

Welcome to Desert Sky



Introducing



Mrs. Martin
Principal

Mr. Bachler
Assistant Principal



We are a true middle school, with a focus on the whole child

Here at Desert Sky, we focus on *all* aspects of our students to help them achieve personal success in all areas in their lives, including:

- Academics
- Behavior
- Social

Smaller *total school size*

We currently have:

334 students in 7th grade and
298 students in 8th grade

Total = 632

Teaming

Here at Desert Sky, each team of core subject teachers (English, Math, Social Studies, Science) share the *same* group of students.

This allows teachers to truly get to know your students, develop positive relationships, and collaborate on how to best help individual students achieve personal success.

DEDICATED, EXPERIENCED TEACHERS

Teacher Years of Experience:

6 with 10+ years

4 with 20+ years

1 with 30+ years

We also have 5 teachers who were students at Desert Sky, and came back because of their fond memories and positive experiences here.

SUPPORT STAFF

TO HELP YOU AND YOUR STUDENT

Instructional Coach

Behavior Coach

Read 180 Program

Math 180 Program

Parent Liaison

Counselors

Behavioral Health Counselor

ACADEMICS

Advanced Curriculum for High School Credit

- Algebra 1 – 2
Honors
- Spanish 1 – 2
Honors



Out of District Middle School Math Screener and Proficiency Exam Process and Procedures

Eligibility

The student must have a report card or data that indicates that the student is in advanced mathematics. We do not offer guides, textbooks or other types of assistance to prepare for the screener or the proficiency exam.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

STEP BY STEP

1. Contact School Counselor to add your student to the list to take the 10 question math screener (paper-based)

AnnMarie.Champion@dvusd.org

602-467-6518

andrea.knouse@dvusd.org

602-467-6538

2. 10 question math screener is scheduled for 5/17/24
@ 9:00 AM at DSMS. It will take about 30-40 minutes.

3. The math screener must be passed with an 80% in order to qualify for the Proficiency Exam. The screener will be scored before the student leaves the testing location.

4. If the student passes the math screener then they will need to return on July 25th or 26th to take the Middle School Math Proficiency Exam.

5. This is a computer based exam and must be passed with an 80% as well. The exam will be scored automatically when the student submits. The exam takes 60-90 minutes.

6. If the student passes with an 80% we will change the student's schedule to reflect the higher math (MA8 instead of MA7).

7. MA8 as a 7th grader means the student will take Alg 1-2 Honors as an 8th grader. This is a high school credit and will be the first class on their high school transcript.

Student Support Services

- ▣ As mentioned before, we have intervention classes for reading and math:
 - Read 180
 - Elevate (reading)
 - Math 180
- ▣ We also have special education teachers who provide support within the general education classes
- ▣ Those special education teachers also pull students out for small-group instruction

Built-In Intervention Time: FLASH

Focused Learning And Strategic Help

Monday -
Thursday



Grading Periods

- Grades are issued each quarter, with a final grade being posted each semester
- Exploratory classes run for a semester
 - With the exception of specialized classes (academic or exploratory), we try our best to have students cycle through each exploratory class by the end of their 8th grade year, but we cannot guarantee it.
 - This allows students to have a wide variety of experiences to help them better select courses at the high school level
- Band & Choir are year-long exploratory classes

ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Top 20

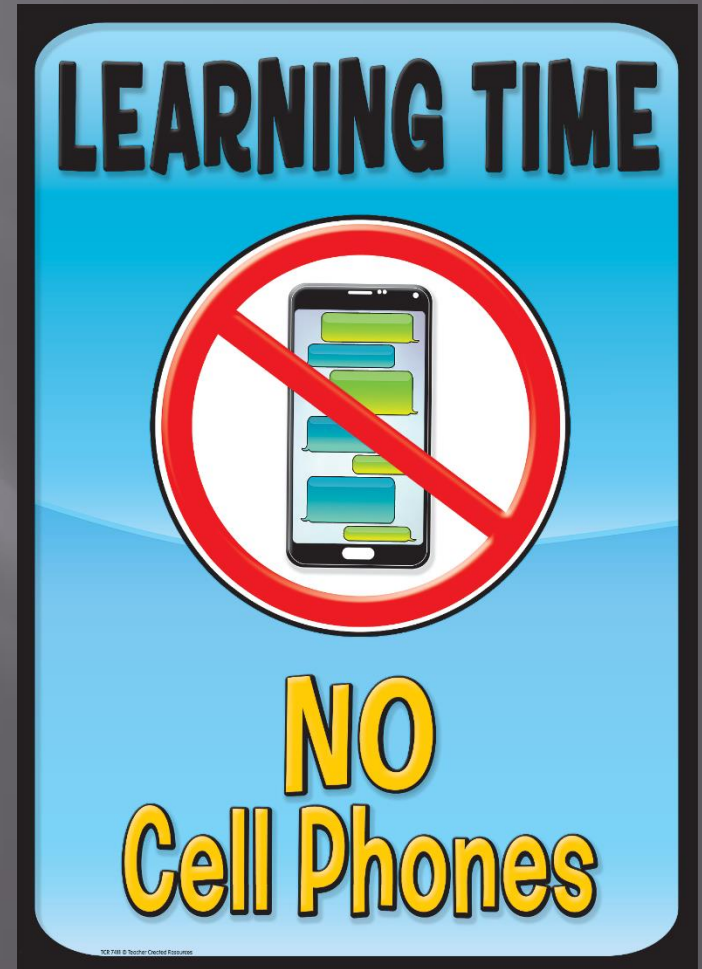
Top 20 is the program we use to help students learn to recognize feelings, manage impulses and emotions and problem-solve to build meaningful relationships. Their ability to manage these aspects helps them to achieve better behavior and academic success.

Other things to know about Desert Sky

No Cell Phones during the school day

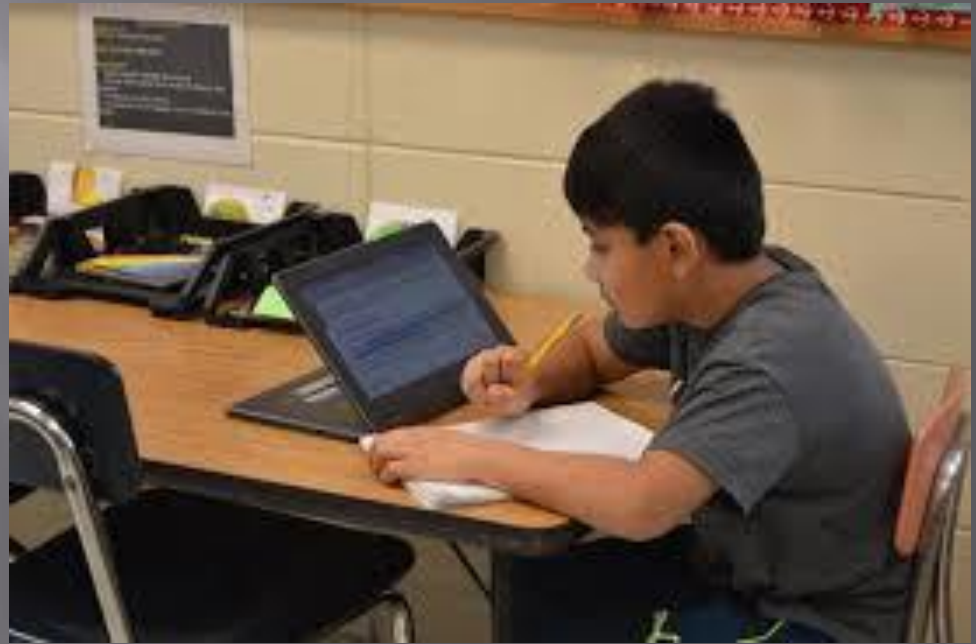
Cell phones are put away in backpacks upon student arrival, and remain put away until the end of the school day.

This maximizes learning time and minimizes distractions and exposure to social media.



1:1 Chromebooks

Each student is issued a Chromebook for the school year.



Behavior Focus: S.T.A.R. Qualities

- Safe
- Team Player
- Accountable
- Respectful

SHOW US YOU ARE... **S.T.A.R.**

SAFE

S



Follow rules

Remain calm

Respect personal space

If you see something, say something

TEAM PLAYER

T



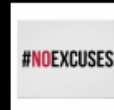
Be helpful

Be trustworthy

Include and encourage others

ACCOUNTABLE

A



Be dependable

Own your actions

Take responsibility

Demonstrate self-control

RESPECTFUL

R



Be polite

Demonstrate integrity

Be part of the solution

Will my student fit in?

