"Together We Make A Difference!"

Dear Villa de Paz Elementary Families,

Happy New Year Dustdevils! Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and has had a good start to the New Year! As we embark on a new year, we are looking forward to setting new goals for the year. One goal we would like students to set for themselves is in the area of academics. Students should consider present academic levels and set a goal to grow to the next proficiency levels both in Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Our school goal for the new year is improving our student attendance. We would like to challenge parents in assisting us with making sure that students are at school on time and here everyday.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

To help your child achieve the most from school, he or she must maintain high attendance.

Here are a few helpful tips for parents:

- Ensure that your child arrives at school on time and avoids leaving early.
- Both may disrupt the teaching and learning process.
- Today’s lessons depend on understanding yesterday’s instructions.
- Schedule doctor and dentist appointments in the beginning/end of the day or on a day when students are out of school early (like early release Wednesdays).
- Communicate your child’s absence. Please use the attendance line at 623-772-2515.
- Monitor your child’s attendance.
- There are 180 school days. Families are encouraged to take vacation during the holidays, winter and/or spring breaks.

Be here on time. School starts at 7:55 for breakfast. Students arriving after 8:10 are considered late. Tardies are a huge disruption to the school environment.

Thank you for helping us with our school attendance. As always, if you have any questions regarding attendance, please feel free to contact myself or Ms. Gayden.

Respectfully,

Abraham Gonzalez
Principal
How to Prevent Bullying

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.

Keep the lines of communication open. Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.

Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.

Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.

Kids who know what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

Encourage kids to speak to a trusted adult if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support, and advice, even if they can’t solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to report bullying if it happens.

Talk about how to stand up to kids who bully. Give tips, like using humor and saying “stop” directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don’t work, like walking away.

Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.

Counselor’s Corner

School Counselor’s Role

Counseling services include individual, group, and whole classroom presentations. Please contact Mr. Akinniyi if you would like more information, or to refer your child for counseling services.

Here are some facts about kids and drug use: Forty percent of U.S. teens say they expect to use a drug in the future. One out of every five kids in eighth grade has already tried marijuana. Use of substances such as marijuana and inhalants can result in social consequences (e.g., failing in school) and physical consequences such as reduced stamina and fitness or damage to the lungs and brain. Teens who smoke cigarettes are more likely to drink alcohol. Teens who smoke and drink are more likely to use marijuana. And those who use all three are more likely to use other illicit drugs. Long-term studies show that use of other illicit drugs among youth almost never occurs unless they have first used marijuana. Talk to your child NOW about the risks of drug use.

Mr. Akinniyi, Villa de Paz Counselor
Phone: 623-772-2490
aakinniyi@pesd92.org
School Nurse Information

Most school nurses agree: The best way to keep students healthy during the school year is to make sure they wash their hands.

When asked "What's the most important thing teachers can do to help keep students healthy during the school year?" even more school nurses recommended hand washing:

- 73% said teachers should encourage proper hygiene and hand washing, and keep desks and classrooms clean
- 12% said teachers should be role models to their students for healthy behaviors
- 3% said teachers should send students home or to the nurse's office as soon as students say they feel sick or show signs of illness
- 3% said teachers need to watch for signs of stress
Students should not be on campus before 7:50 am as we do not have teachers on duty. Return home immediately after school. There is no supervision on the playground after school. Discuss and practice a safe route to and from school.

School Information

Mission: Empowering students for the choices and challenges of the 21st century.

Vision: Developing future global leaders

Office Hours: 7:30-4:00 pm., Monday - Friday.

Attendance Line: (623) 772-2515. Use this number to report student absences.

CLOSED CAMPUS: Villa De Paz Elementary School is a closed campus. We appreciate your help with our school procedures to ensure safety and maximize learning time during the day.

Mornings: The gate facing Mariposa Street will be open 7:55-8:10 am for all students. Any student arriving at school after 8:10 am will need to enter through the school office.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch is free for all students.

Dismissal: Kindergarten release is at 3:05 pm. All other students are released at 3:10 pm. Avoid signing students out 30 minutes prior to dismissal of school.

Closed Campus: Due to mitigation, visitors are not allowed on campus without district-level approval.

Student Safety: Student safety must be a priority. We recommend you discuss safety precautions with your child.
- Students should not be on campus before 7:50 am as we do not have teachers on duty.
- Return home immediately after school.
- There is no supervision on the playground after school.
- Discuss and practice a safe route to and from school.

Villa de Paz Elementary School is proud to now offer low-cost before and after-school care for students. Our program runs from 6am to 6pm during the before and after school hours for current Villa de Paz students. There are first-come-first-serve scholarships available, as well as a sliding fee scale based on income. Please call 623-772-2490 or visit pesd92.org for more information or to register.

Covid-19 Mitigation Plan
Pendergast School District regularly updates our district Covid-19 Mitigation plan to reflect CDC and WHO guidelines for a safe return to school. Please see our website www.pesd92.org for the updated plan.
VDP PRE-K
MRS. KUCLER'S "PAJAMA DAY"
PRE-K MRS. FRANCO'S "CANDY CANE HOUSES"