Dear Shepherd Junior High School Students and Families:

We are pleased to begin another year at Shepherd. We want students to enjoy and benefit from their academic, athletic, co-curricular, and social experiences. Each student is an integral part of our total school program. School pride is important, as is pride in personal accomplishments. It is our hope that students will aim high to establish positive goals then work with us to achieve success.

Students will be given a set of textbooks for both home and school use, thereby eliminating the need to carry heavy books to school. They will also need a good quality 3 inch, 3 ring binder with pocket inserts and six colored dividers with tabs to separate each academic class including AVID. Their binder needs to contain a zipper pouch with pens, pencils, erasers and highlighters. Students will also need to include the Shepherd planner (provided by the school) in their binder.

Our first semester open house will be held on Thursday, August 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We would like to invite each of you to join us that evening. You will enjoy following your child’s schedule, meeting their teachers and perusing their learning.

Shepherd is a Title 1 school, which means students who struggled will receive before and after school academic assistance. A bus will be provided for the after school tutorial only.

We are very proud of our students! Supportive parents, dedicated teachers and a hard-working staff make their achievements possible. I extend a sincere thank you to each person who made a positive contribution. As we continue to work together, our students will continue to learn and to succeed.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cahoon
Principal

http://www.mpsaz.org/shepherd
Hello Shepherd Parents!

We are looking for parents to be a part of our school improvement advisory council (SIAC). The council is made up of parents and staff members who meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:00pm to provide a forum for viewpoints and discussions in support of our school mission. The first meeting will be September 18th. This organization develops recommendations for improving any areas of concern. SIAC nominees will be placed on a ballot and voting will take place during our Open House event that takes place on Thursday, August 21st at 6:30 PM with our parent meeting in the Auditorium. If you are interested in being on SIAC, please call 480-472-1801.

This is a terrific opportunity as a parent to be involved at Shepherd. We hope to hear from you and we will see you Thursday, August 21st at Open House!!

Shepherd Junior High Welcomes Open Enrollment Students 2014-2015

Shepherd Junior High welcomes open enrollment for students from other Mesa schools as well as other Arizona districts outside of our normal attendance boundary.

- Parents & legal guardians are encouraged to submit open enrollment applications as soon as possible.
- Current open enrollment students must reapply each school year.
- Applications are available on-line or in any Mesa Public School office.

For complete details, please refer to the Mesa Public Schools web page: http://www.mpsaz.org/parents/open_enroll

A Reminder From Transportation

Regular education transportation has a ten minute window when dropping off students at school in the morning and arriving at the school in the afternoon. We do this because of the many unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

Special education buses have a fifteen minute window for pick up in the afternoon for the same reason.

We wish you and your families a highly successful school year.

Sincerely,
Ron Latko

For the 2014-2015 school year.

Reasons to GET INVOLVED in your school’s PTO!

- Increase student success
- It’s important to the school
- You’ll get connected
- You’ll be part of a network
- You’ll make a difference
- You’ll be a role model
- You’ll help raise necessary funds
- It’s flexible
- Be in the know
- It’s for every parent

Feel free to email: shepherdjrpto@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShepherdPTO

**Next PTO meeting is Thursday, September 11 at 4:00 pm

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Secretary
Fundraising Coordinator
Enrollment Requirements

Students transferring within Mesa Public Schools please provide:

1. **Proof of Residency** - Contract for Purchase of New Home, Rental/Lease Agreement, Utility Bill, State Income Tax Return, or Payroll Stub with your name and your permanent address.

2. **Withdrawal Form** - Issued from previous Mesa Public School.

Students new to Mesa Public Schools or who have not attended a Mesa Public School for two or more years please provide:

1. **Proof of Residency** - Contract for Purchase of New Home, Rental/Lease Agreement, Utility Bill, State Income Tax Return, or Payroll Stub with your name and your permanent address.

2. **Updated Immunization Records** - Documented proof of immunizations is required of all students enrolling in Mesa Public Schools.

3. **Certified Copy of Birth Certificate** - Required of all students enrolling (if you do not have it now, it must be provided within 30 days of enrollment).

4. **Withdrawal Form** - Issued from previous school and, if possible, a copy of a current report card & latest standardized test scores (AIMS, IOWA, STANFORD, etc.).

5. **Current IEP** - Individual Education Plan for students enrolled in special education classes.

6. **Legal Papers** - Documents regarding custody, guardianship, restraints or orders of protection.

Enrollment forms are available in the Shepherd office or online at:

http://www.mpsaz.org/parents/enrolling/forms/

Schedule Distribution

Shepherd Bookstore – August 4th

Student schedules, ID cards, & bus route information for the 2014-15 school year will be distributed outside the Shepherd Bookstore the morning of August 4th. Schedules will only be available to students whose Registration Packets have been received.

