



Norterra Canyon School

Theresa Milks, Principal

Samantha Robarge, Assistant Principal



Teacher Syllabus Expectations

Parent Involvement is all about the children. Participation in your child's education is proven to boost his or her school achievement. We are committed to treating 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 are required to maintain a positive learning experience at any school. We believe that your trust in Norterra Canyon is required to ensure your child's success.

- Greetings. My name is Mrs. Smitten and I am excited for another amazing year here at Norterra Canyon. This is my 10th year on the Norterra Canyon campus and I remain passionate about inclusion in all parts of the school environment. I moved to Arizona from Alberta, Canada with my husband and two daughters. My oldest will be a sophomore at Emerson College in Boston this year studying journalism and is a proud member of the Emerson Lion softball team. My youngest daughter is a senior at Sandra Day O'Connor.
- I am a life long learner. I currently hold a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Psychology from Concordia University Edmonton, a Masters in Education from City University Seattle, and a specialization in Special Education from Rio Salado College.
- In my free time I enjoy traveling with my family, hiking and reading.

Overview of [Arizona State Standards](#).

- [DVUSD Math Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD Social Studies Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD Science Resources for Parents](#)
- [What is Depth of Knowledge \(DOK\)?](#)

COMMUNICATION

- [Communication Protocol Flow Chart](#)
- School-wide
 - [Norterra Canyon Website](#)
 - [Norterra Canyon Instagram](#)
 - Weekly Newsletters via email
- [Teacher websites-](#)



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Mary Smitten: Norterra Canyon Teacher Website : Click the Apple

- Communication: email is my preferred method of communication, however I will also be transitioning to the PBIS app. This will be a learning process for all of us. Thank you for your patience.

- My email is mary.smitten@dvusd.org

- My phone is 623-445-8235 (please note: I am not able to currently access my voice mail.

Please DO NOT leave messages on there until this is fixed. I will update this page when that happens. If you phone please contact the office at 623-445-8200 and they can page me.).

- **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.**
- **Norterra Canyon has implemented email office hours and a “curfew” to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will respond to emails and phone calls Monday through Friday during school hours.**
mary.smitten@dvusd.org
- My phone is 623-445-8235 (please note: I am not able to currently access my voice mail. Please DO NOT leave messages on there until this is fixed. I will update this page when that happens. If you phone please contact the office at 623-445-8200 and they can page me.).
- I communicate primarily through email. So please make sure I have your updated email. Thank you.
- **HOMEWORK:** I do not assign homework, but encourage nightly reading and implementing math talks into daily routines. This includes briefly discussing shapes you see in your day. Examples of these discussions could include how many of an object are in the serving? Counting objects and talking about one more and one less.

Norterra Canyon Professional Learning Community

Most Fridays, students will be released at 1:30 pm so that we can 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.



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Role of Professional Learning Teams

A PTL (professional learning team) 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 Norterra Canyon’s Professional Learning Community:

- 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?

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


- Assignments, presentations, products, observations, and assessments are used to determine a student's level of performance with 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.

AI Guidance [2024]

In the Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, teachers may incorporate generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students.

Students must adhere to the specific guidelines provided in the assignment details. If no guidance around the use of generative AI is provided, students should follow the “restrictive” level (see chart). Teachers should direct students to contact their teacher before submitting classwork if the student is unsure if the tool or website they are using is permitted on a specific assignment.

Levels of Generative AI Use by Students

AI Use Traffic Light	Level	Description	Example Instruction
	Restrictive	AI tools are prohibited for the assignment, and all work must be the student's original creation.	"Do not use AI tools for this assignment. All content must be original, and any use of AI will be treated as plagiarism."
	No!		
	Moderate	Students can use teacher-approved AI tools from the district list for specific parts	"You can employ AI tools to assist brainstorming or initial research,



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HOMEWORK & GRADES

- 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 can do in a content area. We measure achievement, not effort or behavior, in our grading system.
- Grades will be equitable, accurate, specific, and 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
- 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



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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](#).

