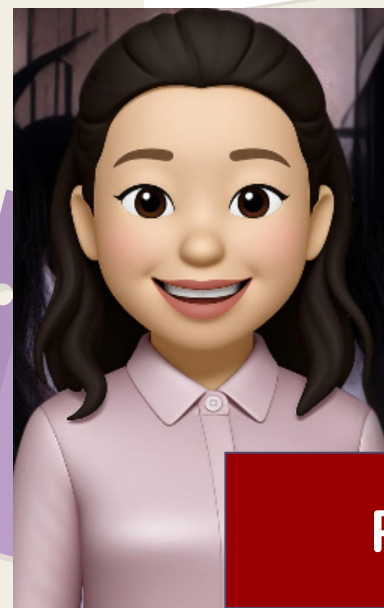




Curriculum Night

Mrs. Buchholz
Mrs. Cai

Thank
you for
coming!



Please sign in at the back table! Thank you!



Communication

Email is the best way to communicate with us!

Mrs. Buchholz

- patricia.buchholz@dvusd.org

Mrs. Cai

- hao.cai@dvusd.org



@dvusd_desertsage



/DVUSDDesertSage



@DesertSageElem

**We will
respond
within 24
hours!**

**Look in your
emails for
monthly
newsletters
about what 5th
grade is up to!**



Curriculum

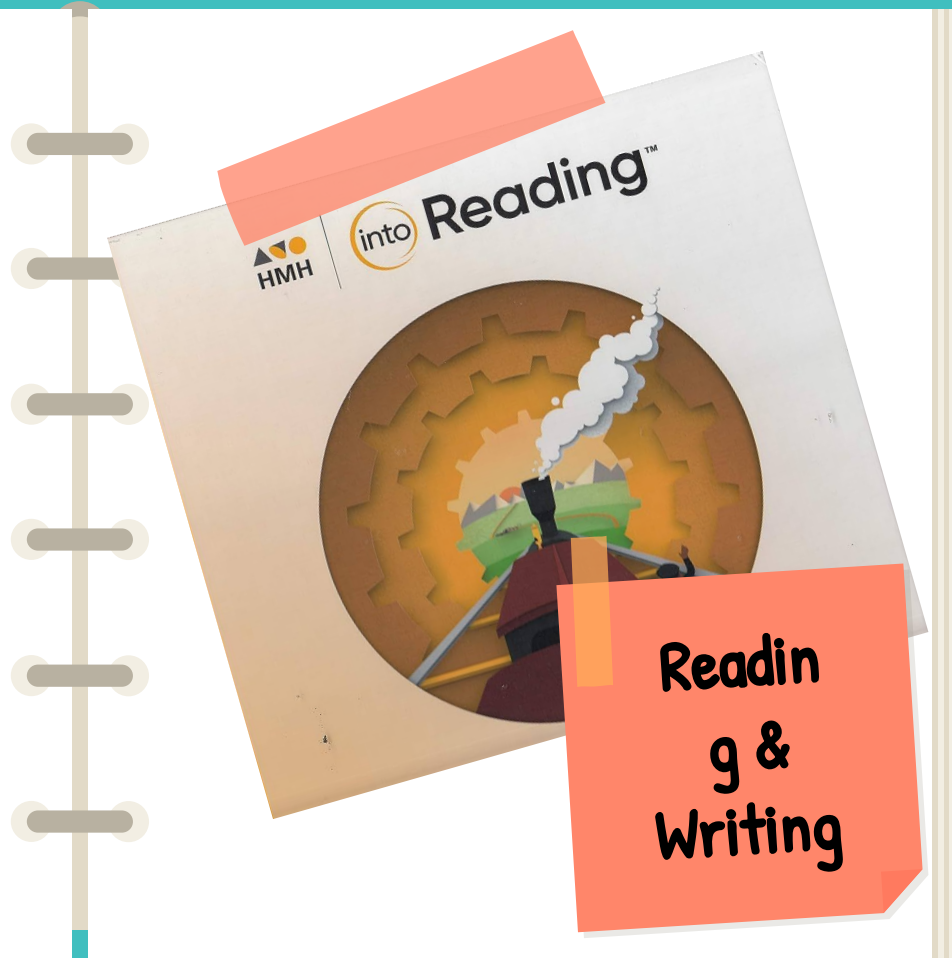


Into Reading

- 6 Day Cycle
 - 5 days of lessons
 - 1 Day to Test Skills
- Each module is 18 days