Last Name A-M: 9:00 – 10:30
Last Name N-Z: 10:30 – 12:00
Key Shepherd Personnel

The Shepherd office will be open daily from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Main Office  472-1800
Psychologist  472-1818
Attendance  472-1805
Nurse  472-1812
Counseling  472-1816
Bookstore  472-1806
Cafeteria  472-1840
Media Center  472-1808

**Project M.E.S.A. (Mesa’s Education in Sexual Awareness)**

The major purposes of Project M. E. S. A. are to assist parents by providing students with correct and understandable information about human sexuality, to promote wise decision-making in the area of sexuality, and to emphasize that abstinence is the surest way of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS.

Parents of 7th Grade Students the Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7:00pm at Kino Jr. High School Auditorium, 848 North Horne Rd., Mesa, 85203.

**Parent Volunteers are Welcome at Shepherd**

We welcome parent/guardian volunteers at Shepherd.

Volunteer opportunities include:

*copying  *grading papers  *working with students  *filing  *media center help

We know that your time is valuable—even 30 minutes can make a difference!

Questions: Please call or email Melinda Gillespie at 480-472-1811 or magillespie@mpsaz.org

*We are looking for parent volunteers for the 2014-2015 school year*

**Homework Policy**

When your child has been absent for at least three consecutive days, please contact the teachers directly, by phone or email, to request that work be sent to the Counseling office for pick-up within 24 hours. Counselors will collect the work so that you may pick it up in one place. The earlier in the day that you can make that request, the more likely it is that you will have homework to pick up by 4:00 pm the same day. Should you make the request later than 10:00 am, it is likely that work will not be ready until the following afternoon. You may access teachers’ phone numbers and email by going to the Shepherd website: www.mpsaz.org/shepherd/
Our Back to School Dance will be Friday, August 8 from 4-6pm in the gym. The cost is $4. You will need to have a 2014-15 Shepherd ID to enter the dance.

There will be a meeting for all students interested in Student Council on Thursday, August 14 at 8:15 am in Room 147. Shepherd Student Council meets at 8:15 am on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays each week during the school year. Please contact Mrs. Ampha or Mr. Knoblock for more information.

Absence Policy

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute, Absence from School, Notification of Parent Having Custody of Pupil, parents are required to notify the school in advance of or at the time of the absence.

The Attendance Phone Number is 480-472-1805. There is a voice mail available at this number to receive calls after regular office hours.

At the time of registration, the parent is required to furnish the school with at least one telephone number where the parent can be reached during the day. If there is a change of telephone numbers during the year, prompt notification should be made to the school office.

If a student is absent from school, and the parent has not notified the school, attendance personnel will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent within two hours after the first class from which the student is absent. Those parents who do not contact the school before 11:00 A.M. will receive a recorded message by phone at 11:00 A.M. and during the evening hours.

If a parent is unable to call, a note should be brought to the attendance office upon return to school the next day.

If a parent does not excuse an absence within 24 hours after a student returns to school, that absence becomes unexcused. An unexcused absence will be considered truancy. Teachers do not have to accept for credit, work that is made up after a student is truant. also, the student will receive an hour of detention for every hour of school missed.

Shepherd Bookstore

The bookstore is open 8:50-9:05am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and on Wednesday from 9:20-9:35 am. You may buy a new ID, turn in intramural sports applications and buy school supplies.

Intramurals

As we begin a new school year we also start our first sports season. Each sport is offered to 7th and 8th graders. The first season will be for boys basketball, wrestling and girls soccer. There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, August 12 at 4pm in the gym. Anyone interested, as well as parents need to be there to pick up a try-out form. Hope to see you there.
From the Health Office

Welcome Back to Shepherd!!!!

With summer ending and school starting back, it is very important for your teen to start their day off with a healthy breakfast!! Many studies discuss the high rate of performance in kids who eat daily breakfast. Your teen will concentrate better and have a better overall function during the school day.

Quick Tips: A Healthy Breakfast on the Fly

There’s no getting around the truth: Adolescents are often in a hurry, and mornings are no exception. While a sit-down breakfast made up of the four basic food groups is the ideal, a grab-and-go breakfast item is the next best thing. Such sources of carbohydrates (good energy for teens) as these should be in your teen’s possession as he or she dashes out the door on a school morning:

- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Dried fruit
- Fresh fruit
- Dry cereal

Just some friendly reminders from the health office

HOME CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The control of communicable (catching) disease during the school year is a difficult problem and an important responsibility. The first responsibility must fall upon the home because parents know the normal appearance of their children and should be the first to detect signs of illness.

The following rules will help control communicable diseases in the community.
1. Your child should remain at home if exhibiting any signs of illness.
2. When questioning illness, your family physician is the appropriate person to contact to determine whether or not your child should be in school.
3. Ill children should be kept apart from other family members and friends.

Please send in your Box Tops. Collection boxes are in the front office and the media center. Don’t forget to ask your friends and relatives to collect for Shepherd.
Some signs of illness:
Restlessness at night
Fever
Running nose
Sore throat
Rash
Nausea or vomiting
Red watery eyes
Flushed face
Headache
Swelling of the face

All students with a fever need to remain at home until they are fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen etc.)
Children may be excluded from school with a fever of 101 or above.

