



# Hawk News

September Newsletter

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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! Three years ago we started with a brand new school and 820 students! With all the growth in West Kennewick, however, we ended last year with just over 900 students! So far this year we are at 930 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!

You have a wonderful opportunity to see our magnificent school by attending your child's **Open House** on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30! Your

child brought home a letter outlining Open House during the first week of school.

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.

Parents have access to their students' grades and assignments through the Parent Portal. You should have already received 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.

Also, all of our sixth graders will be issued Chromebooks this year! Sixth grade parents will receive more information in a week or two.

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

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## OPEN HOUSE

Please join us on **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** for a **STUDENT LED OPEN HOUSE** from **6:00-7:30 p.m.** The purpose of Open House is to:

- have your child show you his or her locker
- have your child introduce you to her or his teachers
- have your child give you a tour of our beautiful campus

- have your child show you the Computer Lab in the Library where there will be an ongoing Parent Portal demonstration

Our Open House will follow a “drop-in” format. This is a time for introductions only. **If you have in-depth questions you need answered, we ask that you schedule a conference with the teacher at a later time.** Because parking will be a problem, we are asking parents to please stagger their arrival times as follows:

### **Open House Schedule**

**A – K          6:00-6:45**

**L – Z          6:45-7:30**

Please bring a copy of your child’s class schedule so that you’ll have a list of your child’s teachers and room numbers. See you on September 12<sup>th</sup>!

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## **Sportsmanship**

Desert Hills Middle School is known for its tremendous school spirit, a spirit that is noted by anyone who visits the school or attends one of its athletic contests! As the players on the field or court have a responsibility to do their very best, so also do the fans in the stands. Fan support is best when it is positive; it should also be good-natured and sportsmanlike. Booing, taunting or deriding an opposing player, fan or a game official has no place at Desert Hills.

During sporting events, all spectators need to remain in the viewing area. Hallways, the area behind the bleachers, and the cafeteria are off limits during athletic contests. We welcome all spectators to our sporting events and appreciate your efforts to set a good example for our students by exhibiting awesome sportsmanship!

## Clubs & Activities

**Veteran's Day Assembly** The Leadership Class is putting together a tribute for the Veterans Day Assembly honoring service men and women from our Desert Hills family. The tribute will be played during the Veterans Day Assembly on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kim.murphy@ksd.org) or bring it to room 221 before 1<sup>st</sup> period. Photos will be accepted until noon, Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Information needed with the photo;

- Name, rank, and branch of the military of the person in the photo
- Name and grade of person at Desert Hills and how they are related to the person in the photo.

**Homework Room** Homework room is starting on September 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:35-3:15pm and Wednesday's from 7:00-7:40 AM in room 108.

**Natural Helpers -Collecting BoxTops** You can clip BoxTops and send them in or scan them from home at BTFE.com .

## Reminders

**Crosswalk Etiquette:** Please leave room on each side of the crosswalks around our school. Cars are stopping in and/or too close to the crosswalks.

**Chromebooks for 6th Graders:** DHMS 6th graders will be checked out a Chromebook for school use sometime in the near future. Be sure to have

your PowerSchool account up to date for access to the Parent Permission Form and insurance options.

**Fundraiser Begins:** September 17th! Ask your students to share the information packet with you!

**ASB Meeting:** Wednesday, September 18 from 1:15- 2:00. All ASB representatives will meet in in the library for our first meeting.

## Upcoming Events

### **September 12**

Open House 6:00-7:30

### **September 17-October 1**

All-School Fundraiser - Please ask your students to share the information packet with you!

### **October 24th**

Fall Band Concert at 6:00pm in the DHMS Gym.

October

28

Fall

Choir Concert at 6:00pm in the Kamiakin Auditorium.

### **October 29th**

Fall Orchestra Concert at 5:30pm in the DHMS Cafeteria.

Desert Hills Middle School  
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