

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
- Emotional

Smaller *total school size*

We currently have:

295 students in 7th grade and
326 students in 8th grade

Total = 621

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

We have 30 teachers who *love* teaching at the middle school level.

A couple of those teachers are former students of 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
Math 180 Program
Parent Liaison
Counselors
Behavioral Health Counselor**

ACADEMICS

Advanced Curriculum for High School Credit

- Algebra 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 schedule a 10 question math screener (paper-based)

Andrea.Knouse@dvusd.org

602-467-6538

2. 10 question math screener is scheduled for 5/23/2025

@ 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 29th to take the Middle School Math Proficiency Exam (time TBD)

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). If they are in the band or choir, this may result in them having one class that is not advanced.

7. MA8 at 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 math:
 - 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 -
Friday



ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Essential Behaviors: The S.K.Y. Way

- Safe
- Kind
- Your best

The S.K.Y. Way

Location	SAFE	KIND	YOUR BEST
Before & After School / Passing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walk at all times and stay to the right- Use crosswalks and sidewalks- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself- Be alert and aware of surroundings- Report unsafe behavior to an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greet peers and staff positively- Include others and offer help- Be patient in crowded spaces- Use positive, appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be on time and ready for class- Move with purpose to your destination- Reframe conflicts positively
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep hands, feet, and materials to yourself- Use classroom tools and furniture appropriately- Stay in designated area unless given permission- Follow directions the first time- Report unsafe behavior to an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen actively to your teacher and peers- Encourage and support classmates- Use kind words and actions- Wait your turn to speak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay focused and participate actively- Give your best effort- Turn in work on time- Own your learning- Ask for help when needed
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash hands with soap and water- Keep water and soap in the sink- Report slippery floors or damage- Use restroom for its intended purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect others' privacy- Keep the area clean for others- Report problems instead of confronting others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use the restroom during breaks when possible- Return to class promptly- Respect school property
Cafeteria / Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walk at all times- Sit correctly in your seat- Keep food, hands, and feet to yourself- Wait your turn in line- Clean up spills or alert an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Say "please" and "thank you"- Speak kindly to peers and staff- Share space politely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make responsible food choices- Clean your area- Stay in chosen seat until excused- Pay for all items
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remain in designated areas- Follow directions from staff- Stay seated or with your group- Know exit and safety procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheer respectfully- Encourage participants- Be a positive audience member- Use appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represent your school with pride- Be a role model- Stay engaged and participate appropriately

Be Good People

At our school, we use the Be Good People program to help students grow into their best selves by practicing what it means to be Safe, Kind, and do Your Best.

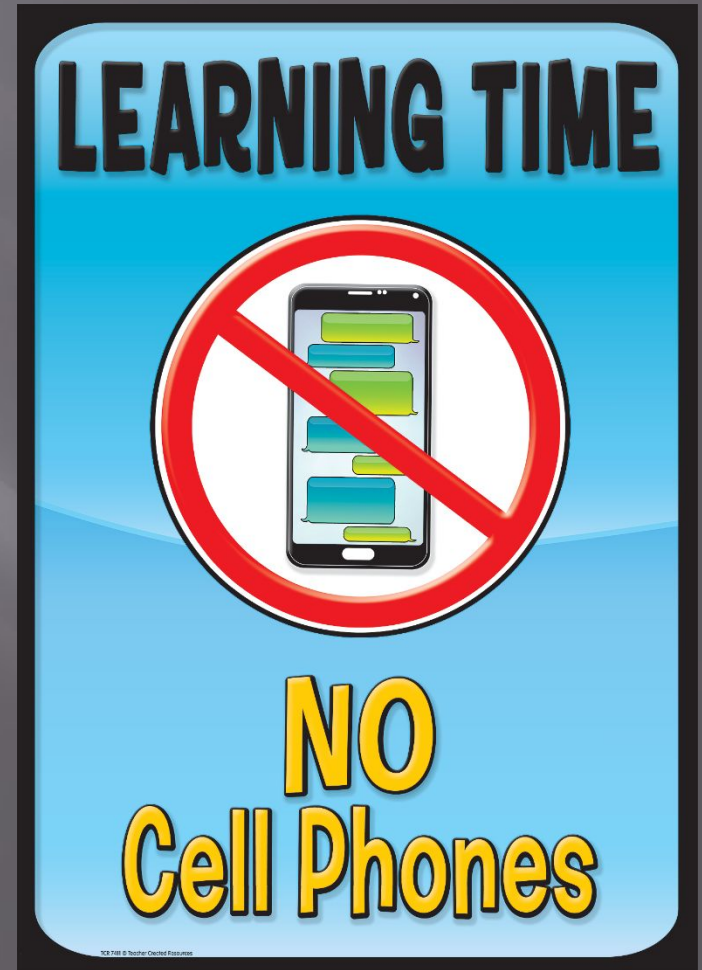
Through short weekly lessons, students learn how to make responsible choices, treat others with respect, and handle challenges in positive ways. It's one of the ways we support a strong, respectful school culture where every student can thrive.

