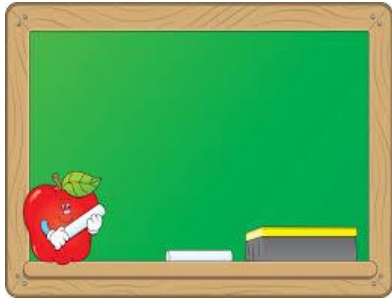




# Canyon Springs STEM Academy

42901 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anthem, Arizona 85087



**Front Office:** 623-376-5200  
(Hours 7:30-4:00)  
**Attendance:** 623-376-5290

**Mrs. Sheila Fields**

Room 707

Voicemail: 623-376-5276

E-mail: [Sheila.fields@dvusd.org](mailto:Sheila.fields@dvusd.org)

Class website: [www.dvusd.org/cs-fields](http://www.dvusd.org/cs-fields)



2024-2025 ABC's of Kindergarten



## General Information

**School Hours - 8:10 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**Kindergarten Hours-8:10 A.M.- 2:55 P.M.**

**\*\* *All phrases in italics are school-wide policies and procedures.***

### **A is for:**

**Absences-** If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line at 623-376-5290.

**Attendance-** A successful experience is the responsibility of the child, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress both academically and socially is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is key to success. Many lessons in our kindergarten class can't be "made up" if they are missed, since they are hands-on activities.

**Arrival -** The Canyon Springs campus opens at **8:00 A.M.** Drop-off location is at the main double gate at the front of the school. Students report to the kindergarten classroom upon arrival. Teachers and other staff members on duty will ensure that your child gets to his/her destination safely.

The "tardy bell" will ring at 8:15 A.M. Students should be in their classrooms and ready to begin. *Instruction begins promptly at this time.*

**Allergies-** If your child has any allergies please make sure the school and I are aware of them. I especially need to know about food allergies and insect bite reactions.



## **B is for:**

**Birthdays** - Birthdays are important and will be celebrated in class by special recognition, games, and singing. Look for the 'birthday information letter' to be sent home as it nears your child's birthday. Your child will also receive the 'birthday bag' to journal about his/her special day.

Our cafeteria offers a fun way to make your child's birthday extra special at school. You can order a 'Birthday Party Bucket' for the whole classroom.

Please see the order form with prices, etc on our class website.

Students with summer birthdays will have a designated day in May before the end of the school year to celebrate.

**Book Orders** - I will send home Scholastic Book Club order forms throughout the year. This is a great way to purchase books at fantastic prices. We earn bonus points for every dollar spent, which I use to add books to our classroom library. Delivery of the books are generally two weeks from the date the order is submitted. Order online using your credit/debit card. To place your book order online go to <https://clubs.scholastic.com/> and use the activation code: **GQJFZ**.



**Backpacks**- To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack labeled with your child's name (no wheels please, due to space). Please have your child share the contents with you daily. *(no toys in the backpack)*.

**Breakfast**- The cafeteria serves breakfast from 7:45- 8:10AM each day. The cost of breakfast is \$1.50. Students must stay in the cafeteria until the 8:00 bell rings. There are no teachers on duty in the halls until this time.

## C is for:

**College and Career Ready AZ Standards-** All instruction is planned using these standards to ensure high expectations for our students' learning experiences.

**Class Website** - Our class has a webpage that can be found under the staff websites tab on the Canyon Springs website or at [www.dvusd.org/cs-fields](http://www.dvusd.org/cs-fields). You can visit our website to learn about class news/events, find resources, and much more. The pages will be updated weekly with current standards being taught, upcoming events, and pictures of us learning.



**Centers/Work Stations-** The best way for students to learn is through active engagement. Our classroom is set up in learning centers and work stations. I carefully plan the activities in each center to develop skills and meet the needs of all students in the class.



**Classroom Volunteers-** "Basic Training" is a "must have" for all individuals who donate time and/or services at our school or with students on a regular or reoccurring basis, or who plan to attend a class field trip/party. This one-hour training session is required by the school district. If you attended the training a previous year, you do not need to repeat it. Sessions are held throughout the school year at various campuses (you may attend training at any of the training locations). For more information and a schedule of dates/times, visit <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/5182>. Registration is not required.

I will have many opportunities for volunteers to help out in our classroom during literacy centers, math stations, and other special days. If you are unable to volunteer in the classroom, there will also be opportunities for you to help by doing things at home. Look for more information in your child's beginning of the year 'Welcome Folder'.



