



July, 2022

Dear HAW Community,

Get ready for an **EPIC** year at Horizon Academy West Charter School!

As we begin this new year together, we proudly celebrate our 20th year as a premier Charter School in the greater Albuquerque area. We plan to celebrate this milestone throughout the school year with some special events and activities. And in case you did not see the US News and World Report Elementary School Rankings for 2021...we are ranked #39 for Elementary Schools in NM AND #2 for Elementary Charter Schools in NM! Now that is quite an accomplishment. Thank you for choosing HAW and for sharing your child(ren) with us each day.

We are working to keep our Website updated with the latest information and updates. Check the Website for the school supply list, dress code, and school calendar. We have some new faces on our team, so our staff page will be updated within the next week or so. For your convenience, here are a few important reminders and dates.

- **August 3; 12:30-3:30: Meet and Greet Open House.** Join us for an informal afternoon to meet your child's teacher, meet our staff, and drop off school supplies. **IMPORTANT FOR NEW STUDENTS:** please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record. We ask that you begin in the cafeteria. We will have signs posted and staff available if you are new to us. Choose a time convenient for your family between 12:30 and 3:30 and allow about 30 minutes. And don't forget to grab an ice cream treat in the cafeteria.
- **August 4; 7:45-3:30: First Day of School for K-5!** It will be an EPIC day!

We ask that all families fill out the FREE and REDUCED lunch application each year. Even if you do not think you will qualify or take advantage of this, please take some time to fill out the application. This helps our program with additional funding each year. The application is available online on our Website under the Resources Tab and then select Cafeteria. You will also need to set up an account in MY SCHOOL BUCKS (same tab under the application). This is where you will add funds on your child's lunch account. We will have our cafeteria manager, Carlita Yazzie, available at the Meet and Greet to help and answer any questions. You may also use our computers to set up your account and fill out the application at the Meet and Greet.

Teachers officially begin the year on August 1. Some may reach out to you within the next week, but if you do not hear from anyone, do not worry. Your child has been placed on a class list and you will meet your child's teacher at the Meet and Greet. Thank you for your patience.

We understand that many of you rely on our CREW program for after school care. We will send out that information as soon as possible with registration and fee information. Unfortunately, spaces are limited and are dependent on staffing. The good news is that we are able to accommodate more than during the pandemic. We do have a few names of daycares that will pick up from our school if this becomes an issue. Thank you for your patience and if you have any concerns, please reach out to us.

We are also finalizing our Before Care program. This is more limited than CREW. It is a free service that begins at 7:15 am. We will send out more information as soon as possible. All other students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:35.

Communication is extremely important to me. Please feel free to reach out via phone, email, or in person throughout the year. There is always a solution or a compromise to be found. I just ask that you follow the chain of command. Always start with your child's teacher when there is an issue. Most things can be solved at that level. And we love to hear the good things too! We post a newsletter each Thursday for your information. We send automated phone calls and texts for quick reminders and emails for longer updates. If you are not receiving updates each week, please give us a call and we can check your contact information.

Again, we know you have many choices for your child's education and we are grateful that you chose Horizon Academy West. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to an EPIC year!

Respectfully,

Carissa Cantrell

Director (which is a fancy name for Superintendent and Principal for those that are new to us)

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