



“Our mission is to educate, nurture, and provide a safe learning environment for our students, in order to instill a love of learning to produce life-long learners. We will accomplish this by using data driven-instruction, consistency, and collaboration among all stakeholders. By instilling high expectations, we will create well-educated, well-informed members of society. “

Dear Families:



**Safety Notices: (Thank you!)**

- The front parking area is for the buses only. When picking up or dropping off students, please do so from the back parking lot.
- Please do not park in the areas designated for ‘handicap parking only’ unless your vehicle is posting a handicap sticker. We have a few students in the building who require these spaces, so please keep them open for their convenience.
- We have several students who have a peanut allergy; due to this, we are adopting a “NO PEANUT” policy for the elementary. Please save these healthy snacks for the home.



**Mark your calendar.....**

August 29	Start of afterschool DREAMS
September 1	Open House (3:30 – 5:30 p.m.)
September 5	Labor Day (no school)
September 7	Jicarilla Culture Day (all classes participate in a Jicarilla sponsored activity)
September 14 – 16	Go jii ya (no school)
September 27	Fire ‘Safehouse’
September 29	Writing Family Night (5:30-7:00) Please note, this is a new time.



**Please note: Beginning this school year, breakfast is being served in the classroom from 8:00 – 8:20.**

**Breakfast Menu**

**Lunch Menu**

<i>Monday</i>	Cereal, muffin, fruit
<i>Tuesday</i>	Ham & egg biscuit, juice
<i>Wednesday</i>	Burrito,fruit
<i>Thursday</i>	TBD
<i>Friday</i>	TBD

Chicken fajitas
Beef tacos, salsa
Lasagna, bread stick
TBD
TBD

**Fine Arts: Mr. Cunningham**

*Mission Statement: “We are in Mr. C.’s Fine Arts class to have fun learning how to express ourselves by singing, playing instruments, and creating art. We will do this by working hard, being respectful, and helping each other as we explore the world around us through the arts.”*

All students (**K-5**) are finishing up artwork to be considered for Dulce’s display in the New Mexico State Fair student art exhibit. Students completed drawings this past week and began sketching for their paintings. A “complete” drawing (for all grades except kinder) consists of (1) using proper sketching techniques—drawing lightly enough so that mistakes can be erased without erasure marks, (2) adding color and/or shading, and (3) adequately covering the page—not leaving too much “white space.” The students will be completing paintings this week using our new biocolor paints, which are similar to a high quality liquid tempera. We are allowed to take about 20 to 25 of the best student art pieces from Dulce Elementary School, which amounts to about three to five completed art pieces from each grade. It looks like we will have some really nice elementary artwork for our display this year!

**Physical Education News: Ms. Dess**

Vision: To become lifelong movers! Mission Statement: “We are here to discover that learning sports skills, cooperative games, and improving our fitness can be fun!”  
Again this year, all students will have physical education three times a week. However, this year each session is for 35 minutes instead of 30 minutes. They will come to me two times a week and each classroom teacher will do a teacher led PE

lesson once a week. For the month of August, students in **Kindergartner, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>** worked on basic movement and motor skills: spatial awareness, body awareness, locomotor skills (galloping, skipping, running, slide-stepping, etc.), distinguishing left from right, and cooperation. We did a variety of fun activities that taught these skills. The **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** graders worked on cooperative games and ice breaker activities to try to get them to learn to work as a team, to improve communication skills, plus many of these activities helped improve their overall fitness level. You are welcome to come join your child in PE any time. However, please make sure to check in with the office and get a visitor's pass first. We would love to have you. Feel free to call me (575-759-3226) or e-mail me at school ([ldess@dulceschools.com](mailto:ldess@dulceschools.com)) if you have any questions or concerns.

