

## #Extraordinary Start

You probably did not know this: Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) was one of the first school districts in all of the West Valley to offer free, all-day, Kindergarten. When 92% of your 39 schools are rated A or B by the State of Arizona, it's no wonder Kindergarten parents line up to get into Deer Valley's free all-day Kindergarten programs. You do not want to miss your window for next year as the spots are filling up quickly. We are one of the best school districts in all of Arizona because of our #extraordinary start for our younger students. This is where the learning foundation is laid for future success.

The purpose of Kindergarten is to begin to develop the necessary skills needed to be a well-balanced student in their 13-year school experience. They will learn how to focus their emotions, work with others, boost their academic and social confidence, and engage their curiosity for learning and exploration.

With the Covid-19 pandemic tightening our opportunities to meet with parents and students, DVUSD has made a concerted effort to be creative for our parents. Historically, DVUSD has offered a common night preview throughout the entire school district and this was accomplished this year in early February with virtual and drive-in options for different schools. DVUSD will offer two more drive-thru events at the District Office at 20402 North 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and add two Webinars to inform, guide, and keep Kindergarten parents in the loop on what is coming up next for their future student.

February 18 there will be a "drive-in" to pick up registration packets, books, DVUSD goodies, and program information at the District Office. On March 4, there will be another "drive-in" at the District Office, with the added bonus of filling out the registration packet on the spot and receiving a free Kindergarten activity book.

The "opposite weeks" of February 25 and March 11, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, there will be Virtual Kinder Prep events. These free webinars will feature DVUSD early childhood experts, principals, and kindergarten teachers to go over related topics to help parents prepare students

for their Kindergarten journey.

Details of all of these #extraordinary events can be found at [www.dvUSD.org/KinderEvents](http://www.dvUSD.org/KinderEvents). You can always look on our Kindergarten webpage to get a good idea of the excellence of our programs at [www.dvUSD.org/kindergarten](http://www.dvUSD.org/kindergarten).

Almost all educational research points to the early years of education being the cornerstone to a student's future academic, social, and emotional success as a learner and student. Deer Valley Unified School District has the history of excellence to back up its record of accomplishments; it all starts in Kindergarten. Come join one of the best school districts in all of Arizona, Deer Valley!

Dr. Finch is the Superintendent of Deer Valley Unified School District and can be reached at [superintendent@dvusd.org](mailto:superintendent@dvusd.org)