



Union Park School

Tricia Graham, Principal

Lauren Ghanooni, Assistant Principal



Deer Valley
Unified School District

2nd Grade Syllabus 2022-2023

Introduction:

Hello! My name is Ms. Johnson and I am your 2nd grade teacher this year! I graduated from Northern Arizona University with my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Secondary Education Mathematics. A couple years later I earned my Masters Degree in Special Education Mild/Moderate disabilities also from NAU. I am an Arizona native and have lived here all my life. I am excited to start teaching 2nd grade this year!

What we are learning this year:

- Reading: This year in reading we will be focused on building phonological awareness, spelling, fluency, and comprehension skills throughout each unit. Each unit is cyclical and will work on a number of skills in each lesson. While working in a unit, the students will have a focus on answering an essential question such as, 'How can being a good citizen make a difference to others?' These essential questions provide a foundational focus for the books and stories that the students read.
- Writing: This year in writing students will be focusing on narrative, informational, opinion, correspondence, and poetry pieces. We will begin with creating personal narratives and work our way towards writing longer and more complex pieces of varying styles.
- Math: This year in math students will work on a variety of skills in each module. We will begin with sums and differences within 100 and work our way to understanding place value. Students will learn a variety of strategies that they can use independently to add and subtract 3 digit



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numbers. Nearing the end of the year, students will have the opportunity to learn about problem solving with length, money and data.

- Science: In second grade, we are focused on physical science as it relates to energy and matter, Earth and space science, and life science as it relates to organisms and how they are related to each other.
- Social Studies: Second grade is working on helping students learn about the world them through civics, economics, geography, and history.

Overview of the Standards:

At Union Park School, we follow the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards that are adopted by the state and Deer Valley Unified School District for 2nd grade. Throughout the year, we are going to be teaching the standards with rigor and high expectations of our students. These standards in full can be found at <https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>.

- DVUSD Math Resources for Parents <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/28323>
- DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents <https://www.dvUSD.org/Domain/5389>
- Webb's Depth of Knowledge http://www.aps.edu/sapr/documents/resources/Webbs_DOK_Guide.pdf

Behavior Expectations:

Our behavioral expectations school wide are based off of the acronym TOROS which stands for:

- T- Teamwork Matters.
- O- Own our own learning and actions.
- R- Respect one another.
- O- Optimize opportunities for growth.



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- S- Safety Always!

*Our behavior expectations matrix can be found at: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/57744>

***All District Rules will be adhered to at Union Park School. Please refer to the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. We believe that students must treat others with the same respect with which they are treated by the adults in our school. We also believe that student's actions, dress, possessions, etc., must not cause a problem for themselves or anyone else.*

Communication:

Classroom communications will be sent out via emails, Remind, and through Blackboard. Your teacher will reach out to you at least once a week about updates and what we are learning in class. Each teacher will update their website weekly with information about daily assignments, unit goals, and essential questions. Information regarding events and special activities will be added to the homepage of the website.

- Teacher websites can be found at: <https://www.dvusd.org/domain/10743>

School-wide communication will be provided through social media, email, texts, and Smores. You can also visit the Union Park website at <https://unionpark.dvusd.org>.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child, please reach out to your teacher first and they can assist you with coming to a resolution.

****If a child's safety or school-wide safety is a concern, please contact the front office or a staff member immediately. Administration works diligently to ensure the safety of all students.****



