

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Syllabus



Mrs. Snowden  
Union Park School Room 313  
2023-2024

## Mission Statement

*Union Park School provides an environment for students to embrace inclusivity and other cultures through the lens of awareness and Spanish language literacy. The learning community works together to inspire and empower innovative insights and rigorous opportunities for academic and social emotional growth.*

## Vision

*Empowering tomorrow's leaders with second language literacy and fostering extraordinary, motivated, and culturally conscious life-long learners.*

I am looking forward to spending this next year working with your child during this very important time of their life! I hope to provide many positive learning experiences so they acquire a love of learning, and they begin to gain some independence!

Together, we can make this a wonderful school year!

-Mrs. Snowden

### **Absences**

Please call the school's attendance line (623) 445-5890. If your child will be absent for several days, please let me know via email.

### **Allergies**

If your child has any allergies, please let myself as well as the nurse.

Nurse: Ashley Felipe email: [ashley.felipe@dvusd.org](mailto:ashley.felipe@dvusd.org)

### **Attendance**

Attendance is taken daily at 8:15 am. Students who arrive after 8:15 will need to go to the office to receive a late pass.

### **Behavior Expectations**

Please refer to my Handbook!

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and respectful manner while at school. If your student is struggling with following set expectations, we will first speak with them directly. If the behavior continues, they will fill out a reflection sheet so we can develop a plan for them to get back on track.

### **Birthdays**

As per school policy, students are not permitted to bring the following to celebrate their birthdays:

- Food for the class to consume

- Balloons and crowns
- Family members
- They are permitted to bring in individualized goodie bags to be sent home with each classmate at the end of the day. I will send the class list out if requested.

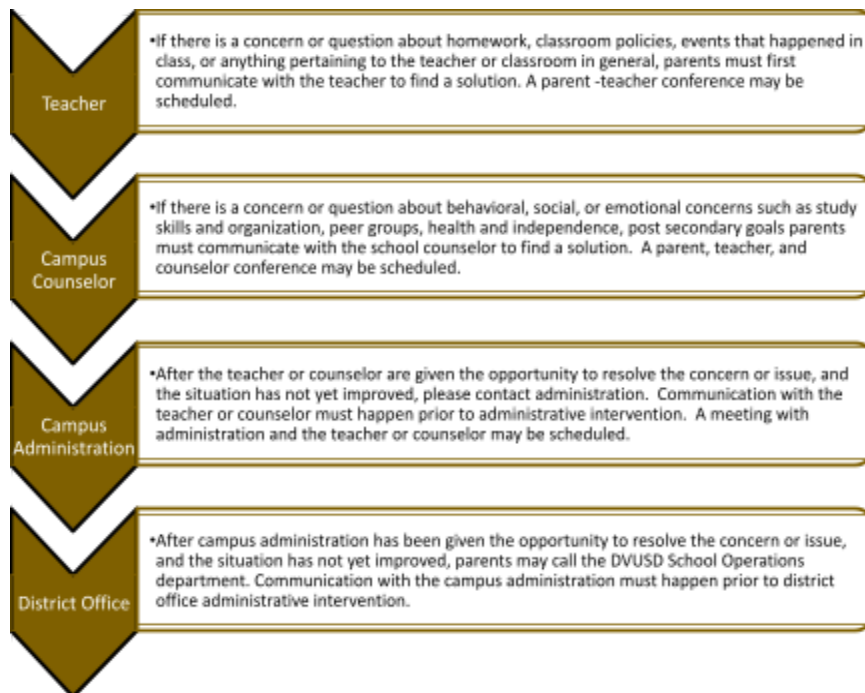
## Breakfast

Students who eat breakfast will go to the cafeteria, eat, and then report to their classroom upon finishing. Breakfast will be open from 8:00am-8:15am.

## Computers

Each student is assigned their own computer that they will use throughout the school year. We will use these computers in class to complete centers. There are several sites we will use to practice our skills in class. They also will utilize these at home. Usernames and Passwords will be sent home once all students are registered.

## Communication Protocol



- 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.
- Union Park has implemented email office hours and a "curfew" to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will respond to emails Monday through Friday no earlier than 7:00am and no later than 5:00pm. Please understand that I will be unable to respond to emails during the teaching/learning day. If you have an emergency, please call the office and they will relay the message.