Writer's Workshop

- 6-Day Cycle:
 - 5 days of lessons
 - 1 Day of Grammar
- Each module is 18 days





Module 1

Inventors at Work



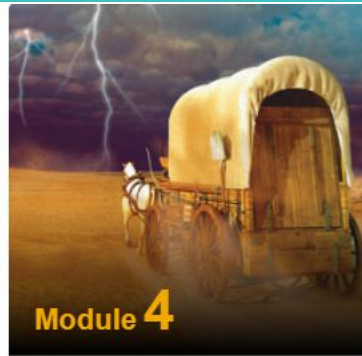
Module 2

What a Story



Module 3

Natural Disasters



Module 4

Wild West



Module 5

Project Earth



Module 6

Art for Everyone



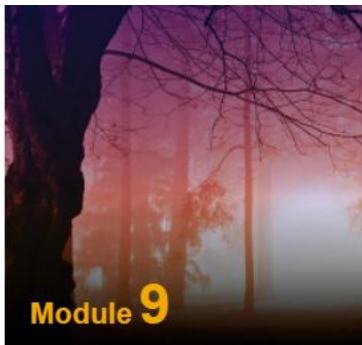
Module 7

Above, Below, and Beyond



Module 8

A New Home



Module 9

Unexpected, Unexplained



Module 10

The Lives of Animals



1. Reading: Literature (5.RL.*)

5th Grade Reading Standards

- **Key Ideas & Details**

- Quote accurately from a text to explain what it says and draw inferences. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Compare and contrast characters, settings, or events using specific details. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Craft & Structure**

- Understand meanings of words and phrases, including figurative uses like metaphors and similes. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Analyze how chapters or scenes work together within the story's overall structure. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Integration of Themes and Genres**

- Compare and contrast stories in the same genre based on themes and approaches. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Text Complexity**



Read and understand increasingly complex literature—including stories, dramas, and poetry—independently by year's end. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

2. Reading: Informational Text (5.RI.*)

5th Grade Reading Standards

- **Key Ideas & Details**

- Quote accurately when explaining explicit content and making inferences. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Identify multiple main ideas and summarize how supporting details reinforce them. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Explain relationships among individuals, events, or ideas based on text. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Craft & Structure**

- Understand domain-specific and academic vocabulary in subject-based texts. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Compare and contrast text structures like chronology, cause/effect, and problem-solving across different pieces. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Integration of Knowledge & Ideas**

- Use information from multiple sources to answer questions or solve problems effectively. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Evaluate how authors use reasons and evidence to support their points. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- Synthesize information from several texts on the same topic to communicate knowledge. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

- **Text Complexity**

- Independently read and comprehend informational texts—including history, science, and technical writing—of increasing complexity by the end of the year. [Arizona Department of Education](#)



3. Foundational Reading Skills (Phonics, Word Recognition, Fluency)

- **Phonics & Word Analysis (5.RF.3)**
 - Decode multisyllabic words using letter-sound patterns.
 - Apply understanding of syllable types and morphological elements like Greek/Latin roots. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
- **Fluency (5.RF.4)**
 - Read grade-level text with accuracy, at an appropriate speed, and with expression to support comprehension. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

4. Writing & Language

These typically include:

- Writing opinion, informational, and narrative texts with clear structure and evidence.
- Using correct grammar, conventions, and vocabulary.
- Engaging effectively in discussions and presenting ideas.



Reading RTI

- 6 days of differentiated independent activities that connect to what they have learned in the whole class lessons:
 - **Background Knowledge**
 - Watch videos related to our next story and answer a question.
 - **Vocabulary**
 - Explore the meanings, synonyms, and antonyms of words.
 - **Morphology**
 - Analyzing prefixes, suffixes, and root words and their meanings
 - **Spelling**
 - Exploring the sounds and patterns that make up words.
 - **Handwriting**
 - Practicing print and cursive
 - **Read a Book**
 - Reading a book that is within their Lexile Level



Team Fries



Activities are leveled just below 5th grade to help them access the content and fill in gaps.

Team Burger



Activities are leveled right at 5th grade to help them strengthen their understanding of what they're learning in class.

