



First Grade Website

We are excited for the new school year to begin and look forward to getting to know each of our students. This is going to be a delightful year in your child's education. Together we can help your child blossom and of course have some fun along the way! Here are some tips to a successful school year together.

Mrs. Farmer Anne.Farmer@dvusd.org	Room 209
Mrs. Inez Leilani.Inez@dvusd.org	Room 210
Ms. Johnson Kaycee.Johnson@dvusd.org	Room 211
Mrs. Kohler Kim.Kohler@dvusd.org	Room 212

Arrival 8:30AM

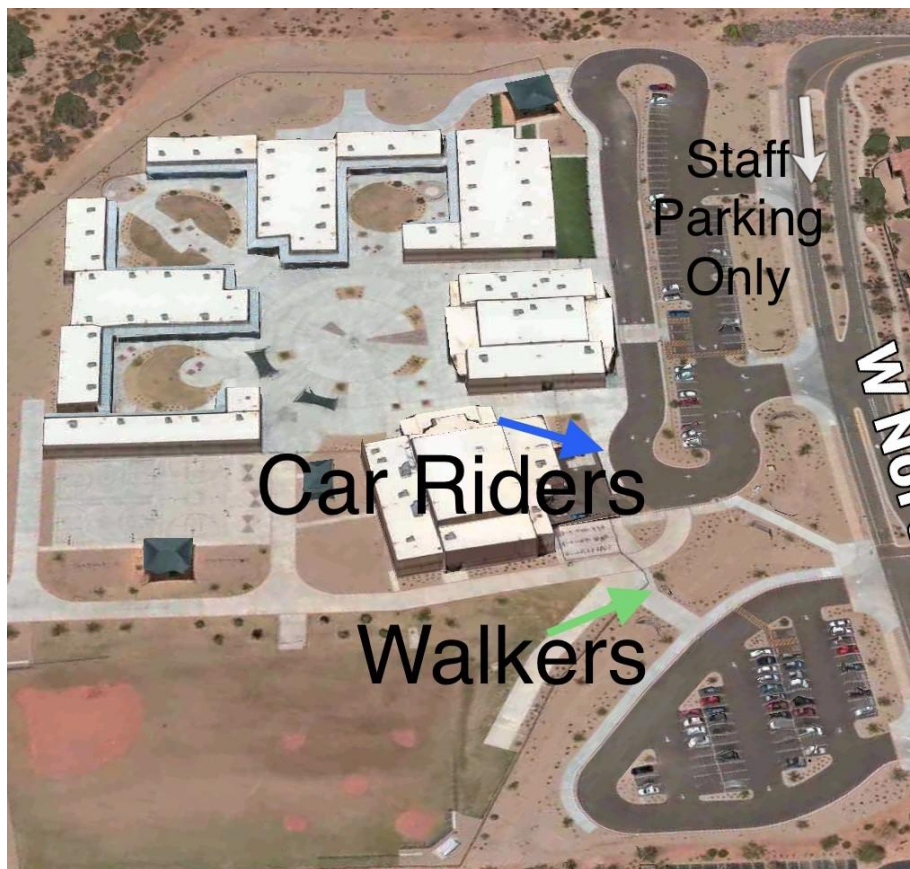
- School starts at 8:45AM with drop off beginning at 8:30AM. There is no campus supervision before this time.
- Upon arrival, students will need to go directly to the playground. First and second grade students will be on the playground in the morning.

Dismissal 3:30PM

Teachers will accompany students as needed at dismissal. If your child's method of transportation changes, please let us know right away by email or call the front office after 2:30PM. First graders are not permitted to leave campus without a parent or older sibling.

- **Car Riders-** Carline parent pick up will be at the front of the school for grades 1st - 8th. First graders will be waiting on the blue Bobcat paws for those parents that wish to stay in their cars and drive through.
- **Walkers-** Walkers will be dismissed at the bus gates.
 - Student Walkers = Parents will park in the parking lot next to the bus area and walk up to the “Walkers” gate to pick up their child if they do not want to drive through the carline.

First Grade Dismissal Areas



Bus Riders

If your child rides the school bus, they will need to know their bus number and bus stop before the first day of school.

