



# DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

*Home of the Scorpions • The higher we climb, the better the view!*

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**Shannon Gray**  
**Principal**

**May 2025**

**Joelle Jasper**  
**Assistant Principal**

Hello, DF Families!

Happy May! It's hard to believe we've reached the final month of the school year. This is a time filled with celebration, reflection, and anticipation as we prepare to close out another successful year together.

We are so proud of all that our students have accomplished so far, and we encourage them to stay focused and finish the year strong. May is a busy month filled with end-of-year activities, celebrations, and important milestones, especially for our eighth-grade students as they prepare for promotion.

We will be sharing detailed information about upcoming events, including promotion ceremonies and year-end celebrations, so please be sure to check your emails and school communication regularly.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Your partnership has played a vital role in the success of our students, and we are grateful to have such a dedicated school community.

Do you follow us on Facebook and now Instagram? This is a great way to stay connected to the campus, stay informed with information about upcoming events, and see what fabulous things are going on in our classrooms!

Instagram: desertfoothills\_wesd

Facebook: Desert Foothills Junior High

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

- Phone Number: 602-896-5500
- Email: [shannon.gray@wesdschools.org](mailto:shannon.gray@wesdschools.org)

Thank you for your time, efforts and partnership with DF!

Go, Scorpions!

Shannon Gray

**Eighth Grade**  
**End-of-Year Activities**  
**Castle N' Coasters Field**  
**Trip: Tuesday, May 13**  
**Promotion Dance:**  
**Wednesday, May 14,**  
**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Eighth grade promotion is**  
**Tuesday, May 20. It will be**  
**held in the Desert Foothills**  
**gymnasium.**

**Team Eclipse & Team Suns**  
**9:15 a.m.**  
**Team Phoenix & Team**  
**Wolves**  
**10:45 a.m.**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 20**  
**Early release 2:30 p.m.**



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org)

Governing Board: Kyle Clayton, President • Lindsey Peterson, Vice President  
Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Member • Bill Adams, Member • Tamillia Gosa-Chapa, Member

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

**Congratulations to these  
soccer players.**

**MVP Santiago Torres Magallon**

**Most Improved Player**

**Xavier Reyes**

**TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT,  
WHO DO WE APPRECIATE!**

**Principal Appreciation Day: May 1**

**School Nurse Day:**

**May 7**

**Teacher Appreciation Week:**

**May 5 – May 9**

**Only a couple of weeks left to pre-order your DF 2025 yearbook. There will be some available for purchase after yearbook distribution day on May 15. The yearbook can be pre-ordered for \$35, turn order form into Mr. Drewis in room B-118 or you can purchase online at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com)**

**Events in May  
for students**

**End-of-the year assembly: May 13**

**Eighth graders placement testing  
at Greenway H.S.  
May 14**

Summer School is here! To claim your spot, please register by May 16. Classes will be held May 27-June 19, 7:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Tuesday-Friday during week one and Monday- Thursday weeks two through four.

### ***Why Level Up This Summer?***

- Completely **FREE!**
- Still a chance to **enjoy the summer** with a half day schedule just four days a week for 4-weeks
- Taught by **passionate, certified WESD teachers** will provide fun and hands-on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), Reading, and Youth Development learning opportunities- at no cost!
- Focus on **boosting students' reading abilities**
- **Free breakfast and lunch** will be provided daily. Space is very limited- plan to have your child attend all Fifteen days of the summer program
- This is an opportunity to be on the campus they will attend next year and **build relationships with students dedicated staff**
- The WESD Summer Program is part of a national network, the District Summer Learning Network (DSLNN), whose goal is to maximize the tremendous potential of summer learning programs to **promote student well-being**

We look forward to sharing this Unlocking the Magical World of Reading with your child!

**REGISTER HERE**



## Coming Soon: New School-to-Home Communication Tool, ParentSquare

We are excited to announce that the WESD will be using a new platform for school-to-home communication called ParentSquare. This unified communications platform is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourage greater engagement and connection with WESD and your child's/children's school(s). It provides a safe way for District administrators, school principals, teachers, staff and parents to:

- Send and receive school and class information
- Share pictures and files
- See calendar items
- Sign up to volunteer
- Schedule parent/guardian/teacher conferences
- and much more . . . all in one centralized place!

Be sure to watch for more information about how to activate your account, download the app and resources for using ParentSquare!

Congrats to the following students Colton F., Sophia H., Rayne J., Evander K., Lily-Ann R., and Victoria A. who placed first and third place in the Mid-Level Art Showcase on April 24. I appreciate all the parents and family members that could make it to highlight their Desert Foothills artist. It was a great evening! Be sure to look on the WESD website for pictures from the event.



**2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR  
STARTS MONDAY,  
AUGUST 4**

**WESD is hiring! Visit  
[jobs.wesdschools.org](https://jobs.wesdschools.org)**

It is the Mission of Desert Foothills School to ensure high levels of learning for each student. Through mutual respect within the total school community, our children will grow and learn in a positive atmosphere where staff, students, and parents together are enthusiastic about the teaching and learning process.