



July 29, 2018

Dear Desert Meadows Families:

The safety and well-being of our students is of the utmost importance for us at Desert Meadows. We are always looking for ways in which we can make our campus a safer place for our children. I appreciate the many suggestions I receive from students, parents, and staff members on ways in which we can increase campus safety and security.

A common suggestion we have received from across the district is to keep Laveen campuses closed before school. This practice will be implemented starting this August. Traditionally, the campus has been closed during school hours but visitors have been permitted to freely enter the campus before and after school. Closing the campus before the opening bell will allow us to gain a better understanding of who is visiting our campus.

The first two days of school (August 6th and August 7th), we will have an open campus from 7:30 to 8:00 to accommodate late registration and allow parents to assist their children in finding their new classrooms. Beginning August 8th (the third day of school), only Desert Meadows students and visitors who have formally checked through the office will be permitted to enter our campus. Staff members will be stationed at the entry gates checking students for their ID. Parents and guardians must check in with the front office, just as we do during the school day, and obtain a visitor badge in exchange for their driver's license or other legal identification. Visitors must also check out and return the visitor badge to the office when they leave.

We welcome you to continue joining your child for breakfast in the cafeteria, or picking your child up at the end of the day, but feel it is necessary to know exactly who is on our campus at any given time.

This action is not the result of a specific situation, but rather a response to suggestions from across the Laveen district on ways to make our campuses more secure. All Laveen schools will be moving to a closed campus model for the 2018-2019 school year.

As always, please contact me with any questions you may have.

J.P. Ketcham, Principal

Desert Meadows School – Where we stay on T.R.A.C.K.

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