



# DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

*Home of the Scorpions • The higher we climb, the better the view!*

3333 W. Banff Lane • Phoenix, AZ 85053 • Office: 602-896-5500 • Fax: 602-896-5520  
Nurse: 602-896-5510 • Attendance: 602-896-5521

**Shannon Gray**  
**Principal**

**August 2025**

**Joelle Jasper**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Message from the Principal

Hello, DF Families!

Welcome to Desert Foothills Junior High School! I am Shannon Gray, the PROUD principal of Desert Foothills! We are looking forward to a great 2025-2026 school year with you and your child. We have been busy preparing for this school year and are excited to build valuable relationships with our Desert Foothills students, staff and parents.

School starts Monday, Aug. 4, from 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesdays are early release days, with dismissal at 2:30 p.m. Attendance is imperative for student success, so please work with us to ensure your child is attending school and is on time! Please also mark your calendars for our Meet-the-Teacher Night on Tuesday, Aug. 19 from 4:30-6:30 pm. See what a day in the life of your middle schooler looks like! Do you follow us on Facebook and Instagram? This is a great way to stay connected to the campus, stay informed with information about upcoming events, and see what fabulous things are going on in our classrooms!

Instagram: desertfoothills\_wesd

Facebook: Desert Foothills Junior High

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

- Phone Number: 602-896-5500
- Email: [shannon.gray@wesdschools.org](mailto:shannon.gray@wesdschools.org)

Thank you for your time, efforts and partnership with DF! Go, Scorpions!

Shannon Gray

## PICTURE DAY Friday, Aug. 8

Order envelopes were sent home with students. If you would like to purchase school pictures, have your child turn the completed order envelope along with your payment to the photographer on Aug. 8.



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org)

Governing Board: Kyle Clayton, President • Lindsey Peterson, Vice President  
Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Member • Bill Adams, Member • Tamillia Gosa-Chapa, Member

Dr. Lupita Hightower, Interim Superintendent

# MEET-THE-TEACHER NIGHT

Tuesday, Aug. 19

Come meet the teachers and see what a day at Desert Foothills looks like for your student. Parents will meet in the cafeteria from 4:30 to 5 p.m. Bells will ring at 5 p.m. to report to your child's homeroom class. Then every six minutes the bells will ring for you to switch classes, allowing you to visit all your child's classes.

## YEARBOOKS

Thank you to those who pre-ordered their 25-26 Desert Foothills Yearbooks at orientation. If you did not get a chance to preorder a yearbook, they will be sold for \$30 until the end of December. The price will increase to \$35 in January. Orders may be dropped off with Mr. Drewis in room B-118 or pre-ordered online at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com)

## PARENTSQUARE

Register for ParentSquare

This school year, we will be using ParentSquare, our new two-way communication tool. ParentSquare provides a simple and safe way for us to connect with you.

With ParentSquare, you will be able to:

- Receive all district, school and classroom communication via email, text, or app,
- View the school and classroom calendar and RSVP for events,
- Select the language for your communications,
- Sign up to volunteer and/or bring items and much more. Please click here to activate your account.

Remember to download the free mobile app for IOS or Android to start receiving updates from your school.

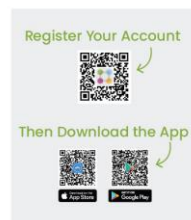
For more information about ParentSquare, please click here or contact the school.

### WESD is Using ParentSquare!

ParentSquare is a simple and safe way to connect and communicate.

#### Register now so you can:

- customize email, text and/or app notifications,
- RSVP for classroom and school activities,
- sign permission slips, and
- securely receive important student documents.



ParentSquare



[Type here]

## ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please leave a message on the attendance line at **602-896-5521**. It is available 24/7

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers provide a tremendous service for the students and staff of the Washington Elementary School District, and the district encourages volunteer participation in its schools. The varied talents and expertise of parents, guardians and community members greatly enhance the educational process. Areas in which volunteers can help include tutoring, special presentations, assisting in the classroom, and joining District councils, school site councils and various committees. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please visit the WESD Volunteer Opportunities web page for more information at, <https://www.wesdschools.org/Domain/53>

## WESD Introduces New Cell Phone Policy

Earlier this year, the Arizona Legislature passed a new law requiring schools to implement limitations on student access to the internet and the use of wireless communication devices. As such, the WESD would like to remind students, staff and families that student access to the internet, social media platforms and wireless communication devices will be restricted during the school day. These limitations apply during instructional time as well as during meals, passing periods and recess. WESD students may only access the internet through district-vetted and approved websites and applications, and only on school-provided devices (Chromebooks).

WESD provides students with district-issued technology (Chromebooks) that meets all instructional needs; therefore, there is no instructional reason for students to use personal wireless communication devices during the school day. As such, student cell phones, smart watches and any other personal wireless device must be turned off and put away from the time they arrive on campus until dismissal. There are exceptions for students with 504 plans or IEPs who require a wireless communication device for a documented medical condition. Additionally, students are permitted to use a personal device in the event of an emergency, however, they are encouraged to notify school staff of the emergency first. Students are permitted to ask a teacher for permission to use the school office phone to contact a parent during the school day. We also ask parents and guardians not to disrupt instructional time with non-emergency communication by calling the school office to relay messages or to send a message to the teacher using our new platform, ParentSquare. For more information, please contact the school.