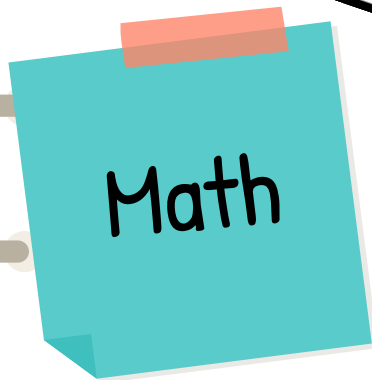
Team Soda



Activities are leveled at or above 5th grade level but require them to think more critically and analyze what they have learned in class

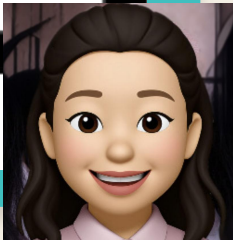
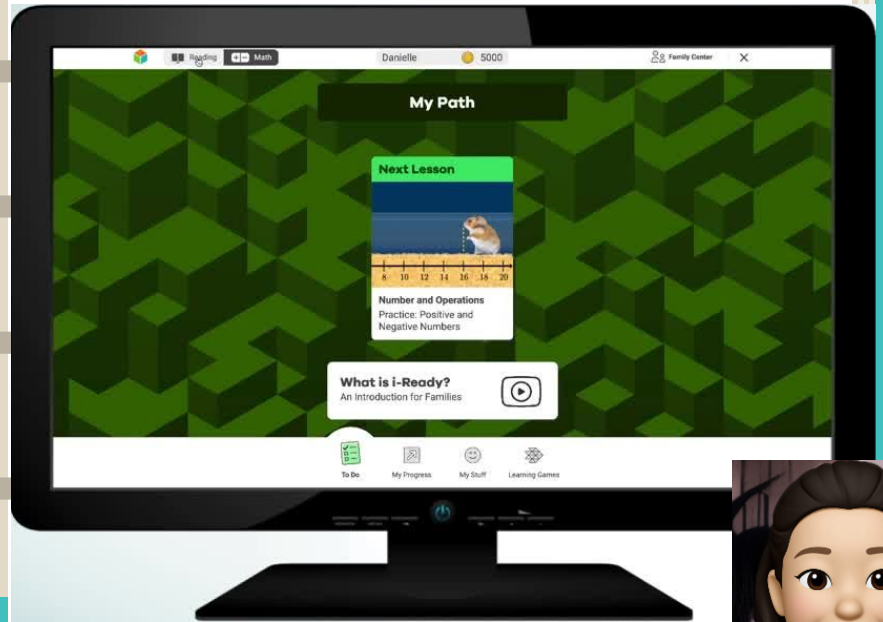
iReady Math

- 5 Units of varying length
- Lesson quizzes and end of Unit assessments
- Lessons Covered:
 - Whole Number Operations - Volume, Division & Multiplication
 - Decimals, Fractions
 - Coordinate Plane
 - Geometry, Algebraic Thinking



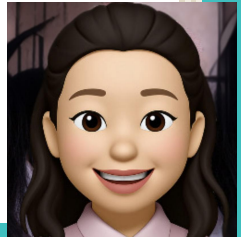
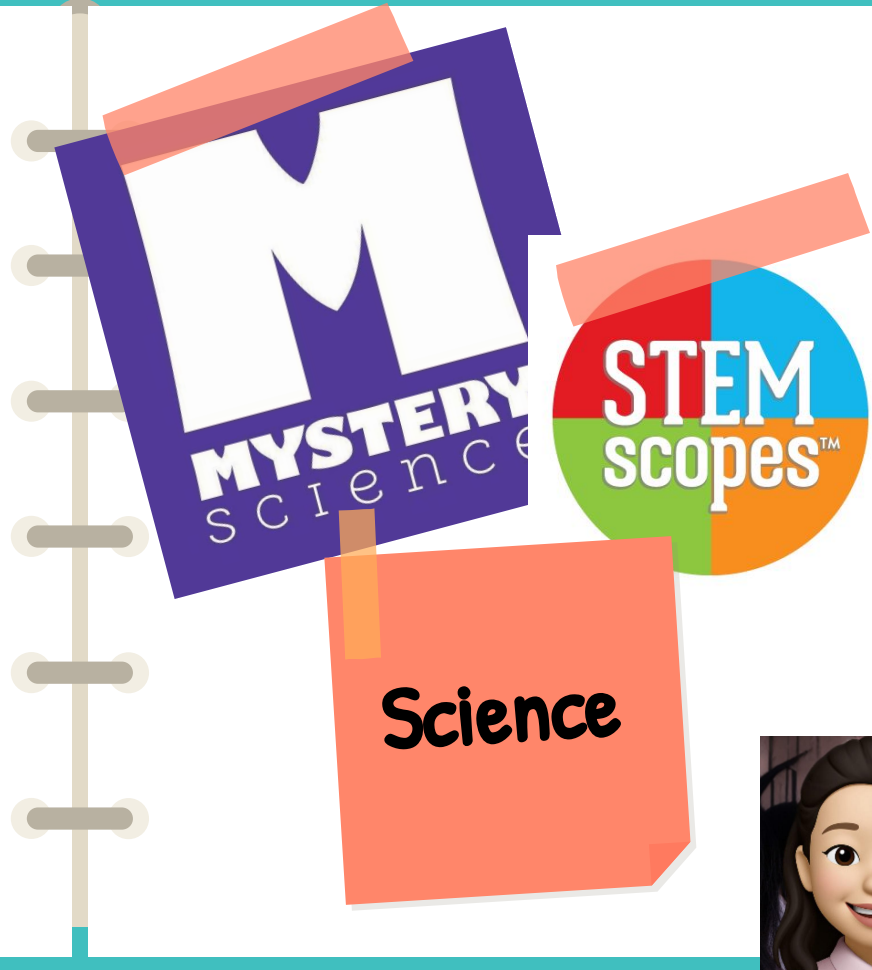
Math RTI

