



A State Sponsored Public Charter School

1841 Whitney Mesa Drive Suite 100, Henderson, NV 89014

www.SilverSandsMCS.org

November 9, 2023

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 2022-23 school year. Although we saw 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 have been actively reviewing the assessment results since released and have strategized and manipulated curriculum to strengthen areas in need of growth. We are also re-implementing test prep in both Math and ELA to give our students opportunities for extra practice, and to assist with students that may have test anxieties.

The SBAC exams will be starting in March and I know you are anxious for your child to do well. We are very proud of our students as they demonstrate huge amounts of commitment to doing their best. We have seen a few students that seem to have a feeling of apathy towards testing, and we will continue to encourage and stress the importance of always giving their best effort, not only in taking these tests, but in everything that they do.

On December 6, we will be holding a public meeting at the school to solicit input from our school community with the goal to improve the academic performance of Silver Sands. This is the first time in Silver Sands history where we have received this level of achievement rating, so we are focused, dedicated, and determined to turn it around. We will approach this issue 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 Silver Sands, so we listed

"Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole, which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future."

-Dr. Maria Montessori

charter schools since they have no zoning requirements. 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 Charter Elementary School Options (In Clark County)

Doral Red Rock ES

Pinecrest Cadence ES

Somerset Sky Point ES

CASLV Tamarus ES

Doral Northern ES

Amplus Rainbow ES