

5TH GRADE

UNION PARK 2024-2025 SYLLABUS



WELCOME Union Park Toros!

We are looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled school year. Our goal for your child this year is to teach them to achieve new goals, discover, and learn not only our exciting curriculum, but how to be self-reliant and responsible as well!

We departmentalize in 5th grade, meaning your child will rotate to the different classroom throughout the day. This gives students the opportunity to interact with each of the 5th grade teachers and gives the teachers the opportunity to perfect and enhance their specific subject area.

Contact Information:

ELA/Writing:

Mrs. Jessica Carr

Phone Number: (623) 445-5800

Email: jessica.carr@dvusd.org

Class Site: dvusd.org/up-carr

Math:

Mrs. Karen Beeman

Phone Number: (623) 445-5800

Email: karen.beeman@dvusd.org

Class Site: dvusd.org/up-beeman

Science/Soc. Studies:

Mrs. Nicole Rider

Phone Number: (623) 445-5800

Email: nicole.rider@dvusd.org

Class Site: dvusd.org/up-rider

Science/Soc. Studies/Espanol:

Ms. Isabel Sanchez

Phone Number: (623) 445-5800

Email:

Isabel.SanchezGarcia@dvusd.org

Class Site: dvusd.org/up-sanchez

Communication Protocol

ELA/WRITING:

My name is Jessica Carr. I am excited to start my 14th year of teaching as a Toro! I have my Master's degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Reading and Literacy. Most recently, I have been an instructional coach at another DVUSD school.

In my free time, I enjoy being with my family (including my dog) and traveling.

I am thrilled to be your child's ELA teacher!

MATH:

My name is Karen Beeman. I have been teaching since 2007, and have been teaching in Deer Valley for the past 14 years.

I am originally from California, graduated from San Jose State University in 1999, and hold a Master's degree in education from National University. In my free time I am very involved in extracurricular activities with my 4 children.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:

My name is Nicole Rider. I have been teaching for 9 years, all in 5th grade. This is my 4th year in the Deer Valley Unified School District. This is my third year as a Toro and I love being part of the Toro family!

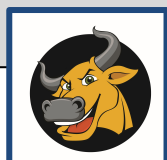
I was born here in AZ, but lived most of my life South Carolina. My husband, son and I moved out here in 2013. In my free time I like to read, play video games and board games, and when the weather is nice, swimming.

SPANISH IMMERSION:

My name is Isabel Sanchez-Garcia. I'm from the southeast of Spain. My hometown is Villena in the region of Alicant.

I've been teaching more than 10 years in my country, to all levels in elementary. I'm very enthusiastic about living in Arizona and teaching at Union Park.

In my free time I love traveling, hiking, reading, and going to theatrical plays.



Administrative Info:

Absences:

Please call the attendance line (623)445-5800 as soon as you know your child will be absent. Students who know they will be absent should let teachers know at least 2 days in advance so teachers may gather work. Those who are absent due to illness will have extra time to complete assignments based on the length of their absence.

Arrivals:

Students are allowed on campus at 8:00am, and should then go directly to the playground until the 8:10am bell rings. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 8:00-8:10.

Water Bottles:

It is very hot outside much of the year! Your child may bring a water bottle to school for inside and outside use. We encourage them to do so to stay hydrated and allow them to drink water during class time. Please be sure that your child's bottle is labeled with his/her name. Please note that no other beverage besides water is allowed in the classroom!

Lunch:

<https://www.dvusd.org/nutrition>

Chromebooks:

<https://www.dvusd.org/Page/72637>

Birthdays:

Parents now have the option of ordering a Birthday Party Bucket from the cafeteria!

Make it fun and easy to celebrate your student's birthday! The Birthday Party Bucket provides healthier snacks for students and simplifies the process of birthdays! The bucket will be delivered to your student's class at a designated time and location, making it super convenient for teachers and parents.

All items are Smart Snack compliant. Please contact your kitchen manager for questions and availability.



Volunteering:

Volunteerism in any form is greatly appreciated at Union Park School. DVUSD 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). 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, teacher, and grade levels. There are a few volunteer trainings scheduled in the Union Park Media Center this year.

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CLASS SYLLABUS CONTINUED

Behavior:

We believe in promoting positive behavior in order to provide a classroom community that allows for maximum learning and teaching. We will work together to create this positive learning environment focused on respect and responsibility. It is our goal to help each member of our class feel safe, successful, capable, and to behave in a responsible manner.

Classroom Rules: In addition to the school rules, which can be found in the Union Park Handbook and on the matrix provided, we will create our own class motto that encompasses our classroom rules. We believe it is important for our students to take an active role in creating this motto for our class. This motto will be centered around responsibility, respect, and "personal best". We are a community of learners. It is expected that all members of this community will behave in a responsible manner and always strive toward their personal best.

