



WELCOME

Welcome to
Grade 4 intermediate
curriculum Night

Desert Springs Preparatory Elementary
School 2021-2022





ABOUT ME

My Danish husband and I are blessed with two loving sons, both of whom also attend PVUSD schools where our youngest attends middle school and eldest will be a junior in high school.

This is my 27th year teaching (love it!), my 5th year here in Grade 4 at DSPES. I truly cherish "hygge" family time, traveling and exploring, learning more about the world around me, reading, hiking, movies, shopping, trying new restaurants and cooking. I am always grateful for time and laughs with good friends, hunting for quality children's literature and quotes that inspire us all as well as opportunities to learn and connect with nature.

It is an honor to be an educator. It is my belief that every child is uniquely wonderful and capable in their own ways. Our class community is built on mutual respect, positivity and consideration of one another. I hope to inspire and welcome wonder through inquiry within each new day!

I am dedicated to making every student's learning experience meaningful and memorable. I am looking forward to a wonderful year together at DSPES.





STUDENT INFO

GO TO THE LINK BELOW TO FILL OUT THE STUDENT INFO FORM:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nSzcfkefrTNm8hjZrIL8-1w9Xqg8LFhA5dqY62sg0DU/edit>





EXPECTATIONS

4A Community Expectations

- Be safe
- Be respectful and considerate of the ideas and opinions of others
- Be mindful listeners
- Be active, on task inquirers
- Be engaged in learning
- Be organized and prepared
- Be accountable

Accountability Cards

Accountability cards are used to monitor classroom expectations and serve as a communication tool between parents and teachers. [Click here](#) for a copy of our 4A Accountability Cards.

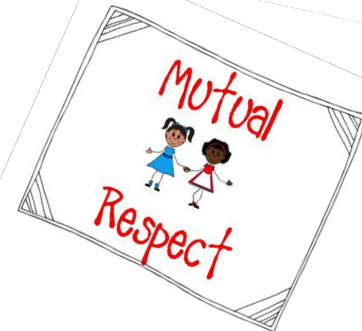
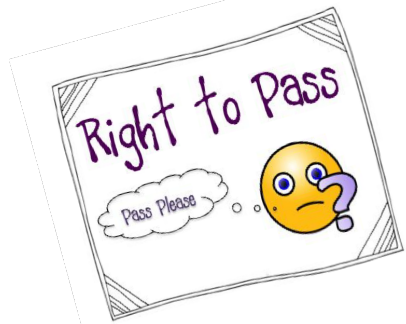
SOAR Like a Hawk

For a link to view our DSPES school-wide positive behavior expectations (SOAR - Safe, Organized, Accountable, Respectful) matrix, [click here](#).





CLASS RULES





MORNING MEETINGS

(Social Emotional Learning)

Our class will begin each school day with our 4A Morning Meetings. When we are present as a community in the classroom, we are respectful of our Tribes community circle. This is a delightful part of our day when we celebrate our classroom community.

Daily morning meetings provide that safe space because over time students learn to associate that morning time together as a place to come together and share about different things and different feelings. We begin with a greeting, classroom community activities, “check- ins”, discussion slides, read alouds, goal setting, focus on character traits, range of emotions, etc... I like to follow up greeting each other with a check in. I have done this in a few different ways, but my favorites are using a 1-5 on our hands to show where we are at with our emotions that morning. A one being very sad, angry, upset, afraid feeling and a 5 being very happy, joyful, content, and excited. I love to give students the opportunity to share. If I see a student say they are a 1 or a 2 and that student is usually a 5, I take the time to check in with them.

DSPES will also be incorporating an SEL program known as Sanford Harmony again this school year. “Sanford Harmony is a social emotional learning program for Pre-K-6 grade students designed to foster intergender communication and understanding, connection, and community both in and outside the classroom and develop boys and girls into compassionate and caring adults.

Our morning meeting times usually range from 10-15 minutes. It all depends on the announcements, activity, read aloud, or discussion that we are working on or completing with the students. Also, in the early stages of starting morning meetings with your students, it may take time. Students might need time to get situated or used to the routine!





DISTRICT

website

PV Assist: Digital Support for Parents and Students

PV Assist, an Information Technology support site, will help students and their families navigate logins/passwords, issues with Chromebooks, Google Classroom, and much more. For a link to our PVUSD support site, [click here](#).

SEL Support: Digital Support for Parents and Students

Our [Social & Emotional Well-Being website](#) provides more details, examples, and resources to guide schools through these efforts. The site is divided into pages that address:

- Re-Engagement Strategies
- Virtual Classroom Environment
- Self Care
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Well-Being Checklist
- Support Process
- Parent Resources





DISTRICT

website

[PVUSD Website](#)

[PVUSD Calendar](#)

[Infinite Campus](#)





TECHNOLOGY

Technology at PVSchools

Technology plays a critical role in the successes of our students. Our programs incorporate modern technology to deliver a more engaging curriculum, provide support for instruction, and add value to the learning experience.

