

# Gila Vista Junior High School

2245 S. Arizona Avenue  
Yuma, Arizona 85364  
928-502-7100/FAX 928-502-7190

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We, at Gila Vista, look forward to working with you to provide an enriching experience for your child. Provided in this handbook is the most pertinent information for parents regarding your student and their overall academic, behavioral, and social experiences at Gila Vista.

## Administration

Frank Núñez, Principal  
928-502-7102

Leticia Valencia, Assistant Principal  
928-502-7101

The goal of the Gila Vista administration is to provide your student with a safe and academically rewarding school experience. Our mission is to improve the academic success of all students. We are willing to meet with you about concerns that you may have, but ask that you schedule an appointment in order to give your concern the attention that it deserves.

## Supervision

Campus supervision is from 8:00am-4:00pm. If bringing your child to school, please make arrangements to drop off students no earlier than 8:00 AM and pick up students no later than 4:00 PM, unless your student is involved in a supervised school activity.

The primary function of our staff is to ensure student safety. All reasonable requests made by the staff **MUST** be promptly and courteously followed to avoid disciplinary consequences. Any student remaining on campus after school hours **MUST** be participating in approved school activities.

## Office Hours:

**8:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Leticia Orduño - Office Technician  
Ana Mendoza - Office Secretary  
928-502-7100

## Counselor

Elaine Gossman  
928-502-7114

Ms. Gossman is available for students to discuss a range of issues including academic difficulties, future plans, social concerns (e.g. peer conflict and bullying), and other general concerns. Parents are urged to contact the counselor's office on any matter concerning their child and to arrange for a conference with teachers. Copies of your child's school records are available to parents or guardians by making an appointment with the counselor.

**Please report immediately any incidents/concerns of peer conflict or bullying to your child's counselor.**

### Attendance/Check-out Procedures

#### **Absences**

We ask that parents or legal guardians notify the school between 8:00 and 9:30 AM on the day the student is absent. The telephone number is 928-502-7100. A written excuse can also be turned into the office on the day of return from absence and should include the reason for absence, specific dates of absence, and student's first and last name. If an excuse is not provided, the absence will be considered unexcused.

**\*\*\* 3 Unexcused absences from any class will result in a referral to the office**

#### **Morning Tardies**

It is invaluable that your student is here on time each morning to participate in all allocated instructional time for the day. If your student arrives to school late and the tardy is unexcused, the student will be assigned instructional make-up time by the office staff to ensure that your student is participating in all required instructional minutes. **Students that arrive tardy frequently will be assigned additional make-up time after school or Saturday school.**

#### **Passing Period Tardies**

There is a 4 minute passing period between classes. If a teacher detains a student after class, that teacher will write a pass for the student. Teachers record students as tardy when they arrive to class late. If a student arrives tardy to school, he/she MUST report to the office. A pass from the office is required. **3 tardies will result in a discipline referral to administration.**

## **Student Checkout**

To checkout a student early, the adult must be listed in the student's contact information. Please make sure that contact information is updated to reflect current contact information. For the security of your student, parents/guardians **must** show a valid ID to check out their child.

Student attendance for the **duration of ALL** classes is necessary for students to ensure that they have an opportunity to master the material and achieve academically. **Students that are signed out regularly may be required to make up instructional time.**

## **Bus Conduct**

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students may lose this privilege if their behavior does not meet the standards of the transportation department.

## **Celebrations/Awards**

It is the goal at Gila Vista to maintain high levels of expectations regarding academic and social successes. Throughout the year, we will recognize students for a variety of accomplishments e.g. honor roll, perfect attendance, individual improvements, student of the week.

### **Honor Roll**

Students receiving a 3.0 GPA will receive Honor Roll. Students achieving a 3.5 GPA will receive Principal's Honor Roll. Students with a 4.0 GPA will receive Superintendent's Honor Roll.

### **Perfect Attendance**

Students who have no absences and have attended school for the quarter will receive perfect attendance. Both absences that are unexcused and excused will be treated as absences that negate perfect attendance.

### **PBIS**

As part of Gila Vista's PBIS program, students will be recognized and rewarded for being engaged, being respectful, and being responsible (Showing "PRIDE"). All students have opportunity for growth and our PBIS program allows us to celebrate growth for all students.

## **Computer/Technology Guidelines**

Behavior that violates the following guidelines may result in loss of computer privileges/use of iPads and/or restitution:

- Accessing inappropriate websites (pornographic, hate sites, sites not instrumental to class curriculum) is not permitted.
- Defacing or damaging district technology equipment.