AVID Club
Those students who are in the 7th and 8th grade AVID elective classes are welcome to attend AVID Club’s first meeting on Wednesday, August 20th in Ms. Dixon’s room, Room 161. The AVID Club will be meeting once every two weeks during the school year, and sometimes more often as needed. This club will include events such as trips to Arizona State University, guest speakers, fundraisers, games, and sometimes just hanging out with food. Students must be AVID elective students to attend the meetings.

Media Center News
The Media Center will be hopping in August, with textbook check out and 7th grade library orientation. We look forward to seeing all the new faces!

Please make sure that when textbooks and library books come home, they are kept out of the reach of younger siblings, pets and liquids. Finding a safe spot for them during the school year will prevent fines being assessed at the end of the year.

Key library information:
- We are open before school and at both lunches.
- Students need to have their ID to check out books
- Food and liquids are never allowed in the library.
- Computers are available for school work only.

If you would like to learn more about our Media Center, please go to http://libguides.mpsaz.net/shepherd.
### National Junior Honor Society

**Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Officers**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kennedy Palaschuk</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jessica Conway</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Dominic Dilling</td>
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<td>Historian</td>
<td>McKenzie Knoblock</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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**Incoming 6th Graders**

If an incoming seventh grader was a member of National Elementary Honor Society and would like to participate in Shepherd's NJHS, Mrs. Wills will need a copy of the students **NEHS certificate** or a **letter from the 6th grade sponsor stating they were a member in GOOD STANDING** within the first two weeks of school. These students will be admitted on a **probationary status** and must meet all requirements for Shepherd's NJHS.

**Current Shepherd Students**

Current seventh graders entering **eighth grader who meet the Grade Point Average requirement**, but did not complete a 2014 spring application **will receive an invitation to apply to NJHS** at the beginning of the school year. It is the **student's responsibility to pick up and complete** the application process, as responsibility is a key factor for selection. If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Wills at 472-1915 or via e-mail at kawills@mpsaz.org.

### National Academic League

Do you like to watch game shows like Jeopardy and Family Feud? Are you competitive and people are always telling you to chill out? Do you find that people sometimes call you a “braniac” or that you work well under pressure? If you find yourself saying “yes!” to any of these and you like to work with a team and have fun, then the NAL Team is for you! NAL members represent Shepherd against other Mesa schools in matches. These NAL matches are like game shows with four distinct quarters. The matches will be on Thursdays from November to February. Practices start in September. If you feel like this is something you are interested in, see Mr. Cox in English, or Ms. Dixon in Social Studies.

### Shepherd’s Won-by-One Christian Club

The Shepherd Won-by-One Christian Club would like to welcome back returning Shepherd students and make sure new 7th grade students know what we are all about. This club is open to all students who wish to express and strengthen their faith. Activities include discussions, prayer, games, service projects, field trips, and the occasional pizza party. If you are interested in joining this fun and meaningful club, please see Coach Ziebell in P.E. or Ms. Dixon in Social Studies.
Take 25 to protect your child

The district’s School Safety and Security Department invites parents to Take 25 and make time to talk about child safety. Visit http://www.take25.org for a wealth of information and materials:

Issues
Real-world risks, such as missing children, abductions, runaways and sexual exploitation
Online risks, such as sexual solicitation and exposure to inappropriate content

Resources
Discussion guides to help children of all ages make safe decisions
Safety and social media tips
Activity sheets
Child ID kit
Emergency contact form
Promotional materials for the media, employers and community organizations

Take 25 was created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Partners range from the Arizona Attorney General and the Mesa Police Department to the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI. Please join the grassroots effort to make child safety a national priority.

Tome 25 para proteger a su hijo

La seguridad escolar del distrito y el departamento de seguridad invitan a los padres a Tomar 25 y hacer tiempo para hablar sobre la seguridad de los niños. Visite http://www.take25.org para obtener una gran cantidad de información y material:

Asuntos
Riesgos reales del mundo, tales como niños desaparecidos, secuestros, fugitivos y la explotación sexual
Los riesgos en línea, tal como solicitud sexual y exposición a contenido impropio

Recursos
Guías de discusión para ayudar a niños de todas las edades en hacer decisiones seguras
Consejos de seguridad y medios de comunicación social
Hoja de actividades
Equipo de identificación del niño
Formulario de contacto de emergencia
Material promocional para los medios de comunicación, empleadores y organizaciones de la comunidad

Tome 25 fue creado por National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Centro Nacional para Menores Desaparecidos y Explotados). La gama de socios son desde el Procurador General de Arizona y el Departamento de Policía de Mesa al Servicio Secreto de los Estados Unidos y el FBI. Por favor únase al esfuerzo para hacer la seguridad de los niños una prioridad nacional.
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<td><strong>7p Project Mesa parents of 7th graders meeting @ Kino Jr. High</strong></td>
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