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Digital Citizenship

Our students are expected to learn and demonstrate digital citizenship from the moment they log on. Digital citizenship covers areas such as online bullying, safety, rights and responsibilities, etiquette, digital law and more. PV students learn to make responsible and safe technology decisions.

[Learn More About Digital Citizenship](#) Students have access to their own Chromebook here at DSPES. Students are expected to sign a contract yearly agreeing to the terms of use and privilege of having a Chromebook. Students will also sign a separate 4A technology contract agreeing to the terms of use.

For more information related to technology in PVUSD, please visit our [PVUSD website](#)





LOGIN INFO

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GOOGLE

classroom

Google Classroom Resources for Students

- [Student View of Classroom](#)
- [Google Classroom for Students](#) - Posts
- [Google Classroom View your work](#)





GOOGLE MEETS

Google Meets is a video conferencing tool which may be used to communicate during distance learning for one-to-one, small group support and whole class. Expectations and agreements for utilizing this tool will be reinforced and routinely reviewed.





WEBSITES

Please note we will be using a range of websites this school year. Many of these sites may be accessed through CLEVER. As we begin the school year we will explore these together.

*Be on the lookout for additional websites made available on our 4A Hawks website.
:)





SCHEDULE

4A Schedule (updated 8/16/21)

NOTE:

Dismissal on Early Release Days: 12:30

Specials on Early Release Days:
11:20-11:45

8:45 - 9:00

Welcome/Class Mtg./SEL

9:00 - 9:35

Language *optional quick snack/restroom break 9:25 - 9:35

9:35 - 10:50

Math

10:50 - 11:05

AR

11:05 - 11:25

Lunch

11:25 - 11:45

Lunch Recess

11:45 - 12:35

Core Knowledge

12:35 - 12:50

Recess

12:50 - 1:50

Reading

1:50 - 2:30

Specials (Weekly Rotational Schedule: PE/Art/Music)

2:30 - 3:10

Writing

3:15

Dismissal





SPECIALS

First Week: August 10th: PE, August 11th: Art, August 12th: Music, August 13th: PE

Week of August 16th - 20th: PE *please ensure proper shoes are worn for PE + bring clean/labeled water bottle

Week of August 23rd - 27th: Art *dress for success

Week of August 30th - SEPTEMBER 3rd: Music

Repeat weekly rotational specials: PE, Art and Music

-Art, Music, and PE each have our own Google Classrooms - one per classroom teacher. Students have already been invited, so when they log in to Google Classroom they should see separate classes for Art, Music, and PE.

-For the first 3 days of school specialist teachers will follow the 1,2,3, rotation EACH DAY, this way they can touch base with all our students right away. :)

-Starting Monday Aug 16th specialists will begin WEEKLY specials rotations. So the class will have the same special for an entire week. It is felt that this would be easier for our students and their families.





LUNCH

- Lunch is scheduled from 11:05 - 11:25.
- Students have specific assigned seats in the Hawk's Nest.
- Students are reminded to drink water/drinks to stay hydrated.





RECESS

Daily Break Times:

9:25 - 9:35 snack/restroom break

11:25 - 11:45 Lunch Recess

12:35 - 12:50 Afternoon Recess





DISMISSAL

- Students are dismissed at 12:30 on early release days and 3:15 on our regularly scheduled days.
- Students are dismissed from the classroom out our door facing Acoma/the bus lanes.
- Prior to dismissal students are expected to organize/tidy their resources and belongings appropriately.



4A Expectations



**Organization,
Independence,
and
Study Skills**



Organization:



- Each 4th grade student is responsible for using and maintaining an organized binder.
- Within each binder, students keep their material within the pocket/behind the tab for appropriate subject area.
- Papers are generally passed out to go home on Friday afternoons, and should be located in the “Home” section of the binder. Please ensure these are reviewed and removed regularly.
- Students are expected to keep their backpacks, binders and cubbies tidy/orderly.



Independence:



- Homework planners: should be placed in the front of each student's binder
- Students write in their planners throughout the day.
- This is the main form of communication between school and home.
- *All assignments are to be written in the planner - if a student has already completed the assignment, they may put a "checkmark" next to the assignment to indicate the assignment was completed at school..