I will respond to calls/emails within 24 hours.

My email is [Melissa.snowden@dvusd.org](mailto:Melissa.snowden@dvusd.org)

Please look at the Union Park School website. It is updated often with events and information about our school specifically. Principal Ghanooni also sends the Smores newsletters out. Please stay updated with the information sent home to you in this. Contact the office if you are not receiving the smores newsletter. Look out for The Peek of the Week as well as occasional weekly newsletters for updates on what is happening in our classroom.

### **Data Binders**

Students will be tracking their scores on assessments in class. We will keep assessments in them and refer to them throughout the year. We will reflect on our learning after each assessment and set goals to help us continually grow and practice throughout the year. Scores for your child's assessments will be available on Powerschools. Students will also be checking their grades in class weekly.

## **Dismissal**

Bus riders: students will go to the bus loop with one teacher to board their designated bus.

Aftercare and clubs/programs: students will meet the aftercare team in the cafeteria.

Walking: students who walk will head to the crosswalk and walk across to meet their parent/guardian. They must wait for the crosswalk teacher to let them cross

Parent Pick Up: students getting picked up by car will meet in the front gate. Once your car has pulled *all the way up in line*, then your student may get in. They have to get in on the passenger side of the vehicle.

If any changes occur regarding your child's transportation please notify me with an email. If I do not respond to your message directly, please call the office so they can notify me of the change if it will be occurring that day.

## **Field Trips**

When Field trip plans are finalized, information will be sent to parents requesting chaperones to join us. Chaperones must be volunteer trained to attend the field trips and also pay the cost to attend. Please look for volunteer training dates if you are interested in attending a field trip.

## **Fire Drills and Lockdowns**

Fire drills are held on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students are expected to walk quietly to our designated area on the playground. We practice together and the students will be familiar with the procedures. In addition, lock down drills are held on a quarterly basis.

## **Homework/ Grades**

Study spelling words and practice reading each night. Students will also have access to Amplify and Dreambox to practice at home. You can log on to Powerschools and check your child's grades at any time.

- 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.
- 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.
- Grades will be equitable, accurate, specific, 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 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](#).

### **K-6 Grading Scale**

<b>4</b>	Independently applies skills and content with greater depth and complexity
<b>3</b>	Demonstrates grade level proficiency independently
<b>2</b>	Demonstrates grade level proficiency with support
<b>1</b>	Demonstrates below grade level proficiency

<b>Standard Numeric Grade</b>	<b>4 &amp; 3</b>			<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>		
<b>Letter Grade</b>	A+	A	A-	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
<b>Final Grade Scores</b>	4.0- 3.8	3.7- 3.4	3.3- 3.0	2.9- 2.7	2.6- 2.4	2.3- 2.0	1.9- 1.7	1.6- 1.4	1.3- 1.0

Parents:

- Progress reports are less mysterious and have more meaning
- Parents are aware of exactly what their child knows, is able to do, and next steps for progress
- Parents know in what areas their child needs more support
- Parents are empowered to increase their child's confidence and help their student set goals

Students:

- Learning targets are clearly defined and aligned with state standards.
- Students are offered multiple opportunities and ways through which to demonstrate proficiency
- Students monitor their own progress toward the achievement of specified targets
- Specific feedback on progress helps build self-esteem, pride, and motivation

Teachers:

- Teachers know exactly where students stand in their progress toward learning targets and what support needs to be provided
- Teachers of the same courses have aligned expectations and standards
- Assessment results help teachers determine when students need extra help and when they need more challenging work

Students needing extra help will receive it from their teacher during Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in class

- Students choosing not to complete work, but who are able to do so, will complete work with support during Toro Time.

All students are expected to complete all learning requirements

### **Students roll in learning**

Students become self-directed in learning about themselves as a learner.

They have to analyze their own study habits to figure out what actually works for them, this helps students retain knowledge.