- 8 minutes of Fluency Flight each day to practice their automaticity of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.
- 45 minutes of My Path lessons each week. These are targeted lessons based on the results of their diagnostic test.
- Once their 45 minutes of lessons is done for the week, they may play the Learning Games.



Mystery Science STEMscopes

- Quarter 1: Mixtures & Solutions
- Quarter 2: Forces & Motion
- Quarter 3: Earth and Moon
- Quarter 4: Adaptations & Environment



Mandarin





New Curriculum - Level Learning

Mandarin Language

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading (Online Library)
- Writing (Typing)
-

Chinese Culture

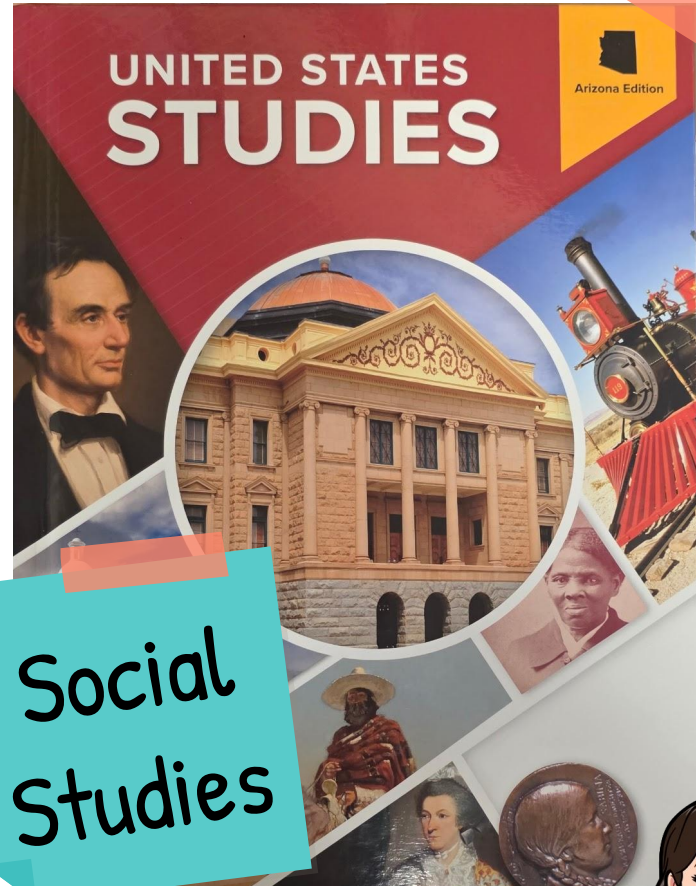
- Chinese Traditional Stories
- Chinese Traditional Festivals

Type	Teacher Pack	Teacher Pack Printables	Student Workbooks (consumables)	Anchor Read-Aloud Decodable Texts
Description	Day by Day schedule Lesson Scripts	Image Cards, Character Cards, Bingo games etc.	Word Study, Comprehension, Writing Practice	Chosen based on theme of the Unit
Visual				
Digital Access on Level Learning	View & Downloadable	View & Downloadable	View Only	View Only
Print Options:	Self Print Guideline	Self Print Guideline	Option 1: Order from CBFC Option 2: District/School Print Center Print Guideline	Step Up Foundation, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Order from CBFC Step Up 7 and 8 Digital Only



