



**DEER VALLEY**  
*Unified School District*

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Academic excellence has always been a focus in Deer Valley Unified School District. Last year, we reaffirmed this commitment by adopting an ambitious, new Strategic Plan that sets high standards and provides our schools with a blueprint for student academic growth.

An important part of Deer Valley's Strategic Plan involves providing time for teacher collaboration through the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). During my career, the single most important thing I've done to increase student achievement has been providing consistent time for teachers to work together. **Last spring, the DVUSD School Board approved the district's recommended changes to the 2019-2020 school calendar providing a ninety (90) minute early release on most Wednesdays for teachers to work together.** These early release days will replace our current monthly half-day early release. Early release days will not occur during weeks when we have a holiday, parent/teacher conference, or testing.

Why is this important for your child? PLCs provide the time teachers need to review individual student learning progress. Teachers have always reviewed their own students' work, but these collaborative work teams provide the structure for teachers help each other to best respond to student learning needs. By providing teachers time to work together, students benefit from the collective experience and knowledge of many school professionals.

High quality and productive collaboration is the key to achievement for many organizations, from businesses to education, including Deer Valley. The 2019-2020 School Calendar is attached along with information about PLCs. Additional information about PLCs will be shared at the upcoming Parent Teacher conferences and in future emails.

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Curtis Finch, PhD

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Sincerely,

Curtis Finch, PhD