



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome from our Interim Principal

July 30, 2019

Dear HDMS Parent Community,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! My name is Tammie Stockton and I am thrilled and honored to be back working with the HDMS community as the **Interim Principal**. For those of you who do not know me, this is my 9th year with HDMS where I was the principal for 7 years, retiring in 2018 after 35 years in education. During my time as the HDMS principal, I attended several Montessori administrative conferences and trainings as well as worked with Montessori consultants. I remain committed to the mission and vision of HDMS where every child has access to a high quality Montessori education.

In taking on the position as interim principal, I recognize that the events of this last spring created a divide within the HDMS community. My goal in moving forward is to recognize, repair and put steps in place to move the school in a positive forward direction.

High Desert Montessori Charter School is beginning its' 17th year as a school community! During this time we have grown from 40 to 400 students, sent many teachers to Montessori training through AMI and AMS, purchased 3 properties, installed solar arrays and continue to have waiting lists of families wanting to join our school community. This next year will be a time of reflection as our charter renewal is due with WCSD and the facilities committee is getting closer to our dream of having a unified campus with the sale of the Orovada building and renovation of the 3 story building.

In addition to the returning teachers, we would like to welcome Nia Alvarez-Padilla to middle school math, Olivia Meyer to upper elementary, Kelly Ryder to lower elementary, Claudia Dammen to primary, and Chrislyn Barragan to special education. Eric Perez is also returning as part time middle school science and part time dean of students.

The heart and soul of all we do is believing in Montessori principles. This includes creating a beautiful school environment, delivery of Montessori focused lessons and maintaining behaviors of grace, courtesy, and peacefulness through our actions. I am confident in our ability as a team to ensure this happens for our students, parents, and each other.

At this time we are posting 2 positions; part-time school counselor and full time dean/interventionist. In addition, we have a few assistant positions still available. Please contact Sherrie Jordan at sherrie@hdmsreno.com if you know anyone interested in joining our team.

I have always maintained an open door policy and pride myself on being an accessible and visible school leader. **Together we will be "Movin' and Groovin'" into the 2019-2020 school year!**

Sincerely,
Tammie Stockton, MaEd
Interim Principal
High Desert Montessori Charter School
principal@hdmsreno.com

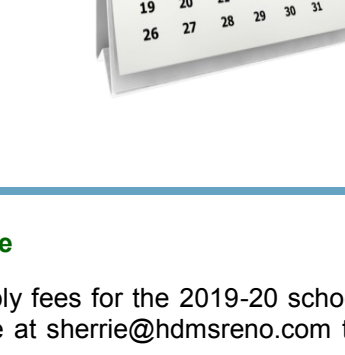
Change to Bell Schedule 2019-20

Our bell schedule is changing. Please take note of our new program hours for the 2019-20 school year.

Primary Program:
School Day Primary.....8:55 am to 3:15 pm
Extended Day Primary.....7:30 am to 5:30 pm

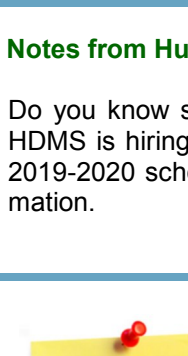
Elementary Program:
1st Grade thru 6th Grade.....8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Middle School Program:
7th Grade and 8th Grade.....8:30 am to 3:00 pm



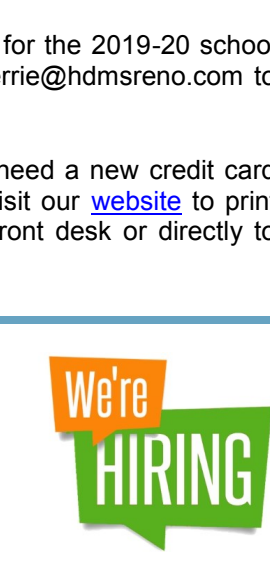
Change to Tote Bag Policy for 2019-20

We will not be requiring HDMS tote bags for the upcoming school year. A small tote or backpack may be used to carry lunch, a water bottle & jacket. **Please no characters.**