- Please practice going on the bus route with your child so they are familiar with their designated route and are familiar with their bus stop.
- This is VERY important for the safety of your child because the bus makes several stops! We do not want your child getting off at the wrong bus stop.
- Please go to the district transportation web page below to find out your child's bus number and bus stop before school begins by clicking below or calling our school office at 623-445-8400.
- DVUSD Bus Route and Bus Number Information: [Click Here](#)

School Supplies

Pre-ordered supplies will be delivered directly to our classrooms. Supplies can be brought to the classroom during Meet the Teacher Night. Here is the link to our supply list: [School Supply Lists](#)



Behavioral Expectations

Working together is essential in our classroom environment. As a parent, you are part of our team too. We cannot accomplish success and achievement on our own. Each day, students must come prepared to participate in our learning environment. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Classroom Management Color Clip Chart

Students will be responsible for their own choices in school. The goal is for students to self motivate on the color chart. Students clip up for going above and beyond. If a student clips down, they will have the opportunity to move up to correct their behavior in most cases. Each student will color what behavior color he or she ended the day on. Please check and initial your child's "Bobcat Planner" each day to celebrate their success!

Rewards

- Verbal praise.
- Student choice time.
- Move up on clip chart.
- Good note home.
- Visit to the treasure box.



Power School

Power School is DVUSD's student information system for student class schedules, attendance, grades and email communication.

To ensure you receive all school-wide communication emails and for access to your child's grades, please make sure your email and phone number(s) are current with the office.

Please call the front office at 623-445-8400 or email our registrar Olga Wagner at Olga.Wagner@dvusd.org for your first time access as teachers do not have initial login information.

- [DVUSD Power School Website](#)
- [Creating a Parent Account](#)
- [Power School Login Page](#)



Classroom Communication

Please note that email is the easiest and quickest way to contact us. You may also leave a voicemail message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please schedule specific times to meet with us, as we need time to communicate effectively. We often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that we will not be able to meet or discuss issues while we are teaching or supervising students.

Smores Weekly Digital Newsletter/Homework

Families will be emailed weekly digital newsletters with first grade news and homework instructions.



Daily Star Folders/Bobcat Planners

STAR folders will be used as a communication tool between school and home daily. It will hold classwork, homework and important notices. Each student will color what behavior color he or she ended the day on in their Bobcat Planners. Please check and initial each calendar day. Feel free to write a note in your child's planner as we will be checking it daily during our morning routine.

Homework

Homework will begin once classroom routines have been established. Homework directions will be posted in our weekly Smores digital newsletters.




Reading Homework - Reading practice at home is essential for your child's reading progress in first grade.

- Sight Words: Please have your child practice reading the sight words that are sent home. Students will be assessed after each reading unit. Students can cut the words into flashcards and should work on five words at a time. Gradually add a word as your child masters sight words already introduced. Review sight words already taught with your child to ensure reading success!
- Daily Reading: Students will need to read 15-20 minutes each day to an adult. Students can read the paper phonics story that is sent home for their daily reading or a book/chapter of their choice. It's a good idea to take turns while reading. Reading is an excellent time for

parents to spend time with their children. Sometimes you read to your child to model fluency and other times your child needs to read to you to build fluency.

WHY WE READ

There's always something new to discover and new wonders to uncover if you **READ.**

Student A reads <u>20 minutes</u> each day	Student B reads <u>5 minutes</u> each day	Student C reads <u>1 minute</u> each day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words 	282,000 words 	8,000 words 
90th percentile	50th percentile	10th percentile

Which student would you expect to be more successful?

Math Homework

- Students will need to complete any math pages sent home labeled as “Homework.”
- Math homework sheets will be sent home daily except on testing days.
- Math homework must be turned in daily to help with review.

Lesson 1 Homework 1•1

Name _____ Date _____

Circle 5, and then make a number bond.

1.

2.

Snacks, Classroom Treats, and Water Bottles

Students need to bring a healthy snack for our snack break. Please place it in the front pocket of their backpack so it is separated from their lunch. If you pack it in their lunch, most likely they will eat it during lunch. Trust us it happens! Please also have your child bring a refillable water bottle with his or her name on it. If your child has food allergies please let us know right away. Donations of peanut-free store-bought snacks are welcome!

Birthdays



Students may bring in store bought birthday treats and napkins. Treats such as cookies, Rice Krispie treats, fruit snacks, brownie bites, or mini cupcakes are perfect. Less mess is best! No large cakes please. Students can also bring in other things to share such as a donated classroom book, stickers, pencils, erasers, book marks, etc... Those students with a summer birthday will be able to bring in items when they are Bobcat of the Week. Please send birthday items in the morning with your child and the birthday girl or boy will hand them out at the very end of the day. Please avoid dropping off birthday items at the office to avoid interruptions in our classroom and in the office. Thank you for your consideration.