Accountability:



- Each student will be provided with an accountability card.
- Each student will be introduced to the purpose and process of using the accountability cards.
- Accountability cards serve as a learning tool to promote growth in learning.
- Please note that when a student has a total of 5 incidents recorded for choices he/she has made, students are expected to bring their cards home to promote healthy discussion and growth.
- Accountability cards are always due back signed the following school day. Thank you for your support with this.

***Students will also complete DSPES Intermediate Reflection Forms as needed. *Please see samples.**

Study Skills:



- We will teach the students many different tools to help them study.
- Examples: foldables, flashcards, highlighting, study guides
- Most assessments, including math, have a vocabulary section., For example, students are expected to routinely study each of the Eureka module's vocabulary to promote retention, growth and confidence.
- Multiplication: **Students are expected to have learned/mastered their multiplication facts 0-12.** Please utilize the multiplication games packets provided for you this evening.



PLANNERS

Planners

Students are expected to fill out their planners throughout their day. Planners will be routinely checked for completion and accuracy. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have neatly documented their homework/test or quizzes dates/projects/events within their planners. Each weekend students are asked to have their planner reviewed and signed by a parent/guardian. This signature will communicate to me that your child has communicated their weekly/long term assignments as well as their progress together with you. This is also an optimal time to ensure student binders are in organized condition. Organized planners and binders play an integral role in student success. Students are responsible for bringing their planners and binders to school daily as well as keeping them in respectable shape.





HOMEWORK

Homework Policy

In Grade 4 homework should take approximately 40 minutes in addition to 20-30 minutes of AR reading time. Many assignments are assigned within Google Classroom. ***Please reach out to me if your child is struggling to complete his/her homework within this timeframe.** Homework is checked

for completeness and understanding. Homework is provided as practice of the skills we are currently learning in addition to nightly AR reading time. Please routinely check your child's planner for up to date assignments. We will go over completed assignments in class throughout the week to assist with questions. The homework grade is reflected in the Study Skills section of the report card. Students will be expected to submit their late work. A record of late work will be kept and communicated to parents/guardians. Please reach out if your child ever has questions or would benefit from additional support.

Missed Assignments

For each school day missed, students are given a day to make-up the assignments missed in class. For example, if a student misses two school days, they are given two days to make-up any assignments. Please feel free to ask for work if you know ahead of time your child will be out of school.





MATH

-Our PVUSD adopted math curriculum is **EUREKA Math** (Engage New York). Ongoing information on how to best support your child's success with this program will be routinely provided.

-Our lessons will typically follow a sequence. For example - fluency practice, concept development, application, Zearn, student debrief and exit tickets.

-**ZEARN** is our online educational math program that is in line with our learning within EUREKA Math. **Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 4 Zearn lessons each week.** Zearn will also be used to reinforce skills to bridge the gap during distance learning.





READING

-**McGraw Hill WONDERS** is our adopted ELA curriculum which provides...

- A strong reading foundation
- Complex text
- Vocabulary development
- Range of comprehension skills and strategies
- A balance of high-quality, engaging literature and informational/expository text

-Students work in groups based on their skill set for a specific standard as others are individually working on, their personal reading goal or weekly reading strategy/skill.

-We also plan to enjoy various Literature Studies together.

-AR will be promoted daily to encourage students to pursue a range of genres each quarter as well as striving to meet their quarterly goals.





READING

During reading lessons together, emphasis will be on...

Text features

Literary elements

Exploring a variety of genres

Character traits

Identifying text structures

Making predictions

Analyzing and comparing texts

Informative texts

Poetry

Reader's Theater

and much more!





WRITING

-Step Up to Writing instructional strategies and writing lessons guide students in their understanding of each step in the writing process. Students will compose paragraphs as well as 5 paragraph essays while incorporating stages of the writing process.

-In Grade 4, students will be focused on writing:

- Opinions
- Informative/Explanatory essays
- Personal Narratives
- Creative writing
- Persuasive essays
- Reflections
- Research reports based on the inquiry process





GRAMMAR

-Grammar or Language Arts lessons will be supported through the use of a range of curricular materials, namely **Wonders**, and naturally incorporated into our learning whenever possible. We will focus on:

Parts of speech
Sentence structure
Capitalization
Conventions
And much more!

- Students will take grammar quizzes on a regular basis.
- Games, trade books, websites, videos, etc are also utilized to promote learning.
- Students will continue with their **Daily Language Review** each week. Quizzes are scheduled on a bi-weekly basis.
- Students will also focus on our monthly set of **Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases**.





SPELLING

- We will be utilizing the **Wonders spelling program**. Students are able to access weekly lists on **Vocabulary Spelling City** [here](#).
- Typically, students would be provided with their spelling lists on Monday of each spelling week and tested on Fridays. Spelling will typically occur bi-weekly.
- Once our spelling routine is established, “Challenge Words” will also be provided that support a range of areas within our Grade 4 curriculum.





