



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

20402 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85027
623.445.5000 Phone
623.445.5086 Fax
www.dvusd.org

SUPERINTENDENT
Curtis Finch, PhD

GOVERNING BOARD
Kimberly K. Fisher
Ann O'Brien
Ann Elizabeth Ordway
Jennie Paperman
Julie Read

March 3, 2021

Dear DVUSD Parents and Guardians,

As a public school system, our academic program is measured each year by student performance on state achievement assessments. In the spring of 2020, state achievement assessments were suspended. This spring, Arizona will resume state achievement assessments. The data these assessments provide on student progress will be even more important this year as we gauge student learning and develop plans for supporting student growth in the wake of the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

After spring break, DVUSD students, along with students across the state, will be involved in the state assessments. Students in grades 3-8 and 10 will take the AzM2 state tests in writing, reading, and mathematics. Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take the AzSCI assessment. The AzSCI assessment is a field test this year, so schools, students, and parents will not receive test results. Teachers and staff have prepared diligently to ensure a smooth and successful administration of the AzM2 and AzSCI state tests later this spring.

State testing will occur between March 22 and May 14 this year. Specific testing schedules will be posted on school websites. At this time, all state assessments must be administered in person. Students taking courses full-time with Deer Valley Online Academy (DVOA) or Deer Valley Online Learning Program (DVOLP) will take the state assessments on a DVUSD school campus. More information about testing locations and a link to register for a preferred testing location will be sent to DVOA and DVOLP students' parents/guardians.

Both the AzM2 and the AzSCI assessments are computer-based tests. Students who have been issued take-home chromebooks or iPads will need to bring their device and charging cord to school on the testing days. Students will also need to bring a pair of headphones or earphones (wired, not bluetooth) to use during testing. DVUSD will provide headphones for students unable to bring in their own headphones/earphones. In addition, the computer-based assessments will include a scientific calculator embedded in the software for grades 7-10. Students who prefer to bring their own four-function or scientific calculator should verify that it is a permissible model with their teachers.

High school 10th grade students who score Proficient or Highly Proficient may be eligible to raise their course grades in ELA -12, ELA 3-4, Algebra 1-2, and/or Geometry. For more information on Grade Enhancement, go to <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/65946>.

The AzM2 assessment provides multiple question types to better measure what a child knows and is able to do at the end of each grade level or course. Students are encouraged to experience the test format and tools prior to the tests with the *AzM2 Sample Tests* at <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azm2>. This can help them immensely, especially in the comfort of their own home.

Before the test, ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast, gets plenty of rest and comes to school prepared and comfortable to take this test. Our teachers and students have been working very hard this year to increase knowledge and skills. If you have specific questions about the AzM2 or AzSCI assessments, please be sure to contact your school.

We are looking forward to learning more about each student's progress and growth. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in the pursuit of extraordinary educational opportunities for every child!

Sincerely,
Dr. Gayle Galligan
Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

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