

# *Skyview School*



## **Student / Parent Handbook 2017-2018**

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## **Student Report Times**

### **Monday – Thursday**

Kindergarten	8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Primary	8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Intermediate	8:00 am – 3:15 pm
Middle School	8:00 am – 3:30 pm

## **Office Hours**

### **Monday – Thursday**

7:30 am—4:00 pm

### **Friday**

8:00 am—3:00 pm

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## **From the Director...**

Dear Skyview School Families,

Welcome to Skyview School! Skyview was the first school in Arizona to be founded by parents and was the first established charter school in Prescott. The founders were a group of very intelligent, independently minded educators and parents who spent two years thoroughly researching a variety of educational models and the best practices of education. Skyview School opened in 1996 with the intent to foster informed citizens capable of independent thought and decision-making and used a K-8 gifted model of education in support of student growth. The founders believed that it was possible to create an educational environment where high academic outcomes could be achieved by using an active, hands-on curriculum that also cultivated the growth of the whole child. They set out to accomplish this by combining the traditional values of “respect and responsibility,” the Theory of Multiple Intelligences, a multiage framework, an active thematic project-based curriculum where the arts are celebrated, as well as inviting strong family involvement.

As we embark on another school year, Skyview School has an exceptionally talented collection of teachers and support staff assembled who are passionate, knowledgeable, and skilled at their craft. All of them understand the meaning of quality work and have the drive and passion to provide the best educational experiences for your children. With an established and respected organizational framework supporting our efforts, I am confident that this unique collection of very intelligent, hard working, creative, and professional group of educators will strike balance by infusing rigorous academic learning through engaging hands-on activities.

All of us are grateful and honored that you have chosen Skyview School for your children. We understand the significance of your decision and will do our very best to ensure your children have an outstanding educational experience. Without the investment of very supportive and hard working families like you, Skyview School would have only remained a vision in the minds of a few people. While the school’s mission is far-reaching, it truly takes all of us working collaboratively to bring it to actualization for our children. With all of the learning investigations and thematic projects planned for the year, students will be challenged and stimulated to discover new things about themselves and their world. Our learning-by-doing style of teaching provides students with a hands-on approach designed to foster social skill development, intrinsic motivation, a love of learning, and academic content that has meaning and relevance.

This handbook is intended to provide important information for you on everything from our mission, philosophy of education, instructional practices, attendance, communication protocol, details about absences, snow days, and dress code. We ask that you carefully read the handbook and use it as a handy reference throughout the year. Much of what you need to know about Skyview School is contained within the handbook. I welcome all of you to talk with me if you have further questions about the school’s philosophy or policies.

Welcome to our community of learners!

Sincerely,  
Dena Ford

## Skyview School Staff

Director	Dena Ford
Operations Manager	Dianne Jacobson
Kindergarten Teacher	Kate Butcher
Kindergarten Teacher	Amy Cope
Primary 1-2 Teacher	Anna Barnum
Primary 1-2 Teacher	Jennifer Romero
Intermediate 3-4 Teacher	Scout Butcher
Intermediate 3-4 Teacher	Ashley Fine
Intermediate 5-6 Teacher	Karla Cruz
Intermediate 5-6 Teacher	Carrie Vickerman
Middle School Teacher	Alex Rosansky
Middle School Teacher	Mara Trushell
9th Grade Math Teacher	Janet Burgoyne
Reading/Title I Teacher	Cindy Cain
Dance Teacher	Breanna Rogers
Art Teacher	Lisa Hendrickson
Special Education Teacher	Kerry Johnson
Speech Therapist	Rene Crain
Special Education Paraprofessional	Joe Hanzen
Special Education/ Title I Paraprofessional	Susan Jimenez
Kindergarten Aide	Jessie Parra
Kindergarten Aide	Alice Ross
Primary Aide	Tasha Chinnock
Primary Aide	Jenny Tomasovitch
Intermediate 3-4 Aide	Jennifer Krasin
Intermediate 3-4 Aide	Heather Mead
Intermediate 5-6 Aide	Barbara Rosansky
Intermediate 5-6 Aide	Lindsey Townsend
Middle School Aide	Sara Barstad
Middle School Aide	Michelle Grubert
Dance Aide	Lucy Beckner
Art Aide	Valerie Burns
Maintenance	Josh Pagliasotti
Landscaping	Cisco Ortega

## Board of Directors

President	Monte Rich
Member at Large	Toni Jarnagin
Member at Large	Rick Fee
Member at Large	Anne Legge
Member at Large	Jill Killeen
Member Emeritus	Nita Laucher-Morris

# OVERVIEW

## Mission Statement

Skyview School's mission is to enrich the lives of students and to ensure that future generations are well prepared to live their lives with meaning, dignity, and the ability to work together for a better world. Respect and responsibility toward self, others, and the natural environment are our guiding principles. We believe that children possess a blend of multiple intelligences (Gardner, 1983) and, drawing on "the best practices in education" (Daniels, 2000), we celebrate each child's uniqueness and tailor education to develop the fullest potential of each learner. Encouraging a sense of competence and self-motivation, classroom life is interwoven with community life through practical experiences.

## Skyview School

- **is a charter school**, which is an independent public school approved by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. Skyview functions not simply as a school, but as a school district in its own right. Skyview funding comes from a combination of state and federal allocations as well as the fundraising efforts of school staff and families.
- **is a community school of choice** with enrollment open to all students of all abilities and backgrounds in the local area. While enrollment is entirely voluntary, Skyview School is a school of choice. As such, families select Skyview because they believe that their child will thrive in our school and they wish to be part of our community of learners.
- **is a school of challenge and participation** specifically designed for students and families wishing to make an active and alternative commitment to learning. Skyview challenges students to take full advantage of the school's numerous learning opportunities, to explore their individual potential in many areas, and to pursue a vision of "personal best." Skyview also challenges parents to play an active role in their children's learning and to bring together family life and the educational experience.
- **is organized into four multi-age levels**
  - Kindergarten: two classes
  - Primary: two classes of grades 1-2
  - Intermediate 3-4: two classes of grades 3-4
  - Intermediate 5-6: two classes of grades 5-6
  - Middle School: two classes of grades 7-8

## Kindergarten

At Skyview School, our kindergarten program has been developed to support the positive transition between family and school life by ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and important. It provides the warmth and beauty of home, while balancing the need for both play and academic challenges that will prepare the children to transition successfully to primary. Classroom life in our kindergarten includes learning centers, whole group and small group instruction, playing, singing, dancing, conversational skills, the arts, recess, creative challenges, community building, field trips, and celebrations.

The first year of school plays an influential role with shaping your child's perceptions and attitudes about education and we are committed to offering a rich educational experience that fosters her natural curiosity and excitement about learning. We believe this is best accomplished through a **full-day program** where the warmth and beauty of home is intertwined with the arts and an academic program that prepares your child to be successful in the primary grades. For families who select the full-day option, a fee of \$10 per day will be

charged. While it is not encouraged, if a family selects the half-day option, they need to pick their child up no later than 11:45 AM.

**Annual School-Wide Theme Statements**

Skyview’s Annual Theme for 2018-2019 is, ***Discovering the Human Spirit***. *Through Skyview School’s year-long theme, **Discovering the Human Spirit**, students participate in a variety of activities designed to honor, develop and discover inspiration and wonder; a deep sense of connectedness; the many ways to contribute to the betterment of the world; and understanding of life lessons; the joy of creativity; learning to learn; and love for self, others, and the natural world.*

Skyview’s Annual Theme for 2019-2020 is, ***Connections***. *Through Skyview School’s yearlong theme, **Connections**, students participate in a variety of activities designed to develop understanding, awareness, and appreciation of relationships among people, events, and the natural world.*

**Multiple Intelligences – Howard Gardner, Ph.D. (1983, 1993); Harvard University**

Over twenty-three years ago, Dr. Howard Gardner, Professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, introduced the Theory of Multiple Intelligences. While conducting research with brain-damaged patients, he became aware that these patients lost different abilities depending upon the location of their brain injury. These studies suggested a biological basis for specialized intelligences. Defining intelligence as the ability to solve a problem or create a product that is valued in a culture, Gardner developed criteria for determining what set of skills make up intelligence. It is important to note that up until this point, intelligence had been solely defined through standardized testing that measured mathematical and language ability. The Theory of Multiple Intelligences offered an entirely new schema regarding what intelligence means. Although Dr. Gardner viewed the Theory of Multiple Intelligences as a contribution to psychology rather than to education, educators readily embraced his theory, recognizing its potential implications for the educational setting. The multiple intelligences theory is applied in schools throughout the world today and multiple intelligences research continues as educators further explore and develop applications.