Other things to know about Desert Sky

No Cell Phones during the school day

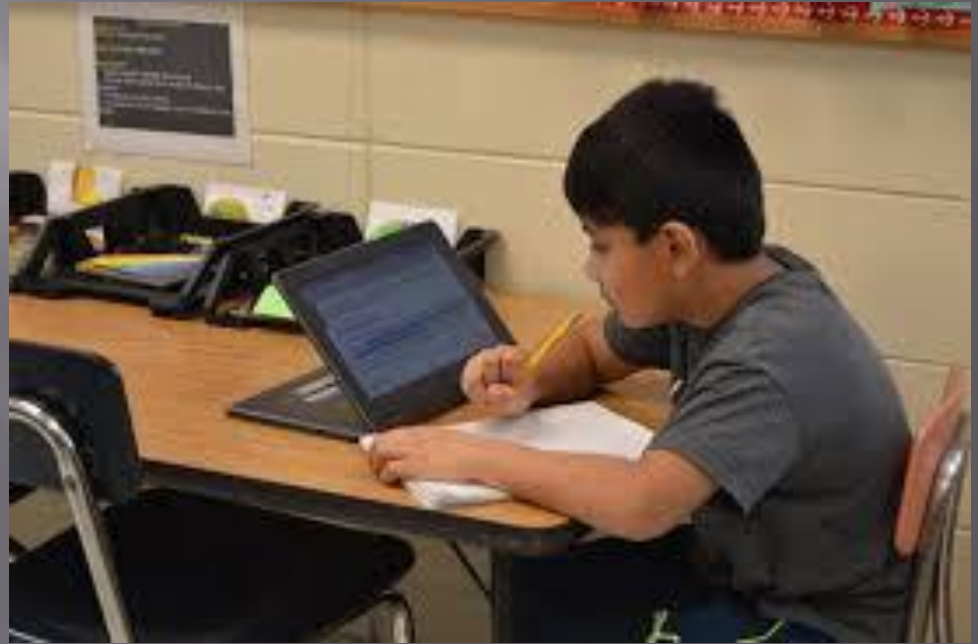
Cell phones are put away in backpacks upon student arrival, and remain put away until the end of the school day.

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. There is an optional insurance for purchase.



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.