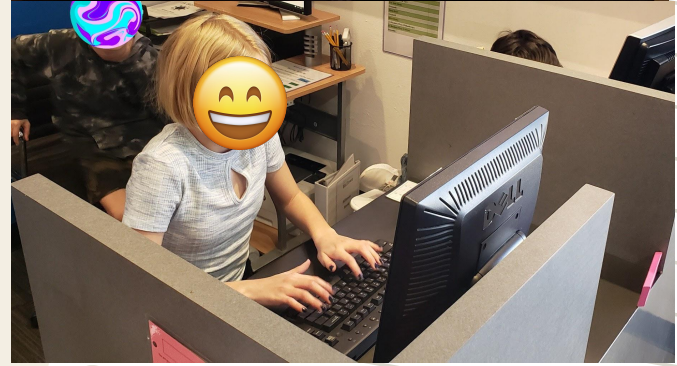
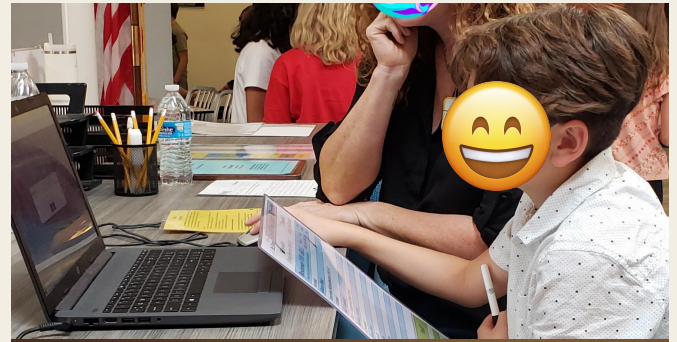
McGraw Hill

- We study the American Revolution (1750s) to the Industrial Revolution (1840s)
- Also, we look at the structure of the U.S. Government and how it came to be
- Students will complete 2 DBQ (Document-Based Question) Essays for the district, which requires them to analyze primary sources and answer a question based on their research.



Junior Achievement BizTown

- Learning starts in February
- Teaches students about economy, savings, checking, payroll, etc.
- Students are assigned jobs
- Field trip to JA Biztown in March to work at their job and get “paid”





Click the
Title



All Things EQ

Social Emotional
Curriculum



All Things E.Q.
The Discovery of You





All Things E.Q.

Academic & Leadership Skills

Hello Families,

Schools partner with All Things E.Q. because parents, teachers, and students all want the same thing: a healthy, happy learning environment that provides students with the academic and social skills they need to succeed.

Teachers appreciate All Things E.Q. (ATEQ) because our weekly insights improve rather than interfere with academic instruction. An independent four-year [study](#) showed, with statistical significance, that All Things E.Q. raised English Language Arts & Math scores on state assessments, increased attendance, and decreased student discipline referrals in both frequency and severity.

All Things E.Q. focuses on four quarterly themes:

1. ***Am I being kind and helpful in this moment?***
2. ***Am I using helpful self-talk?***
3. ***Am I making an honest effort?***
4. ***Am I focusing on solutions instead of problems?***

Each week, students are introduced to [the weekly motto](#), which teaches different academic and social skills needed for success in school. For example, our students will learn how to work through confusion, learn from mistakes, and work well in groups!

Parents appreciate being informed about each week's motto with our weekly parent insights, which share how to implement the weekly motto at home if they choose. As a parent of three myself, I understand wanting to be kept informed. If you wish to receive the free weekly parent insights for this school year, please email me directly at danna@allthingseq.com, and we will add you to the email list.

ATEQ earned a 95% approval rating in a parent satisfaction survey. All Things E.Q. weekly parent insights were rated with a 4.44 (Very Good to Excellent) out of 5 (Excellent) in terms of creating a positive learning community. We believe it's important to include parents, and schools perform better when parents and teachers work together rather than in isolation.

We look forward to a successful school year,

Danna Evans
All Things E.Q.



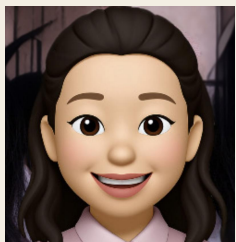
Behavior

Management

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To ensure our students are safe, respectful, and responsible we teach and follow our school's Code of Conduct.