**Communication** - A key component to your child's educational success is the home/school connection. It is important for us to work together to give your child the greatest opportunities to excel. I am always happy to answer your questions. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at 623-376-5276 or e-mail at [sheila.fields@dvusd.org](mailto:sheila.fields@dvusd.org). *\*Canyon Springs has implemented email office hours and a "curfew" to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. Teachers will respond to emails and phone calls Monday through Friday from 7:00am-8:30am and again from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Please allow 24 hours for a response.\** You may also write a note and put it in your child's 'Daily Take-Home Folder'. If you have an issue/concern that you would like addressed, please refer to the Boulder Creek Region Communication Protocol Flow Chart as a reference for whom to contact. Please make sure your email/phone is always updated to receive classroom/principal emails/call-outs.



**Cafeteria and Playground Rules** - We want everyone to be safe on our campus. Please review the Canyon Springs Expectations Matrix included in your welcome folder. Discuss them with your child. We will review these expectations each day.

**Conferences** - Conferences are held twice a year (October-parent/teacher and February-student led). During this time, we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress as we review your child's individual data notebook.

## D is for:

**Differentiation-** Because all children are unique and special, they may be at many different instructional levels. It is my responsibility to take each child from where he or she is to a higher level, therefore, students may be learning concepts different from his/her peers. You can be sure your child's individual needs will be met.

**Dismissal** - Kindergarten dismissal is at **2:55**. Promptly pick up your child at the designated time. Bus riders and after-care students are walked to the designated areas by a teacher/staff member. **If you are picking up from the front gate, you will be given a purple pick-up sign with your child's name/teacher that needs to be visible for the duty teacher.** This will help us get your child to you quickly and safely.

**Discipline-** My philosophy of discipline is based on the belief that children need affectionate care and firm guidelines within a flexible structure. We will use our schoolwide '**PAWS**'itive Behavior Expectations: **P** Pledge to do our best, **A** Accept responsibility, **W** Work together, **S** Safe choices. The children will be guided to respect themselves and their peers through specific directions and positive reinforcement.

*All District Rules will be adhered to at Canyon Springs 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.*

Disciplinary action is taken in situations involving students who do not follow conduct guidelines. If the teacher or the principal feel that a student's behavior is continually causing problems, the parents will be informed and asked to work with the school toward a solution.

**Daily Schedule-** Please refer to the class schedule in the 'Welcome Folder'.

**E is for:**

**Extra Clothing** - Kindergarten is fun and exciting....sometimes children spill or have an accident. Please place an extra set of clothes in a large Ziploc bag (weather appropriate) in your child's backpack. It will remain there for the year "just in case".

**English Language Arts/Reading-** Our *Into Reading* curriculum is designed to encourage your child to become an independent reader through whole group lessons, independent center work, and small group instruction.

**F is for:**



**Field trips-** A couple off campus field trips are planned that are fun, educational, and connect with our units of study.

Notes about field trips will be sent home several weeks prior to the trip. *We make every attempt to offer field trips at a minimal cost to families. Depending upon transportation and entry fees to the venue, the trip may cost up to \$20 each. \*\*\*Field trips are prepaid-no reimbursements.*

**Footwear-** Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, flip flops, crocs, or dress shoes, might not be good for school activities.

**Fostering Independence** - This is a transitional year for your child. I hope to help build an independent and responsible student. I ask that you help your child organize and pack his/her backpack in the beginning of the year. As the year progresses, your child will get into the habit of remembering/packing his/her materials/library book and putting papers in his/her folder. Your child will place his/her folder in the 'folder holder' basket and hang his/her backpack on the blue backpack rack once arriving to the classroom each morning. This will be a procedure we practice throughout the school year.

## **G is for:**

**Good Hygiene-** We will wash our hands, use hand sanitizer, and keep our work area clean. 'High touch surfaces' will be disinfected frequently.

**Good Choice Wolf-** Each day, a child or two will be chosen to take home our classroom 'Good Choice Wolf' for displaying any of the 'PAWS Expectations'.



Along with the stuffed animal, a note stating what 'good choices' were made will go home. Please return the wolf the next day, so it can be sent home with a new child.

## **H is for:**

**Hands on learning-** The best way to help children learn is to make learning fun! Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seat work is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.



**Homework-** The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills being taught in class and build responsibility. The expectation is that your child is reading/being read to at least 15 minutes a night, using Razkids/Code.org/Zearn, and studying his/her high frequency words (sight word booklet).

*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.*

**Handwriting-** In kindergarten, we use a variety of strategies to build fine motor skills as we practice correct letter formation.



### **I is for:**

**Illness-** The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make him/her more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the class when they are healthy. If your child is diagnosed with a communicable disease please inform me and the school nurse.



**Independent Reading-** Because children learn to read fluently by lots of practice, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.

**iPads-** We are fortunate to have 1:1 iPads in our classroom. We use a variety of age appropriate programs that reinforce Math and Reading skills.

### **J is for:**

**Journals-** One strategy that will be used to help convey the vital concept that print conveys meaning is the use of journal writing. In these journals, the children will combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. As the students are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will move from drawings and inventive spelling towards more conventional writing.



