Welcome to the 2021-22 School Year Falcon Family!

I hope you are enjoying a great summer and that your children are excited about the rapidly approaching start to the new school year. Whether this is your first year, or you have been here for years, I want to welcome you to a wonderful year at Western Peaks. Our school staff is beyond excited to begin a new journey as a primary school, servicing preschool - 4th grade students. We would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families and teachers transitioning from Cimarron Springs, as well as any other new families who have moved into the neighborhood! We look forward to building positive and collaborative relationships with all of our families this year, so that we may achieve the goal of excellence for each and every student!

Please take note of the important dates included in this newsletter. Western Peaks does have new school hours this year. School hours are 9:00 am - 3:45 pm Tuesdays - Fridays, and 9:00 am - 1:45 pm on Mondays. Students may begin arriving no earlier than 8:40 am each day. They will go directly to class upon arrival, unless they are having breakfast in the cafeteria first. Preschool students will follow the schedule for their assigned session. Preschool Session 1 is from 9:00 AM – 11:45 AM (Mondays 9:00 - 10:45 AM). Preschool Session 2 is from 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM (Mondays 12:00 -1:45). Our district's Community Education Department offers on-site services via the “Den’s Club” to accommodate your before or after school child care needs. Please call 623-876-7918 for more information.

Parents will be permitted to escort their child to the classroom on the first day of school, August 3rd, and then exit through the front doors. After the first day of school, parents and students will say their goodbyes out front and then only students will proceed to their classrooms.

Bus routing information is accessible through the district's website (www.dysart.org). You may also contact the transportation department at 623-876-7030.

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, I look forward to working with such a dedicated staff, parents, and community to accomplish all of the many great things planned for this school year. Together we are eagerly anticipating a highly successful school year with many opportunities to become involved in promoting our school's many successes. I hope you will consider getting involved with our PTSA, Site Council, or as a volunteer.

Sincerely,
Principal Brown
DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES ~

The following procedures are used to improve the safety of students walking/biking to school, as well as improve the flow of the curbside drop off and pick up area. I ask for your patience in the first few weeks of school while everyone is adjusting to the procedures. Please teach your children to remain on the sidewalks and to use crosswalks as they walk/bike to school, always watching carefully for traffic.

Student safety is a top priority. All parents/guardians and students are to follow our drop-off and pick-up procedures listed below. Only the curbside drive-thru lane should be used for drop off and pick-up.

- The parking lot may not be used as a place to drop off or pick up your student. Please do not wait for students in the middle of the parking lot or stop behind cars in parking spaces.
- Students will not be allowed to move through the parking lot or cross the crosswalk without an adult escort.
- When entering/exiting a vehicle in the drive-thru lane, all students must enter/exit on the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Do not get out of your vehicle while in the drive-thru lane. If you need to exit your vehicle, even for a short time, please park in the designated parking lot spaces only.
- The flow of the pick-up/drop off lane is one way, entering from Surprise Farms Loop South.
- As you turn into the school, there will be two lanes. The first lane, on the right, is for Preschool drop-off/pick-up only. All other cars (K-4) should enter the left lane and proceed ahead. Please follow signs & directions of Staff who will be controlling the flow of traffic and will signal you to pull ahead as space permits within the drop off lane.
- Staff will be available to assist students into vehicles when the vehicles reach the loading/unloading zone.
- In order to push as many cars through the pick-up lane, we ask for your assistance when asked to proceed to the next open space.
- The west side parking lot is to be used by buses and staff only. This is not a student drop off zone.
- Please do not use the handicapped parking spaces unless your vehicle is appropriately marked.

Please stay highly alert, off of your phone, and drive slowly through the drive-thru lanes and parking lots! We appreciate your patience daily as you drop-off/pick-up your child. Our children’s safety is too important!
MORNING ARRIVAL PROCEDURES ~

Our school start time is 9:00 am and breakfast is served from 8:35 - 8:55 am. Gates & doors will open at 8:40 am and students will report directly to classrooms to begin their day. **Students are not to arrive before 8:40 am, unless they are eating breakfast at school, as supervision does not begin until that time.** Class begins promptly at 9:00, so all students should be in their seats, ready to learn at 9:00 am. Please remember that if your child is not in the classroom by 9:00 am they will be marked tardy. For a tardy to be excused, the parent must call or come into the office.

**Preschool:** Use the designated drive-thru lane to drop-off your child. Staff will be curbside to have you sign your child in for the day. If you need to exit your vehicle to assist your child out of a carseat, please do so very quickly so that we can pull the next vehicle forward. Preschool students should arrive approximately 5 minutes before their session start time. We will not sign preschool students in until approximately 8:50-8:55 am & 12:50-12:55 pm daily.

**Kindergarten & 1st Grade:** Kindergarten & 1st grade students will enter the building through the double doors by the Library. If you are walking your child to the doors, you will need to park in a designated parking space in the front lot. Students will not be allowed to cross the crosswalk without an adult escort. **Do not park in the front drive at any time.** Kinder & 1st grade bike riders will use the courtyard bike racks to secure their bikes. Staff will be on duty to ensure your child finds their way from the double doors to the classroom. Parents are not permitted to enter through these doors into the building.

**2nd- 4th Grade:** Students will enter through the courtyard gates and then proceed immediately upstairs to their classroom, with the exception of students who are eating breakfast. Students who eat breakfast at school will go directly to the cafeteria and then to class.

**Bus riders** ~ The buses will drop off and pick up students in the bus lane which is located by the west side staff parking lot. Staff will be on duty to supervise students. Upon arrival, students will enter the building and go directly to class, or to the cafeteria if they are having breakfast first.
AFTERNOON DISMISSAL PROCEDURES ~

Preschool: Use the designated drive-thru lane to pick-up your child. Staff will be curbside to have you sign your child out for the day. If you need to exit your vehicle to assist your child into a car seat, please do so very quickly so that we can pull the next vehicle forward.

Kindergarten-4th Grade: Students in Kindergarten-4th grade are dismissed from school at 3:45 pm Tuesday – Friday, and at 1:45 pm on Mondays. (Kindergarten students will dismiss 5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school. Teachers walk students in grades K-3 outside each day to their designated grade level areas. K-3 students will be assembled by grade level. Older siblings will go to the younger siblings' grade level to pick them up or wait for parents. Students will need to be picked up no later than 3:55 pm each day and 1:55 pm on Mondays. Students who are not picked up promptly will be brought to the office and parents will be notified.

Bus riders ~ Students will exit the building and meet near the bus pick up loop, lining up in the marked bus line. Staff will supervise students until it is time to load them on the bus. In the event of inclement weather, staff will keep students in shaded areas or indoors until the busses arrive.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS & SKATEBOARDS ~

The school will not store skateboards, scooters, roller blades, etc. in the office or classroom areas. If a student chooses to use this mode of transportation to/from school, the item must be able to be secured with a locking mechanism in the bike rack area. Bicycles and scooters must be secured in the bike area. The school will not be responsible for the loss or theft of any of these items.

Students are expected to follow all local laws when traveling to and from school and are encouraged to wear appropriate safety equipment. Bicycles, scooters, and skateboards must be walked in crosswalks and once on the school grounds. Skateboards, rollerblades, etc. must be similarly carried.

Motorized vehicles including scooters are not allowed at any time per Municipal Code is 54-55.

Please encourage students to label their transportation with their name in permanent marker, somewhere on the top-side so that it is visible.