- Intentional or unintentional behavior that leads to damaging district technology equipment.
- Behavior such as cyberbullying, harassment, or sending inappropriate content

## **Health Office Information**

### **Immunization**

Arizona Statute 15-872 states “Each student must be up-to-date with his/her immunizations”. Each student must show written compliance when registering for school and prior to attendance. Students not in compliance with immunizations outlined in 15-872 will not be able to attend until compliant with the regulation.

### **Medication Policy**

Medication must be prescribed by a primary care provider recognized by the AZ Board of Pharmacy. A medication permit must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian prior to the medication being given at school.

All prescription medication (including inhalers) need to be provided in the original bottle/box with a pharmacy label including:

- Student’s name
- Name of medication
- Amount to be given
- Time to be given
- Name of doctor prescribing medication

Please ask the pharmacist to prepare an extra prescription container for school use. Any medication without a prescription container/box will not be administered at school.

Please notify the health office of any change in medication. The health office can only administer what is provided on the prescription label.

Please note that no student is permitted to take any medication independently while on campus including over-the-counter medications and prescriptions. For students who wish to carry an inhaler at school, a special permit must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and school nurse.

School and state medical policy advise against sending medications to school with the student to avoid accidental breaking of bottles or other students taking the medication. Medication must be transported to and from school by the parent or guardian, or an adult designated by the parent or guardian (i.e. bus driver).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding medication at school, please contact the health office at 928-502-7146.

### **Interventions**

We provide a variety of interventions to help students with various aspects of the learning process. Interventions occur within classes (Tier 1 instruction), after school (reading and math), during lunch period, and Saturday School for students that are failing. Grade level teams will also develop specific grade level interventions based upon student need.

Saturday School interventions are mandatory for students that are failing classes. Saturday School is also available for any student that wishes to get additional help from teachers. Saturday Schools are held once a month. Students that fail to attend Saturday School will be assigned make-up time during lunch and/or after school intervention.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program is a federally funded before/after school program aimed at providing extra support for core subjects and enrichment opportunities for students. The program is open to all students. To sign a student up for the program, please complete an application. Applications are available in the front office.

If you have questions regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program, please contact Elaine Gossman 928-502-2114.

### **Personal Items**

The Yuma Elementary School District #1 is in no way responsible for any property belonging to a student or any other person when such property is brought or left onto the Gila Vista campus.

### **Promotion**

At the end of the year, we will hold a promotion celebration for students exiting eighth grade and entering ninth grade. This is the end of their elementary district year's and the beginning of their journey through high school and toward college and career success. The promotion ceremony will be held in the gymnasium. Please note that we cannot accommodate more than four tickets to the promotion (facility limits), so please plan accordingly. We strongly encourage celebration of this stage of academic growth with family in private if more than four people wish to participate in the celebration.

## Schedule Changes

It is our hope to provide students with engaging classroom experiences. Sometimes, the course is not a “good fit”, or there are circumstances that require changes to the student’s schedule. We do our best to accommodate requests, but ask that students follow the following protocol for changing schedule. In order for a schedule change to be considered, the following steps must be completed:

1. Student attains acknowledgement from parent/guardian approving/requesting the change.
2. Student attains acknowledgment from the teacher in the class in their current schedule stating that they understand the student is requesting the change.
3. Student attains acknowledgement from the teacher whose class they wish to enter allowing the change.
4. Letters are submitted to the counselor. Pending administrative review, the change will be granted or denied.

\*\*\* Reasons for denial may include class caps met, changes would cause imbalance to the master schedule, student did not follow process etc.

## Sports

Any student wishing to participate in a sport must have a current physical. Students involved in sports are expected to maintain acceptable grades and must do so to remain eligible. Eligibility checks are done each Friday and any F is grounds to be ineligible. Students who are ineligible will not be permitted to play in games for 1 week and ineligibility 3 times will result in removal from the team.

## Uniform

Tops: Polo Shirt with collar (Forest Green, Heather Gray and/or White)  
Students may also wear a Monster Pride shirt and/or school sponsored shirt during the week. This **does not** include PE shirts.

Bottoms: Pants, Shorts, Capris, Skirts, Jumpers  
(Black, Khaki, and/or Blue Denim)

Shorts, skirts, and pants must be the correct size and be at the waist of the student. Garments must not be distressed, frayed, or have holes. Yoga pants, leggings, sweat pants, and gym shorts, are not permitted to be worn by students in place of the required uniform.

Other Information: Baseball hats are not permitted to be worn during the school day. Slippers and flip-flops are not permitted.

## Volunteering/Parent Engagement

We encourage parents to be engaged in all aspects of their children's schooling and provide a range of volunteer and engagement activities aimed at improving communication, including parents in decision-making, and involving parents in school activities. Volunteer activities can include:

- Volunteering to help teachers/school staff (requires application)
- Involvement in Site Council/school committees
- Involvement in school's PTO

For further information regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact Frank Núñez 928-502-7101.

