

Gifted Placement:

Gifted Testing and Scores: Students are assessed in three areas (Verbal, Quantitative, & Nonverbal) using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) assessment. Sonoran Foothills offers gifted services for students who score at or above 97% in one or more areas. Placement testing is conducted three times a year based on teacher and parent recommendations. Students may only be tested once per calendar year.

Gifted Programs at Sonoran Foothills School, Grades K-8:

Bright Child Kindergarten: Gifted identified as well as other Kindergarten students that show academic potential are placed together, in a "talent pool," based on a Kindergarten screening testing. This program uses the standard Deer Valley curriculum, as well as supplemental gifted and advanced materials. In the spring, Kindergarten students are recommended for gifted testing by teachers and parents. They will be given the CogAT assessment to determine for placement in 1st grade.

Gifted Cluster: All gifted students (those scoring at or above 95% in one or more areas) are clustered together with a gifted trained teacher for the majority of the school day. The teachers are trained to adapt the curriculum to provide enriching and appropriately challenging activities to support critical thinking skills. Cluster grouping also meets the needs for intellectual peer interactions.

SAGE Math: Qualifying students in 3rd grade are pulled out of the homeroom classroom and taught math by the gifted specialist. 3rd and 4th grade math curriculum will be compacted, thus accelerating those students, preparing them to enter the Walk Up To Math program. Placement determinations are based on data, the gifted specialist, and the classroom teacher input.



SPARK: This program is a content enrichment service offered for K-6 students. Identified gifted and high potential students will participate in enrichment activities with the gifted specialist during RTI times. Students attend this program multiple days each week, depending on scheduling. During this time, enrichment opportunities are provided through a variety of content. Students are encouraged to collaborate, communicate their ideas, and display their creativity.

Walk Up To Math: After participating in SAGE Math, students in grades 4 - 8 walk up to the next grade level for their math instruction. The students are clustered together and placed in the above grade level's gifted cluster math class, continuing their acceleration in mathematics. At the end of 6th grade, students not already walking up may be assessed for placement into the 7th, 8th, or high school level courses. All DVUSD high school courses taken at the middle school level are available for HS credit.

Advanced Courses (Middle School): Teachers will provide advanced content in ELA and Math, using rigorous curriculum that promotes high expectations of student performance. These courses encourage creative and productive thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, research, and communication. High School Algebra and Geometry are options based on placement exams.

Gifted Elective (Algebra I students only): Students who participate in Algebra I will take a Gifted Elective. The first half of the school year will focus on Humanities. Students will explore the past by examining various perspectives that cultivate critical thinking skills, empathy, and a holistic understanding of how history continues to influence the world today. The second half of the year will focus on Gifted Investigations. A PBL/ Genius Hour format will be used to engage students in meaningful research and exploration of a topic based upon individual interest.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

Clubs: Chess, Robotics, Yearbook, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

Sports: Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball/Softball (grades 7-8), Cross Country (grades 5-8)

Activities: Band (gr 5-8), Chorus (gr 4-6), JA Biz-town (gr 5), Battle of the Books (gr 5-6), STEM Chief Science Officers (gr 7-8), Student Council (gr 6-8), EQ Ambassadors (gr 6), Chorus Exploratory (gr 7-8), NJHS (gr 7-8)

Please check the school website for an up to date list of extra-curricular activities. <http://www.dvUSD.org/sonoranfoothills>

