

February 26, 2024

Dear DVUSD Parents and Guardians,

As a public school system, our academic program is measured each year by student performance on state achievement assessments. These assessments are vital in evaluating student progress, guiding instructional strategies, and ensuring that every child receives the support they need to succeed academically.

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.

For students in grades 5, 8 and 11, the AzSCI assessment will be administered to measure proficiency in science standards. The testing window for AzSCI is from March 18 to April 12, and further details can be accessed through your school's website.

Students in 3rd-8th grades with significant cognitive disabilities will take the MSAA alternate assessment during the testing window of March 18-April 26th. The MSAA will be administered in ELA and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11 and Science in grades 5, 8, and 11.

Ninth graders will undertake the ACT-Aspire assessment, while eleventh graders will sit for the American College Test (ACT), both consisting of sections in English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing. These assessments, along with the AzSCI, will occur on designated dates in April. Please refer to your school for specific dates.

On April 4th, students in 9th grade will take the ACT-Aspire assessment and 11th graders will take AzSCI assessment. Students in 10th and 12th grades will have an asynchronous learning day in which they will not report to the school campus but will instead log into Canvas for their assignments. Students who attend WestMEC courses will attend those classes unless testing at that time and all students enrolled with DV Pathways will attend classes on April 4th. *Asynchronous learning days do not apply to Aspire or Vista Peak schools.*

On April 9th, students in 11th grade will take the ACT assessment. Students in 9th, 10th and 12th grades will have an asynchronous learning day in which they will not report to the school campus but will instead log into Canvas for their assignments. Students who attend WestMEC courses will attend those classes unless testing at that time and all students enrolled with DV Pathways will attend classes on April 9th. *Asynchronous learning days do not apply to Aspire or Vista Peak schools.*

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.

Additionally, high school juniors who achieve Proficient or Highly Proficient scores on the AzSCI assessment may have the opportunity to enhance their course grades in specific science subjects. Similarly, Proficient or Highly Proficient scores on the ACT test may lead to grade enhancements in English Language Arts and Mathematics courses for sophomores and juniors. Further information on Grade Enhancement can be found at www.dvUSD.org/GradeEnhancement.

Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world.



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On testing days, please ensure that your child starts their day with a nutritious breakfast, gets plenty of rest, and arrives at school prepared and comfortable for the assessments. Our teachers and students have been working very hard this year to increase their knowledge and skills.

We appreciate your ongoing support and partnership in providing exceptional educational opportunities for every student. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the state assessments, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school.

Sincerely,

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