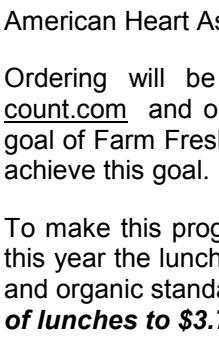
Upcoming Events

- 8/12/19: First Day of School for all students except kindergarteners
- 8/15/19: 5:30 PTO Meeting
- 8/16/19: 1:00 Early Release
- 8/19/19: First Day of School for Kindergartners
- 8/20/19: Elementary Back to School Night
- 8/27/19: Middle School Back to School Night
- 8/28/19: HDMS Board Meeting
- 8/30/19: Teacher Work Day- No School for all Programs
- 9/2/19: Labor Day- No School
- 9/3/19: Primary Back to School Night
- 9/12/19: 3:45 PTO Meeting
- 9/13/19: 1:00 Early Release
- 9/25/19: HDMS Board Meeting
- 9/27/19: 1:00 Early Release



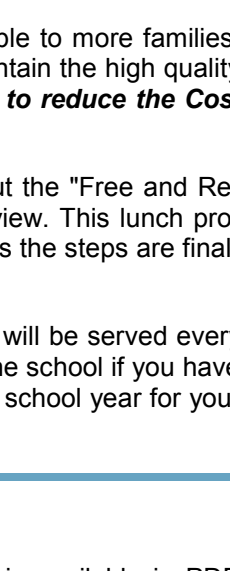
Notes from Accounts Receivable

- We are currently processing supply fees for the 2019-20 school year. Please contact Ms. Sherrie at sherrie@hdmsreno.com to process your payment.
- If your child is in any paid program, we need a new credit card form and contract each year. Please visit our [website](#) to print these forms and turn them in at either front desk or directly to Ms. Sherrie.



Notes from Human Resources

Do you know someone who would be a good fit for our team? HDMS is hiring both full time and after school assistants for the 2019-2020 school year. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.



Notes from the Registrar

Please budget your child's absences carefully this school year and try to plan vacations during our regularly scheduled breaks. The attendance policies of the Washoe County School District (to which we adhere) have tightened up and we will all need to be more careful with how many days our children miss.



Changes to Our On-site Lunch Program

We are pleased to announce that we will be working with **Farm Fresh Catering** again this school year to offer a varied menu made on-site. Everything on the Farm Fresh menu is made from scratch using 90% organic ingredients. Farm Fresh has coordinated efforts with High Desert Montessori in following our lunch policies which align with the American Heart Association's Wellness policy and USDA guidelines.



Ordering will be done this year by setting up an account at myschoollunchaccount.com and ordering before Monday morning cutoff for the week/weeks ahead. The goal of Farm Fresh is to have as little food waste as possible and advance orders help us achieve this goal.

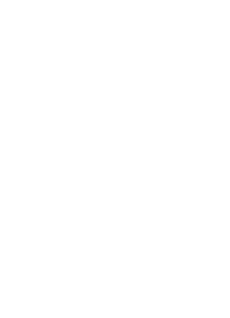
To make this program more sustainable long term and also accessible to more families, this year the lunch menu has been simplified. This enables us to maintain the high quality and organic standards desired by both farm fresh and the school, and **to reduce the Cost of lunches to \$3.75 for small / \$5 for large.**

If you feel your child would qualify for a reduced lunch, please fill out the "Free and Reduced Lunch Application" and submit it to the business office for review. This lunch program is in the application process now and will notify edible families as the steps are finalized.

Lunch will be served beginning the first day of school! School lunch will be served every day of the school year, including early release days. Please contact the school if you have any questions. We look forward to this being a healthy and nutritional school year for your child!

Parent Student Handbook

Did you know our Parent Student Handbook is available in PDF format on our [website](#)? This valuable resource contains calendars, policies, level specific information and beyond.



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