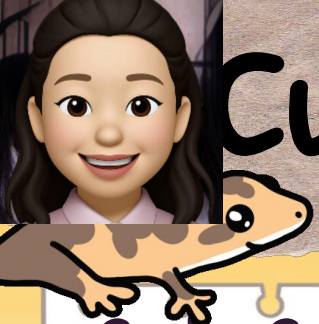


DESERT SAGE CODE OF CONDUCT



Gecko Goals	Learning Areas	Hallway & Walkway	Playground	Cafeteria	Restroom	Arrival & Dismissal	Gecko Gathering
	Voice Level 0-3	Voice Level 0-2	Voice Level 5	Voice Level 2	Voice Level 1	Voice Level 2-3	Voice Level 0-3
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in work area Hands & feet to yourself Use materials correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face forward & walk on the right side Hands & feet to yourself Carry your materials with care Keep sand & rocks off walkway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use equipment correctly Hands & feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry tray with both hands Wash hands with soap Eat only your food Hands & feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give others their personal space Use facilities appropriately Wash hands with soap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use crosswalks Hands & feet to yourself Be calm & orderly Walk your bike on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in assigned area Hands & feet to yourself Stay with your class/group
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow teacher directions Follow classroom procedures Take charge of your own learning Have pride in your work Persevere in tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yield to others Honor our school property Be polite & use manners Be aware of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow monitor directions Take turns Show compassion by including others Be polite & use manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow monitor directions Ask permission to leave your table Wait your turn in line Show compassion by including others Be polite & use manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honor privacy Wait your turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow monitor & crossing guard directions Wait patiently for gates/doors to open Yield to others Honor our school property Be polite & use manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow teacher directions Celebrate appropriately Be polite & use manners Be aware of others
Be Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole body listening Speak kindly to others Value other's genius Show compassion for yourself & others Be a productive group member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go directly to your destination Be a positive role model Be mindful of learning areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line up immediately at the bell or whistle Report incidents to a monitor Learn rules & follow them Care for equipment, put it away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after yourself Eat your food promptly Speak kindly to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be timely Flush, wash, dry, goodbye Clean up after yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put technology away Stay on sidewalks, away from cars Go directly to your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole body listening Participate when appropriate Keep backpack & other items in designated area

and You'll ALWAYS Be Ready to Learn!



Culture Camp - Q1 Week 2

Gecko Goals

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Ready to

Learn

On the first day of the week, we hold a Culture Camp meeting where we discuss life skills, guidelines, and mottos that help us to be the best version of ourselves.

Lifelong Guideline

Personal Best

Life Skill

Pride



All Things E.Q.
The Discovery of You

Click for weekly video ↑

Are my
thoughts
helpful or
hurting me?

Positive Reinforcement

Gecko Gold

Positives on
Character Cards

RADs

Weekly Life Skill
Winner

Individual

Students get to pick out a reward for every 10 positives they earn. Students can earn Gecko Gold as well.

Small Group:

Each table group that earns 10 points will get to pick out an award.

Whole Class:

When the whole class does well and fills up their marble jar, they get free time.



Character Cards

Character cards represent a structured behavior program designed for most students. Each teacher/administrator has the right to use his/her professional judgment to modify this plan for individual students as needed.

- Each quarter, all 3rd - 6th students will receive a character card and are expected to have it every day.
- Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility by keeping this card in a sheet protector and free of extra writing, doodles, drawings, rips, folds, stickers, etc.
- After being seated in a classroom, students must have easy access to his/her character card.
- If a student does not adhere to a school/classroom expectation, then they will receive a verbal warning.
- If after receiving a verbal warning a student continues to not adhere to the expectations, then the teacher will record a “Positive Character Reminder (Negative)” on the student’s character card.
- Teachers will use the “Positive Character Modeling” portion of the character card to record student behavior that is above and beyond expected behavior.
- Any student who loses their character card will receive a new card marked “2nd Copy” along with five negatives.
- Students must earn twice as many “Positive Character Modeling” points as “Positive Character Reminder” points to participate in the end-of-quarter Gecko Goals Character Celebration.

Major infractions of the school rules listed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook will result in consequences beyond the Character Card.



End of Quarter Parent Signature: _____

Character Celebration participation: Yes No

Gecko Goals Character Card

3rd-6th grade

Name: _____ Quarter: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

All students at Desert Sage strive to exceed the expectations of positive character by following the **Lifelong Guidelines and Skills** embodied within our Gecko Goals: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and you'll ALWAYS be ready to learn!**

POSITIVE CHARACTER POINTS

Personal Best			No Put Downs			Active Listening			Truthfulness			Trustworthiness						
1. Creativity	2. Curiosity	3. Effort	4. Organization	5. Perseverance	6. Pride	7. Caring	8. Cooperation	9. Flexibility	10. Friendship	11. Patience	12. Initiative	13. Problem-Solving	14. Resourcefulness	15. Courage	16. Sense of Humor	17. Common Sense	18. Integrity	19. Responsibility
Personal Best			No Put Downs			Active Listening			Truthfulness			Trustworthiness						
Date	Code	Teacher Initial	Date	Code	Teacher Initial	Date	Code	Teacher Initial	Date	Code	Teacher Initial	Date	Code	Teacher Initial				
1			1			1			1			1						
2			2			2			2			2						
3			3			3			3			3						
4			4			4			4			4						
5			5			5			5			5						



