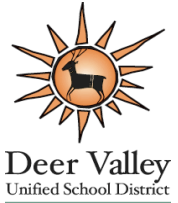




Desert Mountain School

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Parent Involvement is all about the children. Participation in your child's education is proven to boost his or her achievement in school. We are committed to treat parents as partners while keeping lines of communication open and focused on the needs of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is required to maintain a positive learning experience at any school. We believe that your trust in Union Park is required to ensure your child's success.

A little bit about me:

My name is Mr. Strass,

I am an Arizona native and grew up attending schools in PVUSD. I attended University of Arizona in Tucson (Go Wildcats!) and was an Interdisciplinary Studies Major.

Both my mother and father were educators here in Arizona, so, by default, I have a passion for public education!

Some of my hobbies include playing guitar and piano, skiing/snowboarding, hiking, reading novels and comics, visiting a variety of strange museums, and Marvel movies!

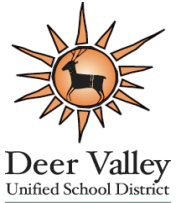
I am very excited about embarking on our ELA and Social Studies journey together.



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Quarter	Social Studies	ELA	
1	<p>DVUSD Digital Citizenship Lessons for 6th Grade</p> <p>Unit 1: Early Humans</p>	<p>Fiction Literature Reading</p> <p>Narrative Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ 8/1/23-8/11/23 <i>Reading Inventory Screener</i> (6-10) Required ☐ 9/25/23-10/6/23 DV-ELA0X Interim 1 (23-24) Required 	<p>Novel - The Giver</p> <p>Collections - The Ravine The Jumping Tree Black Ships Before Troy Sec. 1 Yeh-Shen:A Cinderella Story Sec. 1 The Mixer After the Hurricane What Do Fish Have to Do with Anything? The Road Not Taken; Paul Revere's Ride</p>
2	<p>Unit 2: River Civilizations</p> <p>District Assessment SS06 - Fall DBQ Writing</p> <p>Unit 3: World Religion</p>	<p>Non-Fiction/Informative Reading</p> <p>Informative Writing</p> <p>Speaking and Listening</p>	<p>Novel - Bud Not Buddy</p> <p>Collections - Animal Snoops Animal Intelligence On Doomed Flight</p>
3	<p>Unit 4: Rise and Fall of Classic Civilizations</p> <p>District Assessment SS06 - Spring DBQ Writing</p>	<p>Fiction & Non-Fiction/Informative Reading</p> <p>Argumentative Writing</p> <p>Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ 2/19-3/1 DV-ELA0X Interim 2 (23-24) (grades 6-12) Required ☐ 2/27-3/10 <i>Reading Inventory Screener</i> (6-10) 	<p>Collections - Yeh-Shen:A Cinderella Story Sec. 2 Wild Animals Aren't Pets Dragonwings Zoos and Aquariums</p>
4	<p>Unit 5: Middle Ages</p> <p>Unit 6: The Renaissance & Reformation</p>	<p>Fiction & Non-Fiction/ Informative Reading</p> <p>Argumentative & Informative Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Arizona Academic Standards Assessments (AASA) (6-8) in April 	<p>Novel - The Lightning Thief</p> <p>Collections - Fine? Life Doesn't Frighten Me A Voice/Words Like Freedom The Prince and the Pauper The Hero's Journey Role of Myths in Ancient Greece Black Ships Before Troy Sec. 2 The Hero's Journey</p>

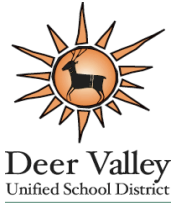


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- Overview of **Arizona State Standards** and how we teach ELA and Social Studies, including the high expectations and rigor we provide for our students' learning experiences.
 - [DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents](#)
 - [DVUSD Social Studies Resources for Parents](#)
 - [What is Depth of Knowledge \(DOK\)?](#)

COMMUNICATION

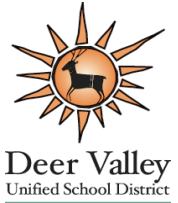
- School-wide
 - [Desert Mountain School Website](#)
 - Frequent Smores via social media, email, and texts
- Teacher website
 - Updated weekly
 - Links to information re: Big concepts for each Qtr/Standards/Skills
 - Specify other information found on it such as calendar, events, special activities...
 - Canvas will be updated to provide communication and make up work
- ***Please schedule specific times to meet with me, as we need time to communicate effectively. I often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that I will not be able to meet or discuss issues while I am teaching or supervising students. However, I will contact you as soon as I can.***
- ***Desert Mountain has implemented email office hours and a "curfew" to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will respond to communication within 24 hours Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 8:00am and again from 3:15-4:00pm.***
- Contact Details
 - I will create open periods to book via <https://calendly.com/mark-strass/30min>
 - mark.strass@dvusd.org
 - Classroom number I-104



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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLC's)

Most Fridays, students will be released early so that we are able to participate in PLC process work. This work is directly related to the planning, instruction and interventions we implement in our classrooms to ensure that students master the standards.