#### **Media Center: Mrs. Vigil, Librarian**

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.” - Jacqueline Kennedy

This year the students of Dulce Elementary will be coming to the Media Center twice a week. The first visit of the week will focus on a lesson pertaining to the library and the second visit of the week will be geared towards story time for the lower grades and the upper grades will focus on Accelerated Reading Program. Students in **Kindergarten** will be reviewing rules and library procedures and discuss reasons why they come to the library. **First** grade will review things we do and work on things we don't do. **Second** grades will discuss checkout procedures and review library rules. **Third** graders will review and ask questions pertaining to the terms; easy, fiction, nonfiction, and reference. **Fourth** grades will be doing a survey this week on what they know about the library data base found on the computer. **Fifth** grades will review DESTINY the library data base and how to use it to find books.

#### **Computer: Ms. Beal**

If computers are up and ready to go, all grades will be involved in NWEA testing. If not... **Kinder**-will be doing starfall.com and Kid pix., **First** will be doing click-n-read and starfall.com, **Second** will be doing click-n-read and studyisland.com, and **third, fourth and fifth** will be doing Microsoft word, Math Facts in a Flash, and Studyisland.com.

#### **English Language Interventionist K-2; Mrs. Bradley**

**Kindergarten**- This week in Reading Mastery we will be working with our two new sounds /m/ and /a/ both orally and in written form. We will learn to identify the first sounds in words ,orally make compound words, and match words that rhyme. In Language For Learning , we will begin learning to speak in complete sentences while practicing our names and our school's name. We will begin following two step oral directions.

**First Grade**—In Reading Mastery this week, we will review our Reading Mastery expectations and rules. We will begin this week with a review of all the sounds/letters/blends and digraphs we learned in kindergarten. We will work on story comprehension using pictures for support. We will begin writing our answers in complete sentences.

**Second Grade** – In Reading Mastery this week, we will review our Reading Mastery expectations and rules . This week's Reading Mastery story is “The Magic Pouch”. We will focus on the suffixes

–ed and –ing. Our reading strategy will be summarizing. Your student will have reading homework each night. Please have them read to you , circle any unknown words , sign and return the homework the next day.

#### **Reading Lab: Mrs. Julian**

*Mission Statement: The mission of the reading lab is to enable all reading lab students to meet or exceed their personal learning goals toward proficiency in reading by providing high quality instruction of targeted essential skills using research-based interventions.*

This week **5<sup>th</sup> graders** in the Read 180 and System 44 programs will continue instruction in Workshop 4, “*No Bullies Allowed*”. The focus of this week's lessons will be on reading 1, “*Stop All Bullies!*”, vocabulary building, and idioms. The comprehension focus for the workshop is on summarizing a reading passage. System 44 students' instruction will continue focusing on skills based on student needs.

This week **4<sup>th</sup> graders** in the Read 180 and System 44 programs will be introduced to and begin instruction in Workshop 1, “*Fires Out of Control*”. The focus of this week's lessons will be on reading 1, “*I Survived the Yellowstone Fire*”, vocabulary building, and word structure. The comprehension focus for the workshop is on finding main idea and details. System 44 students' instruction will continue focusing on skills based on student needs.

This week **3<sup>rd</sup> graders** that are receiving System 44 instruction will focus on skills based on individual student needs.

**\*\*Important Information:** Homework for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading intervention lab is to read daily for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. A reading log will be sent home for parents to sign off daily. Parents of students not returning homework on Friday, will receive a call to inform you that your child has not completed the homework for the week.

#### **Read 180/Systems 44: Mrs. Ford**

This week in Read 180, **the fifth graders** will review story elements. We will identify the setting, character, plot and theme as we read and discuss the story, *The Marble Champ*. In addition, the students will continue to read, reflect, and respond to their individual independent reading book and will do lessons on the computer software. **The fourth graders** will be reading a personal narrative, “I Survived the Yellowstone Fire.” Students will practice identifying the main idea and supporting

details. They will also have the opportunity to work on computer software to meet their individual reading needs, and they will read and respond to their individually-selected reading books. This week, **the third graders** will continue to receive individualized instruction in phonics to strengthen their decoding and reading skills. We will also focus on fluency and comprehension.