In his book, *Frames of Mind*, Gardner (1983 /1993) identifies the eight intelligences and their core operations as:

<b>Intelligence</b>	<b>Core Operations</b>
Linguistic	syntax, phonology, semantics, pragmatics
Musical-Rhythmic	pitch, rhythm, timbre
Logical-Mathematical	number, categorization, relations
Visual-Spatial	mental visualization, mental transformation of images
Bodily-Kinesthetic	control of one’s own body, control of handling objects
Interpersonal	awareness of other’s feelings, emotions, goals, motivations
Intrapersonal	awareness of one’s own feelings, emotions, goals, motivations
Naturalist	recognition and classification of objects in the environment

Skyview's active pedagogy is informed through the multiple intelligences (MI). MI is used as a tool to access content and as a mechanism for delivering rich curriculum in which an array of intelligences are blended together during curriculum investigations. Furthermore, student capacity and growth within the eight intelligences are encouraged.

### **Thematic Project-Based Curriculum**

Traditional education typically relies on teachers presenting information to students who passively receive it. Students are asked to repeat what they have learned or memorized through regular testing. Teachers then assign grades based on test performances, with grades serving as extrinsic rewards and punishments.

In contrast, Skyview School believes that when students are actively engaged in their learning through a compelling, interactive, and dynamic curriculum, students develop and nurture a love of learning and intrinsic motivation. Through a combination of whole group instruction, center-based activities, thematic projects, small group collaborations, and individual work, students experience enthusiasm about and connections to their investigations and learn because they want to learn. Intrinsic motivation and self-direction are essential to fostering a lifetime love of learning and the ability to learn *how to learn* as opposed to simply learning *what to learn* in order to pass a test or satisfy a teacher or parent.

Developing and nurturing intrinsic motivation through an active approach to teaching and learning also means that students assume greater responsibility for their education and their lives. In this way, in addition to developing study habits that will serve them well for years to come, students are also developing important life skills as family and community members and as informed and active citizens.

The Skyview curriculum is framed by a thematic project-based curriculum. Compelling topics derived from content standards form the basis of the projects. Thematic projects feature linked investigations and intersecting content area and are created for real audiences. The multiple intelligences inform these projects, providing rich products in which content is expressed through a variety of intelligences. Thematic projects require students to construct deep understanding and skills, while simultaneously fulfilling academic standards and goals related to the personal intelligences.

Teaching and learning are active and engaging in Skyview's classrooms. Effective instructional practices promote equity and high expectations: they make the content of products come alive, ensure that all students think and participate, and allow the teacher to know all students and their thinking well. Good practices foster character by inspiring each student to develop craftsmanship, perseverance, collaborative skills, and responsibility for learning. They promote critical skills, and responsibility for learning. They promote critical thinking by asking that students make connections, perceive patterns and relationships, understand diverse perspectives, supply evidence for inferences and conclusions, and generalize to the big ideas of the discipline studies.

### **Personal Intelligences**

While all of the multiple intelligences are addressed by Skyview, we contend that the personal intelligences (intrapersonal and interpersonal intelligences) are central to school life and success in the greater community. We believe that the healthy, constructive functioning and development of the intrapersonal and interpersonal intelligences are foundational to successful learning and effective participation as a member of society. Thus, Skyview places an emphasis on these two intelligences above and beyond the others.

Skyview aligns itself with Daniel Goleman’s (1997) definition of the intrapersonal and interpersonal intelligences outlined in his book, *Emotional Intelligence*. Goleman places value on the constructive development and use of these two intelligences as ways of enlightening self and society.

Intrapersonal intelligence is our understanding of our self, discerning feelings and observing how they influence our behavior. Interpersonal intelligence is our ability to notice subtle distinctions in others, such as changes in their moods, temperaments, motivations, and intentions. Personal intelligence is a key human skill that is essential for developing and maintaining healthy relationships. It also turns out that children who are able to monitor their feelings and cooperatively interact with others tend to have longer attention spans, process information better, and have stronger memorization skills. In other words, it helps them learn better academically.

Children need opportunities to develop skills to handle anxiety and anger, to empathize, and to resolve conflict. While schools obviously need to prepare students to be competent in all academic areas, they also need to teach students the skills to be intrapersonally aware and interpersonally proficient. At Skyview, we believe school is a natural place to help children build upon what they already know in order for them to have skills and strategies to deal with what at times can be very perplexing issues. We have committed ourselves to ensuring that students at Skyview School develop the intrapersonal and interpersonal skills to be successful in life.

Skyview School has understood for many years that when children are in an emotionally safe environment they are more receptive to the academic challenges presented to them. The two are intricately linked. While teachers play a crucial role for students by both modeling and creating opportunities for growth in the personal intelligences, we also believe students, when empowered, will lead by example as well. Through our multiage grade level organization, “buddies”, and collaboration between the different levels, students teach each other how to work cooperatively, resolve conflict when they see it happening, reflect on their own thoughts and feelings, and communicate assertively.

The great majority of Skyview School students are delightful, respectful, well-behaved, and eager to learn. Significant behavioral problems are minimal. Yet even minor behavioral problems can detract from learning taking place and Skyview School staff members are expected to act promptly to ensure that minor problems do not become major crises. When problems arise, timely intervention by school staff keeps students thinking about issues of appropriateness, good citizenship, and safety. Skyview School does not use corporal punishment or physical discipline as a behavior management strategy. Instead, we use a variety of other interventions including reflection, time out, redirection, positive peer pressure, and logical consequences. In more extreme situations, suspension and expulsion are options. For more detailed information about Skyview School discipline procedures, please refer to page 16.

The goal of our personal intelligences curriculum, in broadest terms, is teaching self-discipline and self-regulation, qualities of maturity that are not innate but learned. It is normal and natural for children as they grow to experiment with various behaviors, to push, and to test the limits. Both parents and teachers can expect to be challenged and tested in a variety of ways. Children also need and want basic structure and predictability in their lives. Our responsibility as educators is to ensure that there are appropriate limits, and that these limits are clearly understood and honored at Skyview School.

**Skyview School’s expectations for conduct are simple:**

- 1. Be Respectful.**
- 2. Be Responsible.**



**Celebrations** are a regular part of life at Skyview School.

- Family gatherings are times to come together as a community and celebrate our common interests.
- Level celebrations of learning and festivals in the greater community are part of the Skyview year.
- Halloween is celebrated school-wide as one of our autumn holidays.
- Birthdays are honored and celebrated as initiated by individual families. (Please mail invitations to all parties held outside of school, or, if you wish them delivered at school, be sure that all students in class are invited.)
- Many holidays throughout the year, such as Thanksgiving and Dr. King's birthday, are woven into the curriculum through historical and cultural understanding of the holiday.

If, as a parent, your personal and/or religious beliefs are in conflict with our celebrations, it is your responsibility to discuss your needs with your child's homeroom teacher **well in advance** of the activities so that alternative arrangements can be made for your child.

**Field Trips** are important extensions of classroom learning. The experiential nature of field trips makes learning concrete and deepens students' sense of the relevance of classroom studies. Student participation in field trips is a required and expected part of the full educational experience.

- Field trips occur throughout the school year.
- Students participate in field trips by level and as a whole school.
- Many field trips are within walking distance and require few if any fees.
- Other trips require transportation off site and fees are charged to offset expenses.
- Parent volunteers provide transportation and serve as chaperones on these longer trips. Many of our great adventures would not be possible without the assistance of our dedicated parents. Occasionally, questions arise about having siblings accompany parent chaperones on trips. School policy does not allow siblings to join these trips, unless otherwise noted, as these events are reserved for students in the given class.
- Respect and responsibility guide student behavior at school and on field trips. Student participation in field trips assumes respectful and responsible behavior, including good manners and compliance with instructions and directions.