Classroom Economy System

Classrooms will be using a classroom economy system. A letter explaining the system will follow soon.

Union Park has implemented email office hours to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. We will try to respond to emails Monday through Friday from 7:00a.m.-8:30a.m. and again from 3:30p.m.-5:00p.m.

Making Good Choices

We LOVE to recognize when our students are exhibiting positive behavior and meeting our class and school expectations! We will give out "**Toro Tickets**" behavior slips when we (or a member of our staff) notice your child illustrating the character traits and core virtues that we follow here at Union Park. This "award" is meant to recognize your child, knowing they are working hard to be a positive example to others. Additionally, in fifth grade we will award **economy money** that they can earn in a variety of ways as well. The students will be able to use these their money to buy items or to spend during a class auction each quarter. Periodically we will hold a raffle with our tickets and students will be able to select small rewards from the "treasure box"



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.

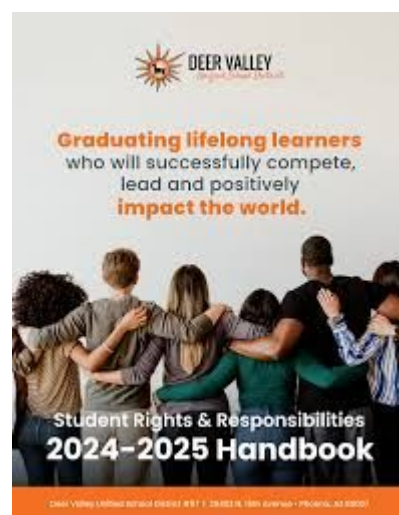
Communication is Key!

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If you ever feel that a meeting is necessary, please schedule a specific time to meet with us, as teachers need time to communicate effectively. We often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that we will not be able to meet or discuss issues while we are teaching or supervising students. However, we will contact you as soon as we can.

5th grade happenings: As we're preparing students for middle school and beyond, it is vital to train them in planning and time management. Please read our weekly newsletter ([Peek of the Week](#)) for homework and important class/school information. You may also access our [5th grade website](#) for important updates and class information.

Wednesday Take Home Folder: Each student will have a Wednesday Take Home Folder that is sent home every week on Wednesday. This folder will contain graded assignments and items that are time sensitive. Please take time to look through your child's work with them. Also, please sign the sheet inside your child's folder letting me know that you have looked through all graded work and important notices and return the folder to me by Friday.



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CLASS SYLLABUS CONTINUED

HOMEWORK & GRADES

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.

3rd through 8th Grades:

Principal's List

All 4's (including special area and other elective courses) No Incompletes

Honor Roll

All 3's and 4's (including special area and other elective courses) No Incompletes

Meaningful Grades:

Teachers are expected to enter a meaningful grade for each student in the electronic gradebook on a regular basis so that students, parents, and support staff can better monitor student progress. A meaningful grade is a grade entry for an assessment or coursework that measures learning standards. The frequency of entering meaningful grades is as follows:

Classes that typically meet 4-5 days per week = at least 1 meaningful grade each week

Classes that typically meet 2-3 days per week = at least 1 meaningful grade every other week

Classes that typically meet 1 day per week = at least 1 meaningful grade every 3rd week

At least one meaningful assessment/assignment grade entry must be entered each week, but an entry that impacts the course grade must be entered at least every 2 school weeks (every 3rd week for classes meeting once per week).

Expectations in 5th grade:

- ★ Use self control
 - Raise hand to speak.
 - Work quietly.
 - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- ★ Listen carefully and follow directions!
- ★ Cooperate in group activities!
 - Everyone gets a turn.
 - Be respectful and kind to group members.
- ★ Respect others!
 - No put-downs.
 - Respect others property and person.
- ★ Use good organizational skills!
 - Design a schedule for homework routine.
 - Keep your desk clean and orderly.
- ★ Use your time wisely!
 - Turn ALL assignments in on time.
 - Make wise choices in and out of class.
 - Work smarter, not harder - figure out the most productive way to complete tasks!

Consequences

We begin each morning assuming that we will, "Make it a great day!" However, students occasionally forget our classroom motto and expectations and consequences are necessary.

Steps: Students making poor behavior choices will be verbally informed of the steps as part of our progressive discipline system. Students will have a free verbal reminder from us to "reel in" the inappropriate behavior. If the behavior continues, the following will occur:

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Step 2: Minor, student fills out an incident report. Teacher then records this information, assigns consequences and contacts parents.

Step 3: Minor, student fills out a second incident report. Teacher then records this information, assigns consequences, and contacts parents.

