



# WHITTIER WILDCAT NEWS

733 North Longmore, Mesa 85201

Principal, Andrea Lang Sims

<http://www.mpsaz.org/whittier/>

## August 2020

<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Tomorrow is the day!!! The first day of Remote Learning for fall 2020! We are ready!</p> <p>Here are a few details to help bring clarity to the teacher assignments at this time.</p> <p><u>Kindergarten through 3rd Grade:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are teaching in teams in K-3.</li> <li>2. Students are not assigned to a specific teacher for anything besides specials.</li> <li>3. Teachers will share the teaching of different subjects but will all monitor the success of each student.</li> <li>4. Teachers will provide small group and individual support for students each week. The teacher providing the support will vary based on student need.</li> <li>5. Teachers will be assigned when we begin in person learning</li> </ol> <p><u>4th - 6th Grade:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All 4th-6th grade students were totaled and then divided into 2 groups called Houses based on parent input from spring, teacher input and enrollment info.</li> <li>2. The houses are named Blue House and Yellow House. Houses are ways to organize kids to allow various grouping styles - pure grades, mixed grades, project based, etc.</li> <li>3. Students will be taught by a specific teacher by subject (language arts, math, social studies/science), no matter which grade they are currently in.</li> <li>4. This plan will remain during remote and in person learning.</li> </ol> <p><i>Continued on the next page...</i></p>	<p>Virtual Q &amp; A with the Leadership Team</p>	<p>Monday 8/3/20 4-4:30pm</p>
	<p>Remote Learning Starts</p>	<p>Tuesday 8/4/20</p>
	<p><b>Early Release Each day of the first week</b></p>	<p><b>T-F 8/3-8/7 12:00 pm</b></p>
	<p>Early Release Every Wednesday</p>	<p>12:00 pm</p>
	<p>Labor Day No School</p>	<p>9/7/20</p>
	<p>End of 1st Quarter</p>	<p>10/2/20</p>
	<p>Tech Support on the Website! <a href="http://www.mpsaz.org/whittier/general/vmtt2020/">http://www.mpsaz.org/whittier/general/vmtt2020/</a></p>	

Remote learning in a structured and meaningful way requires a lot of time and dedication from families. We want to partner with you during this time more than we have in the past and we believe that teams of teachers can do it best. This allows teachers to support each other as well! We are all learning new things and trying to be the best remote learning school in MPS! As the year begins, please know that we will still honor our focus on personalized learning and use unique teaching resources to do so!

I look forward to what this year holds and hope to support you along the way. Thank you for being part of the Whittier community!

Respectfully,

Andrea



## Virtual Meet the Teacher - Update on Links and Recordings

Thank you to everyone who participated! We had such a great turnout!!! We are still downloading all of the recorded links from VMTT. Check this link later today <http://www.mpsaz.org/whittier/general/vmtt2020/>. Teachers sent the slideshows out via email. Please reach out to the teachers if you have follow-up questions after watching the videos.

Whittier Staff Contact List: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F4ROlogU5cOHPAptXJGQhKwGdiJ7BheK/view>

## School Hours

Please reference the schedules shared by each grade level or house team. All learning activities - live, recorded, small group, individual, special areas, lunch, etc. - will all occur between the hours of 8am-2pm. School personnel will be available from 7am-3pm every day and additionally by appointment. Although our schedules will reflect the times above, we recognize many children will be working at different hours. We will also provide teacher support through "office hours" in the evenings a couple times a week to help families who need it.

## Attendance

Remote learning is mandatory per the Governor. Therefore, attendance during remote learning is also mandatory for enrolled students. We hope that students can participate in live instruction, but those sessions will be recorded for later use. Students also have the opportunity to participate in lessons independently or with family support. All lessons can be found in Canvas. Each time you log into and complete work through Canvas and WebEx, we are able to track attendance. Therefore, daily interactions with Canvas, WebEx, and teachers helps to track attendance. If you have to log in later in the day, we can still track attendance. There may be an overlap in absence notifications to families but we have ways to go back and correct any issues if there is interaction through Canvas. If your child is not able to participate in school at any time during the day, just call the office (480-472-4901) to report an absence as you normally would during in person learning. You will be receiving specific communication from Mesa Public schools in the coming days, but hopefully this helps ease your mind.

## School Meals

School meals begin on August 4th for enrolled students.

- Pick-up time is 11am-12:30pm, Monday-Friday.
- Students will receive two meals.
- Students do not need to be present. Parents, students or designees will need to provide the **student's name, ID number or date of birth, and name of school currently attending.**
- Submit cashless payments through [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com), which is waiving transaction fees until September 30, 2020. Meal prices remain unchanged.

	Breakfast		Lunch	
	Reduced price	Full price	Reduced price	Full price
Elementary	No charge	\$1.25	\$0.40	\$2.05
Junior high	No charge	\$1.50	\$0.40	\$2.75
High school	No charge	\$1.50	\$0.40	\$3.25