Role of PLC

A professional learning community is a process that requires a group of educators to meet regularly and work collaboratively to improve teaching practices and the achievement of students. The questions that drive the work of PLC's are:

- What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
- How will we know if they learn it?
- How will we respond if some students do not learn?
- How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

Collaborative Teams are responsible for establishing general consistency among the following:

- Assignments, presentations, products, observations and assessments used to determine a student's level of performance in relation to grade-level standards.
- The method and schedule for additional learning opportunities.
- Due dates, deadlines, and procedures for reassessment.
- Create opportunities for common scoring of assessments.

HOMEWORK & GRADES

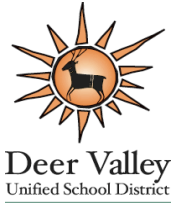
- The intent of homework is to practice, extend learning, and provide opportunities for students to develop critical, independent study skills and self-discipline for their life-long educational journeys.
- Grades are a reporting tool utilized to reflect what a student knows and is able to do in a content area. We measure achievement, not effort or behavior, in our grading system.
- Grades will be equitable, accurate, specific, consistent.
- A student's grade should reflect academic learning and should never be used as a punitive tool.
- Grades are for reporting the status of academic learning, not behavioral conduct
- The primary purpose of assessment and grading is to provide detailed feedback to inform and support student learning.
- Learning is a process that takes place over time and at different speeds for different students.
- PowerSchool is an essential resource for parents and students. It is not only a tool for communication regarding grades, it is a resource for our students and parents to check progress, missing work, and what is being taught/learned regularly. Please ensure that you



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and your child have access (separate accounts) and even sign up for the app and push notifications or weekly email updates as an option in [PowerSchool](#).

MEANINGFUL GRADE ENTRIES

Teachers are expected to enter a meaningful grade for each student in the electronic gradebook on a regular basis so that students, parents, and support staff can better monitor student progress. A meaningful grade is a grade entry for an assessment or coursework that measures learning standards. The frequency of entering meaningful grades is as follows:

- Classes that typically meet 4-5 days per week = at least 1 meaningful grade each week
- Classes that typically meet 2-3 days per week = at least 1 meaningful grade every other week
- Classes that typically meet 1 day per week = at least 1 meaningful grade every 3rd week

At least one meaningful assessment/assignment grade entry must be entered each week, but an entry that impacts the course grade must be entered at least every 2 school weeks (every 3rd week for classes meeting once per week).

3rd-8th GRADE

Students in 3rd through 8th grade will receive marks for their **proficiency** towards the grade level standards using the following scale. These marks are for information and do not calculate the student's overall course grade.

- **4 = Highly Proficient**
- **3 = Proficient**
- **2 = Partially Proficient**
- **1 = Minimally Proficient**

Students in 3rd through 8th grade will receive marks for their **overall performance** in each course of study using the following letter grade scale. Overall course grades for students in grades 3-8 will be calculated from the average of the student's assignment scores* (assessments, coursework).

- **A = 90-100%**
- **B = 80-89%**
- **C = 70-79%**
- **D = 60-69%**
- **F = 0-59%**



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Grades of "D" and above are passing marks. A course grade of "F" indicates that the student has failed the course.

*For graded work in the Assessment Category, teachers will enter the proficiency marks for each standard measured and use the following guide to assign a score to the assignment. Parents will see the percentage score for each grade book entry with the letter grade mark on the front page of the PowerSchool parent portal.

Highly Proficient A 100%-90%			Proficient B 89%-80%		Proficient C 79%-70%	
100-97	96-94	93-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70
All 4's on standards	All 4's except for one 3	Mostly 4's with some 3's and/or 2's	Mostly 3's with some 4's All 3's on standards	Mostly 3's and 4's with a 2	Mostly 3's with some 2's	Mostly 2's with 3's and/or 4's
Partially Proficient D 69%-60%			Minimally Proficient F 59%-50%			
69-65		64-60	59-56		55-50	
Mostly 2's and 3's with a 1		All 2's on standards	Mostly 2's and some 1's		All 1's on standards	
No Evidence						
49% - 0%						

For additional information, the parent may click the blue "show standards" icon to view the proficiency marks for the learning standards associated with the assessment or coursework.

