We love, value, and teach by nurturing the whole child.

DEN Parents & Community Members,

David E Norman Elementary (DEN) is committed to continuously improving. The state of Nevada measures schools and publishes the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) annually so that families can examine the factors that contribute to developing a world class learning environment. DEN has measured as a 1-Star School during the 2017-2018 school year. The measures included Academic Achievement, Student Growth, English Learners, Closing Opportunity Gaps, and Student Engagement. Our focus for the past three years has been to increase Academic Achievement and Student Growth. While we did show minimal improvement in both of these two measures, our performance decreased in the last three measures. These results reflect an increase in skilled instructional practices.

The relative weaknesses of our performance include the measures of English Learners and Closing Opportunity Gaps gauged by the percentage of students who were non-proficient in the previous school year but tested as proficient last spring. Another weak measurement is Student Engagement, determined by the percent of students chronically absent throughout the year. The relative strengths of our performance include **increases in Academic Achievement and Student Growth**, measured by the median growth percentile of grades 3-5 students on the SBAC. Essentially, this means that students are growing, with more attaining proficiency levels, but there are still too few performing at high levels. We, as the DEN faculty, staff and leadership *celebrate this growth!*  **And yet….** Acknowledging that we have much work to do, we know that it will take more than just the school’s efforts to move students and the school as a whole to a place that accurately reflects our successes. This is where we need your help.

The Student Engagement portion of the NSPF is measured by the percentage of students in the school who are chronically absent. Chronically absent is defined as students who miss more than 14 days of school **in the whole year for any reason.** Even if parents excuse absences, they count toward this data point. Last year, one out of every five students missed more than 14 days during the school year! We urge, plead, beg, and implore you to ensure that your students are in school **every single day** unless they are suffering from severe medical or emotional needs. Makeup work, though helpful, is simply not enough. Additionally, of these chronically absent students, 70% are within the English Language and Closing Opportunity Gap populations. Absence directly impacts effective instruction. Therefore our efforts need to be coordinated as a school family in order to make improvements.

To this end, we as a staff commit to continuing our work to strengthen and improve our instruction for all students. We are also engaged in working with each student, based upon his or her needs, and providing intervention services that are tailored specifically to foster growth and improvement. Remember, students who read and understand are proven to be more likely to achieve academic excellence in school as well as in college and career. Recognizing the support you provide by reading with your students for 20 minutes each night, we encourage all of you to continue this practice. As always we openly and SINCERELY invite you to participate in our school and our community as much as you are able. It truly takes a village to raise a child--we believe this and want to enlist your assistance in the adage that “many hands make light work.” We need you and your child’s partnership and presence in the school to become the world class learning environment our students deserve.

Title I Notification 2018-2019 School Year

The purpose of this page is to inform you of the Title I School status for David E. Norman Elementary School and star rating based on student achievement SBAC testing results from the spring of 2018. The rating is shown below.

David E. Norman Elementary has received a ★ rating. A one-star rating means that our school is underperforming and that specific things must be included in our school improvement plan related to student learning and achievement. Our plan includes continued work in curriculum, Tier I-II teaching strategies, student leadership culture, and increased college and career readiness in our efforts to address underperformance in our school. This plan will be reviewed by parents, community members, and staff at our first **Principal Advisory Board (PBA) meeting on October 16, 2018 at 6:00 pm.** We invite you to participate.

David E. Norman also holds an annual Title I parent meeting. The purpose of the parent meeting is to inform you of Title I services offered, to get your input on the use of Title I funds at your child’s school and to get your help and involvement. The annual **Title I parent meeting will be held on November 5, 2018h at 6:00 pm** in the David E. Norman Elementary library.

David E. Norman and all schools in White Pine County School District makes it a practice to hire qualified individuals as approved by the NV Department of Education. This gives your student the best educational opportunities possible. All teachers at DEN have obtained a Nevada Teacher’s License as well as a Highly Qualified status or are currently in an Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) program. ARL licensure is approved by the Nevada Department of Education. ARL candidates are individuals who have completed Bachelor Degrees and then study educational pedagogy while teaching through a two year program. Once completed, these teachers will receive the additional status of Highly Qualified. The current ARL teachers at DEN include: Ms. Hellmann (kindergarten) and Ms. Sayer (Special Education).

Finally, David E Norman and all school in White Pine hire support teaching staff (Teacher’s Aides and Paraprofessionals) who are required to complete and passed testing required by the state of Nevada. All support teaching staff have passed these tests, except Emily Bischoff and Brandy Hall who were recently hired and scheduled for immediate testing.

If you have specific questions related to Title I Services in your child’s school, please contact the school principal. We look forward to your continued participation in your child’s learning experiences. Please remember that consistent attendance is necessary for student success. Partner with our school to help your child succeed.

Sincerely,

**Cammie Briggs**, DEN Principal