### **Annual 6th/7th Transition Trip**

Every year in an effort to form a cohesive middle school for the upcoming school year, the sixth and seventh graders attend a 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> transition trip. The purpose of the field trip is to involve the new middle school class with establishing a positive classroom culture, topics that they are interested with studying, and setting field trips for the school year. Over the years the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> transition trip has been very successful, playing a key role in shaping a middle school program that is unique in the Prescott community.

Prior to re-enrollment all families who have children in the sixth or seventh grade will be informed about the school policy regarding the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> transition in order to help them make a more informed decision regarding re-enrollment for the upcoming school year. All students who do not re-enroll will not be allowed to attend the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> transition trip. This is not meant to be a punitive measure. Again, the purpose of the trip is community building, which is so vital at the middle school level. Students who do not re-enroll will be allowed to attend all other field trips and participate in class and community celebrations.

## Assessment

As a multiple intelligence school that values students' learning and acknowledges that children will have varying rates of development through all eight intelligences, the assessment system at Skyview School uses a range of formative and summative practices to monitor student learning through the intelligences to guide instruction and teaching strategies as needed to best serve all students and each of them individually.

Skyview School is used to provide feedback that supports and stimulates the learning of each student. Multiple types of assessment are utilized to create a broad and comprehensive view of each student.

**Formative Assessments** are assessments that provide ongoing feedback to parents and students. They include:

- **Quarterly Progress Reports** are distributed to families and legal guardians four times per year. All progress reports are final after they have been distributed to families and are not open to changes. The progress reports were designed to highlight students' progress over the course of the year with meeting the necessary criteria to be proficient in a particular area.
- **Teacher Parent Conferences** are an integral aspect to Skyview's assessment system. Twice a year, once after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and again at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, parents meet with the homeroom teachers to review progress and highlight strengths and areas for improvement. Parents are expected and responsible to sign up and attend conferences, as they are valuable and necessary for student growth. A letter from the director will be sent to families who did not sign up or attend a conference.
- **Student Work/ Reflections** are an essential component to Skyview's assessment system in that it documents a student's growth over time. The use of student portfolios aligned to the multiple intelligences is utilized to highlight student growth for parents and for the students. At the end of the school year, all 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> students conduct Student-Led Conferences with their parents to showcase their portfolio work and growth over the year.

**Summative Assessments** are assessments that summarize learning over a period of time and are tied to set criteria.

These include:

- Arizona Articulated Standards
- Mandated Standardized Tests
- Teacher Files
- Cumulative Files

## Title I Supplemental Reading Program

**An overview of the Program:**

- The focus of Skyview School's program is on early intervention for students who are most at risk of falling significantly behind in the area of reading.
- All children in grades K-8 can receive supplemental reading instruction, if eligibility is determined using a diagnostic reading assessment instrument. The focus of the program is mostly designed to target students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.
- Generally, students receive services Monday-Thursday for 20-30 minutes in small groups or individualized sessions; which is offered during school hours.
- The Title I Reading Teacher works with students either within their classroom environment or in the designated supplemental reading room. This decision will be made in conjunction with the classroom teacher and the Title I Teacher.

### **Who Will Receive Initial Testing?**

The following groups of students may be tested:

- All kindergarten students;
- All newly enrolled students (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades);
- Any 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student recommended by the classroom or Title I teacher;
- Any 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student who fails to meet the standard of the Reading portion of state test;
- Any student who received services in the past.

### **Testing Procedures:**

- Any student fitting the above criteria may be tested using DIBELS Next or another instrument, as determined by the developmental and diagnostic needs of the student;
- DIBELS Next and or running records will be used to monitor student progress;
- Post testing will be done on all students who receive services prior to exiting the program or at the end of the school year.

### **Parent/Teacher Contact:**

- The Title I teacher will share results and a list of students who are eligible with the classroom teachers and director;
- The Title I teacher will send home a letter explaining the supplemental reading program, as well as a consent form to all parents with children who are eligible to receive services;
- Upon receipt of the parent consent form, the Title I teacher will contact each parent to review the program and answer questions;
- Title I teacher will offer two informational meetings (at different times of the day) for Title I parents twice annually;
- The Title I teacher will communicate quarterly with classroom teachers, parents, and director regarding the progress of each child receiving services.

### **3rd Grade Reading Requirement**

Arizona Revised Statute [15 – 701](#) states that if data on the third grade statewide reading assessment is available and demonstrates that a student scored “falls far below” the student shall not be promoted from the third grade. There are three exemptions in Arizona Revised Statute [15-701](#). In accordance with the new law, a school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school is allowed to promote a student who earns a score of “falls far below” on the third grade statewide reading assessment only for the following reasons:

- The student is an English Language Learner or Limited English Proficient who has received less than two years of English instruction; or
- A student with disabilities has an individualized education plan(IEP), and the IEP-team, which includes the student’s parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate
- A student is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education and/or a student who has been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia.

## **Child Find/ Identification**

All children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services shall be identified and evaluated. Skyview will maintain an effort to inform the public and parents within the community of the availability of special education services. Screening activities will be implemented for all newly enrolled students and those transferring in without sufficient records. The screening will be completed within 45 days of enrollment. (The screening will include consideration of academic or cognitive, vision, hearing, communication, emotional, and psychomotor domains.) The School will maintain documentation and annually report the number of children with disabilities within each disability category that have been identified and evaluated. The collection and use of data to meet these requirements are subject to confidentiality requirements. Skyview will refer children suspected of having a disability aged birth through four years for the Arizona Early Intervention Program for evaluation and, if appropriate, services.

All new students in K-8, who have been previously identified to receive special education services, will continue those services at Skyview. Students identified with areas of concern through the 45-day screening process, or through teacher/ parent concerns, will be referred to the Child Study Team (CST) to review existing data and determine if additional information is necessary. If the CST determines more information is necessary, the student may be referred to Skyview's Special Education Consultant in order to start the process with determining special education eligibility. If the evaluation data determines that a student qualifies, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be developed following strict state guidelines and immediately implemented.

## **Homework**

Current research demonstrates that afterschool, unstructured playtime and family time are critical in the elementary and middle school years. As a four-day school, we offer families the opportunity to complete assignments on Fridays so that weekends and evenings can be more relaxed, family oriented, and homework free. Homework is assigned to:

- develop organizational skills such as writing down assignments, collecting and bringing home needed materials, and completing and returning assignments;
- reinforce information and concepts learned in class and to prepare for active classroom participation;
- encourage independent completion of work;
- and help teachers assess student progress and challenges.

Teachers clarify their expectations regarding homework at the beginning of the year. Parents play an important role in the homework process. Parents are asked to:

- establish a consistent homework routine by encouraging a regular time and place for study without interruption;
- and offer side-by-side support and assistance in developing good study habits, and set an expectation for regular completion of homework assignments that gives a clear message about the value of homework as part of the learning process.

## **Parent Volunteer Service**

As Skyview School was the first charter school in Arizona founded by parents, volunteerism is foundational to the success of our Skyview School community of learners. The volunteer efforts of our families greatly contribute to the quality of our school and the achievement of our education goals. For many years Skyview School has been logging in approximately 5,000-8,000 hours of volunteering time annually. Our parent volunteer service program allows parents to be both actively involved with their children's education and model a service ethic. Students observe and experience their parents as contributing members of our community, and

in so doing, parents connect their children to the larger goal of education, that of becoming contributing members of society.

Being involved through volunteer activities allows families direct participation in the educational lives of their children, whether that involvement is through the classroom, field trip assistance, repair and maintenance, office assistance, or any number of volunteer opportunities. In addition, the strong support every year has positioned Skyview School to continue offering full-funded arts programs and maintain our teacher-student ratio - one of the lowest in the area.

**Skyview School requests a minimum annual volunteer commitment from each family of 50 hours.** A listing of volunteer opportunities is sent home throughout the school year. **In order to ensure that volunteer hours are up-to-date, it will be vital that volunteers (whether parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, etc.) log in their hours immediately on finishing a project (either in the logbook at the front office or on the log sheet found in the classroom).** A comprehensive Parent Volunteer Handbook is available in the front lobby and details the many opportunities to become involved in volunteer service. Parents can also check with classroom teachers directly regarding needs and opportunities for volunteering.

Skyview School suggests that families work towards fulfilling approximately 25% of the volunteer hours each quarter. At the end of each quarter a form will be provided to every family that lists the total numbers of hours completed to date. We also encourage families to consider ways to contribute to the school that may not necessarily be listed as a volunteer need. Skyview School is very fortunate to attract families who have a great many talents and trade skills and we gladly welcome suggestions on way to improve the school.

**Volunteer hours may be completed in two ways:**

- Hourly service
- Job Bank service

**Hourly service** opportunities are available to families through on-going assistance with school-related tasks as needs arise. To fulfill hours in this manner, parents should speak to the volunteer request contact person noted in the monthly volunteer listing.

**Job Bank positions** are available to families interested in specific, yearlong jobs. Job Bank positions are tied to an award of a set number of volunteer hours, and they often fulfill a family's volunteer hours obligation. These positions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and the Volunteer Coordinator oversees placement.

**Volunteer Notes:**

- Parents should register their volunteer hours regularly in the volunteer log located in the lobby.
- It is recommended that parents complete 25% of their annual hours quarterly.
- Job Bank hours are awarded in four quarterly increments.
- Hours are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new families entering school after the year has begun.
- A statement listing completed volunteer hours is sent home quarterly with student progress reports.
- Families may accumulate hours by serving directly or having other adults serve for them (grandparent, brother, sister, etc.).
- Families needing a partial exemption due to hardship related causes should contact the Director.
- While compliance with the Parent Volunteer Service Program is strongly encouraged, by state law, it is not mandatory. Nonetheless, the success of our community of learners depends on active parent volunteer service.

# SCHOOL ROUTINE

## Transportation

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school. Many families share transportation through carpooling. Families are welcome to post carpool requests on the lobby bulletin board.

## School Beginning and Dismissal

School begins at the times listed below. **Students should arrive early so that they are prepared to begin working at the designated start times.**

- Kindergarten 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Primary 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Intermediate 8:00 am - 3:15 pm
- Middle School 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

(The state of Arizona designates additional, required instructional time for middle school students, thus necessitating additional school days during the school year and extra times during each day.)

**The lane along the fence is a designated “drive through” area and is not a parking area. Please use this lane to stop long enough to drop off and pick up students only. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in this area during posted drop off and pick up times.** Parents wishing to walk their children into school or pick them up personally may use vacant parking spaces or park along South Rush Street. **Do not use the parking spaces in front of the apartments on the west side of South Rush Street or park in front of the house on the south side of the school.** Parents parking on the west side of South Rush Street should always escort their children across the street.

Playground supervision begins at 7:30 am. **For safety reasons, children should not be dropped off before that time.** Generally, students are admitted into classrooms at 7:45 am. As such, children should wear weather-appropriate clothing for outdoor, early morning play.

Timely pick-up at afternoon dismissal time is also important. The safety of your children is our paramount concern. Your cooperation in these matters is important and appreciated! It is essential that K-6 parents, or an approved adult, pick up each child by **3:30 PM**. If for whatever reason it will be after 3:30 PM, parents must notify the front office. All K-6 students at 3:30 PM will be brought into the front office and kept there until an approved adult arrives to pick them up. All 7-8 students at 3:40 PM will be brought into the front office and kept there until an approved adult arrives to pick them up.

**\*If you have children in multiple levels, please come through the “drive through” line closest to your oldest child’s dismissal time to help us in keeping our line moving!**

Students whose parents allow them to walk, bike, or carpool to school must complete the *Bike / Walk / Carpool Permission Form* at Back to School Night. Bike riders should always walk their bikes while on school grounds. Skateboarding is not permitted on school grounds.

**Parents wishing to have their child picked up by an individual not listed on the *Bike/Walk/Carpool Permission Form* must provide the office in advance with a written and dated authorization identifying the person(s) approved to drive their child.**

## Attendance

Daily attendance is basic to success at Skyview School. We define our *community of learners* as a group of people who join together to explore, share, and gain knowledge. The interchange that occurs in Skyview's daily learning process is dependent on full and regular participation of all members. A significant portion of the learning day is spent in small groups engaged in common experiences and sharing information. In essence, every student's learning is interconnected.

Excellent attendance also demonstrates social responsibility through supporting the group and being dependable. It is a "real life" expectation, not unlike the expectation of attendance at high school, college, and the workplace. In addition, daily attendance and punctuality are matters of law. Arizona state law says that "*it is unlawful for any child between six and sixteen years of age to fail to attend school during the hours school is in session unless excused.*" **By law, patterns of excessive absences must, and will, be reported to appropriate authorities. Excessive absences are defined as excused or unexcused absences of more than 10% of the school year. For Skyview School, that amounts to fifteen absences. Truancy is defined as five or more unexcused absences. If a student misses ten consecutive days they will automatically be withdrawn from Skyview.**

Recognizing that excessive absences violate state law, adversely affect students' educational experiences, and the school's educational environment, students are expected to attend all class sessions. Student absences are recorded as a part of the quarterly Progress Reports and the Mid-Quarter Intervention Report. These reports will detail the possible consequences of continued absence problems. **According to Skyview School's *Policies and Procedures Manual* and state law, if a student is absent fifteen days in the school year, he/she may be retained, suspended, or dropped.** The Director shall review all cases of excessive absences and make determinations as to possible consequences. An appeal process is available through the Board of Directors.

**Illnesses, extenuating family circumstances (such as a death or illness in the family), or uncontrollable events such as weather, traffic jams, or car problems are generally considered excused absences.**

**Oversleeping or not allowing enough time to prepare and arrive at school is generally considered an unexcused absence. Family travel and medical appointments during school time are discouraged.** When the status of an absence is in question, the Director, in consultation with staff, is responsible for determining whether an absence is recorded as excused or unexcused.

## Attendance Procedures

### **Absence**

1. Parents must call the school by 8:00 am if their child will be absent that day. Use the Skyview School Attendance Line at 776-1781 and leave a message detailing your name, your child's name, and the circumstances of the absence.
2. Anticipated absences falling into the "unexcused absences" category require parents to submit a letter to the Director for review prior to the absence. The Director will respond to the parents regarding the anticipated absences. Parents shall then notify teachers if there will be an absence.
3. **All children, regardless of previous enrollment at Skyview School, are not legally enrolled until the first day of school attendance. At least one week prior to the first day of school, parents must petition the Director, in writing, for consideration of a late start. These requests may be granted for rare and brief extenuating family circumstances. Failure to inform the office and receive permission to miss the beginning of school may result in your child's enrollment space being offered to a waitlisted student.**

4. If a student has more than two weeks of consecutive, unexcused absences, by law, the student will be withdrawn. The student may re-enroll upon return, pending space availability.

### **Tardy**

1. **Students arriving after 8:00 AM to school will be considered tardy and must first check in at the school office**, provide a parental explanation for the reason for their lateness, and receive a tardy slip before proceeding to class. If a student is tardy more than four times in a quarter the Director will contact the family to help resolve the issue.
2. Parents must send in a note to the school office or speak personally to office staff:
  - if their child will need to leave school early, or
  - if there is to be a change in afternoon pick-up arrangements.
3. Parents must sign out their child through the school office if the student is departing before the end of the school day. No student may leave campus, for any reason, without being signed out by a parent or authorized adult representative.

Parents will be contacted any day a child is absent without explanation. Failure to call the school about an absence in a timely manner or failure to return a school call about an absence will result in the absence being labeled "unexcused" regardless of the reason. After 24 hours, a registered unexcused absence cannot be changed to excused for any reason.

### **Recess, Lunch, Snacks, and Beverages**

**Children must bring a water bottle labeled with their name to school every day.** A refillable, clear plastic or stainless steel water bottle is both environmentally sound and less likely to leach plastic, so it is a healthier choice than a disposable, plastic water bottle. Arizona dryness makes dehydration a significant health concern, so access to water is imperative. Due to safety concerns, glass beverage bottles are not permitted on campus.