DVUSD GRADING PRACTICES

- Please refer to DVUSD [K-6](#) or [7-8 PRAG](#)
- <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/1578>

DVUSD Academic Integrity Statement To be college-, career-, and community-ready, students in the Deer Valley Unified School District are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. Academic integrity is all about being honest and fair in your schoolwork. It means doing work that is entirely your own and giving credit to others (including generative Artificial Intelligence tools) through proper citation when you use their ideas or words. *If you have questions about the guidelines for academic integrity, you should discuss them with your teacher.*

DVUSD Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty refers to any action that compromises the integrity of academic work or evaluation processes. This includes but is not limited to:

- Copying or stealing another person's work or data (plagiarism);
- Allowing another person to copy one's work;
- Doing another person's classwork;
- Creating more than one copy of one's work for distribution;
- Providing another person with the answers on tests or quizzes;
- Noncompliance with teachers' test-taking procedures;
- Unauthorized copying or development of software; and
- Unauthorized use of generative Artificial Intelligence.

Consequences for instances of academic dishonesty range from a conference and loss of credit (student will be given another opportunity to show mastery of learning) up to a 5-day suspension and loss of credit.



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The Pirate Way! & PBIS Rewards

Please help us to encourage your child to follow our school-wide behavior expectations:

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Kind

The matrix below is posted across campus, and it is the responsibility of all students to follow each location-specific expectation. During the first two weeks of school, students will be taught the expectations at each location.



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The Pirate Way

Campus Expectations: Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe. Be Kind

	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe	Be Kind
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend to the speaker Respect materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in class activities Be prepared Follow directions Persevere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk Push in chairs Hands and feet to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support others Work cooperatively in groups
Hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use quiet voices Keep campus clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to your destination quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk Single file lines during transition Keep your place in line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be polite to students and staff you pass
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after yourself Maintain a reasonable volume Be respectful to staff and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit in the rows assigned to your grade/class Throw trash away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay seated Eat your own food Wait to line up until you are directed to do so Raise hand to get up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say please and thx you Use appropriate language
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take turns Be respectful to staff and volunteers Keep food in your lunchbox 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return equipment at the end of recess Line up when your teacher blows the whistle Be a problem solver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use equipment safely Stay in designated areas Avoid horseplay See something, say something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate language Include everyone
Bathroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter calmly and quietly Respect the facilities Respect others' privacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your time appropriately Wash your hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands and feet to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the bathroom clean
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use quiet voices Log out of computers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care of books/materials Be a good digital citizen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk Push in chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen attentively to the librarian

Students demonstrating these positive behaviors, both in and out of their classrooms, will enjoy earning points using our PBIS Rewards program. Points can be spent on tangible items and social incentives in our NC School Store.

[Help us stock our school store using the link here!](#)

Discipline Process: Minor & Major

To ensure our school is safe, positive, and productive for all learners, a process is in place to address behaviors that do not meet the expectations above. The information below will be shared with students. Please help us implement our schoolwide discipline processes by talking to your child about minor and major behaviors. If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher.



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WHAT IS A MINOR BEHAVIOR?	WHAT IS A MAJOR BEHAVIOR?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher managed • It will not result in a punishment the first time I do it • It shouldn't be repeated because my teacher corrected me • It can become major if I continue to repeat it • The teacher will contact parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office managed • It will result in a punishment the first time I do it • It is against school district rules in the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook • The school administration will contact parents

MINOR BEHAVIORS Handled in classroom (3 minors, then a major)	MAJOR BEHAVIORS Handled in office
Disruption Unprepared for class Cheating Inappropriate language Note passing Put downs/teasing Gum/food/drink Dress code Littering Off task Throwing objects Public Display of Affection Property misuse Tardies Defiance/disrespect Horse play Refusal to work Technology misuse Electronic device usage	Fighting Weapons Offensive language Bullying/harassment Skipping class Vandalism Theft Drugs/alcohol/tobacco Threatening/aggressive behavior (physical or verbal) Disorderly conduct Inappropriate content

When students demonstrate problem behaviors, NC staff will follow the process below.