SCIENCE

-Our adopted curriculum resources include **FOSS** Science resources, Mystery Science and exploring various informational OER's (open ended resources) and texts.

-Our focus areas are:

- Water, Climate and Human Impact on Our Environment
 - Earth and Space: Systems and Interactions
 - Physical Energy: Electricity and Magnetism
- Soils, Rocks and Landforms/Geological Systems
- Scientific Method and engineering practices
 - Scientific Community
 - STEM/STEAM





SOCIAL STUDIES

-Our focus in Grade 4 is on the recently updated state standards. We'll learn about Regions and Cultures of the Americas (Pre-Contact Americas to European Settlements - early inhabitants to 1763)

-Our Core Knowledge curriculum is cyclical in nature. In addition to our core standards we also have the opportunity to inquire into a variety of Core Knowledge units of study such as:

- Geography & Map Skills, Geology
 - Medieval Europe
 - Dynasties of China
 - Mayas, Incas and Aztecs
 - Medieval Islamic Empire
- Early & Medieval African Kingdoms





FIELD TRIPS

*More information provided at a later date.





CLASS PARTIES

*More information provided at a later date.





BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays in 4A!

We will continue to recognize students on their special days!

***Please note due to safety protocols we will refrain from sharing birthday treats at school until further notice.**

***Per school policy birthday invitations are to be distributed outside of school hours.**





CONFERENCES

-DSPES Conferences typically occur both in the fall and spring of each school year. Parents are provided with an opportunity to sign up for a meeting time via SignUp Genius. Conferences are another opportunity to celebrate your child's learning as well as learn of your child's goals and progress across the subjects. Please plan to attend our conference opportunities. Students look forward to celebrating their learning by typically sharing a collection of their recent work and goals with you.

*More updates to follow for this year's plans regarding conferences.





SCHOOL EVENTS

Please visit our DSPES website for a calendar of events [here](#).

Please support our DSPES PTA! Our wonderful PTA volunteers coordinate a wide range of wonderful community building events. For more information, and a calendar of events, please find information on PTA's website [here](#).





VOLUNTEERS

Due to our current protocols, our volunteer programs are currently scheduled to begin after September 1st.





IMPORTANT

information

DSPES PTA

Join us in welcoming our new PTA board! While we will be learning online, our PTA will still be hard at work supporting our students and school. For our PTA website, [click here](#).

You can also email the PTA at: desertspringsprep.pta@gmail.com

Erin Labie- President

Kim Adair- VP of Membership

Jennelle Bartlett- Treasurer

Kristin Nelson- Secretary





IMPORTANT *information*

DSP Structured Dress

At Desert Springs Preparatory we follow a structured dress code. For more information on our structured dress code, [click here](#).

The Spirit Wear Orders will be taken online through our PTA website. DSP Spirit Wear can be worn any day of the week in addition to polo shirts. Consider ordering spirit wear to get your child excited about school and promote school spirit. We will continue with monthly school spirit days, such as 'College Day,' as well. Link to order spirit wear, [click here](#).





IMPORTANT *information*

Student Supply Lists and Workspace

To help prepare your child for success, we recommend setting up a specific workspace for your child. A desk or table, comfortable chair, and needed supplies are important components of learning success. Involving your child in the process and setting expectations are helpful, too.

Click [here](#) for our supply list for Grade 4.

Click [here](#) for our optional individual supply list for Art.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Important Dates:

8/23- 9/3 Health Screenings

SignUp Genius link opportunity for volunteers for our upcoming health screenings.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A5A62BA0F9C25-volunteers>

8/27 Spirit Day

8/31 Early Release (Professional Development Day)

9/6 -9/7 Labor Day (no school)

9/16-9/17 K-12 Recess (no school)

10/5 Early Release (Professional Development Day)

10/13 1st Quarter/Grading Period Ends

10/25 - 10/28 K-8 Parent Conference Week

10/27 - 10/28 Early Release

10/29 K-8 Recess (no school)





QUESTIONS

As always should you have questions, please reach out to me.

Thank you very much
for taking the time
to attend our
2021-2022 Curriculum Night!

I look forward to a most **WONDERFUL**
year working in partnership
with you and your child!





CONNECT

Email: ewoodappel@pvlearners.net

602-449-7100 (**Office Number**)

602-449-7101 (**Absence Line**)

The best way to reach me is by **email**.

I try to check my email frequently throughout the day and will respond as soon as possible, **within 24-48 hours**.

Class website: <https://sites.google.com/pvlearners.net/4ahawks>

*Please note this website is currently being updated.:)