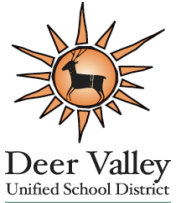
Due Date	Category	Assignment	Flags	Score	%	Grade
09/22/2022	Assignments	Weathering Rates - Gizmos		100/100	100	A
09/16/2022	Assignments	Weathering of Different Rocks Gizmo		90/100	90	A
09/09/2022	Quiz	Land forms Quiz	Click "Show Standards" icon to see standards measured on the assignment.	55/100	55	B
		4.E1U1.6 - Plan and carry out an investigation to explore and explain the interactions between Earth's major systems and the impact on Earth's surface materials and processes. 4.E1U1.6		0		Proficiency level shown here
08/12/2022	Quiz	Scientific Method Quiz		100/100	100	A



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WEIGHTS

All 1st-8th grade teacher gradebooks will utilize the following weights for each category in the gradebook.

- ASSESSMENT CATEGORY 80%
- COURSEWORK CATEGORY 20%
- PRACTICE CATEGORY 0%

PROCEDURES FOR RE-ASSESSMENTS AND LATE WORK

Describe the expectation that all students will complete all learning requirements

- Students needing extra help will receive it from their teacher during Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in class
- Students choosing not to complete work, but who are able to do so, will complete work with support during Hawk Time (assigned before or after school).
- In order to accurately reflect a student's academic performance level, teachers will accept late work and missing work for full credit if the work is submitted within the timeframe and procedures developed by the school and before the end of the grading period.
 - The practice, coursework, or assessment will be marked with the "Missing" special code in the gradebook
 - No Evidence (NE) will be entered for the standards attached to the practice, coursework, or assessment.
 - If the work is submitted as Late Work (see terms below), the (NE) or 49% assignment score will be changed to reflect the student's actual score with no deductions or penalties
 - If the work is not submitted as Late Work or does not meet conditions for Late Work, the score for the coursework or assessment will remain 49%.
 - Students will still be responsible for turning in late work in addition to their current coursework, which results in the natural consequence of a heavier workload. The primary consequence for students not completing the work is to complete the work.

In order for Late Work to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- Assignment is turned in within the following time frame
 - K-2 Grades: By the end of the marking period
 - 3-8 Grades: Within ten days after the end of the unit

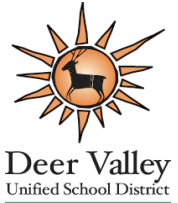
If a student meets the above criteria, he/she will be issued full credit for the work submitted (no added penalties or caps on the grade that can be earned). The teacher will mark the student's



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assignment with the “Late” special code. If the assignment is an assessment, the proficiency level of the standards attached will be entered.

Please note: Accommodations included in a student’s IEP, 504, or EL plan may supersede the above Late Work procedures. Consult with the student’s Service Coordinator, counselor, or the student’s support team.

RETAKES

Retakes or reperformance of essential skills is important to support learning of critical skills and filling gaps in learning.

Retakes are allowed for assessments in which scores are entered into the gradebook, for full credit, if reperformance opportunities will not be available during the marking period or in addition to reperformance opportunities during the marking period.

In order to earn a retake opportunity, a student must complete all of the following:

- Complete all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed
- Consult with the teacher
- Submit a reassessment plan or application, if required by the teacher

A reassessment plan must be scheduled within the following time frames:

- K-2nd Grades: Until the week before the end of the marking period
- 3rd-8th Grades: Within 10 school days after receiving the assessment score

EXTRA CREDIT

Just as imposing grade penalties for poor behavior distorts academic grades, so does awarding higher grades or extra credit for good behavior. Extra credit renders an academic grade less accurate since it is not based upon performance of the standards, but rather on compliant behaviors. **No extra credit will be awarded.**

HAWK TIME

Hawk Time is a before or after school opportunity for students to maximize their potential success. Learning and completing work at Desert Mountain is required. Hawk Time is offered to all students who have not shown proficiency in their current learning progressions or classwork. Hawk Time will be assigned to students to attend for extra help, assistance, or when a student needs to complete his/her work. Without completing their work, it is hard to know if a student is progressing towards mastering the standards we are teaching in class. We ask for parent support and cooperation in transporting students to or from their assigned Hawk Time so that they are not falling behind or simply given the opportunity to opt out of their work.