July 14, 2026

Dear Las Vegas City Schools Parents/Guardians, Staff & Students,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful, rejuvenating summer break. As we prepare to open our doors for another exciting year, we want to share several important updates designed to support our students' academic success, health, and well-being.

Over the last year, the Las Vegas City Schools Board of Education embarked on the development of a new three-year strategic plan. Below are the revised Vision, Mission, and Value statements for the district. We will soon post the entire strategic plan with specific goals and objectives online.

- **Vision:** Las Vegas City Schools partners with families and the community to soar in a safe and supportive learning environment where every student will rise as a Cardinal to achieve personal excellence and thrive in an ever-changing world.
    - *"Rise as a Cardinal – Excellence through character and community."*
- **Mission:** At Las Vegas City Schools, our work is rooted in integrity and equity, fostering a school community of Cardinal excellence where everyone is known, challenged, and supported. Through accountability, collaboration, and resilience, we nurture leadership and realize potential, empowering students to thrive in college, career, and community.
    - *"Empowering Every Cardinal—Integrity, Equity, and Excellence Together"*

Core Values

- **Integrity:** We adhere to ethical standards of honesty and strong moral values, ensuring transparency in all situations.
- **Resilience:** Demonstrating the ability to overcome challenges and adapt to change.
- **Equity:** Ensuring every student has access to the resources and support needed to succeed.
- **Compassion:** Promoting empathy and care for others, helping students develop a sense of social responsibility and community involvement.
- **Collaboration:** Fostering a culture of teamwork and open communication, empowering every voice and building strong partnerships among students, staff, families, and the community.

Moving forward, we will work diligently to improve and expand our programs to support academic rigor and provide a more robust course offering for all students. We highly encourage

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parents to participate in our Advisory School Councils to provide the district with vital feedback on our direction.

As many of you are aware, Las Vegas City Schools is transitioning to a four-day school week this school year. This shift is designed to optimize instructional time and provide structured support for our families.

To accommodate this change, please note our new standardized daily schedule for all schools:

- **Breakfast**: 7:30-7:50 AM
- **Start Time:** 7:50 AM
- **Dismissal Time:** 3:45 PM

We have established new morning drop-off routes and procedures specifically for Robertson High School and Memorial Middle School students. Please review the detailed drop-off map and instructions here: **Link to Drop-Off Procedures**.

To ensure student safety, please note that **5th Street will be closed in the morning to all through traffic.**

We understand that transitioning to a four-day schedule requires strong community and family support. In line with our commitments shared with New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary Padilla, we are proud to offer robust afterschool and Friday enrichment programs for LVCS students ages 5–12. These programs will ensure students have safe, productive environments for academic support, extracurricular activities, and care on non-instructional days. Detailed registration and scheduling information will be provided by your child's individual school. 2026-27 Los Ninos.pdf 2026-27 Sierra Vista .pdf

With our new four-day schedule, every single day counts more than ever. We hold high expectations for student attendance and look forward to partnering with you to ensure your child is in school, on time, every day. Consistent attendance is the single most critical factor in your child's academic growth.

- **Tardy Procedure:** If your child arrives after 7:50 AM, they must check in at the front office with the school secretary to receive a tardy pass before heading to class.

Please join us in giving a warm Cardinal welcome to the outstanding new administrators joining our leadership team this year:

- Mrs. Cassandra Estrada – Principal, Los Niños Elementary
- Mr. Aaron Vasquez – Principal, Robertson High School

- Mrs. Darlene Ulibarri– Principal, Memorial Middle School
- Mrs. Julianna Ortega – PreK Director, Little Cardinal Academy

Our new leaders bring a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to our district, and we are thrilled to see the positive impact they will have on our students and staff.

We are excited to revamp our school dining experience! This year, our cafeteria menu will feature more nutritious, scratch-cooked meals made with fresh ingredients to keep our students energized and focused throughout the longer school day. You can view the first month's menus here: August 2026 Menu Breakfsat.pdf August 2026 Menu Lunch.pdf

Lastly, we are thrilled to share that construction is well underway for our new Cardinal Stadium! The upgraded facility will feature a brand-new football and soccer turf field, modern stadium lighting, and an upgraded track.

We expect to complete the project by the end of August, and we look forward to welcoming you to the stands this upcoming season. To see our progress so far, log in to cybercardinal.com to view a short video compilation of the ongoing work. Cardinal Stadium Renovation (1).mp4

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and dedication to Las Vegas City Schools. Together, let's make this a phenomenal year of growth and achievement. Visit our webpage for news and information at https://www.cybercardinal.com/

Together We RISE as Cardinals!

Respectfully,

Melissa A. Sandoval
Superintendent
Las Vegas City Schools