

Curriculum Night

Mrs. Vincent
Mrs. Zeigner

Thank
you for
coming!



Communication

Email is the best way to communicate with us! We will plan to respond within 24 hours of seeing your message.

Mrs. Vincent

- amber.vincent@dvusd.org



Mrs. Zeigner

- carol.zeigner@dvusd.org



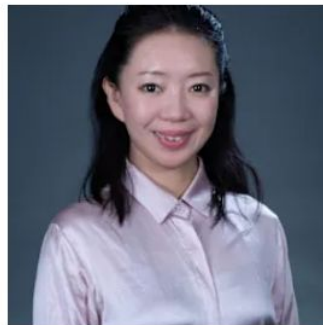
August

Mrs. Buchholz, Ms. Cai, Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Zeigner

Desert Sage Elementary School



Mrs. Buchholz



Ms. Cai



Mrs. Vincent



Mrs. Zeigner



Curriculum



Amplify CKLA

Reading + Writing are integrated

- Students read, discuss, and write about the same topic.
- Readers contain the texts we study in each unit.
- Activity Books support vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, and writing.
- Writing includes planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
- Cursive practice is included throughout the year.

Student Materials



Reader

Texts for each unit



Activity Book

Practice + writing



Cursive

Handwriting practice

Amplify Boost Reading

Personalized digital practice that adapts to each student and reinforces reading skills, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Minimum: 45 minutes per week

Core instruction + personalized practice



Unit 1: In My Own Words: Personal Narratives



Unit 2: Early Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca



Unit 3: Visions in Verse: Poetry



Unit 4: A Knight's Tale: Don Quixote



Unit 5: The Deep Blue World: Oceans



Unit 6: Cultures and Histories: Native Americans



Unit 7: Novel Study: The Phantom Tollbooth



Unit 8: Through the Forest: A Midsummer Night's Dream



Clever

DVUSD Clever Portal

Students go here for independent practice time. Goal = 40-60 minutes a week.

Students go here to access their textbooks in the digital library.



Apps



To Do



Paid Work



Amplify



Boost Reading



mCLASS
Literacy



Hub

i-Ready Math

- 6 units of varying length
- Lesson quizzes, mid-unit tests, and end of unit tests
- Topics Covered:
 - Place Value
 - Volume & Area
 - Division, Multiplication, Addition, and Subtraction of Decimals, Fractions, and Whole Numbers
 - Coordinate Plane



i-Ready

Math



Online

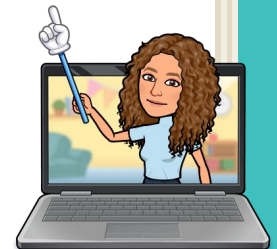
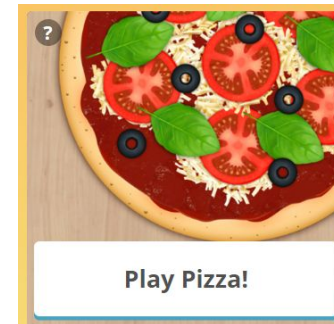
Resources



Meet Fluency Flight

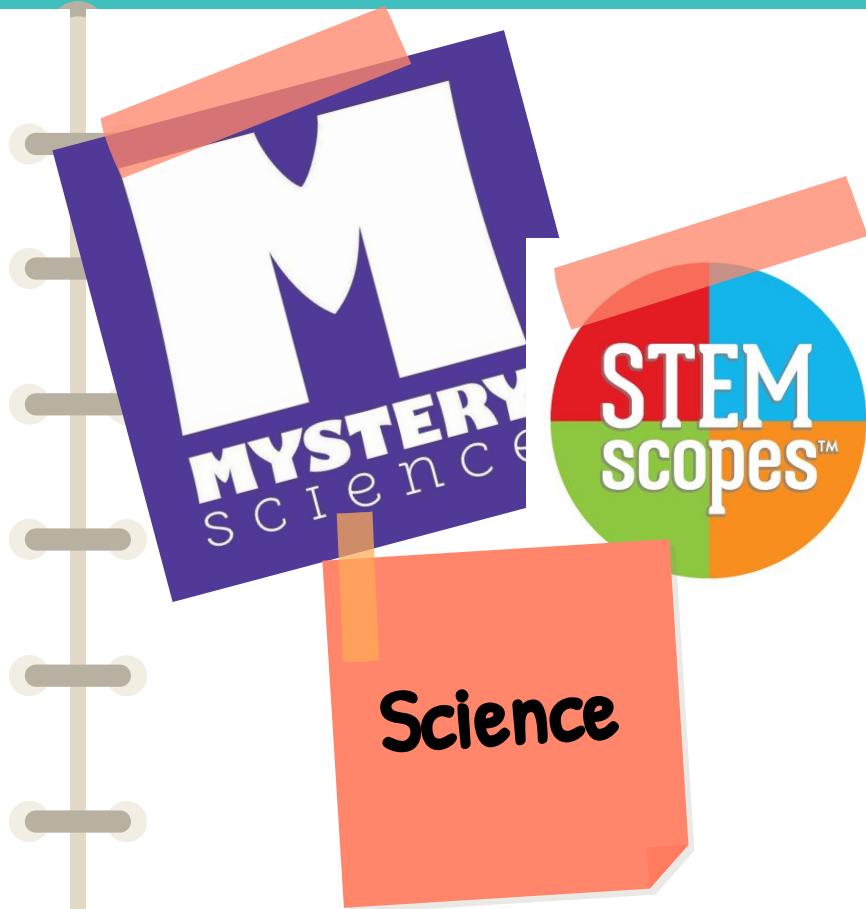
- Used to build math fact fluency (8 min./day, 4 days/week)
- Used for math support
- Used in class and at home (if needed)
- MyPath–Online math tutoring program (recommended 3+ lessons per week)

- Adults should NOT help students. It will make the lessons harder for them.
- i-Ready math games available after 3 completed lessons with a score of 80% or higher on MyPath each week



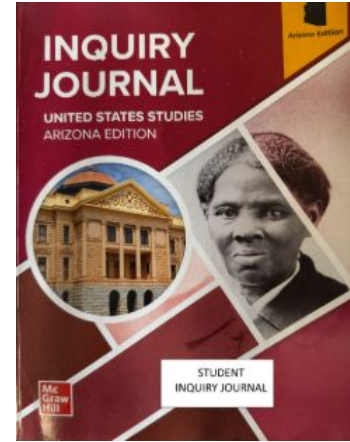
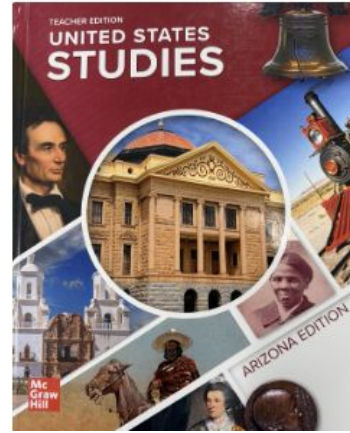
Mystery Science STEMscopes

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



McGraw Hill

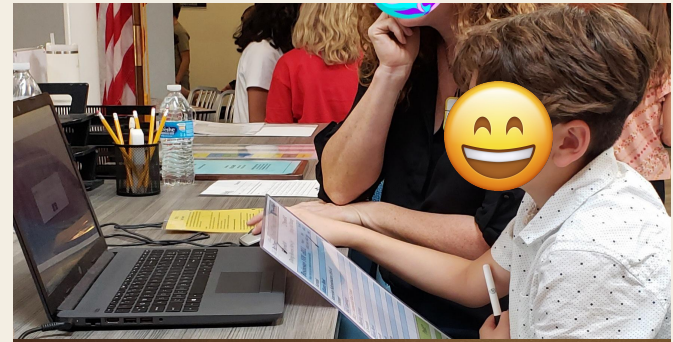
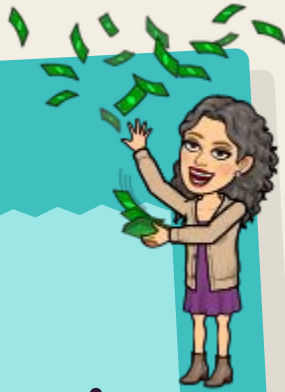
- American Revolution (1770s) to the Industrial Revolution (1840s)
- Government and how the United States came to be



Social
Studies

Junior Achievement BizTown

- 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.