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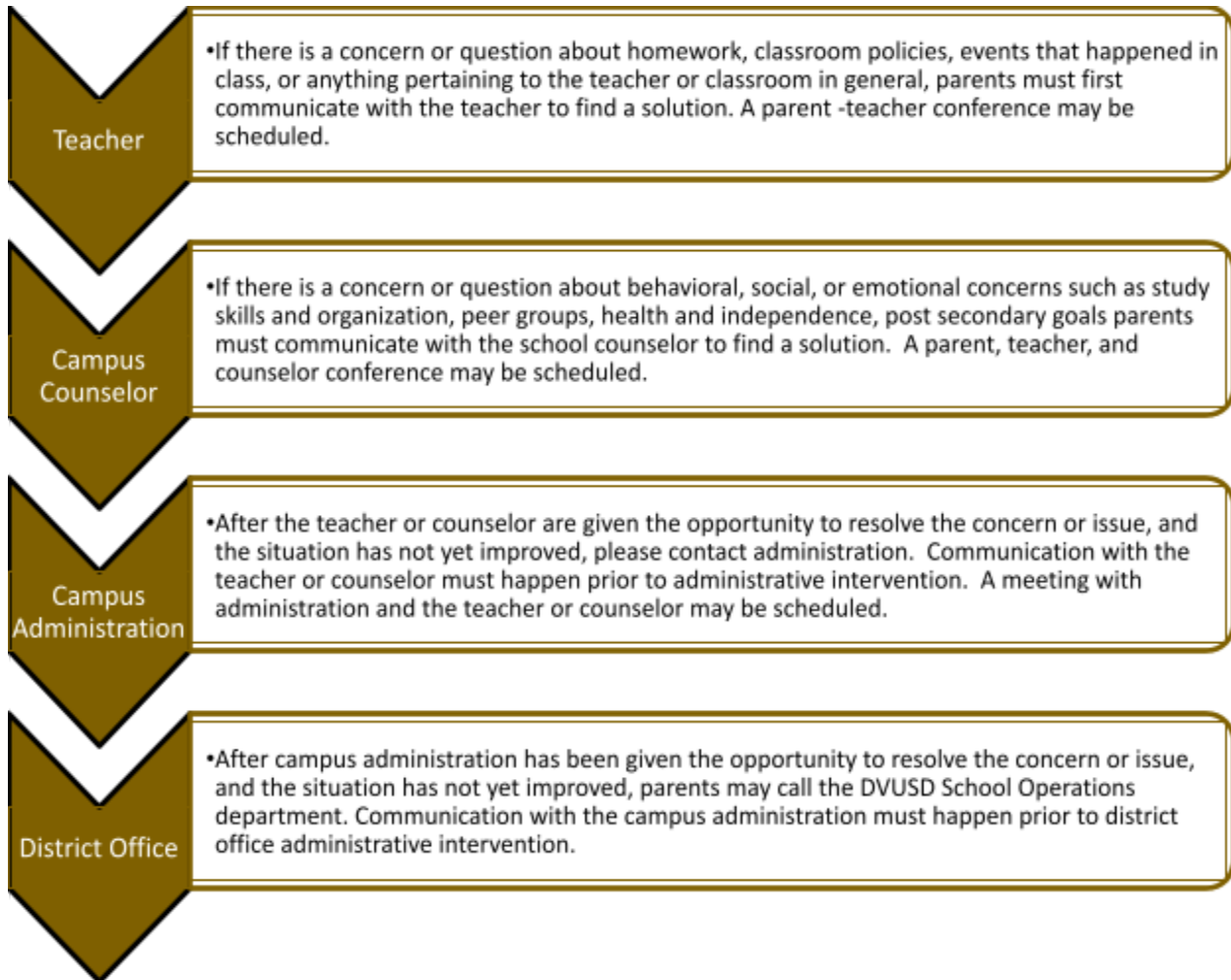
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Student planners will be utilized daily to track homework assignments and information that needs to be brought home. Please sign your child's agenda every night.



Field Trips:

At this time, there are no current field trips scheduled. If a field trip is scheduled, teachers will reach out to you regarding permission slips and necessary information.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs):



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Most Fridays, students will be released early so that we are able to participate in PLC work. This work is directly related to the planning, instruction and interventions we implement in our classrooms to ensure that students master the standards.

Role of PLC

A professional learning community is a group of educators that meet regularly and work Collaboratively to improve teaching practices and the achievement of students. The questions that drive the work of PLC's are:

- What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
- How will we know if they learn it?
- How will we respond if some students do not learn?
- How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

PLC Teams are responsible for collaborating to establish general consistency among the following:

- Assignments, presentations, products, observations and assessments used to determine a student's level of performance in relation to grade-level standards.
- The method and schedule for additional learning opportunities.
- Due dates, deadlines, and procedures for reassessment.
- Create opportunities for common scoring of assessments.

Classroom Volunteers:

If you wish to participate in helping out in the classroom or on field trips, you do have to be volunteer trained. The first scheduled volunteer training is on August 18th. Please contact our front office for other dates that will be available throughout the year.

**Volunteerism in any form is greatly appreciated at Union Park School. Deer Valley Unified School District requires all school volunteers to take the DVUSD Volunteer training course offered throughout the year (if you have taken this in previous years, you are all set). Volunteers must set*



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specific dates and times with the teachers. It is imperative to establish an important role for the volunteer without interrupting the learning environment. Parent volunteerism in the classroom during the school-day varies based on need, teachers, and grade levels.

Homework:

- Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework is essential for increasing and reinforcing student learning and achievement for course standards. Homework may be differentiated to meet the needs of our varied learners. The intent of homework is to practice, extend learning, and provide opportunities for students to develop critical, independent study skills and self-discipline for their life-long educational journeys.
- Grades are a reporting tool utilized to reflect what a student knows and is able to do in a content area. We measure achievement, not effort or behavior, in our grading system.
- PowerSchool is an essential resource for parents and students. It is not only a tool for communication regarding grades, it is a resource for our students and parents to check progress, missing work, and what is being taught/learned regularly. Please ensure that you and your child have access and even sign up for the app and push notifications or weekly email updates as an option in [PowerSchool](#).

DVUSD Grading Guidelines:

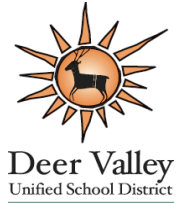
- Grades will be equitable, accurate, specific, consistent.
- A student's grade should reflect academic learning and should never be used as a punitive tool.
- Grades are for reporting the status of academic learning, not behavioral conduct



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- The primary purpose of assessment and grading is to provide detailed feedback to inform and support student learning.
- Learning is a process that takes place over time and at different speeds for different students.
- PowerSchool is an essential resource for parents and students. It is not only a tool for communication regarding grades, it is a resource for our students and parents to check progress, missing work, and what is being taught/learned regularly. Please ensure that you and your child have access (separate accounts) and even sign up for the app and push notifications or weekly email updates as an option in [PowerSchool](#).

Grading Scale

For K – 6th Grades

- 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

Why Standards Based Grading?

Parents:

- Progress reports are less mysterious and have more meaning
- Parents are aware of exactly what their child knows, is able to do, and next steps for progress
- Parents know in what areas their child needs more support
- Parents are empowered to increase their child's confidence and help their student set goals

Students:

- Learning targets are clearly defined and aligned with state standards.
- Students are offered multiple opportunities and ways through which to demonstrate proficiency
- Students monitor their own progress toward the achievement of specified targets



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- Specific feedback on progress helps build self-esteem, pride, and motivation

Teachers:

- Teachers know exactly where students stand in their progress toward learning targets and what support needs to be provided
- Teachers of the same courses have aligned expectations and standards
- Assessment results help teachers determine when students need extra help and when they need more challenging work

Procedures for Re-assessment and Late Work:

Describe the expectation that all students will complete all learning requirements

- Students needing extra help will receive it from their teacher during Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in class
- Students choosing not to complete work, but who are able to do so, will complete work with support during Toro Time.
- *In order to accurately reflect a student's academic performance level, teachers will accept late work and missing work for full credit if the work is submitted within the timeframe and procedures developed by the school and before the end of the grading period.*
 - *1st-6th: A "1" will be entered in the gradebook until the work is submitted. A notation of "M" for missing or "L" for late work will also be denoted in the gradebook.*

Students will still be responsible for turning in late work in addition to their current coursework, which results in the natural consequence of a heavier workload. The primary consequence for students not completing the work is to complete the work.

Describe your procedures for a student to be able to retake a test

Learning is a journey that is often not linear. Some students learn content and skills quickly while others may require more time or feedback in order to learn. The primary objective of grades is to report where a student is in the learning process, regardless of how much time or effort the student needs to get there.



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- Students will be afforded extra time for learning; however, there is an ending point for each course in which final reports on a student's learning must be conveyed.
- Final assessments or end of term capstone projects and performance assessments will not be eligible for retakes.
- Assessments/assignments may be in an alternate format for reassessment.
- Students are required to show evidence of learning and applying the teacher's feedback in order to earn a reassessment opportunity.

Gradebook Information:

Grades will be updated in PowerSchool at least once per week. There will be every attempt made to enter one grade per week in each subject to help show student mastery. Assignments will be graded and entered within 5 days of the due date.

Progress on or acquisition of learning progressions (i.e. work and assignments based on the activities and prerequisite skills needed to master the standard) and assessments or projects that measure the specific state standards.

Assignments will be listed as each learning progression or activity as well as the specific state standard. Our grading practices measure proficiency at their grade level of instruction. The grading ceiling is in alignment with the standard.

For example, if the standard is at the application level, that becomes the grading ceiling for that standard. Grades at Union Park will not represent behaviors, such as turning in work on time or choosing not to do it at all (which is no longer acceptable). We focus on quality rather than completion and proficiency versus behavioral attributes for work completion. However, students will be held accountable for appropriate academic behaviors.

Therefore, missing work will need to be made up in a timely manner (See Toro Time).



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Using the grading scales shared earlier, checking PowerSchool regularly, and consistently communicating with teachers are all ways to understand how your child(ren) is progressing and learning each skill and standard required at their grade level.

Student's Role in Learning:

- In second grade participation is important to ensure understanding. Students should be present and complete assignments independently on time.
- Students become self-directed in learning about themselves as a learner. They have to analyze their own study habits to figure out what actually works for them, this helps students retain knowledge.

Parent's Role in Learning

Parent Involvement is all about the children. Participation in your child's education is proven to boost his or her achievement in school. We are committed to treat parents as partners while keeping lines of communication open and focused on the needs of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is required to maintain a positive learning experience at any school. We believe that your trust in Union Park is required to ensure your child's success.

Toro Time

Toro Time is a before or after school opportunity for students to maximize their potential success. Learning and completing work at Union Park is required. Toro Time is offered to all students who have not shown proficiency in their current learning progressions or classwork. Toro time will be assigned to students to attend for extra help, assistance, or when a student needs to complete his/her work. Without completing their work, it is hard to know if a student is progressing towards mastering the standards we are teaching in class. We ask for parent support and cooperation in



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transporting students to or from their assigned Toro Time so that they are not falling behind or simply given the opportunity to opt out of their work.

Contact Details

Email: alicia.johnson@dvusd.org

Phone: 623-445-5800

Please schedule specific times to meet with me, as we need time to communicate effectively. I often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that I will not be able to meet or discuss issues while I am teaching or supervising students. However, I will contact you as soon as I can.

Union Park has implemented email office hours and a “curfew” to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will respond to emails Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 8:30am and again from 3:30-5:00pm.