### **K is for:**

**Kindness-** Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others in society with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be tolerated.

## L is for:

**Lost and found-** We have a lost and found box in the Multi-Purpose room. I ask that you label backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes, and jackets/sweaters worn to school. This will help us return a lost item to its owner.



**Lunch-** Our class will eat in the cafeteria from 10:40-11:10 each day. The cost of lunch is \$2.95. If your child is bringing a lunch from home, please don't forget to label the lunchbox/sack with your child's name. Students are not able to warm food in a microwave or store food in a refrigerator at school. Lunch menus can be viewed on our class webpage.

1. **Cash:** Students may buy meals with cash or add cash to their account in the cafeteria.
2. **Check:** Students may bring a check with their student ID number and current phone number on it to the cafeteria to be added to their account.
3. **Online:** Payments can be made at EZSchoolPay.com using a credit/debit card. Use EZSchoolPay to view student spending and set up low balance reminders.

**\*\*Your child may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on the eligibility requirements outlined in the application link**

**<https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx>**

**\*\*Practice eating "school lunch" with your child at home. Make sure your child can open everything you send with them. Set a timer for 15-20 minutes and talk about how they may not finish eating every item and that's okay. Practice packing everything back up and talk about what is trash and what should come back home in their lunchbox. Kindergarten lunch is a big adjustment and it is very helpful if you have prepared your child for the experience!**

## M is for:

**Mission Statement-** Canyon Springs STEM Academy creates meaningful experiences for all learners through the exploration of STEM. Together, with our community, we foster leadership and inspire generations of learners to succeed in our global society.



**Math-** The kindergarten mathematics i-Ready curriculum along with the Career and College Readiness Standards provides students with mathematical practices that help develop a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue throughout their school career. Units include; counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, number and operations in base ten, measurement/data, and geometry. In addition to our daily math lessons, skills during individualized math stations are practiced.

**Media Center-** We will visit the media center each week. The students are allowed to check out 1 book. Please make sure your child returns his/her book...he/she will not be able to check out another book until it is returned.

**Medication** - Please see the school nurse ASAP to ensure that your child has the medications he/she needs. **Under NO circumstances is medication allowed in the classroom; this includes cough drops.** If a child is seen with any form of medication, it falls under the no tolerance policy. *Please see the DVUSD Student Handbook for more information on this and other policies.*

### N is for:

**Newsletter-** I will be emailing a weekly update with a newsletter attached. It will have important dates and information. It will also be posted on our class website.



### **O is for:**

**OK Daily Folders (Organized Kids)**- Your child will bring home his/her folder each night. Please return it each day. Inside, there is a 'Monthly Calendar' and a 'Teacher/Parent' communication page for writing notes. I will check the folders each day for notes, papers, or anything you need me to see. Please make sure these things are in your child's folder (I do not look in the children's backpack for items sent from home). All papers will go home in this folder, so please check the folder daily and remove papers...they fill up quickly.

**Outside Learning**- Throughout the day, your child will have many opportunities to enhance his/her learning in our outdoor STEM Learning Lab and kinderGARDEN sanctuary.

### **P is for:**

**Parent Involvement**- Participation in your child's education is proven to boost your child's achievement in school. I am committed to keeping lines of communication open and focused on the needs of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers are required to maintain a positive learning experience at school. I believe your trust in Canyon Springs is required to ensure your child's success.

**Parties, Performances, and Celebrations**- We will have several class/grade-level parties for different occasions; as well as a couple performances. Information regarding these celebrations will be sent home several weeks prior to the event.

**PTSA**- Please consider joining the PTSA. This is a great way to support our school/classroom and get involved, while meeting other families. Special events will be posted on our class website.

**PowerSchool-** Please make sure that you have your "Parent PowerSchool Account" set up. DVUSD has an electronic system to submit "Back to School Paperwork" that all parents will be required to complete. Please check your child's 'First Day Packet' for your PowerSchool Log-In information.

**Q is for:**



**Questions-** Many of you are new to Canyon Springs School this year, if you still have some unanswered questions, please feel free to call me at school 623-376-5276 or e-mail me at [sheila.fields@dvusd.org](mailto:sheila.fields@dvusd.org).

**R is for:**

**Report Cards/Grading-** Formative (a snapshot of progress on a standard) assessments are used to measure student progress and growth. Kindergarten does not utilize PowerSchool to post grades. Report cards reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten learning goals and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. *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.*

- 4 Applies grade level skills with greater depth and complexity
- 3 Demonstrates grade level proficiency
- 2 Approaches grade level proficiency
- 1 Displays a significant lack of grade level proficiency

**S is for:**

**School Safety-** Fire drills are practiced on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students are expected to walk quietly to our designated area on the field. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill. In addition, lock-down/lock-out drills are practiced regularly.