Skyview School does not offer a lunch program; thus, students must bring their own lunches. Due to time and space constraints, most levels cannot accommodate refrigerator or microwave needs.

Good nutrition is an important part of learning. In keeping with our mission to respect our world and ourselves, we encourage students to bring healthy foods, snacks, and drinks packed in reusable containers. Caffeine is a powerful drug that can have significant behavioral, psychological, and physical effects on developing minds and bodies. As such, students are prohibited from bringing highly caffeinated beverages to school and parents are asked to assist in regulating soda consumption at school. **School personnel reserve the right to deny caffeinated or highly sugared beverages to students. Students are never permitted to chew gum on campus or at school-sponsored events.**

**Pizza Thursdays** have been a long-time tradition at Skyview and families have the option to participate. Starting the second week of each quarter, pizzas are purchased and slices distributed to students who have paid for them. Pizza sign up forms are provided for each quarter and it is recommended that parents purchase slices for the entire quarter. If parents decide to sign up and send money in each week, the office must receive it by Tuesday afternoon. Pizza sign up forms will be sent out via email and will also be available at the front office.

Each teacher will clarify the eating and drinking policies for his or her classroom at the beginning of the year. For those teachers permitting eating and drinking in the classrooms, the following stipulations apply:

- No snacks during presentations by guest speakers.



- No snacks during formal presentations by other students.
- No snacking when the teacher believes snacking will be disruptive to the class activity.

Recess and lunch breaks are important times for children to be outside. In doing so, they have an opportunity to experience the outdoor environment, get fresh air, socialize, play, and run around. Research is clear that exercise is good for the body and the brain. As such, except in cases of extreme weather—lightning, rains, freezing cold air, etc.—students are expected to enjoy out-of-doors lunch and recess and (not remain in the classroom). Also, when students are outside for lunch and recess, teachers receive a much-needed break from their busy days. So, please dress your children appropriately—coats for cold weather, sunscreen and hats for hot days, etc.—so that they can experience the benefits of being outside!

**Recess (times may change):**

- Kindergarten: 9:50 – 10:20 AM
- Kindergarten: 1:30 – 2:00 PM
- Primary: 9:10 – 9:25 AM (snack)
- Primary: 1:30 -1:45 PM (snack)
- Intermediate 3-4 9:50-10:05 AM (snack)
- Intermediate 5-6: 9:45-10:00 AM

**Lunch Recess by Level:**

- Kindergarten: 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM
- Primary: 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
- Intermediate 3-4: 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM
- Intermediate 5-6: 12:00 – 12:45 PM
- Middle School: 12:15 – 12:45 PM

**Student Behavior and Discipline**

Due to the developmental differences with students in kindergarten through eighth grade, every level has slightly different approaches to both teaching and implementing a personal intelligences curriculum.

**Kindergarten/Primary Levels:**

The kindergarten and primary levels will be implementing similar behavior / discipline procedures that are outlined below. These levels use the Reflection Center as presented below. An explanation of how time out is used in the kindergarten level is also included.

**Reflection Center**

School children are expected to be ready to support self-learning and peer- learning every day. Occasionally, a child may need a reminder about behavior expectations. The Reflection Center gives a child in need time to reflect on his or her actions.

A child may be asked to visit this center if his or her behavior is interrupting learning. This center is a behavior-shaping tool. It allows students to take a break from class activities, reflect, and regain focus. It is not a punishment- based tool.

When a child is asked to visit the center, he or she does four things:

Stops – Removes him or herself from activity. (Begins 1 minute sand timer.)

Thinks – Reflects upon why he or she was asked to visit the center.

Fixes – Visualizes a new behavior that supports learning.

Go – Returns to the activity. (Makes entry on Reflection Center log.)

If a pattern of repeated visits to this center arises, an informal parent meeting is convened to discuss the child’s behavior. During this meeting a checklist of factors that may be influencing the child’s behaviors is reviewed and suggestions for solidifying the home / school connection to support the child are discussed.

If the child's behavior continues to interrupt the self-learning and peer-learning, a formal meeting will be held to discuss the child's behavior and options for successful learning.

### **Time Out**

When a child exhibits behaviors that are highly disruptive, aggressive, unsafe, or dangerous, time out is used as a behavior-extinguishing tool. Examples include:

- ❑ A child attacking another child
- ❑ A child who consistently refuses to listen to directions
- ❑ A child who routinely leaves the classroom without permission
- ❑ A child who uses materials and furniture in an unsafe or disruptive manner (throwing chairs, climbing on furniture, chasing another child with scissors, etc.)

In time out, the child loses the privilege of participating in classroom activities. The child is either placed in time out within the classroom or relocated to the director's office. The child is instructed to sit quietly without any interaction with others for a period of minutes equal to the child's age. Following time out, the child returns to classroom activities.

Based upon the severity or frequency of the behavior, a parent meeting will be convened.

### **Intermediate/ Middle School Levels:**

The intermediate and middle school levels will also be using a reflection center to help positively redirect unwanted disruptive behaviors. Due to the children's age, the reflection center and time out will be slightly different than the kindergarten and primary levels, but the basic premise is the same. One main difference will involve the middle school students leaving the classroom for reflection center and time out. Another key difference involves the use of Road to Self-Regulation.

### **Road to Self-Regulation**

The student enters his or her name on this form along with a summary of the inappropriate behavior. The student calls home to inform the parent that he/she will remain after school for 30 minutes. After school, the student writes a reflection addressing specific points related to the behavior and submits it to the teacher for approval.

For any student with re-occurring behavior problems, other options are considered, including:

1. **Parent Meeting** – The student, teacher, and parent meet together to discuss the child's inappropriate behavior. Behavior expectations are discussed and ways for the family to support a change in behavior are outlined.
2. **Behavior Contract** – The student, teacher, parent, and possibly the Director meet together to draft a behavior contract. The contract outlines inappropriate behaviors, expectations for appropriate behaviors, and consequences for non-compliance. All parties are required to sign the contract.
3. **Shadowing** – The student's parent must "shadow" his/her child for a length of time determined by the teacher or Director. The parent provides his/her child with direct hands-on attention, assisting the child with eliminating inappropriate behaviors and developing appropriate behaviors. This one-on-one assistance allows the teacher to refocus his/her energy back to meeting the needs of the full class community.
4. **Suspension/Expulsion** - Behavior that, in the opinion of the Director, is seriously egregious or dangerous to any member of the school community can result in immediate suspension from school for a period of up to ten (10) school days or in expulsion.

Any student may be suspended or expelled for the following egregious or dangerous behaviors:

1. The handling, use, possession, buying, selling, or concealing of any unauthorized drug, alcoholic beverage, or tobacco product while on school premises or at a school function.
2. The possession and/or use of fireworks and/or any explosive devices while on school premises or at a school function.
3. Violence in any form, including actual or threatened verbal or physical assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or harassment based on race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
4. The possession and/or use of any weapon while on school premises or at a school function.
5. Vandalism or theft of school or personal property.
6. Conduct that repeatedly disrupts any school process, function, class, or activity.
7. Open defiance of authority, such as a student non-responsiveness to a teacher's request to follow a directive after a disruptive or problematic incident, as well as habitual profanity or vulgarity.
8. Any behavior that creates an unsafe or potentially unsafe school environment. While at school, the primary responsibility for effective student behavior management rests with the school staff. Parent understanding, support, and cooperation are paramount to the success of this management.

### **Bullying Prohibition**

As mandated by Arizona state law, Skyview School is required to provide the following information regarding bullying:

Bullying is a form of harassment. Bullying is defined as: The repeated intimidation of students by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, emotional abuse or through attacks on the person or property of another. It may include, but is not limited to, actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically based or gender-based verbal put-downs, and extortion of money or possessions. Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process, detrimental to the well-being of all students and therefore, bullying is unacceptable behavior at any and all times at Skyview School.