The benefit of coming to Desert Sky is our diverse community, and the fact that there are 5 other schools that feed into us.

This means that there are fewer “cliques” and more opportunities for students to discover new friendships.



**A View into the
Life
of a
Desert Sky
Student**



Learning Spaces

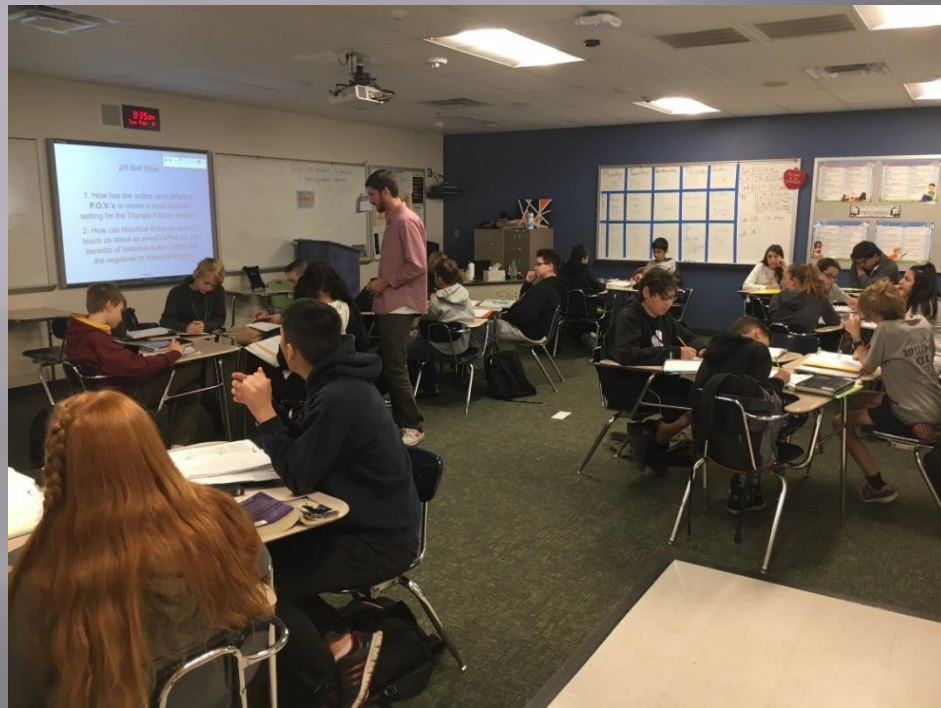
Science Lab

- ▣ Common Collaborative Learning Spaces



Learning Spaces

▣ Our Classrooms



▣ Band/Chorus Rooms



Performing

Arts:

(Band, Chorus, & Orchestra)

Ms. Streeter



Performing Arts

Band

Playing a wind or
percussion
instrument

Tiered ensembles
and percussion
class

Chorus

Singing

Mixed ensemble
with varying
abilities

Orchestra

Playing a string
instrument

Mixed ensemble
with varying
abilities

Why Join?

Festivals and Performances
Friends and Fun
Endless Opportunities

No
experience
needed

Ready to Join the Family?

Email:

**Lauren Streeter
Performing Arts Teacher**

lauren.streeter@dvusd.org

In your corner

7/8th Grade Counselors:

Mrs. Champion

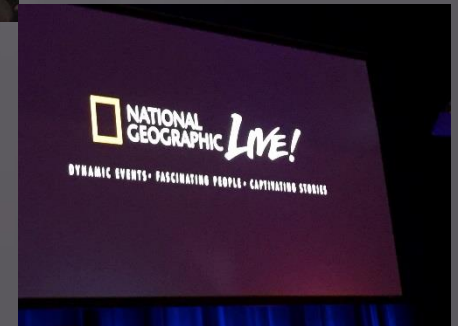
Mrs. Knouse

Our counselors travel with their grade, so your student will have the same counselor for both years!

Advanced Classes

For High School Credit:
Algebra 1-2
Spanish 1-2

Advanced:
English
Science
Social Studies



Classes at Desert Sky are:

Exciting!
Informational!



Interesting!
Hands on!



Challenging!

