

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

At Moon Mountain, we are proud of the school atmosphere we have created to challenge our students and to meet their individual needs. We strive to create a learning climate that encourages student achievement and fosters a positive learning community.

We are always seeking ways to add to the many dedicated volunteers we have on our campus. There are many opportunities for you to contribute. Joining the PTSA or serving on one of the many committees is always welcomed, along with volunteering in your child's classroom. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in volunteer opportunities at Moon Mountain.

I have an open-door policy and look forward to meeting and talking with parents and students about anything that concerns you or questions you may have. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Moon Mountain community.

Look for information to come home in the Thursday folder that your child brings home.

Cordially,
Sue Brown, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY

Mission Statement:

The mission of Moon Mountain Elementary School is to provide the most effective learning environment by making quality decisions focused on the needs of our children.

School Philosophy

We believe our school exists for the sole purpose of providing the best possible educational atmosphere and instructional program to meet the needs of our students.

We, as a staff, strive to recognize individual differences in children's learning abilities and behaviors and have structured an educational program to meet these needs.

We believe it is necessary to present a curriculum that is broadly based and well developed in all subject areas and which imparts specific skills as well as the appropriate application of those skills.

It is our goal to provide opportunities for parent and community involvement and participation in the educational process.

We believe that it is imperative for students to accept responsibility for their actions and for parents to be supportive of the school in order for the educational process to be successful.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Colors

Teal and Black

School Mascot

Coyote

Quick Reference Information

School Office: 602-896-6000

Nurse's Office: 602-896-6010

Attendance Line: 602-896-6011

FAX: 602-896-6020

School Web site: <http://moonmountain.wesdschools.org>

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

School Hours: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Student Arrival: 7:15 a.m.

(Teachers are on duty and students may arrive on the playground)

Students assemble for class: 7:25 a.m.

Students in seats: 7:30 a.m.

Early Release Wednesdays: 1:00 p.m.

Head Start: 7:30-11:00 a.m./11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Preschool: (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

7:30-10:00 a.m./11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Attendance/Tuancy

In order to assure students are successful and meet current state legislation, which requires all students to attend 90% of the school year, WESD has a Truancy Prevention Unit (TPU). The TPU will work in conjunction with the City Justice Courts to identify students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five unexcused/unverified truanancies, 10 total absences, the school will make a referral to the TPU for appropriate actions (see District guidelines). **In order to avoid this eventuality, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the nurse and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.**

A letter will be sent by the school to the families of students who are approaching or pass the midway point for unexcused absences, excused absences and tardies. Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

Medications

A student should not transport medications, including over-the-counter medications, to or from school. An adult should bring medicines to the health office in the original container, with a written doctor's order and signed parent permission. The **ONLY** medication given to the student is what has been provided by the parent following District guidelines.

Breakfast/Lunch Information

Parents, you are always welcome to have lunch with your child. If you are coming to lunch, you must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge.

Moon Mountain provides universal free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is served in the classroom at 7:30 a.m.

Specific rules for the cafeteria include:

- Follow directions and be respectful.
- No running, horseplay or throwing food.
- Use classroom voices.
- Leave your area clean, including the floor.
- Walk to the playground when released.
- All food must remain in the cafeteria. No food should be taken to the playground.

COMMUNICATION

Site Council

Moon Mountain Site Council meets once every month. The composition of this council is an equal number of teachers and parents. Terms last for two years and announcements are made when new parent and teacher positions become open. These are open meetings that any parent may attend. Agendas of Site Council meetings are posted on our community bulletin board in the front office of the school.

Parent Organizations

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) meets monthly and is actively involved in financing and supporting Moon Mountain School activities. They are also available for school and teacher requests for funds to support special projects.

General meetings of the Moon Mountain PTSA are held throughout the year and focus on student participation programs or major school events. All Moon Mountain parents are encouraged and invited to join and become active in the Moon Mountain PTSA. PTSA meetings will be announced through the school newsletters.

School Newsletter/Go-home Folder

The school newsletter is sent home once a month. Go-home folders are sent home each Thursday. They include both school and District information, as well as specific information from your child's homeroom teacher. Please take time to read all the materials, sign in the appropriate space on the back and return the folder each Friday morning.

GRADING/HONORS/AWARDS

Makeup Work

When students are absent, it is their responsibility to talk with their teachers to obtain missed assignments. Teachers will cooperate with the students in getting their assignments. Students should complete missed assignments and turn them in to their teachers. Homework can be requested after three days of absence. Students are allowed extra time to complete these assignments equal to the number of days they were absent.

Academic Honors

Academic Excellence:

1.0 grade point average – no Ns or Us

Principal's List:

1.1 – 1.5 grade point average – no 4s or 5s – no Ns or Us

Honor Roll:

1.6 – 2.0 grade point average – no 4s or 5s – no Ns or Us

Academic honors will be recognized and celebrated each month for grades 4 – 6.