Students who engage in any act of bullying while at school, at any school function, in connection with any school sponsored activity or event, or while en route to or from school are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion. As required by law, law enforcement officials shall be notified of bullying incidents. This policy also applies to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. All school staff members shall take action when bullying is observed or a student has informed the staff member about a bullying event or situation. Retaliation of any kind against a victim, a good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited. A confidential bullying report form may be used.

Intentionally making false accusations or false reports of bullying against another student are prohibited. If a student is unsure about whether an event or situation is bullying, he/she is encouraged to consult with a teacher, playground supervisor, Director, or other school employee. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, or false reporting of bullying, or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with school discipline policies and procedures. School personnel will investigate all complaints of bullying. Discipline or appropriate action will be taken if it is found that this policy has been violated.

## **Dress Code**

Students are given the latitude to use their clothing as a means of individual expression. Students are, however, to be guided by rules of respect and responsibility. Recognizing that Skyview is a school with a wide range of ages and that apparel can be viewed as an expression of our school community, students are required to wear clothing that is clean, in good repair, and conducive to a focused learning environment.

Regarding dress at Skyview, students and parents should observe the following:

- Faces must be clear of make up.
- Midriffs must be covered.
- Shorts and skirts must reach to fingertips.
- Underwear must be covered from top of pants or through tears in pants.
- Spaghetti strap shirts/tops are not permitted.
- Clothing must avoid images or messages that are obscene, suggestive, or offensive to a particular race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or gender orientation.
- Cleavage must be covered for girls.
- Only body piercing allowed are earrings.

Differences in perspective about clothing will be brought to the Director who has final authority.

## **Telephone Use and Messages/Cell Phones**

In cases of emergency or extreme necessity, students may use classroom phones with teacher permission and office phones with staff permission. Parent messages to the school should be called in or delivered in written form. Students should never be placed in the middle between parent and school communication. Due to small size of the office staff, their responsibilities to teachers and students, and their limited availability, the office staff accepts phone messages for students and conveys phone messages to students, other than those of an emergency nature, as time permits by the end of the school day.

**Cell phones are discouraged.** They tend to get lost, broken, or turn up missing. **Cell phones must be turned off throughout the day and must live in a designated box in your child's homeroom** Cell phones may not be worn on belts. Students may not use cell phones for receiving calls, making calls, text messaging, or any other purpose during the school day. Violating this policy, including having a cell phone ring between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm, will result in revocation of the cell phone privilege at school. If a student needs to make a call, he or she may check in with the teacher. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE PLAYGROUND AT ANY TIME.** They may come out of backpacks only after the student has walked off school grounds.

## **Use of Technology**

Skyview infuses the use of technology, as appropriate, to engage and stimulate student learning. Every student will have multiple opportunities throughout the year to use a variety of digital devices for academic and arts based outcomes. However, the use of technology at Skyview is a privilege and not an expectation. If it is determined that a student has been misusing it (using it for purposes other than defined by the teacher; or not treating it with care) the privileges will be revoked and the student(s) will not be able use technology for a defined period of time, or potential indefinitely.

## **Communications**

At Skyview School, we place great emphasis on effective communications and a strong partnership between school and home. There are many ways to communicate and it is important to use these ways to keep informed, share perspectives, and develop relationships. As always, respect and responsibility are our guiding principles.

Ongoing sources of communication include attendance at school functions such as celebrations and conferences, review of written communications such as newsletters from the Director, notes from teachers, and posted Board minutes, as well as participation in other communications including phone calls, informal notes, and meetings.

Teachers are pleased to talk with parents about their children, their classroom, or other matters. When preparing to teach, teaching, or performing supervisory duties, teachers must stay focused on the needs of the children. **Rather than trying to engage teachers in an impromptu meeting, please set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time.**

Communications are essential to the emotional well being of the school, and they are a responsibility jointly shared by the teachers, parents, students, administrators, and the Board. If you have a need, concern, or compliment, share it! **Take concerns or other feedback directly to the person involved in the matter.** When a problem arises, little is gained by "saving it up," only to air it with greater emotional intensity some weeks or months after the event, or worse, by spending time expressing unhappiness to those who cannot remedy the problem.

Skyview School follows a **Communication Protocol** to resolve problems. Teachers and staff are professionals and must be treated accordingly. **At all times, communications is guided by the document entitled *Conducting Professional Meetings at Skyview School*.** This document can be found on page 25. The teachers, staff, Director, and Board use this document to guide professional meetings at all times. Any member of Skyview School may ask for a review of this document prior to conducting a professional meeting. To resolve concerns:

1. Go to the teacher or other person(s) directly involved in the problem or concern.
2. If the matter cannot be resolved at the most direct and immediate level, both parties can meet with the Director. A direct communication, such as a conversation, phone call, or written document, must be used to initiate this meeting.
3. The Director works with the parties together in an attempt to negotiate a resolution acceptable to all. If a mutually agreed upon resolution is not forthcoming, the Director may choose to resolve the matter himself.
4. The Director's decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors through the Board President. The Board may choose to accept the appeal for review or let the Director's decision stand. The Board of Directors' decision is final.
5. For communication concerns regarding the Director, the same communications protocol is used, with the Board President serving in the Director's role when a disagreement cannot be resolved.

## **Health: Medication, Illness, and Accidents**

All medication, whether temporary or permanent, must be kept in the school office. Any departure from this policy, such as the use of an inhaler, should be discussed with and approved in advance by the Director.

**Medicines should be kept in their original bottles or containers and clearly labeled with both the student's name and the dosage directions.** Additionally, written permission from parents is needed in order to dispense medication. If your child has allergic reactions (to bee stings, certain kinds of foods, various non-prescription medicines, etc.), be sure to **notify the school office in writing** of this fact at the beginning of the school year.

Any student becoming ill during the course of the school day is brought to the office. Their medical records/instructions are checked, the child's temperature is taken if needed, and parents are called when necessary. Office staff supervises students not feeling well until parents can pick them up. If your child is clearly ill (fever, flu, severe cold, etc.), please keep him/her home. This demonstrates respect for other students, teachers, and staff and prevents the spread of illnesses.

### **Health Records**

Students entering kindergarten or transferring from another school must provide proof of current immunization and a birth certificate as a final step in their matriculation to Skyview School. Students at all levels are required by law to have up-to-date proof of immunization (or an immunization waiver form), a current emergency data card, and a signed parent authorization to dispense medication (or waiver) on file in the school office at the start of the year. **By state law, no student can begin at Skyview School without proper immunization records or waivers on file.**

### **Student Injuries and Accidents**

While Skyview School makes every effort to provide a safe learning environment, accidents happen. The school's liability insurance only covers injuries in which the school is deemed *legally* liable. If your child is injured while on school grounds and has been properly supervised, Skyview School's liability insurance does not cover the injury. When a student is injured during a school-related activity, a staff member that witnessed the incident will complete a Accident/ Incident Report. **Parents are responsible for all medical expenses incurred for accidents, injuries, and illnesses incurred, while a student is at school or at a school-sponsored activity off-campus.**

### **Fire Drills and Emergency Procedures**

Safety is an integral part of our learning environment. Fire drills are conducted monthly in accordance with state law and teachers instruct their students in proper fire drill procedures. Each classroom is equipped with a fire extinguisher, and the school has a fire alarm system. Lockdowns and reverse lockdowns are also conducted to help ensure student safety. Students are instructed in proper procedures in the event of earthquakes, floods, fire, and other severe weather conditions, as well as other emergency situations. Skyview has an established Emergency Response Plan that is reviewed and revised yearly.

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

Skyview School's Asbestos Management Plan is available upon request at the front office.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

In accordance with Arizona Statute 15-506, which states that a public school must "set aside a specific time each day for those students who wish to recite the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag," Skyview invites all students who wish to participate to meet in the front lobby at 8:15 am every morning to say the pledge of allegiance under the supervision and guidance of an adult.

### **Snow Days and Delayed Openings**

In the event of inclement weather, **Skyview School follows Prescott Unified School District.** Parents may check the PUSD website for snow day information after 6:00 am at [www.prescottschools.com](http://www.prescottschools.com). Snow day information will also be available by 7:00 am on the school's attendance line at 776-1781 and on the school's website at [www.skyviewschool.org](http://www.skyviewschool.org).

