

# Desert Sky Middle School

## November 2020

### Letter from the Principal

Dear Desert Sky Parents and Families,

Welcome back! There is always some excitement when we come back to school during the beautiful month of October. I hope the first week back has gone smoothly, and that this letter finds you healthy and safe.

As a reminder, we ask that everyone is diligent about doing home wellness checks. If your child or other members of the household have any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not send them to school. Please remember that students will not be penalized for absences and can participate in classes remotely while out. Please notify our attendance clerk at 879-2702. We appreciate your diligence in helping to keep our students and staff safe.

During the fall break, we had the opportunity to interview many highly qualified applicants for the open Assistant Principal position. I am excited and honored to welcome Lisa Scott to our Cougar family as our Assistant Principal. Mrs. Scott began her time in the district as a parent volunteer and quickly became interested in teaching. She has served our district for the past ten years in a multitude of roles including teaching, leadership, and as an instructional coach. Her dedication to students, strong work ethic, and heart will make her a wonderful addition to our school.

On another note, I want to thank the following individuals who will be volunteering their time as members of the 2020-2021 Desert Sky Site Council.

*Natascha Blum - Parent*  
*Erin Dunbar - Parent*  
*Brian Dunbar - Parent*  
*Meridy Twilling - Parent*  
*Sheri Aken - Certified Staff*  
*Kristi Hill - Certified Staff*  
*Karleene Talley - Classified Staff*

As always, thank you for your partnership as we provide our students with a positive and rewarding experience at Desert Sky Middle School.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Marsh  
Principal  
520-879-2704  
[marshr@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:marshr@vailschooldistrict.org)

### Upcoming Events

**October 26 - November 29, 2020**  
NJHS Canned Food Drive

**November 3, 2020**  
Election Day  
Impact Aid Due

**November 4, 2020**  
Full Day of School/Half Day CANCELLED

**November 10, 2020**  
Governing Board Meeting

**November 11, 2020**  
No School - Veteran's Day

**November 24 - November 26, 2020**  
Thanksgiving Break - No School



## PTO News

Hi Cougar Families!

This has definitely been a very different period of time that we have found ourselves in! Where we used to gather together for laughs and giggles while putting things together for the school or kids, we now have Zoom meetings from our homes/offices and miss those hugs and faces of our awesome PTO members. Volunteering is very different this year, and a lot of our functions have either been put on hold or are having to be revamped to keep everyone safe. We recently had a Sign Up Genius for our "Parent/Teacher Conferences" asking for donations of items needed to make our Teacher's Luncheon a success. It would not have been as successful without our awesome PTO members and Volunteers. I would like to give a "Shout Out" to those who contributed: Vicki Williams-Potter, Sabrina Gonzales, Limarys Torres, Kiki Ngo, Nancy Davis, Danielle Sprenger, Jennifer Adams, Shirli Ward, Tanya Ribald, and Lisa Higgins! Thank you to Mimi Thomas and Joseph Petruk for coming in and helping set up the stations for the teachers to "Grab and Go" their lunches. Without our awesome PTO members and volunteers, we wouldn't be the school we are today.

Have you ever wondered, how can I - insert your name here- help with fundraising, support of our awesome staff, and meet lifelong friends? Your chance is here! In the next PTO meeting, we will be accepting candidates and nominations for positions on the PTO board. Before you balk, let me tell you that it is not the same PTO that you belonged to in elementary school. The fundraisers are fairly simple and are not the marathons that are the norm in elementary school.

So here's your chance to make an impact. If you are considering putting your name in the hat, or know someone that you think would do a great job at it, plan on attending our next Zoom meeting, or drop me a line and I will get your name in. The election will be held in December, so that our current President, Vicki Williams-Potter, our current VP, Roxana Samiengo, our current Secretary, Kristi Mooney and our current Treasurer, Patti House can give their words of wisdom for the new board members.

Joining our PTO is simple. Membership is \$10 per person, \$8 for two or more in the same family. Go to the following Square page and follow the directions to sign up.

<https://dsms-pto.square.site>

Our next PTO meeting is November 4th at 4:30pm. Please keep an eye out for the Zoom link info.

On another note, we have some cool NASA inspired DSMS swag available in the front office. Pop Sockets are \$10 and waterproof vinyl stickers are only \$1. Please see below.

Please feel free to message us on Facebook or email us at [desertskypto@gmail.com](mailto:desertskypto@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

Your PTO Board,

Vicki Williams-Potter  
Roxana Samaniego  
Kristi Mooney  
Patti House

# Daily Home Health Screening Checklist

## Congratulations - National Junior Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into the Desert Sky Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The applicants were invited to apply based on their grades from the 2019-2020 school year. They then completed an application detailing how they represent the five ideals of NJHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character. A formal induction ceremony will take place once full in-person schooling resumes.

