

Canyon Springs STEM Academy 2023-2024 Syllabus

Mrs. Alway
2nd Grade



About Mrs. Alway

Hello! I'm so excited to be joining Canyon Springs STEM Academy this year as a 2nd grade teacher. I look forward to getting to know each other! Here is a little about me-

I graduated from SVSU in Michigan, where I'm from, with a BA in Elementary Education & Early Childhood General & Special Education. I taught 1st grade, 4th grade, K-5 reading, and preschool in Michigan. My husband and I moved to Arizona in 2014. We have a 6 year old daughter, Cecelia, who will be a 1st grader at CS this year and a 2 year old son, Cylis. I taught 7 years (5 years 2nd grade, 2 years 3rd grade) at a STEM school in Laveen, AZ. We lived in Scottsdale and North Phoenix before settling in Anthem 3 years ago, and we absolutely love our community here! Outside of teaching and momming, I enjoy traveling, being outdoors, and trying new things.

I am a passionate educator and lifelong learner. I hope to bring enthusiasm, understanding, and love into the classroom. I am dedicated to my students, families, and school, and I know this will be an amazing year! 😊

Email: kerry.alway@dvusd.org

Classroom Phone: 623-376-5271

Class Website: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/12947>

School Website: <http://www.dvusd.org/canyonsprings>

Communication/Parent Involvement

Participation in your child's education is proven to boost his or her achievement in school. I am committed to treating parents as partners while keeping the 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 Canyon Springs STEM Academy is required to ensure your child's success.

Please never hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. **The best way to reach me is through email or ClassDojo.** I value your communication and partnership, and I look forward to building a positive relationship with you and your child.

Voicemail

You may also leave voice messages on the classroom phone. I will always try to get back to you as soon as possible, but please allow at most 24 hours.

Daily Folder

Your child will have a Canyon Springs folder they take home/bring back to school each day. This is another way in which we can communicate and help your child stay organized. Please check your child's folder daily.

Weekly Newsletter

I will email a weekly newsletter with all information about upcoming events, learning targets, and important classroom happenings.

Other school-wide events and news will be updated on the Canyon Springs website

and through monthly principal emails and call-outs. If you are not signed up to receive these notifications, please contact the front office.

Classroom Volunteers

Volunteerism in any form is greatly appreciated at Canyon Springs STEM Academy. 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 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.

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports)

Here at Canyon Springs we use a positive discipline approach. This helps to ensure high academic standards and an excellent learning environment. This approach maintains the belief that all students have the right and responsibility to learn, and that I have the right and responsibility to teach. Behaviors will be addressed individually, and proper communication will follow.

Schoolwide WOLVES Expectations

Work Together

Seek Opportunities for Growth

Lead with Integrity

Value Others

Engage in Learning

Be Safe

Six Pillars of Character

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship

Character Counts lessons will be taught in PE as well as in the classroom throughout the school year. At the end of each month, teachers will select one student to recognize for best demonstrating the focus trait of the month. The focus trait for August is trustworthiness.

Students have the opportunity in our classroom and around campus to earn different rewards and incentives through the use of Den Dollars. We will have a class "store" in addition to the schoolwide program, as well as a "Marble Jar" for whole class positive reinforcement. When the class fills the jar, we will have a class party. We will create a Class Pledge and list of rewards/ incentives as a class on the first day of school.

As per school policy, I will document minor behaviors by using the minor behavior tracking form. I will always communicate with you if this occurs. Consequences may include reflection time before, during, or after school, buddy room reflection time, call home, natural consequences, i.e., cleaning, loss of privilege, seat change.

All District Rules will be adhered to at Canyon Springs STEM Academy. 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.

Academics / Curriculum

Students will be taught utilizing the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards. For more information about the standards visit the Arizona Department of Education's website at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>.