- *In order to accurately reflect a student's academic performance level, teachers will accept late work and missing work for full credit if the work is submitted within the timeframe and procedures developed by the school and before the end of the grading period.*
  - *A "I" will be entered in the gradebook until the work is submitted. A notation of "M" for missing or "L" for late work will also be denoted in the gradebook.*
  - *Learning is a journey that is often not linear. Some students learn content and skills quickly while others may require more time or feedback in order to learn. The primary objective of grades is to report where a student is in the learning process, regardless of how much time or effort the student needs to get there.*
- *No extra credit is given at any time.*



## **Lunch procedures**

We have lunch daily at 11:15 am and will have 20 minutes to eat. Upon entering the cafeteria, all students must wash their hands. At this time, all students have assigned seats in the cafeteria and all tables are facing one direction. Students are expected to sit facing forward while eating their lunch. They are able to remove their masks at this time in order to eat. When leaving the cafeteria, all students get hand sanitizer on their way to line. They wash their hands upon reentering the classroom.

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

## **Medication**

All medication must be given to and distributed by the nurse. Students are not allowed to keep medicine in their backpacks or in the classroom.

## **Parent Involvement**

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

## **Parties and Celebrations**

Please let me know if your family does not celebrate certain holidays. Again, no food items without permission slips due to allergies.

## **Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**

Most Fridays, students will be released early so that we are able to 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.

**Role of PLC:** A professional learning community 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 PLC's are:

- 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?

**PLC Teams are responsible for collaborating to establish general consistency among the following:**

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

## **PTSA**

Please consider joining the PTSA to get involved with our school!

## **Recess**

We have two daily for 15-20 minutes. We will be on the basketball and tether ball courts, the playground, or in the grassy field.

## **Schedule**

School Starts at 8:15, and Dismissal is at 3:00. Early release days students are dismissed at 1:30

8:15-8:55 MTSS

8:55-10:25 ELA

10:25-10:55 Writing

11:00-11:40 Lunch

11:40- 12:00 Social Studies

12:00-1:15 Math

1:15-1:30 Recess

1:30-2:15 Specials

2:15-2:25 Math

2:25-2:55 Science

Day 1- Spanish

Day 2- PE

Day 3- Music

Day 4- Art

Day 5- Spanish

Day 6- PE

### **Skills for the Year by Subject**

Reading	Read fluently and accurately, answer questions about stories, retell stories in order, main idea,
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	text features, sight words, phonics skills, grammar
Math	Numbers to 120, place value, addition and subtractions, word problems, measurement, time, money, shapes
Writing	Complete sentences, correct spacing, correct punctuation, letter formation and handwriting, informational writing, opinion writing, narrative writing
Science	Matter, properties of objects, how things move, natural resources, Earth's materials, weather patterns, animals, plants, habitats, scientific inquiry process, light and sound
Social Studies	Rights and responsibilities, citizenship, maps, timelines, exploration, colonization, early civilizations, national symbols, Arizona symbols, economics

There are learning progressions for each standard, which is the work that takes place, allowing for the necessary learning before each standard is assessed. Learning progressions are an accumulation of prerequisite skills. As students master learning progressions, they demonstrate a positive trajectory toward overall standard mastery. "A learning progression is a model of successfully more sophisticated ways of thinking about a topic typically demonstrated by children as they learn, from naive to expert." -National Research Council (2007)

### **Standards**

**<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>**

**English Language Arts** The AZ Career and College Readiness standards: emphasize "text- based answers", which means students need to carefully read and cite specific evidence to support their answers and interpretations of the text. Instead of reading and answering questions, students must now read and re-read, engage with, and analyze text as evidenced by their highlighting, annotating, and note taking (prove their answers).

**Math:** Students find the answers and create the answers with the use of manipulatives and drawings. Students demonstrate understanding by applying knowledge to real-world situations. Students will share and explain their answers. Students find more than one way to find an answer. Less teacher talk.

## **Helpful websites for AZ College and Career Ready 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)?

## **Take home folders**

On a daily basis, your student will bring home their folder with fliers from school and any work they've been working on this week. Please be sure to be checking and emptying this folder on a regular basis.

## **Toys**

As per school policy, students are not allowed to bring toys (including stuffed animals) to school.

## **Water Bottles**

All students need to bring a water bottle daily. Reusable water bottles are preferred. Please make sure their names, first and last are labeled. No other beverages are allowed in the classroom.