Exploratory Classes

Band/Chorus/Orchestra



P.E./ Health



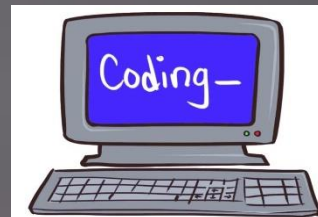
Art



Action Lab (STEM/Health Sciences)



Computer Science



Exploratory Classes

Action Lab (Woodshop/ Building Skills)



Spanish (8th)



Career Action Labs

Mr. Axelrod

Mr. Day



Career Action Labs

- ▣ Biomedical Engineering
 - ▣ Computer Aided Drafting
 - ▣ Computer Graphics/Animation
 - ▣ Digital Music
 - ▣ Environmental & Ecology
 - ▣ Flight Technology
 - ▣ Forensic Science
 - ▣ Informational Technology
 - ▣ Research & Development
 - ▣ Robotics
 - ▣ Sports Medicine
 - ▣ Structural Engineering
 - ▣ Virtual Architecture
- Audio Communications
 - Video Production
 - Nursing
 - Digital Manufacturing
 - Culinary Arts
-
- Framing
 - Drywall
 - Electrical
 - Facility Maintenance
 - Green Construction
 - Masonry
 - Plumbing
 - Tile Setting