DVUSD Math Resources for Parents <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/28323>

DVUSD ELA Resources for Parents <https://www.dvUSD.org/Domain/5389>

ELA

Canyon Springs utilizes the Into Reading literacy program which integrates phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and writing. Students will write in response to reading as well as work through the stages of the writing process to produce narratives, opinion, and informational pieces. They will also work on spelling and conventions through writing. Students will be assessed weekly on the essential standards covered.

Math

The second grade math program is Eureka Math. Students will develop math vocabulary as well as problem solving skills. Topics include multi-digit addition and

subtraction, place value, telling time, word problems involving money, measurement, geometry, graphing, fractions, and beginning multiplication. Students will be assessed prior to, during, and after each module.

Social Studies

We are very excited to have a new Social Studies curriculum this year, Impact Social Studies. Topics and skills include working together to solve problems, individual and leadership roles, economics, geography, the influence of weather and climate, the developments and change of civilizations and cultures over time, sequence of events, and using primary and secondary sources to generate and answer questions and research.

Science

Science curriculum focuses on inquiry based learning and includes study about matter and energy, Earth and sky, organisms, and inventions.

STEM

STEM will be integrated into all other subject areas as much as possible. We will also complete at least one STEM challenge/activity a week. I love STEM! 😊

Opportunities for reassessment will always be available after intervention/ reteaching. I will use a variety of instructional practices and tools to best meet the individual needs of each student in order for them to be successful in reaching proficiency in the 2nd grade standards.

Daily Schedule

8:00: Gates open / Breakfast / Recess

8:10: Bell Rings / Morning Work

8:15-9:45: Reading

9:45-10:00: Recess

10:00-10:55: Social Studies/Writing

10:55-11:15: Recess, 11:15-11:35: Lunch

11:35-12:00: Tier Time

12:00-12:45: Specials

12:45-1:00: Writing

1:00-1:30: Science

1:30-3:00: Math

3:00 Dismissal

Specials Schedule

Day 1: Music

Day 2: PE

Day 3: Art

Day 4: PE

Day 5: Spanish

Early Release Fridays

Specials: 11:40-12:10

Dismissal: 1:30

Grading

Assessment grades will account for 80% of the final grade, and coursework will account for 20%. All graded assignments/assessments will be inputted into Powerschool as a percentage. There will also be a proficiency rating for the standard(s) assessed. Students will also receive a citizenship grade at the end of each quarter. No score below 49% will be given. If your child is missing an

assignment or scored below 49%, it will be noted on the assignment/assessment in the gradebook.

Grade Scale for Marking Proficiency of the Standards:

4 = Applies grade level skills with greater depth or complexity

3 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency

2 = Approaches grade level proficiency

1 = Displays a significant lack of grade level proficiency

Grade Scale for Overall Course Grades:

E = Excellent 3.5-4.0 (87.5-100%)

S = Satisfactory 2.9-3.4 (72.5-87.4%)

N = Needs Improvement 1.7-2.8 (49-72.4%)

U = Under Performing 1.0-1.6

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.

Homework will be given as needed or requested, i.e., wasn't completed during class time or needing/wanting extra practice at home. There may also be times I send something for the entire class. I will always communicate this with you.

Star of the Week

Your child will receive an All About Me poster to complete prior to their turn being "Star of the Week". (1-2 weeks in advance) They can complete it independently or you may assist. I will then make a special book for your child with the class, so please look forward to that. 😊

Birthday Celebrations

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please communicate with me so we can plan appropriately. Food, flowers, and balloons are not permitted into our classrooms for individual student birthday celebrations due to the large number of students at Canyon Springs with life threatening allergies. I appreciate your understanding and support while we ensure the safety of our students. The cafeteria provides class birthday treats for purchase as an option. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Toys / Items from Home

Please keep ALL toys, figurines, etc. at home. It creates a distraction in the learning environment and can be easily misplaced/lost. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

This is going to be an AMAZING year of fun and growth for your child. Communication is key. Together we will ensure your child's success in 2nd grade. Please never hesitate to reach out. I appreciate you!