



DESERT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Empowering the Mind, Engaging the Soul

August 2011

Dear Parents,

Greetings to you from Desert Christian Academy. In addition to my letter, you are receiving a lot of other information. Please look everything over carefully in order to be well informed for the beginning of our 2011-1012 school year.

We sincerely hope that you and your family are having a wonderful summer. We were blessed over the last several weeks to spend our time getting Desert Christian Academy ready for another great year! Teachers have been working hard on their classrooms and preparing for your student's arrival on Monday, August 22nd. School administrators have also been preparing diligently for the new school year, making a series of thoughtful decisions to ensure your child is provided with the best learning environment possible!

An important choice we have made this year is to add a Teacher's Aide position to each of the third and fourth grade classrooms. We will not have two classes in these grades but instead have hired experienced teachers, Mrs. Kirsten Valencia and Mrs. Virginia Spedalieri to aide in those classrooms. However, our commitment to a low student-to-teacher ratio has not changed. The additional instructors in both the third and fourth grades will give students an extra resource in the classroom, and more importantly, provide parents with the assurance that their student is receiving individualized instruction in a positive atmosphere. We are continually blessed to know that Desert Christian Academy offers families the lowest elementary class sizes in the Coachella Valley.

Here are a few other important items of interest:

- Desert Christian Academy will continue to own the textbooks and charge a \$250.00 rental fee per year, per student, instead of requiring you to purchase all of the required textbooks. In addition, the registration fee will cover the supply fees, earthquake kit, computer lab fees, music fees for spring and Christmas programs, etc. You have received information about the 3 options for your textbook payment. Your completed textbook form with your preferred payment option and your book payment need to be sent to the school by August 15th. If you have questions regarding your textbook order, please contact Trish Lawrence at tlawrence@desertchristianacademy.org.
- Each student will have an earthquake kit. These will be given to the students to be kept in each classroom. The cost was included in your registration fee. Please fill out the emergency information enclosed with this packet and return it to your child's teacher the first week of school so it can be included with his/her earthquake kit in the classroom.
- All students need to be in full uniform purchased from Desert Arc. You can download a uniform price Sheet by clicking on the Back to School Information link on our School Homepage.
- Information for joining the Desert Christian Academy Booster Club can also be accessed via the Back to School link on our school homepage. Please consider supporting Conqueror athletics by attending athletic events and/or becoming a Booster Club member. Contact Mr. Curci by email dcurci@desertchristianacademy.org.

REMINDER: The first day of school is Monday, August 22nd. We will begin our first day of school with a school wide welcome for all elementary students, their parents, and teachers in the Rev. Bob Gaddini Memorial Gym at 8:10 a.m. Please plan to join us as we dedicate our school year to the Lord, pray for our school, and introduce the teachers and support staff to you.

- School will be dismissed at 2:45 p.m. Please remember parking will be a challenge, but you may also park on the football field.



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- Regular School hours will be as follows:

Kindergarten 8:10am – 2:30pm

First - fifth grades 8:10am – 2:45pm

Every Friday school will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. for all grades. We use this time for teacher/curriculum meetings and planning time. We suggest that you try and use that time for doctor/dental appointments, piano lessons, etc.

- We offer Day Care after school from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Kristie Bazua is our After-School Program Director. You may check with Mrs. Bazua to inquire about after school care and costs. Those fees apply beginning at 3:00 p.m. unless your child is with you or a teacher. There will be no extra charge for morning day care and you may drop your child off any time after 7:00 a.m. Mrs. Gloria List will once again be our morning yard supervisor.

- Remember, school starts promptly at 8:10 a.m. and students need to be in their seats when the bell rings at 8:10 a.m. Students won't want to be late for daily announcements or lessons/activities the teacher has planned.

- Be sure and establish with your child where you will pick him/her up after school. You may park in the parking lot as space allows or on Emerald Crest Drive which is on our north boundary. Do not park for more than just a few seconds at the white curb in front of the school office or on Emerald Crest - both are reserved for the immediate loading and unloading of students. If your child is not ready to be picked up, please do not remain at the curb. Drive around and come back through. You must pick your child up by 3:00 p.m. unless he/she is staying in day care. Kindergarten students must be picked up from their classrooms at 2:30 p.m. unless parents notify their child's teacher that he/she needs to go to day care.

- Below is the name of your child's teacher. There is also a letter from your teacher. Please pray for our school, the teachers, and our support staff on a regular basis. We believe that God provided each teacher and each student for this year and we are looking forward to another terrific school year.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Donna M. Ferris
Elementary Principal