



Deer Valley
Unified School District

**Canyon Springs
STEM Academy**
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SUPERINTENDENT
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April 26, 2016

Good Afternoon Canyon Springs Families,

It is with tremendous pride and joy that I share Canyon Springs STEM Academy is a 2016-2019 A+ School of Excellence™ award recipient presented by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

The process to become recognized as an A+ School of Excellence™ began with a 41 page application with input from students, staff, and parents. Once the application was completed and submitted, we were visited by a team of judges, all of whom have been through this process at their own schools and represent the Arizona Educational Foundation.

Canyon Springs STEM Academy has been rated as an “A” School by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) since the ADE has been giving letter grades (2011). This letter grade is based on student test scores on the AIMS (2011-14) and AzMERIT (2015-present). As parents and educators, we all know and fully understand that our children are more than their test scores, as is our school!

The Arizona Educational Foundation read our application, observed, and awarded us not only for our test scores over the years, but more importantly our whole story which included:

- History
- Leadership
- School Improvement processes and data
- Values
- Climate & Nurturing Environment
- Curriculum, Instruction, & Best Practices
- Student growth for all student populations utilizing various measurements
- Special & Unique Programs
- Teacher training, professional development
- Resources available to teachers, parents, and students
- Opportunities available to students outside of the school day
- Parent/Community Involvement and partnerships

“You, your staff, your students and all your stakeholders are to be commended for overall excellence and for all the hard work and collaborative effort it took to earn this award. Based on your outstanding application and a very memorable and impressive site visit to your campus, your school has truly earned the Arizona Educational Foundation's A+ School of Excellence designation... The A+ School of Excellence selection committee members enjoyed reading your application and visiting your school. It is an honor and privilege to recognize, celebrate and focus on what is RIGHT with public education in Arizona.” – Bobbie O’Boyle, Executive Director, Arizona Educational Foundation

We will be celebrating with the Arizona Educational Foundation at a school-wide assembly on Friday, May 6 at 8:30am. Our Canyon Springs STEM Academy Families are more than welcome to celebrate with us!

Sincerely,

Tricia V. Graham, Principal

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