



A State Sponsored Public Charter School

1841 Whitney Mesa Drive Suite 100, Henderson, NV 89014
www.SilverSandsMCS.org

September 20, 2024

Dear Elementary School Parents/Guardians,

We have recently been advised by the State Public Charter Authority to send this notification to our Elementary School families about our categorization within the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) with a classification of 1-Star (out of 5). This classification is based on a school's NSPF index score that considers student academic growth, proficiency, special subgroup performance gaps, and average daily attendance. This classification is based on State's Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test scores, and data from the 2023-24 school year. Although we did see growth for individual students, our focus is to stimulate academic growth in all of our students. For additional data, please visit www.nevadareportcard.com.

In Dr. Montessori's view, the purpose of education was to prepare each child for life, to allow each individual to discover their innate potential, and contribute to their society. Standardized testing is a part of the educational climate and we strive to help our students gain the skills to take these tests. The SBAC tests do not assess what makes each of our students special and unique, but they aid teachers, families, and students, in preparing educational goals in readiness for their future. The elementary school staff and administration continues to review the assessment results to strategize and manipulate curriculum to strengthen areas in need of growth. We will continue test prep sessions in both Math and ELA to give our students opportunities for extra practice, and to assist with test anxieties.

In October, we will be holding a public meeting at the school to solicit input from our elementary school community with the goal to improve the academic performance of Silver Sands. Although we have received this level of star rating, we have increased our academic growth indicator by over 27% from last year and we continue to be focused, dedicated, and determined to make positive progress. We could use parent assistance with the Chronic Absenteeism portion of the rating. Again, we received zero points and increased our absenteeism to over 30%. This means that a third of our elementary students are absent for 17 or more days within a school year. Attendance is an integral piece to assist our students in achieving their fullest academic performance. We will approach these issues as a united team, and would appreciate your support to help our students excel in their academics, and in turn help the elementary school return to a higher achievement status with the State.

Due to the NSPF rating in our elementary school, there is a requirement by statute, enforced by the State, for us to present a list of options of other public schools available. So, you will find a listing below of elementary schools. Our families travel from all around the valley to come to

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-Dr. Maria Montessori

Silver Sands, so we listed some schools across the valley, some Clark County schools, and some charter schools. It is most definitely not our wish for you to leave Silver Sands, but it is a requirement of this notification.

If you have any further questions or concerns dealing with academics and curriculum, please contact our Principal, Sheila Palombo, by email at ms.sheila@silversandsmcs.org or Assistant Principal, Jonathan Valencia, by email at mr.johnny@silversandsmcs.org. All other questions concerning this notification can be directed to our Head of School, Marlo Tsuchiyama, ms.marlo@silversandsmcs.org.

Sincerely,

The Administrative Team:

Ms. Marlo Tsuchiyama, Head of School

Ms. Sheila Palombo, Principal

Ms. Danette Olmos-Green, Director of Operations

Mr. Jonathan Valencia, Assistant Principal

5-Star Elementary School Options (In Clark County)

Amplus Durango ES

CASLV Centennial Hills ES

Doral Red Rock ES

Estes M. McDoniel ES

James E. & A. Rae Smalley ES

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