



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Nurse: 602-896-5510 • Attendance: 602-896-5521

Shannon Gray
Principal

December 2025

Joelle Jasper
Assistant Principal

Note from the Principal

Hello, DF Families!

December is here, and it's hard to believe we're nearing the end of the year and first semester! This month, we're looking forward to our annual Winter Concert on December 16, where our talented students will showcase their hard work and creativity. I encourage you to join us for this festive evening and celebrate their achievements. As we approach the holiday season, it's a great time to reflect on the progress we've made and the goals we'll continue to pursue in the new year.

Winter break begins on December 20, and we hope your family enjoys a restful and joyful holiday season. School will resume on Tuesday, January 6, as we kick off a fresh start in 2026. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community. Wishing you a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Do you follow us on Facebook and now 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

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

Shannon Gray

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • www.wesdschools.org

Governing Board: Kyle Clayton, President • Lindsey Peterson, Vice President • Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Member • Bill Adams, Member
Dr. Lupita Hightower, Interim Superintendent

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross-country championship meet is Saturday, December 6, at ASU West and the time is TBD. Students will be competing against other seventh and eighth graders in our District.

Early Release Schedule

Friday, December 19

2:30 p.m. dismissal

WINTER BREAK

Dec. 22 – Jan. 5

School Resumes Tuesday, January 6

Winter Concert

December 16 in the gym

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Voice Masterclass Recital

December 18 in the gym

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Attendance Reminders

Arizona attendance laws prohibit us from excusing an absence marked as personal. Please use the excused absence codes such as doctor appointment, illness, family emergency, out of town, etc.

Truancy letters are generated based on both unexcused *and* excused absences. These automated letters are sent when a student reaches five days of absence, and again at 10 days. They are automatically generated for all schools in Arizona.

**Attendance Line
602-896-5521**

To report your child absent, you can call 24/7 and leave a message on our attendance line.

YEARBOOK

Your time for pre-ordering a yearbook for the cost of \$30 is running out. The cost will be going up to \$35 in January.

You can order online at www.yearbookforever.com or send money and order form to Mr. Drewis in room B-118.

STUDENT IDs/TEMP IDs

Students should have their school IDs with them every day at school.

This is part of the school dress code. If they are issued a temp ID, they need to return it the next day and purchase a new ID if they can't find their school ID.

Fees are \$2 for a lost temp ID. \$1 for new ID, lanyard and pouch .50 each.

A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Has your student received clothes from the health office due to a dress code violation or they spilled something on their shirt or pants? Please launder the clothes item and return it to the Desert Foothills Health Office.

Thanks. We appreciate your help with this matter.

A Message From Our District Office

Give Back to Our School This Season with a Tax Credit Donation This season of giving, please consider making a tax credit donation to our school. Your contribution makes a direct and meaningful impact on our students by supporting field trips, extracurricular activities, uniforms, equipment and stipends for coaches and sponsors. Tax credit donations can also reduce your Arizona state tax liability — up to \$200 if filing single or \$400 if filing jointly. Please visit our school's front office to complete a tax credit form or donate online at <https://bit.ly/3Ao6nZ7>. Thank you for supporting our students and school.
