



# HARELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jason Weaver

Principal

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July 29, 2018

Dear Harelson Families,

It is with much excitement that we prepare for another year at Harelson Elementary School. Our staff have been working hard to be ready for the first days of school and I imagine your families have been doing the same!

This year you'll notice a big change right away; Harelson is starting our school day earlier. School begins at 7:45am and students may arrive no earlier than 7:25am. School gates will not be open before 7:25am, so it is important that students not arrive before then as they will not be able to enter school campus. School dismisses on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 2:15pm. On Tuesdays, students dismiss at 12:15pm. It is important to note, that after working closely with the Principal at Cross Middle School, Andy Heinemann, for the safety of Harelson students, they will not be able to wait at Cross or Harelson for Cross Middle School to dismiss.

Please know that I value building strong relationships with our students and families. I believe in open lines of communication and invite you to share the things you value and to be involved in our school. My door is always open. I am confident that working side by side with our students, families, and staff, our students will do amazing things!

I would like to welcome some new staff members to the Harelson family. Shauna Thomas is returning to us as a 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Thomas has been an integral part of the Harelson family for many years and we are excited to have her back! I would also like to welcome Miss Ashley Eggerman as one of our 5th grade teachers. Mrs. Eggerman has been involved in the Harelson community for several years and will be an excellent addition to the Harelson family. Also, please welcome Robyn Yewell as our new REACH teacher. Mrs. Yewell comes to us from Donaldson where she has been an amazing teacher and leader. Last, please welcome Mr. Toru Tagawa as our new Orchestra teacher. Mr. Tagawa has been the Orchestra teacher at CDO and will now add Harelson, Cross and Mesa Verde. Please help me in welcoming our new Harelson family members.

A few other changes worth noting. Mrs. Petersen will not be at Harelson on Mondays throughout the school year. Mr. Ilych, who has been our school monitor and runs the PAL program at Harelson, will be assisting as the Behavior Intervention Monitor on Mondays. Mrs. Petersen will continue in this role on Tuesdays through Fridays. Please congratulate Mr. Ilych! He is a tremendous asset to Harelson students.

Here are some important upcoming dates and information to start the school year:

8/7/18	9:00am	Kinder Orientation (Last name A-L),
8/7/18	10:30am	Kinder Orientation (Last name M-Z)
8/8/18	2:30-3:30pm	Bobcat Beginnings: Meet the teacher, bring supplies and see the classroom.
8/9/18	7:45a-2:15p	First Day of School
8/14/18	6:30pm	K-3rd Grade Parent Information Night in the Cross MPR
8/16/18	6:30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Night in the Cross MPR

Amphitheater High • Canyon del Oro High • Ironwood Ridge High  
Amphitheater Middle School • Coronado K-8 School • Cross Middle School • La Cima Middle School • Wilson K-8 School  
Copper Creek Elementary • Donaldson Elementary • Harelson Elementary • Holaway Elementary • Innovation Academy • Keeling Elementary  
Mesa Verde Elementary • Nash Elementary • Painted Sky Elementary • Prince Elementary • Rio Vista Elementary • Walker Elementary • Rillito Center

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Other important information:

- School hours are 7:45am to 2:15pm. Office hours are 7:00am to 3:30pm.
- We welcome visitors at Harelson! For safety reasons, we require all parents, family members, volunteers and visitors to use the main office entrance and sign in if you are on campus during school hours. Please note, that for safety and supervision reasons, visitors and parents are not allowed on the playground during lunch recess (11:00am to 12:15pm) each day. You are still welcome to join your child for lunch in the cafeteria!
- Early Release is every Tuesday and students are dismissed at 12:15pm.
- Arrival - Students may arrive and go to the playground at 7:25am until the playground gates are locked at 7:45am. For safety reasons, please do not arrive before 7:25am as there is no supervision for students before this time and front gates will be locked until this time. Students should go directly to the playground after dropping off their backpacks at the classroom.
- Dismissal - Gates are unlocked at 2:15pm. We ask that you please enter using the gate by the art room or office and avoid walking through the vehicle loading areas. This helps with traffic flow and safety. Kindergarten parents (only) may enter through the small gate by the NE corner so that we may accommodate our youngest Bobcats!
- The front parking lot is closed in the AM and PM for Arrival and Dismissal. Please park across the street in the NE and NW church parking lots. Please do not walk or enter through vehicle loading/drop off area. This is for vehicle traffic only.
- Please have a dismissal/pick-up plan. Designate precisely where you are meeting your child(ren) on campus so that they know where to go. If you are picking up in the Vehicle Drive-Thru area, please inform your child in advance so they know to walk to that area and wait.
- When using the Vehicle drive thru, here are a few rules that will help move traffic:
  - Pull completely forward and continue to pull forward, slowly as the line moves.
  - Stay in your vehicle and do not get out – drivers should remain at the wheel.
  - Teach your child how to buckle and secure their seatbelt on their own. Now that they are in elementary school, this is an important, appropriate and helpful next step!
  - Make a paper sign with the first and last names of ALL your children. Make additional copies, leave a copy in each vehicle, and give them to anyone else who picks up. Having these signs visible when you drive through SIGNIFICANLY improves our speed.
  - Please explain and train anyone else who picks up your child through the vehicle pickup area so they know what to do and where to go.
- On the first day of school, your child should bring home some important information and updates about the upcoming school year. Please be on the lookout! We encourage you to please take time to read and review this important information.

Last, I would again like to thank the Harelson family for your continued partnership in supporting your children. I hope you've had a fun summer spending time with family and friends and that you enjoy the final days of break. School is fast approaching and I can't wait to see you all in the coming days.

I look forward to a fantastic 2018-19 school year!

Sincerely,



Jason Weaver  
Principal  
Harelson Elementary School