



WHITTIER WILDCAT NEWS

733 North Longmore, Mesa 85201

Principal, Andrea Lang Sims

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

July 2020

<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>I hope you are all safe and healthy!</p> <p>It has been so long since we have been able to interact in person and I miss you all so much. We know the school closure has not been easy and we recognize the continued strain this scenario puts on families. I hope you know that we would much rather be in person with our students and you as we begin this school year. We commit to making remote learning a positive experience and rest assured, we will be here to support you along the way.</p> <p>We have been steadily preparing content for learning and systems that help make it possible for this unique learning experience. We also want to bring as many of the in-person experiences to the remote world as possible. The blend of both worlds will take time in order for it to be easy to navigate and meaningful for all...We are up for the challenge and are grateful to serve the Whittier community.</p> <p>Each year, I like to remind everyone of our individual and collective value. I believe the Whittier community to be the best in Mesa. I use the theme, "Many Leaves, One Tree" by Shel Silverstein to remind us that we are all individuals with unique perspectives and needs. And yet, we are all on the same tree and want the best for our community.</p> <p>I look forward to having a great year with all of you!</p> <p>Respectfully, Andrea</p>	<p>Virtual Meet the Teacher <i>details below</i></p>	<p>Friday 7/31/20 5-6pm</p>
	<p>Virtual Q & 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>Early Release Each day of the first week</p>	<p>T-F 8/3-8/7 12:00 pm</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>



Virtual Meet the Teacher

Teachers are hosting a Virtual Meet The Teacher experience on Friday, July 31st, from 5-6pm. You will get an email from school with the link you will use to enter the virtual meeting. **Please be on the lookout on Friday morning for the link!**

Grade Level Teacher Teams vs. Classroom Teachers

During remote learning, we will be teaching in teams. Students will not be assigned to one teacher, they are assigned/connected to the entire teacher team at that grade level. This allows the teachers to more fully address the remote learning needs of students by having areas of specialty and focus. We also believe this gives our students more access to help when needed in small groups and individually. Additionally, it provides families more people to access when help is needed for computer support, subject area questions, and system issues. Teachers will more fully explain the way this might look for each grade during the Virtual Meet the Teacher experience.

School Hours

We will function during remote learning using our normal school hours based on the direction of the district. However, we feel it is best to not schedule any specific learning activities prior to 8:00am. 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. Detailed schedules by grade level will be shared during Virtual Meet the Teacher too. 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.

School Meals

School meals distribution for students enrolled in Mesa Public Schools will resume on August 4th at all school locations except Superstition, Riverview, SHARP, Mesa Academy and MCS at Jordan.

- Pick-up time is 11am-12:30pm, Monday-Friday. Students will receive two meals, lunch for the day and breakfast for the next.
- Meals can be picked up at any school location and 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.**
- The district will be operating the regular school meals program, so pricing policies are in effect.
- To promote cashless transactions, the food & nutrition department will encourage parents to submit payment through 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

Update the Office

If you know you are moving and/or leaving the Whittier school area, even during the summer months, please notify the office so we can plan for the 2020-2021 school year classes.

Whittier Staff Contact Information:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XJK1zecLoUEefdJNBb1IF6atOVFvzXK112eQ2dTg1v4/edit#gid=0>