



Alma Astro Pride

Alma Elementary
1313 W. Medina Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202

July 2008
Ms. Lou Perdoni, Principal (480) 472-3900

2008/2009 CALENDAR Fall Semester, 2008

- August**
7 - 5:00-7:30 Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night
11 - First day of classes
- September**
1 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- October**
8 - Grading period ends, EARLY RELEASE
9-10 - October break - NO SCHOOL
13-17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, EARLY RELEASE
- November**
11 - Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL
27-28 - Thanksgiving vacation - NO SCHOOL
- December**
19 - Grading period ends - EARLY RELEASE
22-2 - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

Spring Semester, 2009

- January**
5 - School resumes
12-16 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, EARLY RELEASE
19 - Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day - NO SCHOOL
- February**
16 - Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL
- March**
11 - Grading period ends, EARLY RELEASE
16-20 - Spring break - NO SCHOOL
- April**
1-2 - TerraNova testing
1-3 & 5-6 - AIMS testing
10 - April break - NO SCHOOL
- May**
21 - Grading period ends - Last day of classes

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL



Please be aware that students **MAY NOT** be on campus until 8:10 each morning. School starts at 8:25 and we have no supervision or playground coverage until 8:10. We ask that parents and students plan their mornings accordingly.

School dismisses at 3:00 daily, with the exception of 2:30 dismissal on Wednesday afternoons to allow for teacher training and professional development. Supervision ends at 3:10 (2:40 on Wednesdays.) It is crucial that you make arrangements to pick your child up on time every day. Please decide who, what and where pick up will occur before your child leaves home in the morning. It relieves an enormous amount of anxiety for your child if plans are made ahead of time. **DO NOT PUT YOUR CHILD AT RISK** by having him/her stand unsupervised anywhere on campus prior to 8:10 or after 3:10.

SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

8:25 a.m.	1 st bell rings
8:30 a.m.	School starts
2:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY only	Student early release EVERY WEDNESDAY
3:00 p.m.	Student dismissal

SAFETY IN THE PARKING LOT

If you drive your child to school, please follow the directions of the staff in the student pick up/drop off zone. Our goal is to move you as quickly as possible through the area while still keeping all our students safe. Your child will be waiting at the end of the pick up zone and we will get them to your car as quickly as we can. We ask that you stay in a single file, unless directed to pull around. We will stop you from pulling around sitting cars if it presents a safety problem for children walking in the area. Please cooperate with the staff. Yelling at us and calling us names doesn't make for a pleasant time for any one!



Please do not park and leave your car in the drop off zone. If you need to park, please pull through to the south parking lot.

During dismissal, private vehicles are not allowed in the north parking lot. Please pull through the drop off area and/or walk in to meet your child. If you must park, drive through the drop off area and park in the south lot only. Parking in the north lot is prohibited from 2:50-3:20 (2:20-2:50 Wednesdays) daily.

Please note: children will not be allowed to run across a street to come to a waiting car nor will we allow children to use the center crosswalk without an adult present to walk them across. If there is no adult present, the child will be directed to go to one of the corner crosswalks where there are crossing guards.

I can't stress enough that all of our "rules" are put in place to ensure your child's safety. If we can keep kids from getting hurt, we think you'll agree that it was worth a few minutes of inconvenience!

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctual arrival at school are two habits that dramatically impact student achievement. We urge parents to support the school and your child's education by reinforcing the importance of being to school and in class on time.

The first bell rings at 8:25. A child is considered tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the second bell rings at 8:30. If your child is tardy, he/she must come to the school office to receive a pass to class. Entering



the classroom late impacts instructional time not only for your child, but for the other students as well.

We encourage parents to make every possible attempt to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments for their children at times outside of the school day or during vacations. While we realize some appointments are unavoidable, we urge parents to do their best to make arrangements so that children not miss instructional time unless they are ill.

DRESS STANDARDS

Please take a few minutes to review these district/site dress standards with your child. Those that demand the most attention at our site are the following:

- Jeans, pants and trousers must be worn at the waist area and not drag excessively on the ground. No sagging is allowed.
- Clothing must cover the abdomen, back, buttocks, chest and genital areas. Tops that expose cleavage are not allowed. When standing, tops must cover the midriff completely and hang down to the skirt and pants. See-through clothing is prohibited.
- Tank tops and other sleeveless tops are permitted only if the straps are wider than 1 inch and cover underwear straps. The armholes must be no lower than 2 inches from the armpit.
- Shorts must have at least a 2 inch inseam and extend to the student's fingers when arms are placed at sides.
- Dresses and skirts must extend at least 1 inch beyond the tip of the student's fingers when arms are placed at sides.
- No underwear and/or bra straps should be showing at any time. Boys may not wear white sleeveless undershirts without a properly buttoned shirt over them.
- Pajamas and other sleepwear are prohibited.
- Bandannas, hairnets and do-rags are prohibited.
- Hats or other head apparel may not be worn inside the school unless for religious, medical or safety purposes.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Shoes, such as "wheel in the heels" are not allowed. Shoes with cleats that may damage floors are also prohibited.

For a full explanation of dress and grooming standards visit Mesa Public Schools website at <http://www.mpsaz.org/main>. Specific dress standards will be given to each student at Meet the Teacher Night.