Alana Alva  
Jaycob Anderson  
Haleigh Askew  
Mikayla Asti  
Linnea Ballesteros  
Naima Barbuzon  
Nikolas Bejarano  
Aiden Berg  
Nolan Black  
Sadie Borgogna  
Chelsea Brower  
Dominic Cadena  
Isaiah Cadena  
Brady Carey  
Dylan Carroll  
Hailey Carty  
Jacob Chaney  
Kiyah Chavez  
Anna Cheatham  
Mia Cisneros  
Jacob D'Auria  
Mia Bella Davis  
Aymee Diaz  
Ashlynn Everett  
Zoé Fajardo  
Jillian Foley  
Keira Freeborn  
Abigail Garcia  
Angelica Gonzalez  
Gabriel Gonzalez  
Keegan Goodall  
Lucas Hager  
Jon Harms  
Mikel Haugen  
Jasmine Hellpap  
Marissa Hendrych  
Adrienne Howard  
Curtis Hunter III  
Timothy Edmund Ignacio  
Madison Iliff  
Hailey Kohler  
Adrianna Lee  
Jillian Marsalek  
Nevaeh Martinez-Stoe  
JC Mayfield  
Sydney Miller  
Angel Molina  
Sophia Mooney  
Cameron Moore  
Alayna Morales  
Alyssa Na Bangchang

Sebastian Nightingale  
Daniel Noyce  
Riley Oliver  
Rylee Ottersbach  
Jessica Parker  
Akira Pascual  
Regina Perez  
Samantha Pineda  
Kaitlyn Plaga  
Morgan Ragan  
Camila Robles  
Mateus Rodrigues Trierweiler  
Avery Schmidt  
Jaylen Sherfield  
Chloe Smallwood  
Tyler Sorenson  
Cedric Supomo  
Paxton Tanksley  
Bibiana Tanori  
Riley Thomas  
Dallin Tripp  
Elizabeth Tyndall  
Viviana Vera  
Logan Waide  
Sophia Wenzel  
Olivia Whitehurst  
Ivy Wilson  
Jacqueline Wolff  
Lilly Yager  
Johnathan Zaccanti

## **National Junior Honor Society - Canned Food Drive**

National Junior Honor Society is proud to once again sponsor our annual canned food drive. Our drive runs from Monday, 10/26 - Thursday, 11/19. Non-perishable food items and cash donations can be sent to school with hybrid students, or dropped off in the front office for remote students. Please let the office know your student's advisory teacher if items are dropped off. Our donations benefit St. Rita's Church, which provides hundreds of baskets for families in the Vail community during the holidays. Please help us continue this important tradition. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Vera at [verak@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:verak@vailschooldistrict.org).

## **Vail Pride Day Nominations**

Are you feeling proud and grateful for your neighborhood school, teacher, paraprofessional, front office staff etc. Please join us in nominating for Teacher of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, or Rookie of the Year at [vailprideday.org](http://vailprideday.org). All links will close on October 30th.

# **Vail Pride Day February 20, 2021**

**All links for nominations are now open!**

Take a few moments to recognize and appreciate a staff member or volunteer!

## **Nominate Someone Today for....**

Rookie of the Year

Support Staff of the Year

Teacher of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

[vailprideday.org](http://vailprideday.org)

Links will close on November 6, 2020.

### **Federal Impact Aid Forms Information**

#### **IMPORTANT!!**

#### **Desert Sky Parents Please Read**

**Federal Impact Aid forms will be available ONLINE Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.**

**You will receive an email from our District Office on the above date.**

The online form was created to make the process easier & faster for our busy lives.

- **The Vail School District must receive an annual signed survey from ALL parents or guardians for EACH student in order to receive credit.**
- **It is important that ALL parents or guardians complete this form, even if you are not active duty military or a civilian working on federal property, on or after October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
- **In order for our District to meet the filing deadline, we need to have all online forms completed no later than November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 even if your employment does not fall within the categories listed on the survey.**

#### **Here are the step by step instructions:**

Please go to the PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://ps.vail.k12.az.us/public/>. Once logged in to your PowerSchool parent account:

1. Select the student you wish to submit the survey for along the top

2. Select the Federal Impact Aid survey icon on the lower left side of the screen
3. Agree to the terms and conditions
4. Click "Begin Survey"
5. Please answer all questions marked with a red asterisk (\*)
6. Once you've answered all the questions you will then click "Submit". This will ensure all your information has been filled out and submitted to the school.

**If you have not set up a parent account, can not remember your username or password please call me at 520-879-2705 or via email at [bruynm@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:bruynm@vailschooldistrict.org) We can locate your username and reset your password immediately.**

Thank you so much for your immediate attention.  
It is very important that we receive a survey for every student whether you qualify or not!!

Federal Impact Aid forms **translate into dollars for our school.**

## **Thank You Rita Ranch Automotive and Tire**

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Rita Ranch Automotive and Tire for their tremendous support! It is greatly appreciated!

We hope you have enjoyed the November issue of the Cougar Call. Please be on the lookout for further issues in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

DSMS News Crew

## **DSMS Contacts**

### **Front Office Numbers**

**Principal**  
Rebecca Marsh  
879-2704

**Assistant Principal**  
Lisa Scott  
879-2715

**Front Office**  
879-2702

**Attendance**  
879-2602

### **Site Council**

Natascha Blum - Parent  
Erin Dunbar - Parent  
Brian Dunbar - Parent  
Meridy Twilling - Parent  
Sheri Aken - Certified Staff  
Kristi Hill - Certified Staff  
Karleene Talley - Classified Staff

### **PTO Board**

Vicki Williams-Potter  
Roxana Samiengo  
Kristi Mooney  
Patti House

## **Quick Links**

**DSMS Website**

**2020-2021 Calendar**

**Vail School District**

**PowerSchool**

**Tax Credits**

**VSD Transportation**

Desert Sky Middle School | 520-879-2700 | 9850 E. Rankin Loop Tucson, AZ 85747  
Office Hours: 7:30 - 3:30