



First Grade 2022-2023 Curriculum and Grading Policy

Parent Resources

Arizona College and Career Ready Standards:

<https://www.dvusd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=12764>

DVUSD Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Department:

<https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/1545>

English Language Arts Curriculum: HMH Into Reading

Parent Resource: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28315>

Deer Valley teachers use the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading program to guide kindergarten to fifth grade students. HMH Into Reading is differentiated by design to offer a balanced approach to literacy instruction, support teachers in developing a culture of learning and growth, and help all learners believe in the power of “I can.” Into Reading provides a comprehensive library of trade books that serve as a connection to reading and writing instruction. The program is built upon culturally relevant and ethnically diverse text sets that build cross-disciplinary knowledge and serve as a springboard for writing and discussion. Into Reading provides scaffolding to ensure students receive the initial support and practice that sets them on the best path to independence.

Daily 5 Literacy Centers

The Daily Five is a research-based method of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks with emphasis on the Six Syllable Types. These tasks focus on those skills that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as fostering children who love to read and write. Students receive daily small and whole group instruction as well as independent practice time to read and write. The Daily Five is comprised of the following:

1. Teacher Time: Small Reading Groups

While the students are at their literacy centers, teachers run leveled small reading groups. Within small groups, teachers will meet with up to six students at a time to work on the five areas of reading: vocabulary, phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, and fluency. These leveled reading groups help provide a more individualized instruction to help meet the needs of all students. Teachers will also be meeting with students individually as needed.

2. Read to Self

The best way for children to become better readers is by practicing reading each day with books the students choose that are a "Good Fit." These books may include books from the class library, textbook stories, or poetry. Students will be able to read books independently or with a friend. Partner reading allows for more time to practice strategies, helping to build fluency, check for understanding, hear their own voice, and time to share in this learning community.

3. Word Work

Expanded vocabulary and correct phonetic spelling allow for more fluent reading and writing. Thus, speeding up the ability to comprehend what is read and get thinking down on paper. Students will use this time to work on a word sort with our weekly phonics/spelling skill.

4. Work on Writing

Just like reading, the best way to become a better writer is by practicing writing each day. Students will create a monthly writing journal consisting of their own and teacher generated writing pieces.

5. Centers

Hearing good examples of literature and fluent reading expands vocabulary, builds stamina, and helps students become better readers. Students will be able to listen to books on CD or Chrome Books.

Spelling Curriculum: Into Reading Word Sorts

Deer Valley has transitioned from traditional spelling instruction to a word study approach. Using Into Reading word work activities, students develop knowledge of English spelling and learn how to examine words through active exploration using a hands-on manipulative approach. During word study, students discover generalizations about spelling using Six Syllable Types direct instruction of vowel patterns, instead of just memorizing spelling rules.

Weekly Spelling Dictation Tests

Selected sentence dictation by the teacher will be given weekly as a written test. Students will be given multiple opportunities to practice their words in class and at home.

Writing Curriculum: Into Reading Writer's Workshop

The Into Reading writing program is a developmental program that teaches students weekly grammar lessons, the five-step writing process (Prewrite, Draft, Revise, Edit, and Publish), and the additional use of Thinking Maps to create structured, meaningful pieces of writing. Thinking Maps allow students to visualize and organize their thinking based on the fundamental thought process needed to complete writing process. The writing genres that will be taught are narrative, informational text, poetry, and opinion.

Math Curriculum: Eureka Math

Parent Resource: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/39515>

Eureka Math is a rigorous program aligned to the ACCRS standards that upholds the balance between procedural fluency and conceptual understanding.

Topics:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking
Number and Operations in Base Ten
Measurement and Data
Geometry
Money

Math newsletters/parent tips will be sent home for each module. Math tests, quizzes, and math fluency will take place every few weeks depending on the length of each unit. Math tests may consist of a pre, mid, and final test at the end of each unit.

Science

Parent Resource: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28328>

A combination of materials has been curated to support the curriculum for our K-2 learners with programs including: Mystery Science, Picture Perfect and some Open Education resources. The following units will be covered: light and sound, forces and motion, habitats, and life cycles. In addition, we will explore areas of the inquiry process, life science, physical science, and Earth science.

- Use the scientific inquiry process.
- Identify and compare the basic structures, life cycles and habitats of plants and animals.
- Classify objects and materials by their observable properties.
- Demonstrate the various ways that objects can move.
- Identify the basic properties of Earth materials, natural resources and conservation methods.
- Identify objects in the sky and weather patterns.

Social Studies

Parent Resource: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/5393>

Students will be learning about the following units of study:

- Describe past events, people, and places using maps, timelines and primary resource materials.
- Recognize the settlement and development of early civilizations
- Recognize American symbols, monuments, customs, holidays, and traditions.
- Recognize Arizona symbols and statehood.
- Identify examples of rights, responsibilities, and citizenship in stories past and present.
- Recognize basic economic principles.

Assessments

DIBELS 8th Edition (Grades K-3)

All kindergarten through third grade DVUSD students are assessed using the DIBELS 8th Edition screener in August, December and May.

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) 8th Edition are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from K-8. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills.

DIBELS 8th Edition is comprised of six measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, and reading comprehension. DIBELS 8th Edition was designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in acquisition of basic early literacy skills in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties.

Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA2)

The DRA2 (Developmental Reading Assessment 2) is a reading assessment that is used to determine the independent and instructional reading level of students. This assessment is administered one on one by the teacher or reading specialist. The DRA2 Benchmark Assessment measures each student's reading proficiency through systematic observation, recording, and evaluating of comprehension performance.

DVUSD Mathematics and Reading Assessments

K-2 teachers administer district interim assessments two times per year (Mid and Post).

First Grade Test Retake Policy

Parents may request in writing for their child to re-take a test in which he or she has received a score of 69% or below. Our retake policy does NOT apply to quizzes and any district required testing. Tests only. Parents must request and notify the teacher no later than two weeks from the testing date. Test retakes will be done in class or at home.

Power School Communication and Grading Program

Power School is an essential grading resource for parents and students. Teachers send email communications through this program as well. For instant access to your child's grades, please click below for more information. Parents will need to contact our registrar Olga Wagner at Olga.Wagner@dvusd.org or call the front office at 623-445-8400 for your Power School login as teachers do not have access to it. Parents will need their child's Power School access ID and password as first time users.



Creating a Parent Account

1. Contact the office for your child's Power School "Access ID and Password" login information to create your account. Learn about creating a parent account here: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/75142>
2. Visit the Power School login page: <https://ps.dvusd.org/public/>



Grading and Report Cards

Parent Grading Resource:

<https://www.dvUSD.org/Domain/10003>

DVUSD K-6 grades use a 1-4 grade scale for reporting coursework and standards.

With the 1-4 scale, 3 is the target. Please note that a 4 does not equate with an A, a 3 with a B, etc... as we have seen with traditional grading. This is absolutely an important distinction considering that a 3 is the goal for grade level proficiency.

K-6 Standards Grading Scale

4 = Independently applies skills and concepts with greater depth and complexity.

3 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency independently.

2 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency with support.

1 = Demonstrates below grade level proficiency with support.

Academic Subject Grades

E (Excellent) = 100 - 90%

S (Satisfactory) = 89 - 70%

N (Needs Improvement) = 69 - 60%

U (Unsatisfactory) = 59 - 0%

Report Cards

Report cards will be distributed quarterly after each grading period:

1st Quarter October

2nd Quarter December

3rd Quarter March

4th Quarter May

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held in October and February.