



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

20402 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85027
623.445.5000 Phone
623.445.5086 Fax
www.dvUSD.org

SUPERINTENDENT
Curtis Finch, PhD

GOVERNING BOARD
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February 24, 2023

Dear DVUSD Parents and Guardians,

As a public school system, our academic program is measured each year by student performance on state achievement assessments. The data these assessments provide on student progress is important as we gauge student learning and develop plans for supporting student growth.

Students in grades 3-8 will take the Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) in writing, reading, and mathematics. Additionally, there is an oral reading fluency component to the 3rd grade reading portion of the test in which students will be recorded reading 3 short passages. The oral reading fluency component is being field tested and will not be figured into students' reading scores this year. Schools will administer the AASA tests in April. Check your school's website and newsletters for specific testing schedules.

Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take the new AzSCI assessment. The AzSCI assessment measures students' proficiency of the science standards. The testing window for AzSCI is March 20-April 14. High schools will operate a special schedule on March 21st in order to administer this test. Check your high school's website for more information.

Students in 9th grade will take the ACT-Aspire assessment and 11th graders will take the American College Test (ACT). Both assessments have five sections (English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing). High schools will alter schedules on specific days in April to administer these assessments. Check your high school's website for more information.

The ACT test will be administered on the computer to students at BGHS, Aspire, and Vista Peak. Students at BCHS, DVHS, MRHS, and SDOHS will take the ACT on paper. The AASA, AzSCI and ACT-Aspire assessments are computer-based tests. Students taking the assessments on the computer will need to bring their school-issued chromebook or iPad device and charging cord to school on the testing days. Students will also need to bring a pair of headphones or earphones (wired, not bluetooth) to use during testing. DVUSD will provide headphones for students unable to bring in their own headphones/earphones.

High school 11th grade students who score Proficient or Highly Proficient on the AzSCI assessment may be eligible to raise their course grades in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and/or Environmental Science. Students may be eligible to enhance their course grades in their sophomore and junior ELA courses and/or Geometry and Algebra 3-4 courses for scoring Proficient or Highly Proficient on the ACT test. For more information on Grade Enhancement, go to <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/65946>.

On testing days, ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast, gets plenty of rest and comes to school prepared and comfortable to take the test. Our teachers and students have been working very hard this year to increase knowledge and skills. If you have specific questions about the state assessments, please be sure to contact your school.

We are looking forward to learning more about each student's progress and growth.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in the pursuit of extraordinary educational opportunities for every child!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gayle Galligan
Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment