# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal
Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

Deer Valley Unified School District

# 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

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

## About the Teachers

**Mrs. Hudson:**

Mrs. Hudson will be starting her 27th year in education. She is a proud graduate of Northern Arizona University where she earned her Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education with a Music Emphasis(2000). She also attended NAU to earn her Master's in Education 8 years later. All of her teaching years have been in 4th grade and in the Deer Valley district. She is actually a product of the Deer Valley district, as she attended Bellair, Desert Sky, and Deer Valley High School. Some of her hobbies include reading, going on road trips and spending time at home with her family. In addition to teaching, she is very passionate about dance (she was a dance teacher for many years), music, and her family.

**Miss Vinyard:**

Miss Vinyard will be starting her 2nd year of teaching. She is a graduate of Grand Canyon University where she earned her Bachelors of Exercise Science with a Sports Performance emphasis and a Sports Psychology Minor. She is currently attending Grand Canyon University to attain her Masters in Elementary Education. Miss Vinyard has worked in education settings for 4 years. She loves activities that are outdoors like running, pickleball, and tennis. Miss Vinyard also loves to read, travel, and play instruments.

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**Mrs. Gibson:**

Teaching is her true passion, and she brings 25 years of educational experience with her into the classroom—15 of those wonderfully spent right here in the Deer Valley Unified School District! She has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Over the course of her career, she has had the privilege of teaching fourth grade, sixth grade, and special education. While she's loved every step of her teaching journey, fourth grade holds a special place in her heart, and she is absolutely thrilled to be back in 4th grade this year!

**Mrs. Bixby:**

This will be Mrs. Bixby's tenth year teaching fourth grade. She has been working in the field of education since 2001 in a variety of capacities: 3rd and 4th grade teacher, reading tutor, and as an adjunct faculty member teaching Children's Literature at ASU. She received her undergraduate degree from California State University, Long Beach in English Literature. She also earned a post baccalaureate Teaching Endorsement in Early Childhood Education from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia. While taking several years off to be with her two children, she earned her M.Ed. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Reading from ASU. In addition, she also earned a reading endorsement from ASU in 2012 and a gifted endorsement in 2021.

When she is not working, she loves spending time with her family. She enjoys camping, hiking, travelling, watching movies and going to the beach! She is also fortunate to spend every other summer in Ireland, where her husband runs a summer exchange program for college students. Their puppy Theo, a Miniature Schnauzer, also keeps them very busy!

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

Deer Valley Unified School District

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**Overview of Arizona State 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

**District Handbooks**

PRAG Handbook K-6, 26-27

PRAG Handbook 7-8, 26-27

Student Rights & Responsibilities 26-27

## Fourth Grade Curriculum:

- **Math includes:** Place Value, Multiplication and Division, Fractions, Decimals, Metric Measurement, Geometry
- **Science includes:** Earth's Processes and Systems, Change in the Earth and Sky, Organisms and Environments, Energy and Magnetism
- **Social Studies includes**: Maya, Aztec and Inca civilizations, Age of Exploration, Colonial America, Geography
- **ELA includes:**
  - **Reading:** Decoding, Vocabulary, Fluency, Language & Background Knowledge Development, Reading Comprehension
  - **Writing:** Narrative, Informative/Expository, Opinion/Argumentative, Research Reports, Letter writing, Poetry, Grammar

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

Deer Valley Unified School District

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**COMMUNICATION**

- **Communication Protocol Flow Chart**

- School-wide
  - Terramar Website
  - DVUSD Novel protected list
- Grade Level
  - Fourth Grade Website

- Contact Details-Email is the quickest way to get a hold of us as messages will be directed to voicemail during school hours. We will respond to messages within 24 hours. If you have an emergency, please call the office and they can relay the message to us.

| Name | Position | Phone # | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hudson, Tina | Math & Science | 623-445-7659 | Tina.Hudson@dvusd.org |
| Bixby, Nicole | ELA & Social Studies | 623-445-7660 | Nicole Bixby@dvusd.org |
| Gibson, Kim | Math & Science | 623-445-7658 | Kim.Gibson@dvusd.org |
| Vinyard, Meadow | ELA & Social Studies | 623-445-7657 | Meadow.Vinyard@dvusd.org |

- **Terramar has implemented email office hours and a "curfew" to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. We will respond to emails and phone calls Monday through Friday during school hours.**
- **If you have any questions regarding 4th grade curriculum and events, please visit the 4th grade website listed above.**

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**Terramar Professional Learning Community**

Most Fridays, students will be released at 1:30 pm so that we can 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 Professional Learning Communities**

A PLC (professional learning community) is a group of educators who meet regularly and work collaboratively to improve teaching practices and the achievement of students. The questions that drive the work of Terramar's Professional Learning Community:

- 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?

**Professional Learning Communities are responsible for collaborating to establish general consistency among the following:**

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

**Artificial Intelligence**

In the Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, teachers may incorporate generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students.

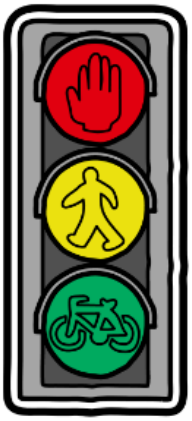
Students must adhere to the specific guidelines provided in the assignment details. If no guidance around the use of generative AI is provided, students should follow the "restrictive" level (see chart). Teachers should direct students to contact their teacher before submitting classwork if the student is unsure if the tool or website they are using is permitted on a specific assignment.

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

| AI Use Traffic Light | Level | Description | Example Instruction |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Restrictive** **No!** | AI tools are prohibited for the assignment, and all work must be the student's original creation. | "Do not use AI tools for this assignment. All content must be original, and any use of AI will be treated as plagiarism." |
| | **Moderate** **Whoa!** | Students can use teacher-approved AI tools from the district list for specific parts of their assignments, such as brainstorming or initial research, but the core content and conclusions should be original. Proper citation is required for any AI-generated content. | "You can employ AI tools to assist brainstorming or initial research, however, the main content, arguments, and conclusions should be your own." |
| | **Permissive** **Go!** | Students can utilize district-approved AI tools to assist in their assignments, such as generating ideas, proofreading, or organizing content. Proper citation is required for any AI-generated content. | "You may use AI tools as you see fit to enhance your assignment and demonstrate your understanding of the topic." |

**HOMEWORK & GRADES**

- 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 can do in a content area. We measure achievement, not effort or behavior, in our grading system.
- Grades will be equitable, accurate, specific, and 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.

**DVUSD GRADING PRACTICES**

**Kindergarten Grade Scale**

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will receive marks for their proficiency toward the grade level standards using the following scale.

4 = Applies grade level skills with greater depth or complexity
3 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency
2 = Approaches grade level proficiency
1 = Displays a significant lack of grade-level proficiency

**1st-2nd Grade Grade Scale**

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will receive marks for their proficiency toward the grade level standards using the following scale.

4 = Applies grade level skills with greater depth or complexity
3 = Demonstrates grade level proficiency
2 = Approaches grade level proficiency
1 = Displays a significant lack of grade-level proficiency

Students in 1st and 2nd grades will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the following letter grade scale.

E = Excellent )
S = Satisfactory
N = Needs Improvement
U = Underperforming

# 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**3-12 Grade Scale**

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their proficiency toward grade-level standards using the following scale.

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

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the following letter grade scale.

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

Grades of "D" and above are passing marks. A course grade of "F" indicates that the student has failed the course.

For 9th-12th grade levels, no course credit will be awarded for a failing course grade.

**Categories**

All grade entries in the gradebook will be attributed to one of the following categories.

**Assessment:** This category includes all items used to measure a student's proficiency toward 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.

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal
Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

Deer Valley Unified School District

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**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, exit tickets, checks for understanding, and daily activities.

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

**Category Weights** (3rd-8th Grades Only)

Each category will be weighted as follows:

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

**Missing Work** (3rd-8th grades)

An assignment is considered missing work when it is not submitted by the due date. Missing work will be treated as such:

- The assignment will be marked with the "Missing" special code in the grade book
- A zero ("0") will be entered as the score for the assignment in the grade book
- No Evidence (NE) will be entered for the standards attached to the assignment

**Late Work**

An assignment is considered late work when the assignment is not submitted by the due date that was established, but is submitted within the parameters listed below.

For **Late Work** to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- The assignment is not due within the class period
- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

Deer Valley Unified School District

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- The assignment is turned in within the following time frame
  - K-2 Grades: By the end of the marking period
  - 3-8 Grades: Within 5 school days after the end of the unit
  - 9-12 Grades: By the end of the unit

**Reassessment**

Retakes are allowed for assessments for full credit if reperformance opportunities (another assessment on the same learning target later in the marking period as part of the instructional cycle) will not be available during the marking period, or if reperformance opportunities are available during the marking period in addition to the original assessment.

To earn a retake opportunity, a student must complete all of the following:

- Complete all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed
- Consult with the teacher
- Submit a reassessment plan or application, if required by the teacher

A reassessment plan must be scheduled within the following time frames:

- **K-2nd Grades:** Until the week before the end of the marking period
- **3rd-8th Grades:** Within 10 school days of receiving the assessment score

**Academic Integrity Statement**

To be college-, career-, and community-ready, students in the Deer Valley Unified School District are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. Academic integrity is all about being honest and fair in your schoolwork. It means doing work that is entirely your own and giving credit to others (including generative Artificial Intelligence tools) through proper citation when you use their ideas or words.

If you have questions about the academic integrity guidelines, discuss them with your teacher.

# Terramar Academy of the Arts

Tessa Garcia, Principal

Robert Morgan, Assistant Principal

## 4th grade Teacher Syllabus Expectations

**Academic Dishonesty Statement**

Academic dishonesty refers to any action that compromises the integrity of academic work or evaluation processes. This includes but is not limited to:

- Copying or stealing another person's work or data (plagiarism);
- Allowing another person to copy one's work;
- Doing another person's classwork;
- Creating more than one copy of one's work for distribution;
- Providing another person with the answers to tests or quizzes;
- Noncompliance with teachers' test-taking procedures;
- Unauthorized copying or development of software; and
- Unauthorized use of generative Artificial Intelligence.

Consequences for instances of academic dishonesty range from a conference and loss of credit (the student will be given another opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the material) to a 5-day suspension and loss of credit.