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Re-Enrollment and Enrollment

### Enrollment

Enrollment is held in mid-Spring for the upcoming academic year. Following Skyview's two-week re-enrollment period for returning students, a two-week open enrollment period is held for new students.

### Re-Enrollment

1. Returning students submit re-enrollment forms during the two-week re-enrollment period (February 25 - March 8, 2019). Placements are assigned to these students only if paperwork is returned during the two-week re-enrollment period.
2. Following the re-enrollment period, returning students who have not met the re-enrollment deadline are designated as new students and the open enrollment process applies to them.

### Open Enrollment

1. Siblings of enrolled students are legally given preference.
2. **Kindergarten open enrollment** is from February 4, 2019 through February 18, 2019, with siblings of current students receiving enrollment priorities.
3. Kindergarten evening orientations are set up for all prospective families. These are "adult only" tours that enable parents and guardians to better understand the kindergarten program, Skyview School in general, and their obligations as parents and guardians to support their child's learning.
4. By law, the kindergarten cutoff date is September 1. The law allows some discretion for accepting students whose birthdays fall between September 2 through December 31, but by law, no child can be enrolled whose birthday is after December 31. All kindergarten students, regardless of their age, will be interviewed for "kindergarten readiness" to ensure that they are ready to fully and appropriately participate in the kindergarten program. Skyview will offer spots to all 5 year-olds before offering spots to 4-year olds.
5. **1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade open enrollment** for 2019- 2020 is March 25 through April 5, 2019.
6. Prospective families attend an orientation and tour of the school.
7. Interested families, who believe that Skyview School is the best choice for their child and wish to be contributing members of our school community, complete and submit an application.
8. At the end of the two-week open enrollment period, the Director reviews all applications and accepts students who have completed all of the required stages and application steps.
9. If the number of applicants does not exceed the number of openings, all students are sent a letter of congratulations and enrollment forms, which must be returned within two weeks.
  - If, at the end of open enrollment, there are more students than openings, a lottery is held (this can be done by grade rather than level) and the selected students are offered enrollment. If a position is declined or a position is not accepted within two weeks of the letter's date, then new positions are offered based on the waiting list. The waiting list is determined by the date and time the completed applications were submitted.
  - Waitlisted families must respond within two weeks upon receipt of an admissions offer to secure a place for their child.

### Mid-Year Enrollment

1. Students may be admitted throughout the school year if placements are available.
2. Families follow the procedures outlined above for **Open Enrollment**.

3. If there is an opening during the school year, after open enrollment, parents are sent a letter congratulating them and offering their child an available position at Skyview School. Enrollment paperwork is sent, and the parent is given up to ten days from the date of the letter to respond and complete all of the enrollment paperwork. Failure to respond results in a withdrawal of the enrollment offer and the application becomes inactive.
4. If school has already begun, parents can bring in the necessary paperwork when they bring their child in the first day, but they must bring in their original birth certificate, immunization records, verification of residency for Skyview to copy and have on file.
5. In order to communicate regularly with waitlisted families and to revise our records, the waitlist is updated quarterly throughout the year.

Parents may download an application from [www.skyviewschool.org](http://www.skyviewschool.org). Completed application forms may be faxed to Skyview School at (928) 776-1742, emailed to [admin@skyview.k12.az.us](mailto:admin@skyview.k12.az.us), or submitted in person.

Regardless of previous enrollment at Skyview School, students are not legally enrolled until the first day of school they attend. Parents may petition the Director in writing prior to the beginning of the school year for consideration of a late start. These requests may be granted for rare and brief extenuating family circumstances. Students are placed in classes based on a number of important considerations (i.e. balanced ability levels; gender balance; individual student needs; teacher recommendations; and availability of space). The Director's decision is final.

### **School Calendar**

Skyview's 2017-2018 school calendar can be located at <http://www.skyviewschool.org/products.html> or a hard copy can be picked up at the front office. The school calendar each year is developed and approved for family distribution by the end of January each year.

### **Quality, Licensed After School Childcare**

It is the responsibility of parents to secure quality after school childcare for their children and transportation after school to the facility. While there are a few options, for this upcoming year we recommend the *Prescott Boys and Girls Club*, located on 335 E. Aubrey St., as they provide transportation for students from Skyview to their facility. For more information visit <http://www.bgccaz.org/projects/> or call (928) 776-8686.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost or misplaced articles such as clothing, books, and lunch boxes are placed in the Lost and Found box, located in the front lobby of the school office. Valuable items such as jewelry and money should not be brought to school. Please check the Lost and Found prior to each school break, as items left unclaimed are donated to charity.

### **Fundraising**

As Arizona ranks among the lowest of all states in funding for education, Skyview School looks to its parent body and the greater community for help beyond the limited revenue it receives from the state to maintain excellence in educational services. Without question, income beyond state funding plays a critical role in the quality and diversity of the educational experiences we can offer children. We need each family's support in our fundraising efforts in the way and at the level that is financially appropriate for each family.



Over the course of the year, there are a number of projects and events specifically designed to raise funds for the school and its programs. Information about these and other projects are distributed early in the year. We hope that you will support these efforts!

### **Tax Credit Program**

In 1998, Arizona law authorized a new tax credit for financial donations to support certain events and extra curricular activities in public schools. According to the Arizona Department of Revenue, “any educational or recreational activities that supplement the educational program of the school are considered to be extra curricular activities.” These extra curricular activities include such events as field trips, clubs, athletic activities, camps, and after school educational enrichment programs that require a fee to be paid.

The incredible thing about the tax credit program is that a donation to a qualifying school means **you pay that much less in state tax!** Married couples may donate a tax credit of up to \$400 and individuals may donate up to \$200 per year to Skyview School and have it **subtracted directly from the amount of taxes owed.** Throughout the school year, this money may be drawn upon to cover the extra-curricular expenses of any designated student. This tax credit is available to any Arizona resident who pays taxes, whether or not he/ she has a school-aged child. Arizona tax credit information is available in the office.

### **Tax Deductible Donations**

Families are welcome to make tax-deductible donations any time throughout the school year. We provide donors with a receipt, along with the school’s Tax ID number so that families, businesses, and organizations can deduct the donation from their yearly taxes. Unless the donation is earmarked for a specific purpose, all donations are placed in an “unrestricted donations” account where the money is used to enhance the facilities or make educational investments in the classrooms through the purchase of curriculum resources and materials.

### **Board of Directors**

As the governing board of the school, the Skyview School Board of Directors has a primary responsibility to see that the school fulfills its state charter contract by remaining true to its defined philosophy and operating in the best interests of its students, teachers, staff, and parents. The Board sets governance policy and the Director, as the Chief Executive Officer and community leader, sees that policy is effectively implemented.

Under the Skyview charter, the Board numbers between four and nine individuals, with parent and teacher participation. The Board is a self-perpetuating board and membership is based on demonstrated service to the school and/or an individual’s ability to expand the expertise of the Board in the performance of its duties. Board members serve not as parents or as representatives of a particular group within the school, but as advocates for the entire school and all school constituencies. As a public entity, the Board of Directors must follow all state statues outlining open meeting laws and may only deliberate and take action when a quorum of the Board membership is present.

The Board meets on a regular monthly basis every second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM in the south middle school classroom. As determined necessary, a special meeting may be called in order to address areas where action is pressing and can not wait until the next monthly meeting. The Board may also decide to go into executive session in either a regular or special meeting to deliberate limited areas (executive session is closed to the public). Notice of each meeting with the scheduled agenda will be posted at least 24 hours in advance on the bulletin board in the school lobby, as well as the school’s website at <http://www.skyviewschool.org/Skyview-School-Board-of-Directors.html>. All minutes of meetings are also posted at the above places after each meeting.

Skyview School values community comments and input. The Board of Directors' meetings are held in public and they welcome families' interest and encourage them to attend. Board meetings are for Board development and Board work purposes. The meeting is run by the facilitator and for the Board to discuss and deliberate on important matters; develop a sense of cohesiveness as a working unit; and make important decisions to help evolve the school, implement the charter, and preserve the fiscal and regulatory integrity of the organization. The Board provides effective, respectful communication and affords opportunities for community feedback on important issues. While community members are always encouraged to attend Board meetings, they may not speak during Board meetings. There are exceptions, such as Community Forum.