At Desert Sky Thunderbolts can Investigate Multiple Career Options

**This can help students make more
informed class choices at the high
school level.**



Environment
and Ecology



Flight
Technology



Virtual
Architecture



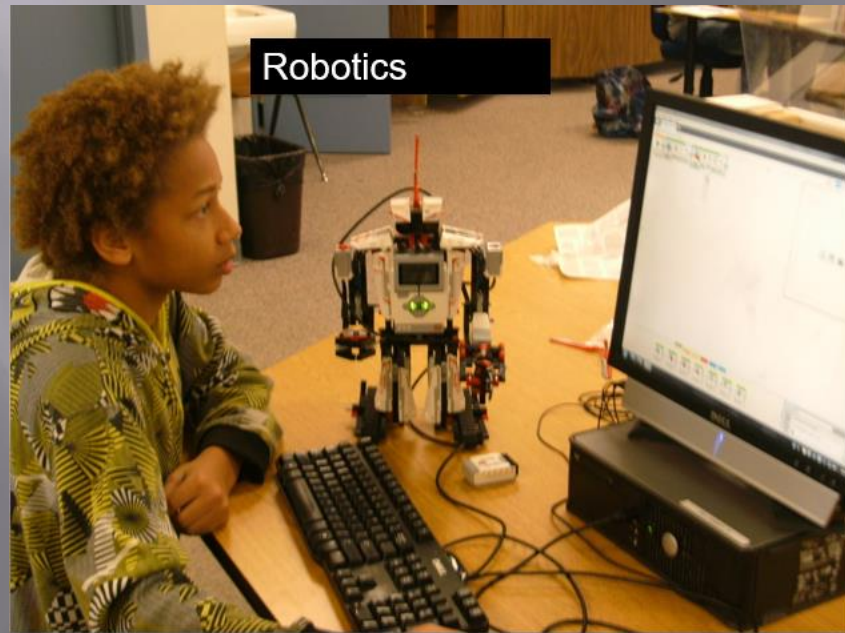
Structural
Engineering



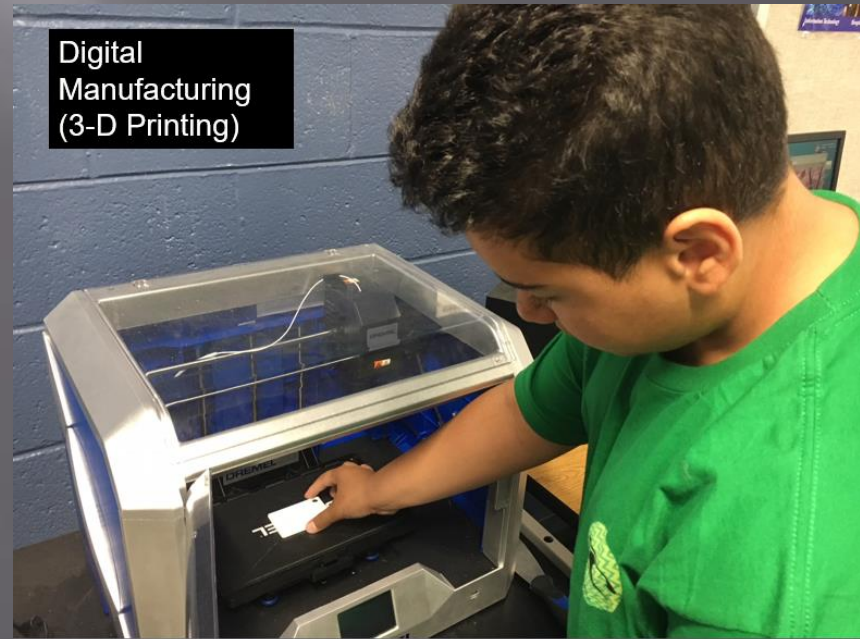
Research and Development



Sports Medicine



Robotics



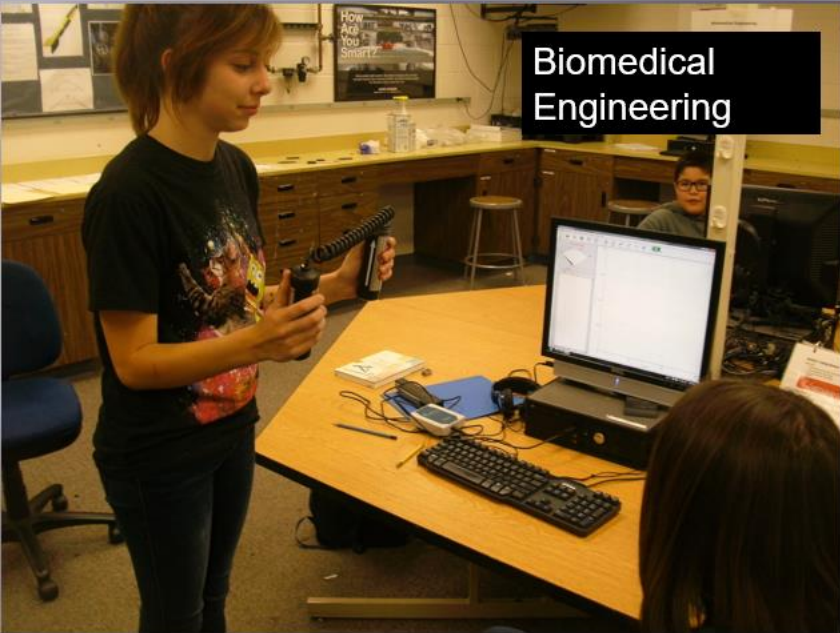
Digital Manufacturing (3-D Printing)



Forensic Science



Building Skills



Biomedical Engineering



Nursing

Green Construction



Framing



Electrical



We also have Computer Science Coding!



```
1 <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD
2 "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/stric
3 <html>
4 <head>
5 <title>Example</title>
6 <link rel="stylesheet" href="s
7 </head>
8 <body>
9 <div id="header">
10 <h1><a href="." title="Back
11 </div>
12 <div id="toolbar">
13 <span class="left">Today <sp
14 <span class="right">
15 <span id="time">&nbsp;</sp
16 <select id="timezone">
17 <option value="-12">(GMT
18 <option value="-11">(GMT
```

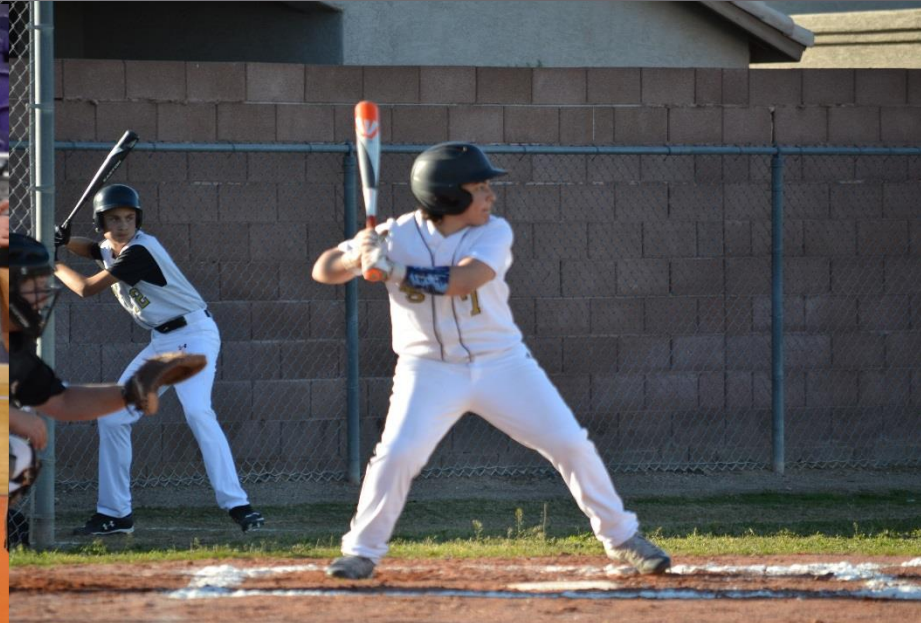
print("Python is my
favorite language.)

