



DESERT HILLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HAWK
EXPRESS**

Principal's Note

It's always fun to come back to school after a long summer to see the excitement and anticipation on the faces of the students and staff! Two years ago we started with a brand new school and 820 students! With all the growth in West Kennewick, however, we started out last year with over 860 students! So far this year we are at 911 students! Our new school is magnificent! We have plenty of space so our students don't feel crowded or rushed between classes, and even with all the growth in this part of town, we still don't need portables!

This year we will again be focusing on literacy skills, math skills, and improving the quality of instruction we deliver to students. Staff members will be attending weekly workshops and professional learning communities to analyze student data, adjust curriculum accordingly, create common assessments and work on improving their teaching skills and techniques.

The School Board has again asked us to increase the amount of time struggling students spend in math and reading classes. This year we have reading lab and math lab classes for students who score below the 30th percentile on their MAP (**M**asures of **A**cademic **P**rogress) Tests. Our goal is to help them achieve "catch-up" growth and be at grade level before they move on to the high school.

Parents will have access to their students' grades and assignments through the Parent Portal, which is not yet working. You will receive a letter with your student's password and instructions on how to use our Parent Portal. Also, every teacher has a computer in his or

her classroom. Please feel free to e-mail your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Teachers usually answer their e-mails within 24 hours.

I hope your child has a wonderful and productive school year in our beautiful new school! Desert Hills is truly an awesome place to be!

Steve Jones

Principal

Healthy Youth Survey Coming this Fall

The Kennewick School District is participating in the Washington 2018 Healthy Youth Survey from October 8-19. Students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 across the state will participate in the survey. Participation is voluntary and students' answers are anonymous.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Safety Alert!

Parents, we have received a call from a very concerned community member saying that students were crossing Clodfelter on the curve yesterday. Please talk with your students to ensure that they stay on the side of the road and only cross the streets with a cross walk.

attendance **MATTERS**

In middle school, consistent attendance makes a huge difference in your child's ability to succeed in school. Grades are based on the quality of turned in assignments. Follow the link below to learn some interesting facts about middle school attendance at school.

[10 Facts About School Attendance](#)

Get Involved

The PTO welcomes you to the new school year! Your board members this year are:

- President - Teri Fetherhoff
- Vice President - Michelle Myatt
- Treasurer/Volunteer Coordinator - Britt Han
- Secretary - Rikki Cook
- 6th grade representative - Kayla Miller/Melissa Behen
- 7th grade representative - Rikki Cook
- 8th grade representative - Angie Barilo

All meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month, also at 12:30 in the conference room. All are welcome!

We will be using Sign-Up again this year to request volunteers for a variety of events. Email requests from Sign-Up go directly to your inbox, so keep your eyes open for messages!

Our PTO Facebook page is "Desert Hills Middle School PTO." Be sure to "like" our page, so you can be up to date on PTO news.

Please consider coming to a meeting, volunteering or joining the PTO!

We would welcome business sponsorships for PTO-sponsored events including: Conferences Teacher Dinner, Hawk Trot, Jingle Bell Walk, 8th Grade Honors breakfast. If interested, email the address below.

Need to contact the PTO? We now have an email address!

PTOdeserthills@gmail.com.

PTO Fundraiser at Yogurt Beach

After the Student-Led Open House, join us for yogurt at Yogurt Beach! They'll be open until 9:00 pm. Desert Hills PTO will receive part of the proceeds all day on September 13.

Get to Know Kennewick Schools

You are invited to attend "Get to Know Kennewick Schools" on Friday, October 5, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Administration Center, 1000 W. 4th Avenue, Kennewick. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. This is an interactive half-day session showcasing Kennewick's instructional programs. If you'd like to attend, email ann.wilson@ksd.org and I'll make sure that you have a reserved spot. We need at least 10 parents to represent DHMS.

