Foothills Elementary

A Historical Journey
Established in 1981

Foothills Elementary welcomes your family to our community. Upon opening its doors in 1981, Foothills has been educating young minds and creating tomorrow’s leaders. Our history is rich with loving and caring principals, teachers, staff, parents and students. We have grade-level and school-wide traditions that will bring you and your child into the fold of Foothills.
Foothills Elementary is a neighborhood school and a destination of choice for many families in School District 20.
Foothills Mission

The Mission of our Foothills Family, passionate about learning and the development of the whole child, is to educate all our students in a safe enriching environment through:

- an actively involved community
- dedication to excellence
- mutual respect and appreciation for individuality

To encourage responsible, successful citizens.
History

In 1979, Mrs. Jinn Bauman, then principal of Mountain View Elementary School, was asked to open a new school and become its principal. This new school became Foothills Elementary School – the name chosen by a community survey.
A Cadre of teachers

Mrs. Bauman created a cadre of five teachers in 1980 to assist in opening the school. Together these ladies designed the interior of the school, established curriculum, interviewed teachers and began the job of opening the school. The concept of a cadre of teachers to open a school was new. Some of these teachers retired from teaching after 20 to 30 years in District 20 and many of these teachers still get together for celebrations and lunch on a regular basis. There was a strong community feeling about Foothills when the school opened, which remains very much alive today.
Opening Dedication

Foothills opened in the Fall of 1981 with the official dedication occurring on October 16, 1981 in the gym. Upon its opening, grades kindergarten through 6th grade were immediately full with a total of 405 students. By January of 1982, portable classrooms were delivered. A new addition (the western side of the school) to Foothills wasn’t completed until 1984. A renovation to the school to add space to the library, the teacher’s lounge, the front office and the front of the school was completed in the summer of 2004.
6th grade moves to Middle School

Mrs. Bauman retired from Foothills in May 1985 to help plan the transition of 6th grade from elementary school to middle school. The 6th grade remained at Foothills until the Fall of 1986 when Eagleview Middle School opened. Prior to Eagleview being open, junior high school students were bused to Air Academy Junior High School, which is now called Challenger Middle School.
A booming student population

Our population at Foothills during the 1985-86 year had ballooned to 563 students. The largest enrollment at Foothills occurred in the 1996-1997 school year with 582 students. Today, our enrollment hovers just above 400 students for grades K-5.
The Falcon’s Nest

In 1999, Falcon’s Nest Amphitheater was dedicated on May 1 under the guidance of our principal, Mrs. Linda Macy. The Amphitheater is used to celebrate the first day of the new school year, and each year the entire school and community come together to kick off the year with introductions to teachers, staff and the year’s new 5th graders and kindergarteners. The amphitheater is utilized continuously through the year by individual classes, Boy Scouts and families in the neighborhood.
Mrs. Macey’s Garden

Mrs. Macy had battled leukemia once during her tenure at Foothills, and it recurred over the summer of 1999. Mr. Lew Davis became our principal upon Mrs. Macy’s passing. A garden dedicated to Mrs. Macy is outside our front doors. Each child, during the 2000-2001 school year, painted a tile. These tiles were combined to create the walls of Mrs. Macy’s garden. It’s a place to reflect upon good times that we had with Mrs. Macy. Mrs. Macy’s garden won a celebratory planter award from ABE.
Current Principal

Our current principal, Mrs. Rose Bergles, began with us in 1998 as a TAG and writing teacher, and an assistant principal before being chosen as our principal. In 2000, Foothills won the Kindest Elementary School rewarded by the Kindness Campaign.
Traditions

Foothills is a comprehensive neighborhood school with many wonderful traditions that have been established since 1981. In addition to our annual opening of the school year in the amphitheater, we also have other school-wide functions each year. In the Fall, the Eagleview Symphonic Band comes at Halloween to play music for the entire school to parade their costumes. Many of these students are former Foothills students enjoying a return to their old school.
Fun Throughout the Year

Veteran’s Day is a celebration of veterans, recent and long past, in an assembly; the Fall Cross Country Run enables 3rd through 5th graders to challenge themselves in a one mile run outdoors before the winter weather visits. In the Spring, we have Family Fun Night which is a carnival atmosphere with a theme such as Hawaiian night or Fiesta and Field Day for all the grades to enjoy each other’s company and engage in some friendly competition.
Grade Level Traditions

Individual grade levels also have traditions of activities through the years. The kindergarten restaurant is a wonderful event allowing our youngest students to become waiters and waitresses for their families. Sports intramurals, such as soccer, matball, volleyball and basketball begin in 3rd grade and continue through 5th grade in which one classroom plays another for fun and for fitness. The 3-volt city is a science application in 4th grade, and the Wax Museum in 5th grade is a must-see event wherein the children dress up as their hero after researching the person, and remain very still through a viewing by the other students.
Grade Level Traditions

Each grade level performs a musical play during the year which allows the children’s talents in singing and dancing to prosper. Foothills has been a participant in the Imagination Celebration for years which encourages children to express themselves through art. The PTO is very strong at Foothills and raises money each year to give each child the opportunity to go on Field Trips, to give each teacher a classroom grant of funds, and to provide funds for purchases that benefit the students, teachers and staff.
A Song is Born

In 1991, a second school song was created by 4th and 5th graders. The first school song was too long for anyone to remember! The school song is sung at every Pride assembly to this day.
Foothills School Song

We are the Foothills Falcons soaring through the sky.
Learning always to gain knowledge in all that we try.
Foothills stands for excellence to be all we can be.
It's a loving, caring, community that adds up to quality.
Foothills Falcons, that's who we are.
We each have potential to be a star.
Our school's the best, it's the greatest in the west.
We're always having fun, and we are #1.
Foothills is the place to be.........
We're always having fun, and we are #1.
Foothills is for you.....and....me....!
On November 14, 2006, Foothills Elementary celebrated our 25th anniversary. There was an open house, which was attended by alumni and many other distinguished guests.
Student Gifts

Every 2006-07 student contributed to four fabulous commemoration quilts, which are permanently hung in the main ramp way.
Student Gifts
The End