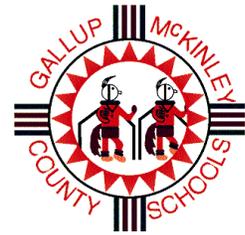




# Del Norte Elementary School

700 W. Wilson  
Gallup, NM 87301

(505) 721-5200 office (505) 721-5299 fax



Kristen K. Bischoff  
Principal

Margaret Daugherty  
Assistant Principal

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome everyone to a brand new school-year! We hope that all were able to enjoy the summer with time to relax and participate in some memorable activities with family and friends. As we move into the 2017-2018 school year, we want to welcome any families who are new to our school. We trust that you will find yourselves to be part of an outstanding and supportive learning community.

Over the summer, Mr. Castro accepted a position as Head Principal at Roosevelt Elementary. He asked that we let our community know how much he enjoyed his work at Del Norte. He will be missed!

We are pleased to announce Margaret Daugherty as our new Assistant Principal!

### **NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MESSAGE:**

*I would like to introduce myself--I am Margaret Daugherty, Del Norte's new assistant principal, and I am very excited to join the staff of Del Norte Elementary. I am extremely passionate about education and look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence. As a parent and grandparent, I believe in a strong connection between school, home and family. It is my sincere hope that together we will guide our students to be strong academically, emotionally and prepared for life beyond our doors.*

*I have worked and lived in the Gallup area since 1988 as a teacher, specialist, instructional coach and administrator. My teaching and administrative experience is PrK-12. My grandson attended Washington Elementary School and had a great beginning in his academic career. I am looking forward to working with the staff and community to constructing a great foundation for all our students.*

*Margaret Daugherty  
Assistant Principal*

### **NEW THIS YEAR: Student "Buy-Out" Days**

In order to generate funding to provide students with rewards and incentives for academic achievement, attendance, and positive behavior, we will be offering Student "Buy-Out" Days on some Fridays throughout the year. On these days, students will donate one dollar to participate in various Spirit Days such as wearing pajamas to school or various other themed days.

### **NEW THIS YEAR: Parent Observation and Support Weeks**

We want our parents in our school! This year, we will be offering "Parent Observation and Support Weeks," where parents will be welcome to assist in the classroom or volunteer anywhere in the school. Please call the school office for more information or look for the dates in the school's monthly newsletter.

## **NEW THIS YEAR: School Schedule**

In an effort to improve our attendance and the number of students who arrive at school on time every day, we have changed our start and end times. We are hoping this new schedule will better accommodate our families and provide you more time in the morning to prepare your child for school:

### **Monday-Thursday**

Start Time: 7:45am

Breakfast: 7:45am-8:00am

Instruction Begins: 8:00am

Tardy Bell: 8:00am

Dismissal Bell: 3:10pm

### **Friday (Early Release)**

Start Time: 7:45am

Breakfast: 7:45am-8:00am

Instruction Begins: 8:00am

Tardy Bell: 8:00am

Dismissal: 12:30pm

### **Morning Drop-Off**

If you bring your child to school, please follow the one-way road on Princeton Avenue and drop your child off on the east side of the school. Staff will be outside to greet you and ensure your child makes it safely inside the building. If you choose to bring your child into the building in the morning, please park along Princeton Avenue. To ensure safety of our students, all doors will be locked at 8:00am every day. Entrance to the school office is permitted throughout the day.

### **End-of-Day Dismissal:**

Because our parking lot has not been completed, we will continue to use the same process as last year for dismissal. We have temporarily made our bus loop on the west side of the building the pick-up area after school. Please drive down Wilson Avenue (in front of Washington Elementary) and proceed to the west side of the school. There, students and staff will be waiting. The busses will depart on the east side of the building. **Please do not park behind or in front of busses at the end of the day.**

Pre-School and PreK students will dismiss at the end of the day from classrooms. Please enter the Pre-school playground at the end of the day and enter the classrooms through the back doors. Siblings of Pre-School/Pre-K students will also be waiting for pick-up in these classrooms.

### **Inclement Weather**

On days that we experience heavy rain or snow during dismissal time, all pick-up students will be released from inside our cafeteria. On these days, parents will need to park and come inside through the west doors to pick up your child. An announcement will be sent to alert parents to this ahead of time, when this occurs.

### **Helpful Suggestions for Transportation:**

- All Del Norte students may attend the Boys and Girls Club after school. These students walk as a group to the club at the end of the day. Parents, if you are interested in signing your child up for this, please go to the Boys and Girls Club first and then call the front office to let us know.
- All students who previously attended Juan de Oñate should all be riding the bus to school.
- In order to decrease the traffic in the pick-up line at the end of the day, please consider either having your child walk home or ride the bus at the end of the day

## **Attendance**

We are continuing our “Less Than Five” campaign at Del Norte Elementary! Last year, it turned out to be a huge success! All students who have less than five absences at the end of the year will receive special recognition and privileges as a reward. Please continue to bring your children to school on time each and every day. **The tardy bell rings at 8:00am.** Don’t forget to call the front office if your child is not going to be at school.

## **Check-Outs**

Please schedule all appointments for your child after school hours. Check-outs interrupt instructional time and cause learning gaps. Check-outs are permitted until 2:30 pm Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, please DO NOT check-out your child early and make all appointments after 12:30pm. Instruction continues on Fridays and this day is reserved for assessments in our classrooms. It is imperative that your child be in attendance. If you must check-out your child on Friday, you will be required to meet with one of the building Principals.

## **Volunteers/Chaperones**

If you are interested in becoming a parent volunteer or field trip chaperone, you may now complete the paperwork in the Del Norte office. The cost for a background check has been lowered to \$16.95. We’d like to encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!

## **Open House/Parent Forum**

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, we would like to invite our families to join us in the first Del Norte Open House! We will begin the evening at **5pm** by holding an open forum in the cafeteria where the building principals will be available to answer questions and listen to any suggestions parents have to make our school better. At **5:30**, we will all meet in the gym to introduce the Del Norte staff and to review our school’s goals for this year. After, we will open up our classrooms for parents to visit. **Pizza and drinks will be served!!!**

## **North Fest**

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Del Norte students will be participating in the “North Fest,” presented by UNM Branch (North Campus). Students will engage in literacy, art, and storytelling activities that will be facilitated by multiple members of the Gallup community. We hope to continue this event as an annual northside tradition where Del Norte and UNM partner together to provide fun and creative learning opportunities for our students and families. The North Fest will take place from 10am to 3pm. All families are welcome!

## **Important Dates**

- **School-Wide Welcome Back Assembly:** August 11<sup>th</sup> @ 8:15am
- **Principal/Parent Open Forum:** August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm
- **Open House:** August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm
- **Student “Buy-Out” Day:** August 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Parent Observation and Support Week** ~ September 11<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>

We are so excited about all of the wonderful things this year will bring! As always, please contact the school office at 505-721-5200 if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Kristen K. Bischoff, Principal  
Margaret Daugherty, Assistant Principal