

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Dear Dobson Academy Families,

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year at Dobson Academy! There is nothing more exciting than the sound of children being back in school. A special thank you to all of you and our staff who helped start our year with energy, enthusiasm, and continued support. We want school to be the best part of your child's day and a place where children feel happy and engaged, and where parents feel welcome and involved.

It has been a full month of excitement, discussion, and collaboration. We are continuing our work focused around standards based instruction, citizenship, flexible learning options, and authentic, engaging learning for students. Our Be Kind to People Project kick off and has our students demonstrating kindness across campus. See our Be Kind pledge. We hope you are seeing this at home.

Since the first day of school, teachers, support staff and our site council have been working hard to identify our academic goals for the year. As we make progress, keep informed by discussing with your student what learning is taking place in their classroom, this will give you a good indicator of what they are comprehending and reinforce the importance of school each day. Keeping track of their learning can be done through PowerSchool. If you are needing help accessing this Parent-Student Portal, please call or email and we will help you.

Thank you for choosing Dobson Academy as your school choice. I look forward to working with you over the next few months making a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dawne Winn

Quote from Kids Health:

- 1. Know the teachers** — and what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
- 2. Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
- 3. Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- 4. Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
- 5. Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- 6. Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
- 7. Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
- 8. Set a good example.** Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
- 9. Praise their work and efforts.** Post an a-ced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
- 10. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.

SPORTS!

7/8 Football Schedule

9/10 – vs. Heritage Academy, Mesa - 4:30 pm
9/11 - @ LEA-MV (We host) - 4:00 pm
9/17 – vs. Imagine – E. Mesa - 4:30 pm
9/19 - @ Val Vista - 5:00 pm
9/23 - @ EVAC a-t 4:00 pm
9/24 – vs. Leading Edge – GEC - 4:30 pm
9/26 – vs. Summit School - 4:30 pm
9/30 - @ Dessert Garden - 4:00 pm

4-6 Football Schedule

9/12 - @ Summit Ahwatukee - 5:00 pm
9/19 - @ Val Vista - 4:00 pm
9/24 - @ New Way - 4:30 pm
9/30 - vs. Summit Ahwatukee - 4:30 pm



All "vs." games are Home Games in the DA backfield.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

9/02 – Labor Day ~ No School
9/03 – Best Practices Training ~ No School
9/12 – Yearbook Picture Day ~ Uniform Dress Code
9/20 – Rubio's Fundraiser Night
9/24 – PTO Meeting ~ Barro's Pizza ~ 5:00 pm
9/25 – Dollar Dress Day
9/25 – Early Release ~ K-8 at 1:00 pm, PS/KP at 1:30 pm
9/27 – 40th Day of School!
9/27 – Flagpole Assembly



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FROM THE FRONT OFFICE and CHILDCARE:

Thank you for your attention to school attendance and punctuality. Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 am each day. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning process and impacts the entire class. To report your child's absence, please call 480-855-6325 and leave a message on the automated attendance line.



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Fall Break camp will be October 7th-11th. Please contact Lindsey at [Ladams@balcharterschools.org](mailto:Ladams@balcharterschools.org) if you'd like more info or to sign up.

## BE KIND TO PEOPLE!

### Congratulations to August Character Counts for Respect!

- K – Mia Hamilton, Annabelle Platt, Tyson Reyes  
1 – Kaidan Jarnagin-Harner, Daniel Waer  
2 – Savannah Williams, Daniel Valenzuela  
3 – Briia Gedicks, Cindy Do, Brooklyn Casoose  
4 – Jada McRae, Trinity Ibeh  
5 – Tinsley Vadasy, Rayshawn Brown  
6 – Jennaca Phommavongsa, Nevaeh Brown  
7 – Leanne Manalilli, Brandon Palacios  
8 – Leilani Medrano, Jacob Sinerius



## VOLUNTEERS!

For the safety of our staff and students, all volunteers are required to submit to a Background Check. If you would like to chaperone a Field Trip or volunteer in a classroom or an event, please submit the **Classroom Parent Volunteer** form found here:

[https://www.dobsonacademy.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=269234&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1723981](https://www.dobsonacademy.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=269234&type=d&pREC_ID=1723981)

We ♥ our Volunteers!

## EMPLOYEE BIO!

Hello, my name is Stacie Mitchell-Gweah, I am the new Assistant Principal. I started my teaching career eleven years ago at Des Moines Public School District where I taught middle and high school business technology class and trained new teachers. Last year, I worked as a Curriculum Technology Integrator for Catalina Foothill School District. I've served on the Teacher Curriculum Development Team and multiple district and building leadership teams for educational reform as a teacher, teacher lead and administrator. As a result, I have received many awards and nominations to include February 2014 WHO-TV Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching & Leadership Award, 2014, 2015 & 2016, LifeChanger Award nomination, 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year nomination and the 2016 First Tech Challenge Robotic Coach Award. I received my Specialist in Education Leadership degree and two masters' degrees from Drake University, a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and an associate of arts degree from Des Moines Area Community College. I am so excited to be here at Dobson Academy.



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