**Science-** The standards in Kindergarten focus on helping students understand phenomena through the crosscutting concepts of patterns and structure/function. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in Life, Physical, and Earth/Space Science; including the study of weather, patterns in the sky, living things, and sound/light. These will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

**STEM-** Engaging science, technology, engineering, math lessons are taught daily. Please look for the 'STEM At-Home Family Challenge' sheet in your child's folder throughout the year.

**Social Studies-** The kindergarten social studies McGraw-Hill curriculum explores 'Children as Citizens' through an introduction to Civics, Geography, Economics, and History. Students will understand their roles and responsibilities as citizens within their own context (importance of rules and responsibilities, individual roles in a community, personal decision making, familiarity with geographic models, culture in the home/school/community, and American symbols/holidays, and traditions).

**Special Areas-** We rotate through a 6-Day schedule that includes PE, Art, Music, and Spanish. **Please see our daily schedule.** We will also have library time each week.

**Social Emotional Learning-** We use several programs that cultivate supportive and respectful relationships. They are designed to build healthy relationships among students by having them engage in activities that promote understanding and respect. Over the course of the year, students will participate in engaging activities designed to enhance their abilities to learn, work, and spend time together.

**Snacks-** Each afternoon we will have a 'working snack' to help nourish our bodies and brains...it provides a needed boost of energy.

I ask that each child bring a healthy (no candy please), peanut-free snack each day. I always appreciate a box/bag donation of 'extra' snacks for those 'I forgot my snack' days!

### T is for:

**Transportation** - If any changes occur regarding your child's transportation please notify me in writing/email or call the front office and ask them to notify me. Please do not leave a message on my voicemail. I don't always have time to listen to my voicemails before we go home.



**Take-home Bags-** Throughout the school year, your child will have the opportunity to bring home various 'take home' bags as a school-to-home connection. Please find time to complete these activities with your child and return it promptly to school. A direction sheet will accompany each bag.

**Tax Credits-** Tax credit donations can be made to a program or activity. Please consider donating.

**Toys** - Students are not allowed to bring toys (including stuffed animals) to school, unless there is a special occasion or share bag opportunity. This is a school policy.

### U is for:

**Unique schedule-** We will have 90-minute early release on most Fridays for PLC/PD (please see the district calendar/weekly newsletter). On these days, school is released at **1:25 for kindergarten**. In addition, we will have early release/half-days for parent-teacher conferences/winter break/last day. On these days, school is released at **11:30 kindergarten**. Lunch will be served on these days (except for the last day of school).

## V is for:

**Visitors-** Canyon Springs has a safety policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the office and wear a guest badge. Canyon Springs welcomes and encourages family involvement and the presence of a guest badge will help identify visitors to all faculty and staff. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

## W is for:

**Wish list-** To keep learning engaging and fun, I am continually looking for materials to improve each child's experience. I created an Amazon wish list of items that will help support student learning. If you are interested in donating items, you can find the list by using this link-

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2MVI9P20TUT7I/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2MVI9P20TUT7I/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist) All donations are greatly appreciated.



**Writing-** Our daily writing standards focus on the writing process through daily lessons/mini lessons, modelling, and sharing. The standards include: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to craft texts with different purposes • Explore digital tools for effective communication • Generate ideas for writing from reading stories, poetry, and informational texts • Make connections across content areas into the world around them. Writing will be used across the curriculum in all subject/content areas. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. Please provide your child with writing tools such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paper at home.

**Water bottles-** Please send a cold water bottle each day, labeled with your child's name. The children may refill the water bottle using our classroom sink.



**Wolf of the Week** - Everyone will get to be the 'WOLF' of the week during the school year. When it is your child's special time, I will send home a note with further directions.

**X is for:**

**eXtra special and eXpectations-** Every member of our class is Extra Special! I have high expectations for all the children in our class. I expect them to learn, to try their best, and to always act like kindergarteners. Children who receive lots of encouragement in a supportive environment feel secure to try new things and take risks in learning. Kindergarten should be a fun place where all children grow and develop at their own rate and become the best they can be.

**Y is for:**



**You!**- Please remember that YOU are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can! You can help to make your child feel successful this year by discussing your child's school day with them. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?", "What was the best part of your day?" or "What are you getting better at?" These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information. Don't let them tell you "nothing." Ask your child about stations, reading, or math work. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will have a direct effect on how he/she feels about them. Show an enthusiasm for learning. It is contagious!

### **Z is for:**

**ZZZZZ's-** Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime schedule is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help him/her be alert and ready to learn each day. Don't forget to read a book before bedtime!

**Zoom-** Sit back and watch your child take off! You will be amazed and surprised at the incredible growth and changes this year.

Thank you for sharing your child with me this year! It is going to be a great one! 😊