. Students have 8 classes but will only take 4 of their A classes Monday and Wednesday. They will then take the other 4 on B days, which are Tuesday and Thursday and then all 8 classes on the C Day for 30 minutes.

This may be confusing to the eye at first, but what we have done is allow minimal movement issues and we were able to meet all the requirements in each phase for all students. When we schedule high school students we work on their individual needs and build from that. Every student will have what they need and deserve. Please [click here](#) to see a more detailed version of Desert Heights phases plan. If you have questions, please reach out to our scheduling team.

Courtney Martin
Michelle Robles
Amanda Brownlow



IPad Pick Up

Now that all students will be starting school virtually on August 17th, we would like to get the iPads out to our students prior to the first day of school. For students taking high school courses, including those 8th grade students taking 9th grade classes, your scheduled pickup will occur on **Friday**,

August 14th, and we have provided the following two options in an effort to accommodate working families.

1. 7am-10:30am

1. 3:30pm-7pm

Please use [the link](#) to sign up at the time most convenient for you and note that the student must be present to sign for the device. The iPad distribution will occur in the DHPA gym and we request families enter through the west door and exit using the north one. Additionally, we ask that all families please wear a face covering/mask while on campus.

As a reminder, a DHPA Device Agreement needs to be signed by both the student and parent. iPads will not be given to those with an incomplete device agreement so please complete it prior to arriving. We will have printed copies available on August 14th as well for anyone who needs it. As you may know DHPA offers a protection plan for those who would like to purchase, it is \$30.00/year and must be paid within 3 days of receiving the iPad. During pickup, we will be accepting check and cash payments only and need to request that exact change be used. Alternatively, families can quickly pay at any time using the "optional fee" available in their [ParentVUE](#) portal.

Other important documents will be given out like the high school policy and procedure form, 2020 goal sheet, science curriculum code, application navigation and ACT booklets for 11th & 12th grade!

HS Back to School Documents

StudentVUE StudentVue
powered by Synergy

Students, please note that all StudentVue logins have been successfully changed to your school email and password. New students will receive this information at your iPad pick up time.



Breakfast Lunch and Breakfast in Phase 1

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

Breakfast

Families can pick up Monday for the entire week from 8:00-9:00 am as we have been approved for 1 day breakfast pick up and it makes it easy on a family.

Lunch

Families can come whenever they want during these time frames 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 Learning Food Service Plan

High School-1st Week of School

Students will attend grade level professional development Monday-Thursday that will incorporate:

- Professionalism
- Advisory
- Dress Code
- Student Evaluations
- Policy and Procedures
- Clever and Application Review
- Asynchronous and Synchronous Instruction
- Website and tools
- Splashtop
- Assessments
- FMX Requests and Communication
- Pledge and 3 pillars
- Roadmaps and ECAP



Every student will feel better about the school year and have an understanding of tools and resources. **Friday, August 21st** we will host teacher zoom chats to learn about the class, the units, and what to expect from your teachers. We want to make sure you all feel supported and before we start any content, we need to train our students and make sure they feel good!

We will host hour training that will follow the 4 hours schedule.

- 7:30-8:30 am
- 8:30-9:30 am
- 9:30-10:30 am
- 10:30-11:30am



Meet our New Teachers!

We just completed our new teacher pre-service and I am so blessed to be in a community that we have so many amazing teachers. This year we have added some fantastic quality teachers that will bring something special to DHPA. Students will get to meet all their Teachers Friday August 14th after their student in-service. Due to growing and a school goal to keep low numbers in classrooms, we have added history, math, foreign language, and science to our program. Here is a little information about your new teachers:

Mr. Chappell is our high school History teacher and is just pure quality. He was our Junior high social studies teacher last year and after watching him and hearing

about what he produces, I had to try to get him to high school. Mr. Chappell is absolutely a perfect fit for high school and will bring a new angle to the classroom. He is a hard worker and passionate about how history impacts all of us. This is a perfect time to really dive into all the connections today! Mr. Chappell is so excited to get to travel with his students from last year and can't wait to see you all.

Mr. Speed is our high school Math teacher and he has an energy that will allow collaboration and growth for every student. It is clear when in training and talking that Mr. Speed want to impact his students in the right way and believes that every student matter. He also believes math is a universal need and tool and wants every student to be equipped with the skills to WIN!

Mrs. Sweeting is our dual enrollment Math teacher and she brings an entire new dimension to our community. When you talk with her, you can feel her passion and love for student growth. She has so much valuable experience that will allow our students to grow in math and in life. We are blessed to have her in our community!

Mr. Kollie is our Chemistry teacher and I always smile when talking with him, because he gets the value of every student as individuals not as a class or a group. He talks about how each student will have different needs and he loves trying to find ways to reach every student. I also am passionate about having diverse teachers and Mr. Kollie is going to bring a love and understanding for more cultures. Another teacher that will bring so much more than just content. A world view and positive soul.

Ms. Ruttan is an addition to our Spanish team and will be teaching Spanish 1 for our students. We are going to continue growing foreign language and we need someone like Mrs. Ruttan to help keep it going. She brings a unique experience and has traveled all over to be able to bring her experience into the classroom. Her passion for Spanish is beautiful and every student deserves a teacher like this. I love talking with her about things she is going to do in the classroom, because I know our students will benefit from it.

Mr. Ward is our new German teacher and he is awesome. He has an inquiring mind and is constantly wanting ways to engage every student, not just some. He has an amazing understanding of culture and connection to value within culture. He is working this year on learning and growing to improve his skills. Every student deserves a teacher that has a growth mindset for themselves and their students.

Mr. Boyd is our new PE teacher since we had Mrs. Delion move 100% into advisory for support. Mr. Boyd is awesome. He is not just passionate, but he is motivated for health and physical education. He loves sports and being healthy and has a motivated story that all of us need to hear. I will let him tell his triumph when he is ready, but believe me when I say, he has a will that no one can ever stop!

I am so proud of our High School staff this year and have a feeling of excitement, because with all of our returning teachers and staff; Mrs. Robles, Ms. Brownlow, Mrs. Hatton, Mrs. Delion, Mrs. Waymire, Mr. Ross, Mrs. Zaragoza, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Haldiman, Ms. Okray, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Guzzo, Mr. Steffen, Ms. Gilbreath, and Mr. Wicker, we can't be stopped.

Our team is strong, have a full heart, passionate, loves collaboration, and will

Save the Date!

Here are some very important dates to mark in your calendar.

- August 14th iPad Pick up 7am-7pm
- August 17th-August 20th Student In-Service
7:30am-11:30am
- August 21st: Teacher Zoom calls 7:30am-11:30am.
- August 24th will be B week schedules
- August 31st will be A week schedules



DHPA PLEDGE

I am responsible for my future. I will be true and honest to myself, so I can be successful.
(Academic Excellence)

I will value the word respect and exhibit it daily inside and outside of the classroom.
(Integrity of Character)

I will put forth effort in building, maintaining and honoring the traditions at DHPA.
(Social Awareness)

I am a coyote for life and to the best of my ability will live by the three pillars.

The pledge is read each morning. We break down each category and on Friday we read the entire pledge. It is key we embed these expectation in each Coyote!



STAY CONNECTED:

