



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

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Welcome to Las Brisas!

At Las Brisas, we believe in providing opportunities for all students to shine. For that reason, we are proud to introduce the Gifted Academy @ Las Brisas. We offer gifted learning opportunities to all students.

Gifted instructional strategies benefit all students. They promote critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, abstract thinking, and hands-on-learning. As a campus, we will be implementing Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) in all grade levels. This is a teaching method in which complex real-world problems are used as the tool to promote student learning of concepts, rather than direct presentation of information. It also provides flexibility for students to demonstrate their learning in various ways. Students utilize essential skills for collaborative work, effective communication, media and technology literacy, leadership, and creativity. Additionally, we are adding STEAM (science; technology; engineering; arts; mathematics) to our specials rotation, providing students with weekly access to hands-on learning.

Our Gifted Academy will include some new specialized programs for gifted learners, including Bright Beginnings, and Renaissance. Bright Beginnings offers gifted preschool through second grade. Renaissance Highly Gifted Program is offered for qualifying students in grades 3-6, with a focus on Global Studies. The students of Las Brisas Gifted Academy are living, working, and playing in a world full of diversity. It is our goal to guide them to be more internationally mindful and to feel connected to the world around them. The Renaissance Academy strives to bring a global perspective to Arizona standards. We hope to broaden our students' experiences and encourage their curiosity when thinking critically, making decisions, and preparing for a future as global citizens. We will also continue to offer gifted cluster with team teaching, and walk up to math. We are excited to offer these programs for our gifted learners.

As an educator and a parent, I am passionate about gifted education for all students. At Las Brisas we believe that all students are gifted in their own way. We believe these instructional changes will benefit all Stars. We strive to provide work that is challenging and relevant to keep our students interested, to develop perseverance to overcome obstacles, and engage in meaningful work that will support acquisition of essential skills for high school and beyond. We are thrilled to bring these tools to our young stars as they build their futures in a changing world.

We are so proud of all we have accomplished together, and look forward to what the future holds for all of our Stars. As we always say at Las Brisas, "Once a star, always a star." Wherever your future may take you, your children will always be stars.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

In Partnership,

Mara Kurasch

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