



## Desert Star 2015-2016

*Thinking, Learning, Growing . . .  
empowering students who shape tomorrow.*

*Students & Families,*

*We welcome you back for another great year at Desert Star and for those of you new to our school - we look forward to working with you this year to see that all of our students are successful! Please review this page as it contains some basic policies and procedures that will be helpful for you and your family throughout the school year. Thank you, as always, for your continued involvement and support to make Desert Star a shining example of excellence!*

*Kara Largent  
Principal*

*Laura Cuellar  
Assistant Principal*

### **School Contact Information**

Front Office Hours: 7:00am-4:00pm

Main Phone #: 623-772-4600

Front Office Hours Wednesday: 7:00am-3:30pm

Attendance Line: 623-772-4601

<b>Grade Level Times</b>	<b>Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Kinder – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7:35am-3:00pm	7:35am-11:45am

The first bell rings at 7:30am – any student not in their classroom by 7:35am is considered tardy. Our front gate opens at 7:00am – students cannot be on campus earlier than 7:00am. Our Community Education Department does offer supervision in the morning through a Before School Care Program starting at 6:15am. They also offer an After School Care Program on site that runs until 6:00pm. More information can be found on our district's website under the ACE Department page. We strongly believe in communicating early and often with our community – please check our school marquee, monthly family newsletter, weekly email blasts, text reminders, and our school website (<http://ds.avondale.k12.az.us/>) for the most up-to-date information about Desert Star. Contact our front office if you are not receiving regular emails from the school to ensure we have your current email in our system.

### **What we believe . . .**

The Desert Star community is dedicated to maintaining a safe and nurturing environment that allows individual students to successfully develop positive attitudes to achieve their fullest potential academically, emotionally, physically, and creatively in order to become lifelong learners.

#### **Be Respectful**

- I will respect other people in my words and actions.
- I will keep my hands and feet to myself at all times.
- I will display good character traits.
- I will respect all school and personal property.

#### **Be Responsible**

- I will be responsible for myself and my property.
- I will show good citizenship by not disrupting the school environment.
- I will be responsible for my time at school.
- I will follow the district dress code.

#### **Be Safe**

- I will play and act in a safe and respectful manner at all times.
- I will use the sidewalk to walk quietly and calmly around campus.
- I will help make our school a safe place for all.
- I will follow the playground rules.

Students will be held accountable for the above Code of Conduct in their words and actions. Students may either earn consequences or incentives based on these three expectations on our campus at all times: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. K-4 teachers use a clip up/down color system and 5-8 teachers use stamps and student agendas.

## **District Dress Code**

### **For Boys**

- All solid white, solid light gray, solid hunter green, solid navy blue, or solid light pink shirts with lay-down collar. No logos or labels showing on the shirt. This may include, but is not limited to, a "polo" shirt and button-down dress shirt.
- Solid navy blue or tan shorts/slacks. No logos, labels, or outer pockets showing on pants. No blue jeans, blue-jean shorts, cargo pants, or sweat pants, or stretchy type material.

### **For Girls**

- All solid white, solid light gray, solid hunter green, solid navy blue top, or solid light pink shirts with lay-down collar. No logos or labels showing on the top. This may include, but not be limited to, a blouse or "polo."
- Solid navy blue or tan pants, shorts, skirts, jumpers, capri pants, and bib overalls. No logos or labels showing. No blue jeans, blue-jean shorts, cargo pants, sweat pants, or stretchy type material.

Belts must be plain black, brown, or navy. Tank tops, turtlenecks, or any other garment worn under the uniform shirt needs to be the uniform shirt colors listed above. All clothing items should be the correct size for the student (no oversize or undersize items are permitted). Please see the District Handbook for more information regarding the dress code.

## **Attendance/Tardies**

Please call the Attendance Line at 623-772-4601 to report your child's absence. In accordance with ARS 15-802 and 15-803 our district has formed a partnership with the county called the CUTS (court unified truancy suppression) program. As part of this program, we track student attendance carefully and send out regular communication to families regarding current absences and the state law. Our goal is to work with families to ensure that students demonstrate regular attendance so they can be successful. We also take tardies very seriously as it does interrupt the classes when a child is late and the child also misses out on important educational content that occurs at the beginning of the school day. Please help your child to arrive at school by 7:30am each day.

## **School Discipline Plan**

We have many systems in place to ensure that students are safe and the focus remains on learning. During the school year, you may receive a variety of communications from your child's teacher to support these systems. Some of these communication items may be pink tickets, dress code violation notices, notes in student agendas (grades 4-8), office referrals, phone calls, emails, etc. If students choose to make choices that violate school and/or district policy, they are expected to take responsibility and accept consequences for their words and/or actions. Consequences can include, but are not limited to, lunch/after school detention, Alternative Classroom Placement (ACP), or office referral for administrative action. Every student and situation is different and will be given thoughtful consideration before consequences are given.

## **Students' Personal Property**

Students are responsible for their personal property at all times. Students are strongly encouraged not to bring personal belongings to school to avoid theft, loss, or damage. Should a student choose to bring electronics to school, such as cell phones, ipods, etc., they must remain off and in their backpack while on school property at all times. All electronic devices that are seen or heard will be taken from students by school staff and brought to the front office for a legal guardian to pick up. The same is true for any personal items that are causing a disruption to the safety and/or learning of students. These items can include, but are not limited to, toys, sports equipment, clothing items, and skateboards. To prevent theft, students should lock up bikes and scooters at the bike rack. All skateboards and scooters that cannot be locked up should be kept in a classroom during the day to prevent theft as well. Students are not permitted to ride bikes, skateboards, scooters, etc. while on school grounds. Violating this safety rule can result in the item being taken away and brought to the front office for pick up by the child's legal guardian.

Please sign below and return to your child's homeroom teacher. Thank you!

We have read and understood the above information as it relates to the 2015-2016 school year at Desert Star.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_