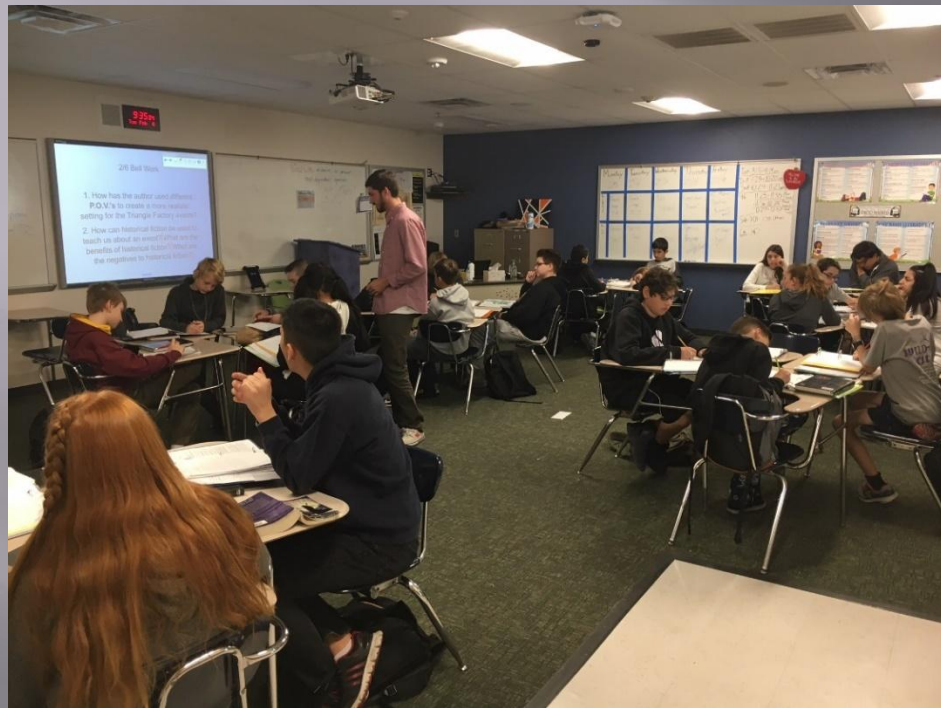


A View into the
Life
of a
Desert Sky
Student



Learning Spaces

▣ Our Classrooms



▣ Band/Chorus Rooms



Learning Spaces

Science Lab

- Common Collaborative Learning Spaces



In your corner

7/8th Grade Counselors:

Mrs. Knouse

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

Classes at Desert Sky are:

Exciting!
Informational!



Interesting!
Hands on!

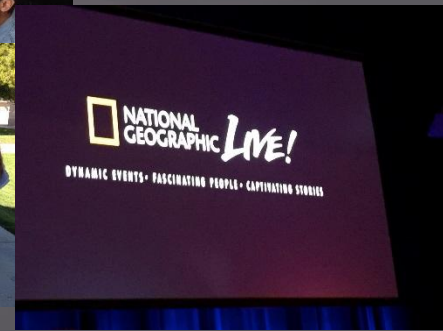


Challenging!

Advanced Classes

For High School Credit:
Algebra 1-2

Advanced:
English
Science
Social Studies



Exploratory Classes

Band/Chorus/Orchestra



P.E./ Health



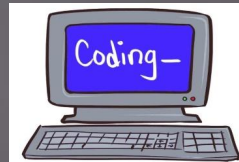
Art



Action Lab (STEM/Health Sciences)



Computer Science



Action Lab (Woodshop/ Building Skills)



Career Action Labs

Mr. Axelrod

Mr. Day



Career Action Labs

- Biomedical Engineering
- CAD & Design
- Computer Graphics/ Animation
- Digital Music
- Environmental & Ecology
- Flight & Drone Technology
- Criminalistics
- Informational Technology
- Research & Development
- Robotics
- Sports Medicine
- Structural Engineering
- Virtual Architecture
- Audio Communications
- Digital Audio Production
- Nursing
- Digital Manufacturing
- Framing
- Drywall
- Electrical
- Facility Maintenance
- Green Construction
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Tile Setting

At Desert Sky Thunderbolts can Investigate Multiple Career Options

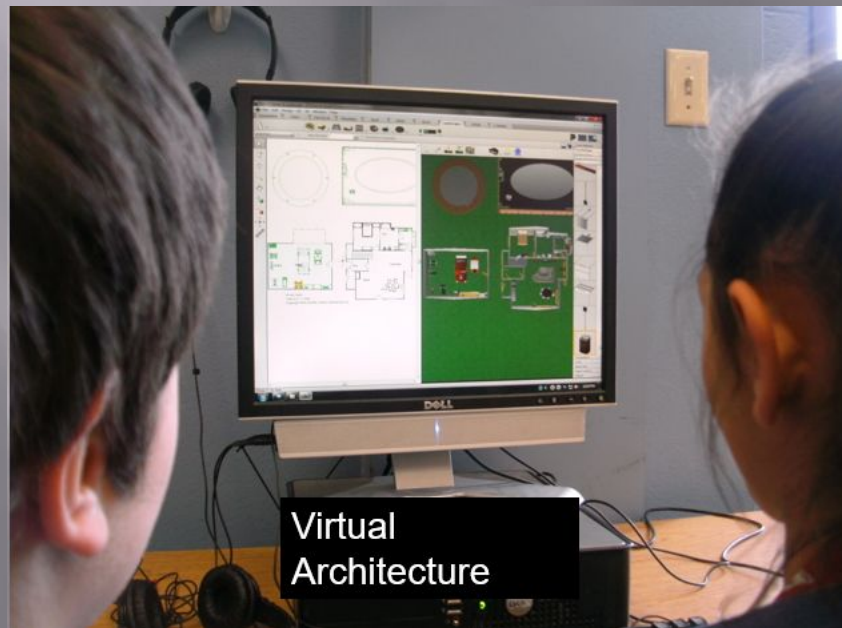
**This can help students make more
informed class choices at the high
school level.**



