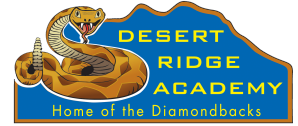




# Desert Ridge Academy

JANUARY 2021 | ISSUE 4

THE DIAMONDBACK NEWSLETTER



**Dr. Jessica Mendoza, Principal**

## Principal's Message:

Happy New Year DRA Community. We have endured the tribulations and uncertainties of 2020 and we are stronger because of it. Today, I celebrate our many accomplishments and successes despite the challenges, and I look forward to a healthy, peaceful, joyful and successful 2021. Thank you for all that each of you have done to make this school year positively memorable and successful. May we continue to love and support each other during these difficult times.

Congratulations to the 351 students who will be receiving an academic award this wednesday afternoon and to the many others who will be receiving an award for their wonderful character during the rally. Way to go Diamondbacks!

Our character focus of the month is COMMITMENT. DRA is committed to help our students be successful by meeting the needs of the whole child: social emotional, behavior and academic needs. Please know we will continue to provide support for our students. If your child needs additional assistance, we have mentors that will help. Do not hesitate to reach out, we are here for you.

## Important Information:

**STUDENT TRANSFER WINDOW:** Desert Sands Unified School District office of Child Welfare and Attendance will begin taking school transfers for the school year 2021-2022, starting December 3, 2020 through February 26, 2021. Please read important information on [this](#) letter. To apply for a transfer you may visit the Desert Sands Unified School District website and click on Student Transfer Request and this will take you to the website of [www.k12transfers.com](http://www.k12transfers.com)

**GET YOUR PICTURES IN THE YEARBOOK:** This is a year like no other, but at Desert Ridge Academy we are committed to continuing a rich educational experience for all of our students. Part of that is capturing the memories and stories of every student at DRA for our 2021 yearbook. The yearbook students have been hard at work putting together

all the pages--but we need your help! By submitting the photos directly to [Jostens](#), we have the highest quality photos to use. Thank you for partnering with us to get all the memories of the year into our yearbook. The last day to submit your photo is December 31, 2020.

### **PARENTVUE AND STUDENTVUE:**

Please see instructions [here](#). **Important reminder for Parents/Guardians new to ParentVue:** To create an account, you need an activation key that will be provided to you by the school.

**PROOF OF TDAP:** If you have not submitted your 7th grade student's proof of TDAP, it is very important that you submit it to our office. Once Hybrid Learning begins, your child **must** have it turned in prior to coming on campus. You may turn in a copy of your child's immunization record to our office via the library windows or you may use this bit.ly to upload your child's proof: <https://bit.ly/3hXspDr>

**DSUSD: BACK TO SCHOOL 2020/21:** Please visit the DSUSD website [here](#) to read the most updated information for Back to School 2020/21.

### **DSUSD'S Employee Recognition:**

Desert Sands Unified School District has Incredibly Talented staff. You can see it through our values. Here's a chance to recognize a staff member that has IT. [Submit a staff recognition today!](#)

### **ATTENDANCE DURING DISTANCE LEARNING:**

DSUSD & DRA would love to help families understand school attendance during distance learning. Please see the following [flyer](#). If you have questions, please call our office at 760.393.5500





### MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING:

[Family Tips](#) & [Family Activities](#)

### ARTICLES AND PARENTING ADVICE:

Please see link below for good parenting tips and advice. [Common Sense Media](#).

**COVID-19:** [Resources](#) and how to protect yourself and others.

### Month At A Glance

- 1/4** · 1st day back to school
- 1/6** · 2nd Quarter Rally - Video Games Theme
- 1/6** · 2nd Quarter Drive Through Academic Awards
- 1/12** · Board of Education Meeting
- 1/13** · Rotation Day
- 1/14** · PTO Meeting via zoom ([join meeting](#))
- 1/18** · No School - Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 1/22** · No School- Staff Professional Development Day
- 1/25** · Native American Ed - Virtual Meeting

**\*Every Friday is Spirit Day\***

**Student Newsletter:** Please find all of our student newsletters in [this](#) folder.

**Registration Packet:** Online registration is now closed. Please stop by the library windows during [office hours](#) to pick up a Registration Packet if you did not get a chance to complete the registration online.

**AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT:** We have a variety of programs available to support our students, please sign up [here](#) to receive more information.

**MEAL APPLICATIONS:** There is still time to apply. Please remember that meal applications are required, you can go to [www.schoollunchapp.com](http://www.schoollunchapp.com) to submit your application or you may pick up an application at the library windows.

**Mi-Fi:** If you checked out a Mi-Fi and you no longer need it, please return it to the library at your earliest convenience.

**MONTHLY DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES** for Family Engagement provided by Common Sense Education. Working together, schools and families can prepare kids to think critically and use technology in positive, creative, and powerful ways. We invite you to out the resources on the link above

**COMMON SENSE FAMILY MEDIA AGREEMENT:** Please complete this form by the end of November. The form must be reviewed along with your child to learn