Step 4: Minor, Student fills out a third incident report, which equals one major incident. Teacher then records this information, sends students to the office, and contacts parents. The administration will then follow through with consequences. Please note that some behavior such as fighting, refusal to work, severe defiance, or destroying property require an immediate referral to the principal and parents will be contacted.

Please refrain from... allowing your child to bring any toys, electronic devices, such as MP3 players and iPods to school. They will be confiscated by the office. As are Heelys if the wheels have not been removed. Skateboards and scooters must be left at the bike racks. Cell phones are allowed but only if they remain off and concealed within your child's backpack. *Union Park is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.*



CLASS SYLLABUS CONTINUED

Missing Work:

If the work is not submitted as Late Work or does not meet conditions for Late Work, the score for the assignment will be changed from a zero ("0") to a 49% by the end of the term.

Students will still be responsible for turning in late work in addition to their current coursework, which results in the natural consequence of a heavier workload. The primary consequence for students not completing the work is to complete the work.

- ASSESSMENT CATEGORY 80%
- COURSEWORK CATEGORY 20%
- PRACTICE CATEGORY 0%

Highly Proficient A 100%-90%			Proficient B 89%-80%		Proficient C 79%-70%	
100-97	96-94	93-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70
All 4's on standards	All 4's except for one 3	Mostly 4's with some 3's and/or 2's	Mostly 3's with some 4's All 3's on standards	Mostly 3's and 4's with a 2	Mostly 3's with some 2's	Mostly 2's with 3's and/or 4's
Partially Proficient D 69%-60%			Minimally Proficient F 59%-50%			
69-65		64-60	59-56		55-50	
Mostly 2's and 3's with a 1		All 2's on standards	Mostly 2's and some 1's		All 1's on standards	
No Evidence						
49% - 0%						

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CLASS SYLLABUS CONTINUED

Curriculum Corner!

Our curriculum is set by the Arizona Department of Education and the Deer Valley Unified School District. The AZ State Standards that must be met are viewable on the ADE Website : <https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

ELA:

I am so excited about using HMH Into Reading this year. This program includes high-quality books that intrigue and challenge students' comprehension. The text will empower students to pursue their natural curiosity and discover their interests. As students build a strong foundation in reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, they develop a confidence in themselves that ensures lifelong learners emerge.

Math:

We will be using the i-Ready curriculum i-Ready is brand new to our district this year. i-Ready has both online and paper components. Your students will be using both. The online components are set individually to their level based on diagnostic assessment. By teaching a variety of methods and strategies it gives the students a stronger mathematical foundation and helps to build their confidence. The adopted curriculum does meet the state standards and addresses the following math strands: Number and Operations, fractions, algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement and data.

Science:

The four main topics we will focus on are: Matter, Force & Motion, Earth & Moon, and Adaptations & Environmental Change. We will explore these topics using Mystery Science and STEMScopes.

Social Studies:

5th grade will be using the district adopted curriculum McGraw Hill for social studies. We will review the geography/growth of the United States through maps and graphs. We will learn about the cause and effects of the American Revolution and Civil War. We will work our way westward across our country until we reach Industrialism. We will explore the birth of democracy and the organization of the government. We will learn about United States History through discussion, group projects, individual assignments and projects, and research. With the implementation of the Common Core, writing will be integrated into social studies.

Resources for Parents:

- [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 \(DOK\)?](#)
- [Union Park School Website](#)
- [Peek of the Week Newsletters](#)

FIELD TRIPS!

JA Biztown

Junior Achievement BizTown— Through daily lessons, hands-on activities and active participation in a simulated community designed to support differentiated learning styles, students develop a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a local economy. JA BizTown helps prepare students for a lifetime of learning and academic achievement.

Tonto Creek Camp

Informational Meeting will be held in the Union Park Media Center at a date to be determined. This is an amazing opportunity in which students, through teamwork, learn STEM topics such as astronomy, levers and pulleys, engineering, animal adaptations and so much more.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools in

Grades K-8: *After careful consideration and in alignment with the developmental needs of our students and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is not suitable for students in grades K-8 (under 13 years of age) and will not be utilized or endorsed in academic contexts.*

Toro Time:

Toro Time is a before or after school opportunity for students to maximize their potential success. Learning and completing work at Union Park is required. Toro Time is offered to all students who have not shown proficiency in their current learning progressions or classwork. Toro time will be assigned to students to attend for extra help, assistance, or when a student needs to complete his/her work. Without completing their work, it is hard to know if a student is progressing towards mastering the standards we are teaching in class. We ask for parent support and cooperation in transporting students to or from their assigned Toro Time so that they are not falling behind or simply given the opportunity to opt out of their work.