



## WALKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Amphitheater Governing Board**  
**FROM: Michael McConnell**  
**RE: Principal's Governing Board Presentation**  
**DATE: November 17, 2015**

### Our Mission:

The mission of Walker Elementary School, in partnership with home and community, is to educate and empower students to achieve their highest potential.

### We believe:

- In a clear and shared focus on student learning.
- In ensuring a physically and emotionally safe, positive, student-centered climate.
- In nurturing problem solving, creativity, and encouraging risk taking.
- In cooperation and respect among students, staff, and parents.
- All students are learners and will achieve.
- In a learning environment that honors creativity, different learning and teaching styles, and displays respect for diversity.
- In high levels of community and family involvement.
- In the power of kindness.
- In developing skills for adaptability and resiliency.
- In cultivating artistic and creative expression.

### We value:

Achievement, adaptability, caring, citizenship, community, cooperation, creativity, diversity, equality, global/environmental understanding, health, honesty, problem solving, respect, resiliency, responsibility, and self- motivation.

### Our Goals:

- To fully articulate all curriculum, instruction and materials in order to ensure the highest achievement from our students.
- To continue to develop resiliency in our students and staff through participation in the Ben's Bells Kind Kids Program.
- To increase community awareness, involvement and resources to support public education.
- To provide enriching and engaging experiences that will enhance the educational opportunities for our students.

Lulu Walker Elementary School opened in 1963. The school was named after Lulu S. Walker.

Lulu Smith was born on January 16, 1889 in Lupus, Missouri.

Lulu's mother died just one month after she was born and her father died when she was four years old. She was raised by an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Strothers.

In 1893, they moved by stage coach to a cattle ranch about 150 miles from Amarillo, Texas. Lulu and her new family moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1902 where she completed grade school and she enjoyed several visits to the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904.

Lulu graduated from Missouri State Normal School (now called Central Missouri State) in Warrensburg, Missouri. She then taught school in Eldon, Missouri for one year and in Okmulgee, Oklahoma for three years. In 1912, she and a school teacher friend decided to head west! Not knowing a soul, they arrived in Arizona the year that it was admitted to the Union. There they both took jobs with the Phoenix School District. She taught in Phoenix schools until 1917, when she accepted a position at the Flagstaff Normal School (now Northern Arizona State University) as critic-teacher of seventh and eighth grade teachers-in-teaching.

In 1919, she became the principal at the Kenilworth Elementary School in Phoenix, a school where the future Senator Barry Goldwater was a student. She held this position for 15 years, during which time she also earned her bachelor and master degrees from the University of Arizona. Over the years she found time to complete additional studies at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Missouri, and Harris Teacher College at St. Louis, Missouri. She left the Phoenix job and moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1936 when she married John F. Walker, a professor in the University of Arizona's Department of Education. There she served as a substitute teacher in the Tucson School District because, like many school districts of that era, the Tucson School District would not issue a teaching contract to a married woman.

Mrs. Walker later obtained a 4th grade teaching position (her favorite grade) in the Amphitheater School District. That district, on the north edge of then the metropolitan area of Tucson, did not have restrictions against married school teachers. Lulu Walker was a member of the Osborn Literacy Society, Altrusa, Delta Kappa Gamma, the National Retired Teachers Association and the Arizona Retired Teachers Association. She was a member of the United Methodist Church of Tucson where she was superintendent of the junior department for fifteen years.

Dr. John F. Walker died in 1953 and Mrs. Walker continued to teach until her retirement in 1959. At the time of her retirement, a new school, the Lulu S. Walker Elementary School, was named in her honor. After retirement, she continued to reside in her home in Tucson near the University of Arizona until February, 1970, when she moved to Hillcrest Homes, a retirement center in LaVerne, California. There she was active with the Hillcrest Homes Activity Council. Mrs. Walker passed away June 23, 1986 in her 97th year.

Lulu Walker Elementary School is a school that parents want their children to attend and where parents want to be involved in their child's education. Lulu Walker Elementary School has 498 students. Our students love coming to school has evidenced by our 95% attendance rate. We are a Title I school with 64% of our students qualifying for Free or Reduce Lunch. We have a mobility rate of 26%, this means  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the students who start the year with us unfortunately will not finish the school year at Lulu Walker Elementary School. The student ethnic distribution is 46% Hispanic, 40% White, 6% Asian, 3% Black and 3% Native American. 22% of our students qualify for Special Education Services, 19% for Gifted Service, 6.4% of our students are English Language Learners and 100% of our students participate in performing arts.

Teachers do not leave Lulu Walker Elementary School! They are truly committed to the students and the community. In my five years as principal at Walker I have only hired six teachers, four due to retirement and two due to growth. We have multiple teachers with 25 plus years of teaching experience and the large majority of that time was at Lulu Walker Elementary School. Lulu Walker Elementary School also has six National Board Certified teachers.

At Lulu Walker Elementary School we offer a before and after school program funded by a grant through the Arizona Department of Education. Kindergarten and First grade students receive before school tutorial services and all students K-5 have access to the computer lab and morning walking club.

In the Spring of 2015 Lulu Walker Elementary School was named Top Elementary School by SARSEF (Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair).

To enrich the education experience and to engage students in learning we provide a wide range of activities and programs:

- . A.V.I.D.
- . Art 50 minutes a week
- . PE 50 minutes a week
- . Music 50 minutes a week
- . Library 50 minutes a week
- . Computers 50 minutes a week
- . 2 Academic Intervention Teachers
- . 90 Minute Reading Block
- . 90 Minute Math Block
- . Band
- . Orchestra
- . Choir
- . Girls on the Run
- . Student Council
- . Sheltered English Immersion
- . Science Fair
- . StarBase
- . Primary and Intermediate Special Education, Speech, OT, PT, HI and VI support

- Community Extensions Program
- Special Needs Pre-School
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Kindness Krew
- Ben's Bells Kind Campus Program

We also offer a variety of opportunities for our families to get involved and be on campus:

- Potluck Socials
- Family Book Nights
- Game Night
- Movie Night
- Math Extravaganza
- Reading Extravaganza
- Science Extravaganza
- Class Field Trips
- Symphony Orchestra Performances
- Fall Festival
- Talent Show
- Fine Arts Performances Band, Orchestra, Choir, Musicals, and Plays
- Family Dinner Nights once a month
- Field Day
- Track Meet
- Kindness Rally
- 4th Grade Pit Fire
- Muffins with Mom
- Donuts with Dad

Lulu Walker Elementary School has had an Arizona Learns rating of “B” for the last 5 years. Our students regularly achieve above the district average and the national norm in Reading and Math as measured by NWEA MAP.

	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Math	201.7/N=192.1	206.8/N=203.4	215.2/N=213.5	222.2/N=221.4
Reading	192.9/N=188.7	202.0/N=198.6	209.1/N=205.9	213.8/N=211.8

At Lulu Walker Elementary School we will always focus on increasing achievement in Reading, Writing, and Math until 100% of our students exceed standards. We are committed to making learning exciting, engaging, and enriching so that all students will want to succeed and be prepared to achieve their dreams.