Student of the Month

Student of the Month Breakfasts are held every month to honor students who have been chosen by their teachers as students who are modeling both good effort and citizenship.

Cookies with Cody

Each month, Moon Mountain celebrates a character trait that represents good citizenship. Homeroom teachers in grades 3-6 choose a student who exemplifies this trait to honor. Nominees attend a celebration at which they are recognized.

Perfect Attendance

Students with perfect attendance are recognized each quarter. Students with perfect attendance all year receive special recognition in May.

STUDENT

DISCIPLINE/BEHAVIOR

Expectations/Make Your Day Program

The system encourages students to take responsibility for their own actions, including attendance and academic performance. Emphasis is placed on the importance of each student working to his or her own ability level. The program allows all students to make mistakes without cumulative punitive action. It provides time for thought and direction. Effort is expected and rewarded, and the program offers frequent, positive feedback. The program allows students to make decisions that develop critical thinking skills. School-wide appropriate behaviors are expected as students are taught and expected to understand inappropriate behavior. The foundation of Make Your Day is that all students are capable of success. It fosters the philosophy that making appropriate choices at school will generate student success.

1. Students will exhibit positive behavior at all times by respecting the rights of others to learn in a safe environment.
2. Students will foster a safe environment by respecting school property, using it responsibly, and respecting the right of all students to a physically and emotionally safe environment.
3. Students are expected to choose positive alternatives to inappropriate behaviors (e.g., teacher assistance, avoidance of confrontations, and/or concerns during points).
4. Students are expected to be in class on time and to make proper use of the instructional setting by assuming the

responsibility of being on-task and successfully completing all assignments.

5. Restroom breaks will be authorized throughout the day. Use of the restrooms and visits to the nurse will be allowed when necessary.
6. Fighting will be subject to step 4 of the discipline plan.

Earning Points Through Self and Peer Review Occurs Daily

1. Students earn points inside the classroom by doing what is expected, staying on task, following directions, and maintaining a safe environment. Outside the classroom, students are expected to walk in the hallways, not to bother other people, and to play safely on the playground. At the conclusion of the designated instructional sessions, students are asked to review their own performance academically and behaviorally by awarding themselves from 1-45 points (0-10 points in primary grades) for that period.

Trips to the health office may be necessary. Students who make frequent, unnecessary trips to the health office will fail to earn full points for that period.

Tardiness will result in a failure to earn full points for that period.

2. Once students have rated their performance, fellow students have an opportunity to give feedback to each other under teacher direction. Students may disagree with another's points for the purpose of improving the behavior if that person interfered with their learning or was doing something unsafe. Some classroom examples of interference would include talking, making noise, touching, getting up frequently, making faces, etc. *Teachers make final determination about concerns.*

Students who remain on steps during the point review have the right to give their own points, defend concerns, but may not bring concerns about other's points, because students in this circumstance have forfeited their right to have concerns with other student's points.

3. An average of 45 points (10 per period in the primary grades) per day means the student has made his or her day and can receive a specific school reinforcement by the teacher and/or fellow student and school-wide recognition by the principal, including positive notes home to parents from teachers. Final points are determined by averaging the student's high and low points.
4. There are scheduled times when 50 points (13 points for primary grades) per session are possible allowing students to earn extra points.
5. Homework is given for the purpose of practice and reinforcement of classroom instructions. It is an extension of classroom instruction.

Children coming to class without homework can expect:

1. To earn a maximum of 40 points in the intermediate and no less than 6 points in the primary;
2. A maximum of five minutes on Step 1 if grading is being conducted with no instruction or discussion occurring;

and if instruction or discussion occurs during the grading process, the student will remain at his or her desk.

Children coming to class unprepared or without basic learning materials can expect:

- To earn a maximum of 40 points (intermediate); and
- May be given an alternate means to accomplish the classroom expectation.

Dress Code

Student dress shall be appropriate at all times. **Moon Mountain adheres to the policies described in the STUDENT DRESS section of the WESD Parent/Student Handbook.** Any student's dress that distracts from or interferes with the normal learning process will be considered inappropriate. The decision as to whether or not such a condition exists, or a decision as to the course of action to be taken, shall be left to the reasonable discretion of the school administrators.

Moon Mountain employs the following guidelines when evaluating appropriate school attire. Flip-flops and backless shoes are not appropriate footwear for the playground or campus. Tennis shoes with wheels are not allowed. All students must wear tennis shoes on the days their class has PE. Sleeveless shirts should have at least a two inch strap. A shirt is too short if any part of the abdomen is showing when the student raises his or her hand above his or her head. Skirts/shorts must be longer than the length of the fingertips when the arms are held straight down the side of the body. Hats, caps and bandannas are not to be worn.