Name: _____ Quarter: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

POSITIVE CHARACTER REMINDERS (Negatives)												
Classroom Disruption			Horseplay			Inappropriate Tone/Attitude		Inappropriate Use of Electronics		Not Transitioning/ Staying in Area		
	Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial	
1			1			1			1			
2			2			2			2			
3			3			3			3			
4			4			4			4			
5			5			5			5			
6			6			6			6			
7			7			7			7			
8			8			8			8			
9			9			9			9			
Preparedness			Refusal to Follow Directions			Inappropriate Comments		Cheating/Lying		Failure to Follow Dress Code		
	Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial		Date	Teacher Initial	
1			1			1			1			
2			2			2			2			
3			3			3			3			
4			4			4			4			
5			5			5			5			
6			6			6			6			
7			7			7			7			
8			8			8			8			
9			9			9			9			





Routines + Procedures

— — — — —



Planners / Agendas

Students are required to fill out their planner each day with important information, such as assignments, lessons, upcoming assessments, etc. in Mrs. Buchholz's class.

Students can use this to share with families what they are learning, know what they have missed, and keep track of their work.



Homework Policy

Routine homework is not assigned. However, if classwork is not completed, then it becomes homework.

If you're wanting your student to do some form of homework, here are some suggestions:

- 20 minutes of reading
- 20 minutes on iReady completing My Path lessons
- Cooking or baking with measurements
- Visiting local museums
- Exploring nature on a hike





Grading Policies



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

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the following letter grade scale. Overall course grades for students in grades 3-12 will be calculated from the average of the student's assignment scores* (assessments, coursework).

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 0-59%



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

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their proficiency towards the grade level standards using the following scale. These marks are for information and do not calculate the student's overall course grade.

- 4 = Highly Proficient
- 3 = Proficient
- 2 = Partially Proficient
- 1 = Minimally Proficient





DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

Grading Guide

Teachers will enter scores for assignments in the gradebook based upon student performance of the standards.

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%						



For additional information, the parent may click the blue "show standards" icon to view the proficiency marks for the learning standards associated with the assessment or coursework.

Due Date	Category	Assignment	Flags	Score	%	Grade
09/22/2022	Assignments	Weathering Rates - Gizmos		100/100	100	A
09/16/2022	Assignments	Weathering of Different Rocks Gizmo		90/100	90	A
09/09/2022	Quiz	Land forms Quiz	 Click "show standards" icon to see standards measured on the assignment.	85/100	85	B
	 4.E1.U1.6 - Plan and carry out an investigation to explore and explain the interactions between Earth's major systems and the impact on Earth's surface materials and processes. 4.E1.U1.6			 3		Proficiency level shown best.
06/12/2022	Quiz	Scientific Method Quiz		100/100	100	A

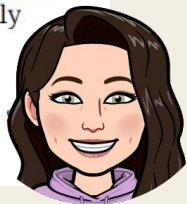
Grade Book Categories

All 1st-12th grade teachers' gradebooks will utilize the following categories in the gradebook.

ASSESSMENT: This category includes all items used to measure a student's proficiency towards the learning standards once the student has had sufficient practice and at a specified point in time. This category can include summative tests, performance assessments, reports, unit or module assessments, quizzes, long-term projects, short-term projects, presentations, capstone projects, research papers, and lab reports.

COURSEWORK: This category includes formative work that provides students with the opportunity to learn content and skills and to receive feedback on their learning. Coursework is assigned to provide meaningful, independent practice, reinforce learning targets, and extend learning. This category can include in-class assignments, quizzes, exit tickets, checks-for-understanding, and daily activities.

PRACTICE: This category includes formative student work that a student completes while in the process of learning specific Student work that is done inside and outside of the classroom, such as classwork and homework, falls into this category.



Category Weights

For 3rd-12th grades, gradebooks will be set to utilize the following weights for each category.

ASSESSMENT: 80%

COURSEWORK: 20%

PRACTICE: 0%

Categories are not weighted for 1st-2nd grades.

Citizenship Marks

Citizenship marks in grades Kindergarten-8th grade will continue to use the E/S/N/U scale in the 2023-2024 school year.

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory



Retake Policy

Students may request to retake assignments within 10 days of the due date.

Students may not retake an assignment if they have missing or uncompleted work in the gradebook.



Can I retake that, please?!