Learning Academic & Leadership Skills

Hello Families,

We 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 needed academic and social skills to succeed.

We implement All Things E.Q. (ATEQ) because their insights improve rather than interfere with academic instruction. An independent four-year study showed with statistical significance that All Things E.Q. raised ELA & Math scores on state assessments, increased attendance, and decreased student discipline referrals in both frequency and severity. You may read about the study [here](#).

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](#) that teaches different academic and social skills. For example, our students will learn how to work through confusion, learn from mistakes, and be kind to one another!

Each week we inform our parents about the motto of the week and how to implement the motto at home if they choose. As a parent of three myself, I understand wanting to be kept informed!

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 truly partner with parents and believe schools perform best when parents and teachers work together rather than in isolation!

If you want to learn more, please feel free to email me directly at danna@allthingseq.com, and you can visit our website at www.allthingseq.com.

We look forward to a successful school year,

Danna Evans
All Things E.Q.

Culture Camp – Q1 Week 4



Click for weekly video ↑

Lifelong Guideline

Truthfulness

Life Skill

Courage



All Things E.Q.
The Discovery of You

I show up
positively for
myself and the
people around
me.

Positive Reinforcement

Gecko Gold

Individual

10 positives on their Character Card = 10 Gecko Gold

Positives on
Character Cards

Small Group:

RADs

Each table group that earns 10 positives on the class
character card earns 10 Gecko Gold

Weekly Life Skill
Winner

Whole Class:

When the whole class earns 20 positives on the class
character card, they earn a special reward (extra recess,
game time)



Routines



Planners / Agendas

Students are required to fill out their planner each day with important information, such as assignments, lessons, upcoming assessments, etc.

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



Please make sure your student comes to school each day with a fully charged Chromebook.

Missed Work & Tests

- **Make-Up Work:** After an absence, students should borrow a peer's agenda to update their own.
- **Tests/Retests:** The student must fill out a "Request to Retest" sheet to schedule test/retest sessions. For retakes, the sheet must include a description of how you have prepared for the retake (ex: completed all workbook pages, rewatched the videos on Canvas, studied with an adult, reread the story, etc.).
- **Confirmation:** The teacher needs to confirm the date and time via email before arriving.
- **Test Deadline:** Complete within 5 school days of posted scores.
- **Submission Deadline:** All missing work is due one week before the quarter ends.
- **Lost Assignments:** Extra copies are in the classroom bin or available on PowerSchool or Canvas.



Homework Policy

Students may expect math homework each night.
Class time is sometimes given to complete work.
If classwork is not completed, then it becomes
homework.

It is recommended that students read for 20
minutes each night.

Students who struggle with multiplication facts
are highly encouraged to practice 5-10 minutes
each night. (triangle flashcards)



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			

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		Date	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		
6			6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8			8		
9			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		Date	Teacher Initial	
1			1			1			1			1		

Character Cards



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 in their possession every day.
- After being seated in a classroom, students are required to 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 negative on the student's character card.
- Teachers will use the positive 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" with five negatives.
- Students must earn twice as many positives as negatives to participate in the end of quarter Character Celebration.

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

Cell Phone/ Digital Devices

House Bill 2484

requires all Arizona public and charter school districts to limit student access to personal wireless communication devices (phones, smartwatches, earbuds) throughout the school day.

Turn Off & Store Securely

upon arriving on campus, students are required to turn off all personal electronic devices and store them inside designated classroom cell phone lockers or personal bags.



Dear 5th & 6th Grade Students, Parents, and Guardians,

To help create a focused, distraction-free learning environment—in compliance with Arizona House Bill 2484 and the DVUSD Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy regarding personal electronic devices (PEDs) at school—Desert Sage will implement cell phone lockers for the 2026–2027 school year.