**Kindergarten: Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms Laub, Mrs. Wager**

Math: Activities to enrich students' awareness of numbers and their uses. They will be learning how to put objects into groups. Play "Give the next Number" to develop number sense. Measuring, by comparing lengths, and working on number recognition (1-10) Reading: They will be isolating initial sounds in words, working on uppercase & lowercase identification, reviewing high frequency words and listening and responding to a story. Language Arts: The students will identify and complete a sentence, review high frequency words and practice speaking in complete sentences. Science: Continue with Diabetic Curriculum

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Ms "B"reeding, Ms Ferralez, Mr. Hill**

After two weeks of really good hard work, our assessments have finally finished! Now the fun begins! In reading we will be learning words with short a, learning about story structure and how to identify Characters and Settings. In math, we will be reviewing number sense through various hands-on activities such as number lines, counters, number writing and so much more! Thank you for everything that you do to help us be the most successful students that we can be.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Ms Baird, Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Valdez**

This week in second Grade, we will be working on Unit 1 week 3 of our Treasures reading program. We will be reading the story "Family Farm: Then and Now". We will be working with the short vowels short a and long a (a\_e). Student will be summarizing, identifying main idea and details. Our grammar practice will consist of identifying subjects. In Math, we will continue working in unit 1 chapter 2. We are practicing addition properties, counting on to add, doubles facts, and algebra readiness. We encourage you to read with your child at home.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Ms Corr, Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Shields**

This week in third grade we will begin the second story in unit I, "Amazing Grace." This is a story about a little girl who loves to read and act out the stories. When her teacher decides to put on a play about Peter Pan, Grace decides to try out for the part of Peter. The Reading skill focused on will be cause and effect. The spelling words are going to be words that end in a final e. Our grammar skill will be identifying and writing sentences with commands and commands. If you have read and reviewed the Parent/Student Handbook please be sure to send the last page back with your child. This is a contact page that we can refer to in case of emergencies, unexpected early releases, and any other concerns that we may have as a team. If you did not receive a handbook please call the office at 759-2923 and ask for a copy. If you include your email address on the contact page, this is an easy way to keep in touch more readily.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ms Gray, Ms Jamerson, Mrs. Velarde**

We are off and running with our Treasures reading series. Reading about personal experiences in *My Diary*, has helped us make connections with moving. Journaling about our own lives has helped us sharpen our writing skills as we begin to make the transition to cursive handwriting. Spelling practice, grammar guides, and phonemic awareness will help us further make connections with our curriculum. Math drills with multiplication and reinforcement of addition/subtraction skills help make Place Value concepts challenging. Learning about the state of New Mexico helps us understand the importance of history in the celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of our statehood. Continuing with interesting concepts, **Ms. Gray's** class has begun the Health and Fitness program, **Mrs. Velarde's** class has begun Diabetic Education with the focus on food and its effects on the body, and **Ms. Jamerson's** class is focusing on Earth Science. We are looking forward to meeting you on Back to School night this coming Thursday. See you then...!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mrs. "E"versgerd, Mrs. Pixley, Mrs. Thomas**

Fifth grade will be reading the story "Maya Lin," a factual story about the woman who designed the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Vietnam Wall. Concepts being covered this week in reading include summarizing, main idea and details of a story. In Language Arts, work will be done on combining sentences and mechanics and usage. The reading and spelling tests will be on Friday. In Science, work continues in the Diabetes curriculum discussing where your food comes from and lifestyle changes over time. There will be a Unit Quiz this week. In Math, there will be a chapter review on place value, rounding, and ordering large numbers with a test on Tuesday. The remainder of the week will focus on algebra, properties of addition, estimating, and addition and subtraction of whole numbers. The fifth grade teachers look forward to seeing you at the Open House on Thursday.