



MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

Elementary School

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Dear families,

Welcome (or welcome back!) to Mountain Shadows! I am delighted to be your child's teacher this year. Additionally, I am happy to welcome back Mrs. Pam and Mrs. Madeline. Our team is very excited about this school year! I wanted to reach out to share some upcoming dates for our classroom activities:

- **MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:** Monday, August 5th from 5:30-7:00 pm.
 - **Returning students:** If you are a returning student, this is optional (but fun!) It would be helpful if you stop by to update your emergency card, and share how the summer has been for your child. If you aren't able to come, I will send home a new emergency card and other forms in your child's backpack the first day of school.
 - **New students:** I hope your family can attend Meet the Teacher Night so we can fill out any remaining paperwork and get to know each other a bit. This will also be a good time to chat about your questions. I'm including our classroom procedures in this letter to be helpful. If you can't attend Meet the Teacher Night, please call or email me so that we can touch base before the start of school. I'm really excited to get to know you better!
 - **Volunteer training?** If you would like to be a regular volunteer in a DVUSD classroom, please attend the training offered in our library from 4:45-5:15 prior to Meet the Teacher Night. We'd love to have you involved in our classroom community any way you feel comfortable!

- **FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL:** Monday, August 12th. We can't wait to see the kids and get this year off to a great start!

- **SHARING DOWN SYNDROME WALK** (optional): Saturday, September 21 from 8-11. This will be a fun, family-friendly event at Tempe Diablo Stadium. There are lots of informational booths, free snacks, give aways, and fun activities for kids like bounce houses. The walk is short and perfectly suitable for small kids in strollers/wagons. This is a community event and you don't have to have a friend/family member with Down Syndrome. Registration is only \$5 per person, and families always say they have a great time! Save the date!
- **AUTISM WALK** (optional): Sunday, October 27 from 8-12 at Tempe Beach Park. Registration is free. This is a wonderful event for the whole family with free snacks, an entertainment zone for kids, AZ team mascots, and more! Our team will be walking the one-mile family course. More information to follow. Save the date! It's lots of fun.

There will be other fun events coming up throughout the year such as Curriculum Night, Jammie Jam, Math/Science Night, Carnival, Food Truck Events, and much more. Watch the Daily Communication Log to find out about upcoming events or check the Mountain Shadows website calendar. I'm hoping to see families many times this year. The kids love coming to school for special occasions!

This year, I will continue using the app "Remind" to send out occasional reminders about classroom activities, school events, and classroom book order due dates. Reminders will come via text message or email (your choice), and your personal information will remain confidential. Continuing users are already signed up. New users can sign up by texting the phone number 810-10 and include the text @DrJessPreK (our class code to sign up). If you prefer to sign up by email, you can go to www.Remind.com and sign up using our class code (@DrJessPreK). If you'd like help signing up, please send me your preferred phone number and/or email so I can enter the information and get you set up for reminders 😊 If you have any problems, contact me and I will help. I have found this to be a great tool for sharing information and staying connected throughout the school year.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Meet the Teacher Night. If you have any questions or information to share (e.g. a new address), please contact me right away. Sending an email will be the best way to reach me until August 1st when teachers return. If you leave a voicemail message prior to August 1st, I will return calls as soon as I have access to voicemail in the classroom. Beginning August 1st, please choose the most convenient methods (phone or email) if you need to reach me.

Warmly,

Jess Ledbetter

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