Items Not Allowed at School

Moon Mountain has a strict "No Gum or Candy" policy anywhere on campus. Any items brought from home for lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria during lunch or during a nutrition break provided by the teacher. Please refer to the classroom teacher's healthy snack ideas for approved items.

Skateboards, rollerblades, skates and wheeled tennis shoes are not allowed on campus.

Toys (with the exception of those brought for teacher-directed activities), permanent markers, lasers, musical devices, electronic games/devices, and trading cards are not allowed on campus.

Personal sports equipment such as balls, bats and Frisbees should not be brought to school. The school will provide sports equipment for use on the playground.

Electronic reading devices such as Kindles, iPads and Nooks are prohibited due to the risks of possible damage or loss.

Weapons, whether real or toy/model are strictly prohibited and their possession will result in suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policy.

Possession or the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is prohibited and may result in suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policy.

Moon Mountain does not accept responsibility for prohibited items. They are not to be brought to school. Any confiscated items must be picked up by parents.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to use cell phones on campus for any purpose, including receiving calls, taking pictures or text messaging. If you desire that your child carry a phone for nonschool time emergency purposes, the phone must be turned off and kept, at the student's own risk, in his or her backpack. Any violations of this policy, including having the phone ring or emit any noise, will result in discipline. After the second occurrence, a parent will need to come to school and pick up the phone.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Moon Mountain has a crisis/lockdown plan in place in the event of an emergency. Fire and lockdown drills are conducted in accordance with District policy. If the need to evacuate the school should occur, students will be evacuated to a secure location. Parents, guardians and child care providers will pick up students at the chosen location.

Handicap Spaces

Handicap spaces in the front of the school are reserved for those displaying a handicap license plate or placard because they need close access due to a handicapping condition. We expect respect to be paid to the students and families needing a more convenient access due to a lifelong disability and not park there because you are rushed. We have parents who may be handicapped picking up students who may be handicapped at any given time and they need those spaces. Please feel free to park in any nonreserved, open parking space and walk to the sidewalk to pick up your student. You may also enter the pickup line and wait for your turn to come around to the pickup area. Your child/ren will then enter your car from the curb. Please adhere to our parking lot drop-off and pickup rules for the safety of all students.

Bicycles

Students in grades K-2 are not permitted to ride bicycles to school. Students in grades 3-6 are allowed the privilege of riding their bicycles. Any student who abuses this privilege by using unsafe behavior will lose it. Bicycles must be secured by a lock in the bike rack. Moon Mountain is not responsible for loss of or damage to bicycles.

Crosswalks

There are three school zone crosswalks: in front of the school on 19th Avenue, behind the school at the corner of Willow and 17th Avenue, and on Voltaire in front of the bike rack area. Students are to follow the directions given by the crossing guards for their safety and well-being. Students are not permitted to cross at the light on 19th Avenue and Wood. Our crossing guards are on duty at this crosswalk from 6:45-7:50 a.m. and 1:45-2:50 p.m. for all students.

Parent Drop Off:

Please use the parent drop-off lane in front of the school off of Voltaire. **THIS IS A DROP-OFF LANE ONLY AND NOT FOR PARKING.** Because this is also a fire lane, you will risk the chance of a ticket if you park and leave your car in this lane. When you drop off or pick up your child and you

need to enter the school, please park in the parking lot. Our staff has reserved the front parking spaces for parents and other visitors.

Dismissal

In an effort to minimize interruptions to the classrooms at the end of the day, students cannot be checked out any later than 2:15 p.m. This time is reserved for announcements, homework assignments and end-of-the-day instructions. Please keep this in mind when making appointments.

Olweus Bullying Prevention

OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM is part of our daily routine at Moon Mountain. This is in response to the Bullying Legislation in the State of Arizona. Bullying is considered a serious offense.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Student Council

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 elect a boy and girl to represent their homeroom. Officers can be either a fifth or sixth grader, except for president, who must be a sixth grade student. All student council members must meet set academic and behavior standards. These standards are explained to the students and their parents before they run for office. The school administration and student council sponsor reserve the right to remove students from office if these standards are not maintained.

Student Council is a positive activity developing student leadership, responsibility and pride in students and their school.

Parties

Students in grades K-6 have classroom parties for special occasions. Parties are generally held the last hour of the school day. Parents will be notified by the homeroom parent and asked if they would like to make a contribution.

Please contact your child's teacher before sending treats for your child's birthday so that the celebration can be planned into the day's activities. **ANY TREATS THAT ARE BROUGHT IN MUST BE FROM THE WESD APPROVED FOOD LIST.** Copies of the list are available on our school Web site or in the front office. Also, since learning is our primary goal, we will not accept balloons or floral arrangements for individual students.

Activities

- Back to School Night
- Grade Level Events
- School-wide fund-raisers
- Antibullying Activities/Events
- Book Fair
- Holiday Sing-a-long
- Field Days
- Talents Show
- Concerts