Today's Date: _____

Your First and Last Name: _____

What assessment(s) did you want to retake? Use the name of the assessment that you see in PowerSchool.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please put this page in the turn-it-in basket. Your teacher will review it and reply as soon as possible. Thank you!

~~~~~

Student will  
fill out this  
section



~~~~~

Your retake is scheduled for _____ . Please write this date in your planner so you don't forget.

Here are steps you can take to prepare for your retake:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Teacher will fill out this section





Misc.





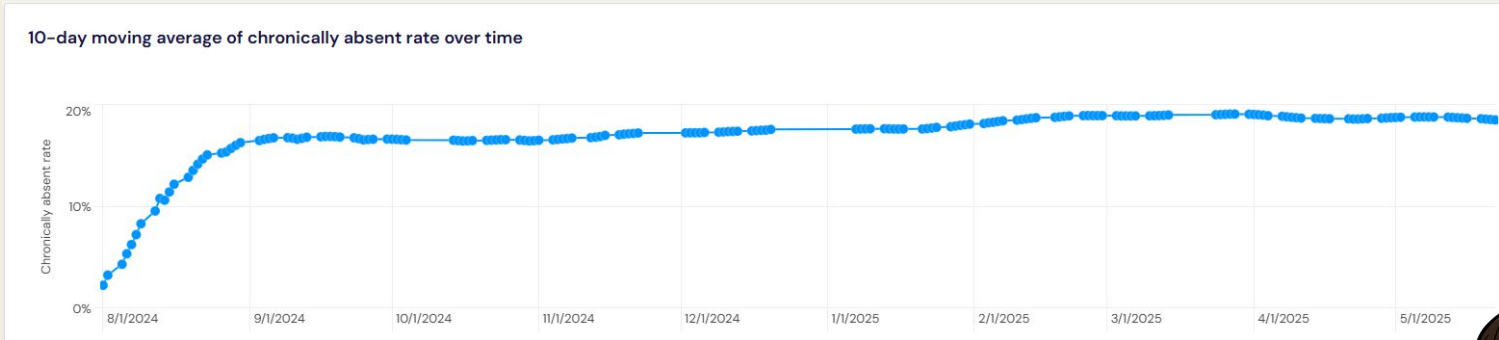
Every Day Counts

AT DVUSD



What the Data Tells Us

- Chronic absenteeism is the highest in Kinder, 8th and 10th grade
- By the end of the **first month** of school we are at the District attendance level for the remainder of the school year (17% - 19% absent from September to May)





Being in class on time every day helps DVUSD students & teachers **inspire, learn, and lead.**



Communication is Key!

Make sure you have parent tools like PowerSchool and updated email & phone contacts for important communications.

- Create a PowerSchool parent login to check attendance and grades. Double-check your contact information, including your cell phone number for receiving SMS text messages.
- Make sure you are receiving all school and teacher or grade-level communication. Read weekly/monthly newsletters for new information.
- Stay tuned for upcoming incentives and contests to keep students engaged and attending school on a consistent basis.

Schoolwide attendance challenge:

The group with the best attendance at end of year will get a free field trip at end of year!

That could be us!





Gecko Gathering

Desert Sage's monthly community gathering where families can join teachers, staff & students as we celebrate all things happening at Desert Sage throughout the year.

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Desert Sage Playground Field

- Aug. 8th
- Dec. 5th
- April. 24th
- Sept. 12th
- Jan. 16th
- May 15th
- Oct. 10th
- Feb. 20th
- Nov. 7th
- Mar. 27th



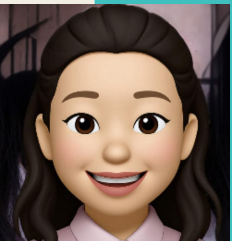
@dvusd_desertsage



/DVUSDDesertSage



@DesertSageElem



WHAT WILL THE DVUSD M&O OVERRIDE RESTORE FUNDS TO?

Athletics & Arts Programs

DVUSD offers competitive high school and middle school sports programs at multiple levels, and visual and performing arts such as theatre, chorus, and band for students of all talents and ages.

Free Full-Day Kindergarten

Since 2016, DVUSD has funded full-day kindergarten to our community at no out-of-pocket cost to families.

Student & Family Needs

DVUSD provides student support services such as school nurses, academic counseling, and early childhood preschool programs.

Increase Employee Pay & Maintain Class Size

Approximately 8% of employee pay comes from M&O override funding, allowing DVUSD to attract and retain teachers. This also allows DVUSD to keep the average student-to-teacher ratio at 17:1 per classroom.

Get more facts at [DVUSD.org/election](https://www.dvUSD.org/election)



It is a
mail-in
only
ballot!



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION
NOVEMBER 4, 2025



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