File "<stdin>", line 1
print("Python is my favorite language)
SyntaxError: EOL while scanning string literal



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED

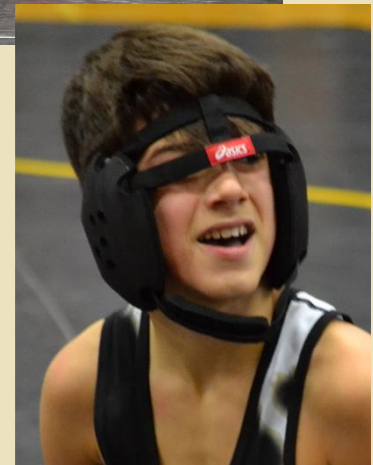
Multiple Sports



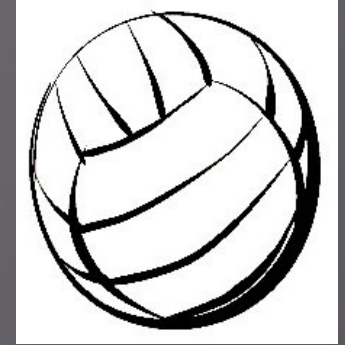
No Cut Sports: *Cross Country,
Wrestling / Wrestling Managers,
and Track & Field.*



Tryouts Sports:
*Volleyball, Basketball,
Spirit line, Baseball, and
Softball.*

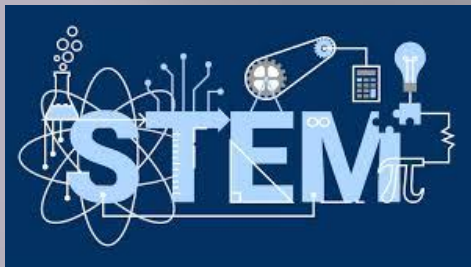


Desert Sky Middle School Volleyball Camp



July 22-24, 2024

- Open to all incoming 7th grade students (you) and returning 8th grade boys and girls.
- Camp will work on skills, conditioning, teamwork, and more!



Stem Camp

July 22-24 2024

Science
Technology
Engineering
Math

- Challenging Activities
 - Hands-on
 - Working with others



Student Council

- **Leadership Camp July 22-25, 2024**
- **Selected & volunteer positions**
- **Coordinate fundraisers**
- **Promote campus spirit**
- **Community service**
- **Direct campus celebrations including assemblies**



Student Council Activities



Team

Members:

Directors

Anchors

Cameras

Video Board

Audio

Board

Set Design

And more!

School Announcements



Special Events: DANCES!



Costume
6-8pm DANCE
TONIGHT

\$7⁰⁰ or 7 CANS
\$7 or 7 CANS



Special Events

Spirit and Recognition Assemblies



Special Events

Honor Roll, Sports, NJHS, and more...



Special Events

Middle Level Week

Barbeque

Spirit Week



Special Events

Student / Staff Games



Staff Always Wins!

Volleyball Basketball Tug-o-War

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED

To volunteer contact Jolie Benner at
Jolie.Benner@dvusd.org

Family Movie Night

Athletic Games
Fine Arts Performances
School Events (Debate,
Spelling Bee,
Geography Bee)



We are Desert Sky

We

Take Pride In Being a

Thunderbolt !



See you in August

**Once a Thunderbolt,
ALWAYS
a Thunderbolt!**

QUESTIONS ?

QUESTIONS ?

QUESTIONS ?

Questions?