A FEW MATTERS OF PROCEDURE

- ❖ **All Visitors and Volunteers** (including parents) on campus must stop in the office, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. No one is permitted on campus without a visitor's badge. This is a state law and is in place for your child's safety.
- ❖ **Classroom Visits** - Please do not go to your child's classroom even if you are just dropping off homework, lunch, or money without checking in first. We would like very much not to interrupt learning and testing time and will deliver student belongings at a convenient break.
- ❖ **Messages** - Please make sure your children have their after school instructions before they leave home in the morning. Although we do our best to notify teachers/students, we cannot guarantee messages will get relayed and interrupting classrooms with messages is very disruptive.
- ❖ **Reporting Absences** - Please notify the Alma office at 472-3900, option 1, as soon as possible providing the student's name, grade, teacher's name and the reason for absence. If your child's absence will be more than two days, notify the teacher if you need to request homework.
- ❖ **Signing Students Out Prior to the End of the School Day** - For the safety and protection of your child, we cannot allow him/her to be taken from the classroom before our regular dismissal time without the parent/guardian first coming to the office and signing the child out.
- ❖ **Lost and Found** - If your child loses an article of clothing, school materials, a lunch box or other possessions, please check the lost and found located in the multi-purpose room. It's a good idea to label personal possessions so that we may easily locate the owner. Unclaimed items are donated to local charities periodically.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Ms. Perdoni, Principal.....472-3902
Secretary.....472-3902
Registrar.....472-3903
Attendance.....472-3905
Health Office.....472-3904
Cafeteria.....472-3907

CELL PHONES ON CAMPUS

District policy states that cell phones can be banned from elementary school campuses. I have listened to the concerns of parents whose students walk to and from school and/or wait at bus stops. If a parent feels that a cell phone is necessary for safety reasons, it will be permitted under the following guidelines:

- Cell phones **must** be turned off immediately upon arriving on campus or when the bus arrives at the stop.
- Cell phones are to be turned to the off position and kept in backpacks for the entire school day. They must remain in the backpack until the student is off school grounds and/or exits the bus at his/her final stop.
- Students may not use cell phones while on campus, in a school vehicle and/or on a school sponsored activity such as a field trip.
- If a student needs to call a parent or vice versa, it can be done through the regular office/classroom phone system.
- Students who choose not to follow these guidelines will have the phone confiscated by the principal and returned at the end of the day. Repeated incidents will result in that student's cell phone being banned from campus. Parents will be required to pick the phone up in the office.

LOCK YOUR BIKE

Bicycles are brought to campus at the risk of the student/owner. Bicycles are not insured by the school. Alma does not take responsibility for lost, stolen or vandalized bikes. The bike rack is at the back of the school and is locked during school hours, however students still need to lock their bike within the bike rack.



Skateboards, scooters, skates and "wheelies" are not permitted at school at anytime.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS & DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS

Invitations to birthday parties may not be distributed at school. **Flowers, balloons, etc. will not be delivered to a student if brought to school – please give these to your child at home.** Birthday treats may be distributed at the discretion of the teacher. Please contact your child's teacher to prearrange an appropriate time for birthday treats that does not interfere with instruction.

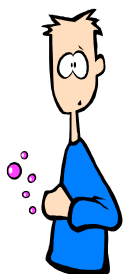


When planning snacks for school celebrations, remember the Governing Board policy and county/state health regulations state: *"All food brought onto campus for classroom celebrations must originate from commercial grocery or food service stores or other commercial kitchens certified to comply with Maricopa County Environmental Services regulations."* This practice is intended to protect students from the spread of communicable disease.

ECA DONATION

Did you know anyone who pays Arizona State income tax can donate to Alma's extra curricular activities for students? The dollar for dollar tax credit of up to \$400 for tax payers filing jointly or \$200 for individuals will make more extra curricular activities available to students. You can ask the school for a form or you can make your donation on line at www.mpsaz.org. Donations must be received by December 31 in order to be eligible for the tax credit this calendar year.

ILLNESS/EMERGENCY



School is no place for a sick child. Please do not send your child to school if he/she has had a fever, rash, diarrhea, vomiting, deep cough, or a communicable disease such as chickenpox, strep throat, pink-eye, etc. in the last 24 hours. You will be notified if your child becomes ill enough to be removed from school, sustains more than a minor injury, or has an emergency. It is the parent's responsibility to make arrangements to pick up an ill or injured child as promptly as possible. We suggest that you have

someone listed on your Emergency Data Sheet in case you are not available or cannot leave work.

It is imperative you notify the office of changes in your emergency contact information. Frequently, we try to contact a parent only to find we do not have current phone numbers, employment information, etc. For the sake of your child, please keep your information updated.

IMMUNIZATIONS

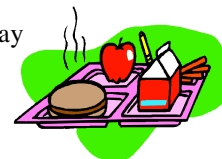
ARIZONA STATE LAW ARS 15-803 states that children must have immunization (shot) information on file at school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to furnish the school with the month, day, and year of each immunization and initiate having the child receive any needed immunization before they are allowed to attend school.



FROM THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Student Breakfast Price	\$.75/day
Reduced Breakfast Price	No Charge
Student Lunch Price	\$1.60/day
Reduced Lunch Price	\$.40/day
Adult Lunch Price	\$3.00/day

Breakfast is served Monday-Friday from 8:05 until 8:25. No breakfast will be served after 8:25. All students must be finished eating and in their classrooms by 8:30 a.m.



As a service to those students who do not have the full amount for his/her lunch, the Food & Nutrition Department will provide a lunch that day consisting of a peanut butter & jelly sandwich with a juice or milk. Credit cannot be extended for lunches.

The cafeteria manager is available to answer any questions between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily at school. A message may be left at 472-3907 and calls will be returned by the following day.

MyLunchMoney.com provides parents an opportunity to create a secure online account and eliminates the need of sending cash and checks to the school cafeteria. You can put money on your child's meal account with the click of a button. Users are charged a flat \$1.95 for each transaction. **Starting August 5, 2008 MyLunchMoney.com will be available for parents to put prepayments on student meal accounts for the 2008-2009 school year.**