Norterra Canyon School

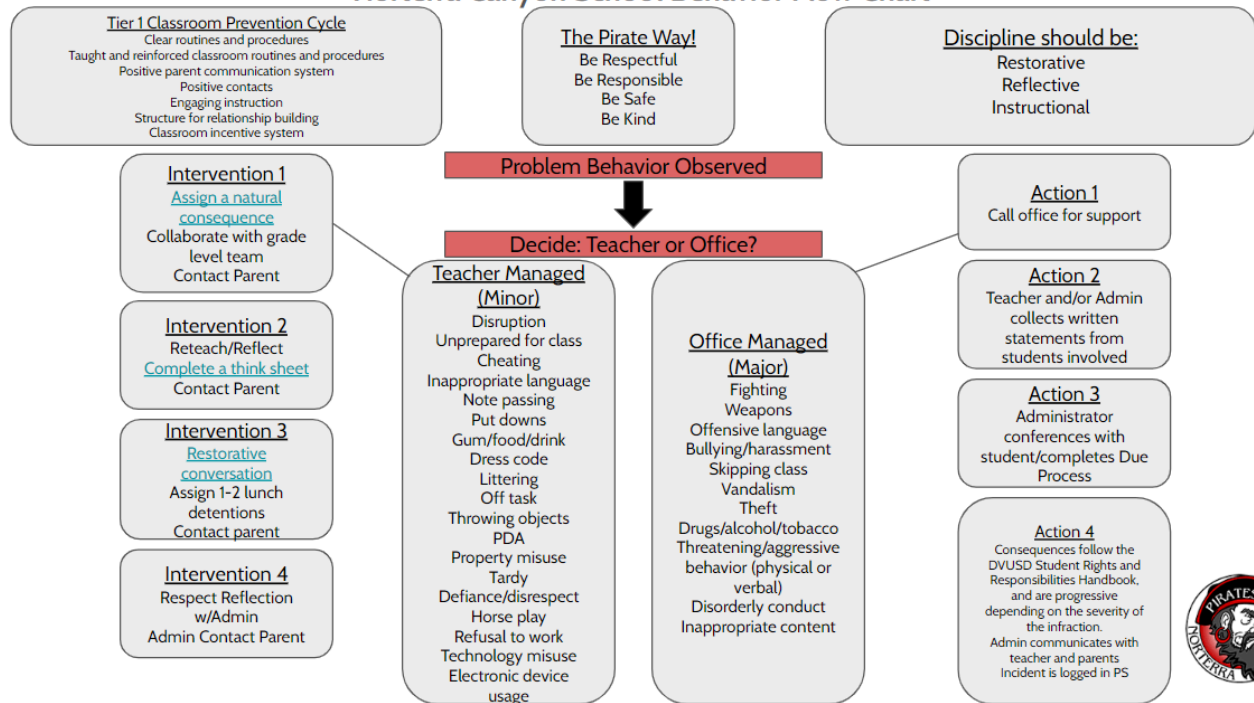
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Norterra Canyon School Behavior Flow Chart



Cell Phone Policy

Norterra Canyon’s school cell phone policy is **Off and Away All Day**. Students are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours unless directed by a teacher (this includes in classrooms, in common areas, and during lunch/recess). While we understand that there are times you need to communicate with your child, all communication should be through the office. Please do not text or call your child's cell phone during school hours. Students not feeling well need to report to the nurse's office, rather than contact a parent to pick them up. We need your help to preserve the instructional environment of our classrooms every day of the school year. This policy also applies to the use of earbuds or AirPods. We are thankful for your support in ensuring a safe, positive, and productive learning environment for all Pirates.