How the Lockers Work:

- **Morning Routine:** At the start of the school day during homeroom, students will turn in their cell phones, smartwatches, or other personal devices into a secure cell phone locker located right in their classroom.
- **Backpack Option:** If a student prefers to keep their cell phone, smartwatches, or other personal devices in their backpack rather than using a locker, the device **must remain turned off and inside the backpack** for the entire school day (including recess and lunch).
- **End of Day:** Students will return to their homeroom teacher to retrieve their devices right before dismissal.

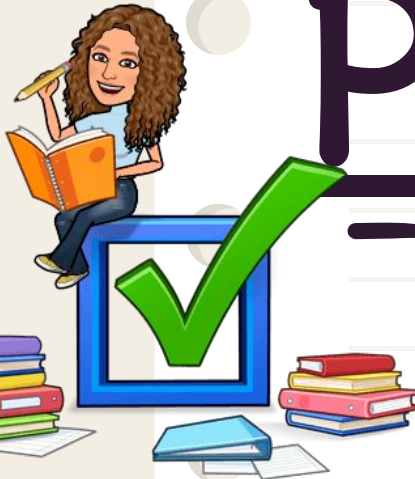
Policy Expectations: To protect instructional time and student safety, devices may not be carried on a student's person or used at any point during the school day. Using or carrying a device during school hours will result in a major discipline referral, handled directly by administration. Repeated occurrences will lead to progressive disciplinary action.

You can also review this policy on page 17 of the DVUSD Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook.

Thank you for your partnership in making this school year engaging and successful for our 5th and 6th graders!

Click the
Title

Grading Practices



 DEER VALLEY <i>Unified School District</i>		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 and/or 2's	Mostly 3'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%			

Grading Guide

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

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.E1U1.6	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.E1U1.6			 3	Proficiency level shown here.	
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 skills. 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 assessments (not coursework or practice) within 5 days of the due date.

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



Misc.





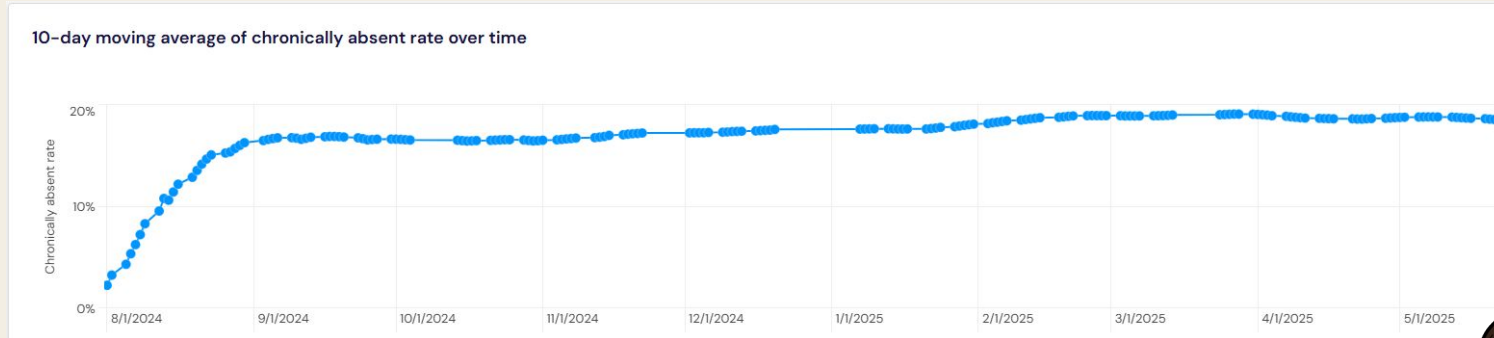
Every Day Counts

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 surprise reward!

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. 7th • Dec. 4th • April. 30th
- Sept. 11th • Jan. 15th • May 21st
- Oct. 2nd • Feb. 19th
- Nov. 6th • Mar. 19th



@dvusd_desertsage

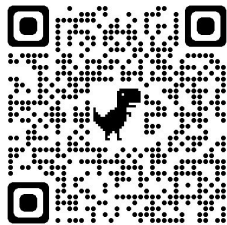


/DVUSDDesertSage



@DesertSageElem





Curriculum Night

Mrs. Vincent
Mrs. Zeigner

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coming!