### **Community Forum**

A Community Forum is held specifically to obtain community input at Board meetings on items not listed on the agenda. Community members must sign-up on the Community Forum Sign-Up sheet located in the front lobby of the school. Due to time constraints, there are only five slots available for community members to sign-up for Community Forum. The Board President will call the meeting to order, move into Community Forum, and call the community member's name, as they are listed on the sign-up sheet. The community member will have three minutes to address the Board of Directors.

**Open meeting regulations do not allow Board members to enter into discussions on topics not posted on the agenda. However, the law permits the Board to answer complaints, thank community members, or take issues under advisement and assign topics to staff or Board members for follow-up.**

### **Family Directory**

A family directory is published annually for the convenience of our community of learners. Names, phone numbers, and addresses are listed. Please recognize that it is intended only to facilitate healthy communication within our school community, and that it is not to be used in any other way. Use of the family directory to solicit Skyview families for any purpose, whether commercial or charitable, is prohibited. Information contained in the Family Directory is not to be shared with individuals or organizations outside our school community. **If you do not wish to be included in the Family Directory, please notify the office at the beginning of the school year.**

### **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

Skyview School operates with a non-discriminatory policy, both for the hiring of staff members and for the acceptance of students to the program. Skyview School does not discriminate on the basis of race, skin color, religion, gender, gender orientation, national origin, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions/hiring policies, or any school-administered program. The school reserves the right to make changes in its programs, policies, and procedures, including information in this handbook, during the year in order to address evolving institutional needs.

### **Personal Counseling, Referrals, and Testing**

All school staff is available to advise students experiencing academic, social, or other personal challenges. We hope that parents, too, will not hesitate to discuss concerns about their children's development and needs with us. Together we can resolve most problems that arise. It is important to recognize, though, that the school staff is experienced as educators; they not trained counselors. There are times when it is best to seek the assistance of trained professionals to understand and meet a child's needs. Suggestions to seek professional help or pursue

diagnostic testing are not negative judgments of a child; they simply represent an appropriate acknowledgment of the limits of our counseling expertise and our desire to assist families.

## APPENDICES

### **Communication Protocol**

The Communication Protocol, as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook, guides all communication issues at Skyview School. (Please refer to page 19). This current document brings together the two most important elements of Skyview School: the overriding importance of the personal intelligences (the intrapersonal intelligence and the interpersonal intelligence) in conducting business and education at Skyview School, and, perhaps most important of all, #13 in Appendix I of the Skyview School Charter, which states, “Respect and responsibility are the basis for self- and peer-regulated discipline and a safe school environment.”

With these important perspectives as the basis of our communications, the following guidelines are a part of all professional interactions at Skyview School:

1. The best interests of the child and the school are always at the center of professional communications.
2. Professional meetings are best conducted at a designated time, date, and place and for a specific length of time. These should be determined before the start of the meeting. Ad hoc brief conversations can be productive, though teachers and staff have the final say in determining whether a meeting might be more productive with a set time and with a particular agenda.
3. In order to have a productive conversation between parents, staff, teachers, and/ or students, there must be an assumption that all parties are operating in good faith.
4. Discussions for problem solving best occur in environments where each party has an opportunity to *describe* the problem as she/ he sees it along with a willingness to discuss a variety of solutions and options. Coming in to a meeting with a pre-established outcome in mind can de-rail creative problem solving for the best interests of the student and the school.
5. In resolving differences, it is best to descriptively focus on one issue at a time- the present issue for which the meeting was called- and not bring in issues from the past, unless they are directly relevant to the current concern.
6. Productive problem solving occurs when past behaviors are discussed as they relate to finding productive solutions in the future. The past cannot be changed; it can only be a source of learning to influence present and future behavior.
7. Assuming best intentions, no party shall ascribe judgment of or negative intention to the other party. That is, each person assumes responsibility for his or her perspective in language and tone that promote active, side-by-side problem solving, rather than assuming ill will of another.
8. Communication and problem-solving best occur when parties do not interrupt one another, when each member of the professional meeting can control excess emotion, and when words and tone reflect respect for others and personal responsibility for managing personal emotional states.
9. In recognizing that professional meetings can sometimes get “heated,” any participant can call for a break so that all parties can better self-manage their emotions in an effort to return to side-by-side problem solving.
10. Should any parent, teacher, staff, or student believe that the meeting is not following these guidelines, or if impasses occur that seem insurmountable, any party may suspend the meeting until another date.
11. While most concerns will result in fruitful problem-solving discussions and workable solutions, not all will. In these instances, the Communications Protocol as outlined on p.16 of the Parent-Student Handbook outlines how final decisions are made.



## **Homeless Children and Youth**

**Introduction:** Skyview School is committed to creating equal educational opportunities for all children. The school strives to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to a free, appropriate public education that is comparable to that provided to the children of any Arizona resident and consistent with Arizona's mandatory school attendance laws.

**Goal:** All children and youth experiencing homelessness will be immediately enrolled in school based on availability and will have educational opportunities equal to those of their non-homeless peers. Homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

**Legal Background:** The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), which is included in No Child Left Behind as Title X-C.

**CONTACT:** The Homeless Children and Youth Liaison is Scott McCreery and he can be contacted at (928) 776-1730 or [admin@skyview.k12.az.us](mailto:admin@skyview.k12.az.us)

## **Annual Notice for Directory Information Under FERPA Regulations**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Skyview School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. Skyview School may, however, disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the school to the contrary **in writing**. The primary purpose of directory information is to support our community of learners. Examples where this information might appear include:

- Performance / graduation programs acknowledging student participation
- Yearbook
- Recognition letters
- Family Directory
- Media
- School website

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations may include, but are not limited to, companies that take class photographs or publish yearbooks.

If you do not want Skyview School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify Skyview School in writing by the beginning of school or, for new students, within two weeks of your child's enrollment in Skyview School. Skyview School has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student name
- Student interests
- Address
- Telephone
- Photographs
- Student accomplishments
- Birthday
- Dates of attendance
- Level / grade
- Student work

### **Footnotes:**

1These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces, and as amended by Skyview School.

### **Annual Notification of Rights for Elementary Schools Under FERPA Regulations**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Director a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Director will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Director, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

[NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

### **Annual Parent Notification of Access to Employee Information**

- Skyview School maintains a log of all employee fingerprint clearance cards and resumes. These materials are located in the office and are available for public viewing. Parents may request information on the professional qualifications of all teachers.
- A parent may request information on the professional qualifications of staff that work with the requesting parent's child. The following information may be requested:
  - Classroom teacher college majors/ degrees and the areas in which advanced degrees are held.

- Classroom teacher status as “Highly Qualified” as defined by NCLB, as well as classroom teacher status regarding certification, including emergency or provisional certification.
- Instructional aide and paraprofessional qualifications and services offered from a paraprofessional/ instructional aide.

### **The Arizona Early Intervention Program**

For detailed information visit <https://www.azdes.gov/AzEIP/>. The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) supports families of children birth to three with disabilities or special developmental needs, helping them to build on their child’s strengths, and enhance and promote their child’s growth, development, and learning.

The State of Arizona defines as eligible, a child between birth and 36 months of age who is developmentally delayed or has an established condition, which has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay, as outlined in the State’s definition. (see below)

**If a child is referred** to AzEIP, an Interim Service Coordinator (ISC) contacts the family, and if the family is interested, makes an appointment to visit with the family at a time and place of the family’s choosing. During the visit, the family’s concerns, and information about the child’s development, health, and medical history are shared. The ISC and family may decide that a more detailed evaluation is warranted.

**If the child is eligible** for the early intervention program, a service coordinator is assigned. The family, their service coordinator, individuals involved in the child’s assessments, and others the family wish to include, work as a team to develop outcomes for the family’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The team members share information and resources, and identify strategies, activities, supports and services that will result in achievement of the outcomes.