Birthday Invitations

Students may pass out invitations if the entire class is invited or all boys/girls. No exceptions! Please use our classroom roster to individually contact other families.

Bobcat of the Week



Every student will be chosen as “Bobcat of the Week” at some point during the school year. Your child’s special week will be as close to the week of their birthday as possible. Directions will be sent home along with a scrapbook to be completed before your child’s week. Students will also be able to share one special item each day of their week.

Classroom Volunteers

Deer Valley Unified School District requires all school volunteers and field trip chaperones to take the DVUSD volunteer training course offered throughout the year. For new volunteers to DVUSD, please refer to the volunteer training dates and locations [HERE](#) . You may go to any DVUSD training location to complete the training. If you have taken this training in previous years, you are all set.

We are fortunate to have a tremendous parental support base at our school. Our classroom volunteer program will begin once classroom routines have been established. Some requests to come weekly will not be met due to the volume of parent responses and class availability.

Field Trips

Field trips will cost a small amount depending upon transportation costs and entry fees to the venue. All DVUSD field trip chaperones will be required to ride the school bus to and from the destination. A volunteer lottery system will take place if more volunteers apply than needed. Field trip chaperones will need to have already completed the DVUSD volunteer training prior.

Curriculum and Grading Policy



[Arizona College and Career Ready Standards](#)

[DVUSD Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#)

English Language Arts Curriculum HMH Into Reading

[ELA Parent Resource](#)

DVUSD utilizes the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading program. HMH Into Reading is differentiated by design to offer a balanced approach to literacy instruction.



Our HMH reading and spelling program follows a six day cycle with days 1-5 direct teaching and day 6 for assessment. Therefore, our curriculum does not follow a traditional Monday-Friday cycle. Spelling and reading tests will take place on day 6 of each cycle.

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.

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: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. 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 age appropriate books on CD or ChromeBooks.

Spelling 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

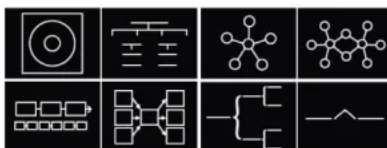
Types direct instruction of vowel patterns, instead of just memorizing spelling rules.

Spelling Dictation Tests

At the end of each spelling cycle, selected sentence dictation by the teacher will be given as a written test. Students will be given multiple opportunities to practice their words in class and at home. Spelling tests will take place on Day 6 of each cycle.

Writing

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 the writing process. The writing genres that will be taught are narrative, informational text, poetry, and opinion.

Eureka Math

[Math Parent Resource](#)

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

MYSTERY
S C I E N C E

Science

[Science Parent Resource](#)

Picture-Perfect
SCIENCE

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

[Social Studies Parent Resource](#)

DVUSD utilizes the newly adopted 2023 Arizona edition social studies program from McGraw Hill. 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. Test results will be sent home to parents and discussed during parent-teacher conferences.

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 consists of six measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, and reading comprehension.

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 and/or reading specialist. The DRA2 Benchmark Assessment measures each student's reading proficiency through systematic observation, recording, and evaluation 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 retake a test in which he or she has received a score of 57% or below. Our retake policy does NOT apply to quizzes and any district required testing. Tests only. Retakes will be completed in class.

Grading and Report Cards

[Parent Grading Resource](#)

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will receive marks for their proficiency towards the grade level standards using the following scale.

K-2 Standards Grading Scale

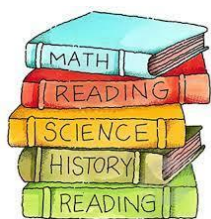
4 = Applies grade level skills with greater depth and complexity.

3 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency.

2 = Approaches grade level proficiency.

1 = Displays a significant lack of grade level proficiency.

Academic Subject Grades



Students in 1st and 2nd grades will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the following letter grade scale. Overall course grades for students in 1st and 2nd grades will be determined by the average of all overall standards scores for the grading period. The average will be converted to a letter grade of E, S, N, or U.

E = Excellent (80%-100%)

S = Satisfactory (60%-79%)

N = Needs Improvement (42%-59%)

U = Under Performing (0%-41%)

Report Cards

Report cards will no longer be printed for grades 1-8, but instead will be viewed online using your parent Power School account . If you need access to Power School, please contact the front office. Only fourth quarter report cards will be printed at this time.

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. Teachers will send out a sign-up for parents to attend.