Environment
and Ecology



Flight
Technology



Virtual
Architecture



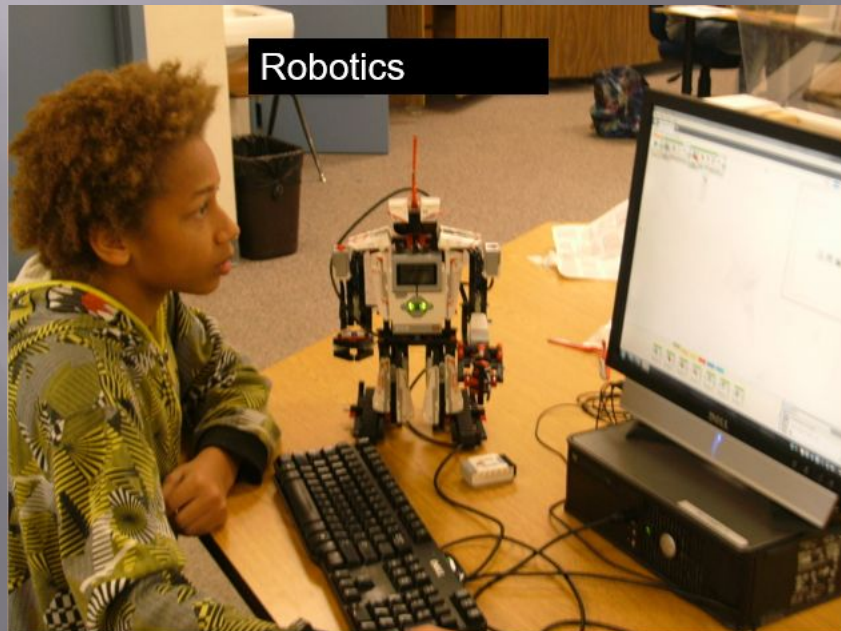
Structural
Engineering



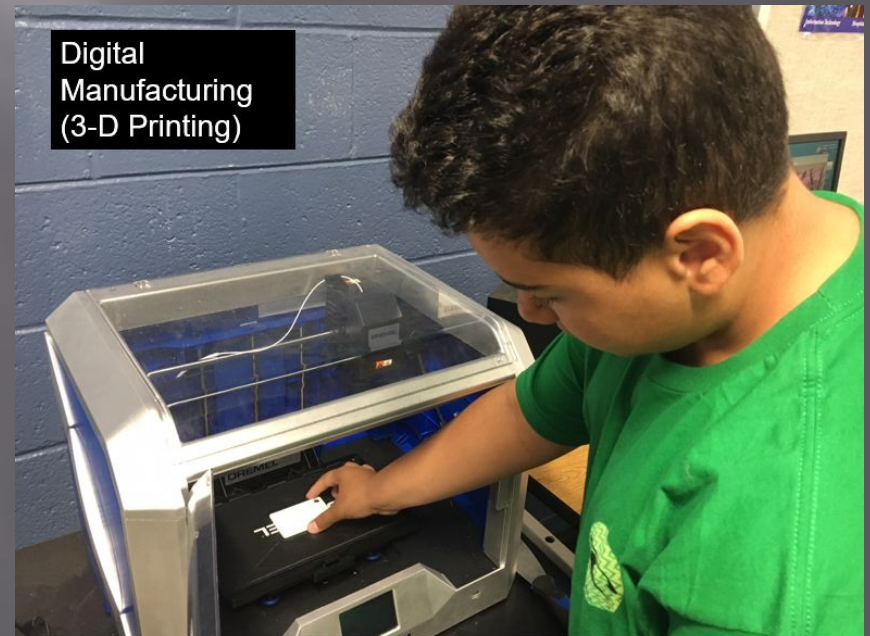
Research and
Development



Sports Medicine



Robotics



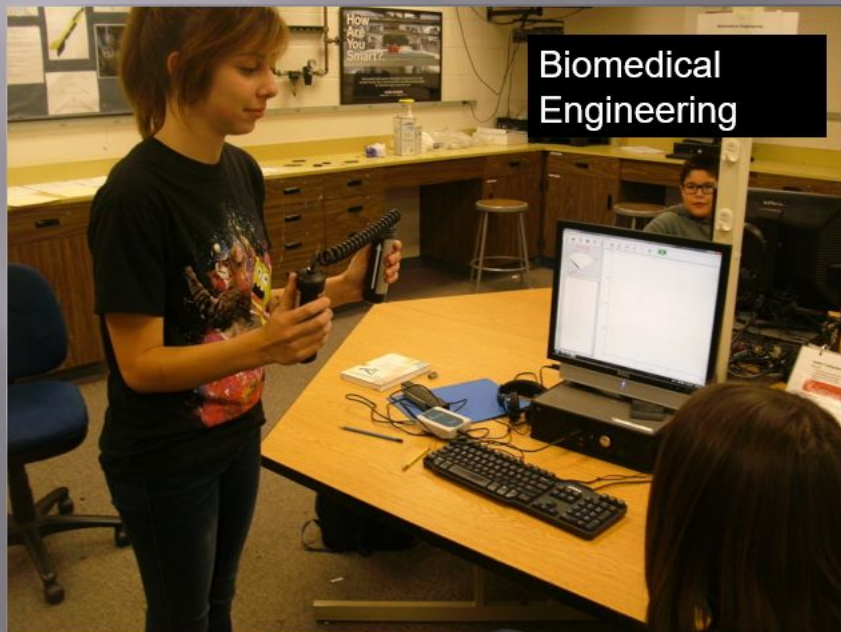
Digital
Manufacturing
(3-D Printing)



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

Music: Band, Chorus, and Orchestra



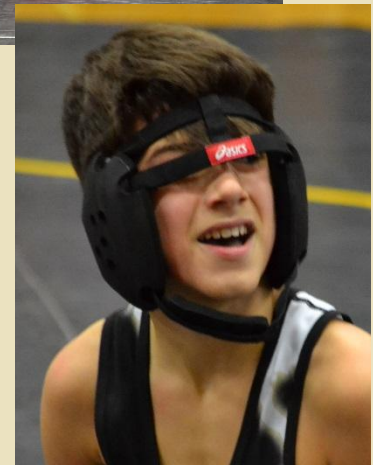
Multiple Sports



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



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

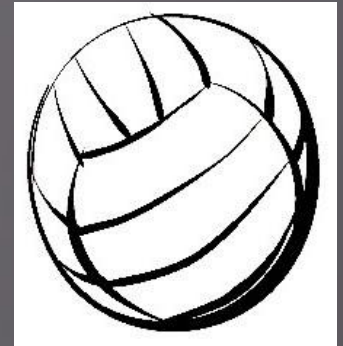


Student Council

- **Leadership Camp July 21-24 2025**
- Selected & volunteer positions
- Coordinate fundraisers