[LEARN MORE](#)

A Note from Nurse Katy

Students who need to have medication at school must have a "Medication at School" form completed from their doctor as well as the medication checked in with the nurse. Students are not allowed to carry any medication that has not been checked in by the nurse. Medication forms are available online at the KSD website if needed. If you have any questions or need assistance please e-mail katy.isley@ksd.org or call 509-222-6603. Thank you!

Clubs & Activities

FUN FUN FUNDRAISER

On September 7, students will come home with fundraising packets. This is the one fundraiser for the year that we do for the ASB. It provides for fun activities like assemblies, the Summer Blast off, and sports. This year we will be selling an ALL NEW money-saving coupon book, magazines, cookie and bread dough, and athletic water bottles. As your student sells product, please sign off when they have achieved each coupon level. The student will bring the (signed) coupon to lunch and receive prizes! We will also have class competition prizes. If your family is too busy to do the fundraiser, you can help by donating \$30.00 (which counts as 3 items sold). That will help the class, and allow your student to attend the Magic Show assembly later this year. Fundraiser ends September 20th. THANKS!

We also need Fun-Sized bags of candy for "DUCK FEEDINGS." If you'd like to donate, please drop off at DHMS office. THANKS!

HAWKS' NEST – SCHOOL STORE

STUDENT-LED OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 13th, is our Student Led Open House. During Open House students will:

- Give their parents a tour of the school
- Show their parents their locker, open it, and show how neat it is
- Show their parents where their classes are
- Show their parents their SLAM notebook and tell them how they'll be saving their best assignments to show them at conference time
- Introduce their parents to their teachers.

Because parking will be a problem, if your last name is between A and K, you and your student need to come between 6:00 and 6:45

If your last name is between L and Z, you and your student need to come between 6:45 and 7:30.

VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY

The Leadership Class will be putting together a tribute for the Veterans Day Assembly honoring service men

The student store is a wonderful place for students to volunteer and learn how a small business runs. Students are involved in inventory control, making cash deposits and selling items. All proceeds go to the DHMS ASB. The store sells snacks and student spirit wear as well as basic school supplies.

The store is open: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 2:35 to 2:50 pm and Wednesday from 1:10 to 1:20 pm.

The store only accepts cash and checks for the exact amount. If you have any questions please contact the Store Advisor, michele.maxson@ksd.org or call 222-6600.

and women from our Desert Hills family. The tribute will be played during the Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 9th starting at 1:00 pm. Family of Desert Hills' students are welcome to attend the assembly, just check into the office before going to the gym. If you would like to submit a photo of your family member who is or was a member of the armed forces, please send the photo of them in uniform to: Mrs. Murphy at kim.murphy@ksd.org or bring it to room 221 before 1st period. Photos will be accepted until noon, Monday, November 5th. Information needed with the photo: (1) Name, rank, and branch of the military of the person in the photo and (2) Name and grade of person at Desert Hills and how they are related to the person in the photo.

Reminders

- **DRESS CODE:** Please remember that a student's dress or appearance clothing must be modest and without unnecessary exposure. The Dress Code can be found in your student's planner and at: <http://deserthills.ksd.org/>. We are trying to create a positive, respectful and appropriate place to come to school. We do enforce dress code - parents will be called. Thanks for your help!
- DHMS LOVES **Box Tops** - keep clipping them
- **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT.** Click on this link to read about your privacy rights. <https://www.ksd.org/District/About/Notifications>. Click on "Notifications." The notification is a PDF.

Important Dates

September 12, 19, 26

Early Release Wednesdays at 1:10 pm.

September 10-14 Fall MAP testing

September 13

6:00-7:30 pm Student Led Open House

September 7-19

FUN FUN FUNDRAISER!

Assembly on September 6.
Sales through September 20.

September 21 - Professional Day

No school.

October 5

Get to Know Kennewick Schools

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Contact our office to sign up to represent DHMS. Everyone is welcome.

Desert Hills Middle School | 1701 S. Clodfelter Road, Kennewick, WA 99338

(509) 222-6600 | deserthills.ksd.org

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