



Engaging Students & Supporting Their Potential

2020-2021
Desert Sky
Middle School
Gifted Services



Gifted Specialist:
Mary.Kaczmarowski@dvusd.org

DSMS Offers -

- Gifted Grouping
- Flexible Ability Grouping & Differentiation
- Middle School Athletics
- Chess Club
- National Jr. Honor Society
- Student Government & Leadership classes
- Paxton Labs for Technology and Trades
- Technology in all classrooms
- Band, Choir, & Theater Arts
- High School Algebra and Spanish (credit transferable to any high school)

Gifted Placement -

Gifted Testing and Scores: Students are assessed in three areas (Verbal, Quantitative, & Nonverbal) using the CogAT assessment. Desert Sky Middle (DSMS) offers gifted services for students who qualify in one or more areas. Placement testing can be scheduled three times a year based on teacher and parent recommendation. Students may also qualify based on other state approved gifted identification assessments. Students may only be tested once per calendar year.

Gifted Program Details -

Gifted Grouping: All gifted students (those scoring at or above 90% in one or more areas) are clustered together for the majority of the school day.

Math: Students in grade 8 who tested above grade level on school placement exams and meet the rest of the requirements on our placement rubric are clustered together and placed in the High School Algebra math class. These students are placed in a class with transferrable credit.

Spanish: Students in grade 8 who tested above grade level on school exams and meet the rest of the requirements on our placement rubric are clustered together and placed in the High School Spanish class. These students are placed in a class with transferrable credit.

In the Classrooms -

Differentiation: The teacher, after getting to know his/her students, groups them for activities based on each individual student's academic needs and/or areas of interest. The teachers utilize specialized areas in their classrooms to allow those students to expand their learning in a more personal and interactive space. It allows students to guide their own inquiry based learning.

Desert Sky Middle School:

Desert Sky Middle School will prepare all students to be active, productive and successful problem solvers in our ever changing world.