- Promote campus spirit
- Community service
- Direct campus celebrations including assemblies

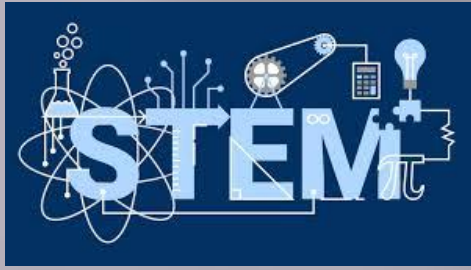


Desert Sky Middle School Volleyball Camp



July 21-23, 2025

- 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 21-23 2025

Science
Technology
Engineering
Math

- Challenging Activities
- Hands-on
- Working with others



Student Council Activities



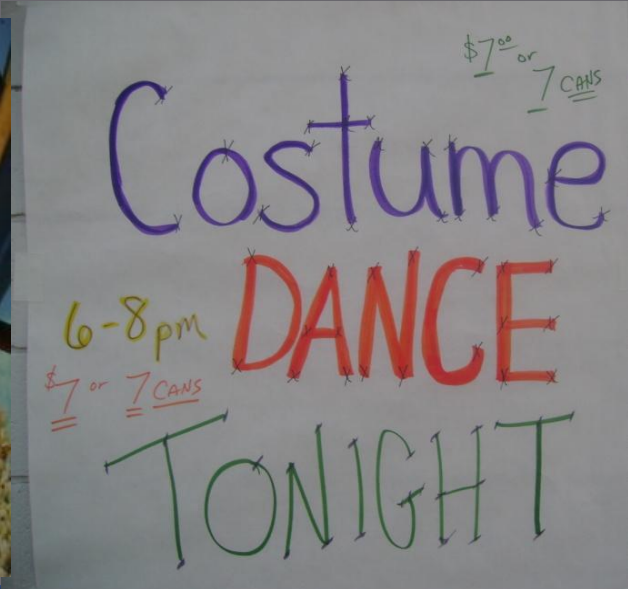
Team
Members:

School Announcements

Directors
Anchors
Cameras
Video Board
Audio Board
Set Design
And more!



Special Events: DANCES!



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 July

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

QUESTIONS ?

QUESTIONS ?

QUESTIONS ?

Questions?

