



MARCH 2, 2018



GOVERNOR DUCEY VISITS SIERRA VERDE STEM ACADEMY!

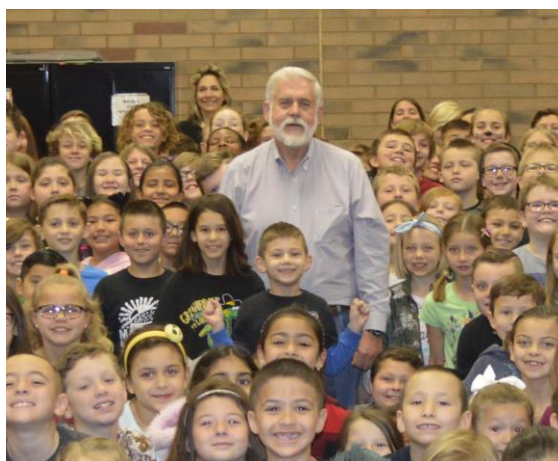
Governor Doug Ducey chose Sierra Verde STEM Academy as the school where he spent this year's "Read Across America Day." During his visit, he toured the school, visited classrooms and witnessed the school's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Programs before reading *Green Eggs & Ham* by Dr. Seuss to the kindergarten students.



See many more photos of Governor Ducey's visit to Sierra Verde on Twitter @DVUSD and FB @sierraverdeSTEMacademy. #Extraordinary!

IN THIS EDITION

- [2018-2019 Contracts Issued](#)
- [Governing Board Reports & Updates on Recent Proposals](#)
- [Dr. Finch Out & About in DVUSD](#)
- [Comeback Kid – Jordan Stanford](#)



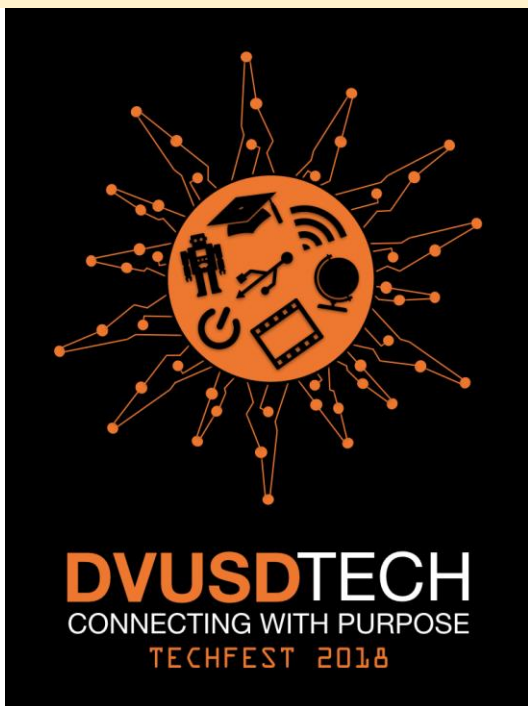
Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers read to all of the students at Greenbrier Elementary School Friday for "Read Across America Day." Several DVUSD schools had guest readers this week!

CONTRACTS ISSUED

The Governing Board has approved the issuance of certified, exempt, and administrative contracts for 2018-19. The contracts will be published in iVisions March 2, 2018.

Since the full extent of the 2018-19 budget is not yet known, these contracts will be based on the 2017-18 contract amounts and will be revised at a later date with any changes. It is important to note that certified contracts are due back on or before **March 23, 2018**. Classified appointments are expected to be issued by May.

DV SUMMER TECH FEST 2018 CALL FOR PRESENTERS



DV Summer Tech Fest is returning for a second year! Join us Tuesday, June 19 as the DV Summer Tech Fest 2018 kicks off with a dynamic keynote delivered by Rachael Mann from #TeachLikeTED. During the **June 19 & 20** event, a variety of mini-sessions will be offered with an overarching focus on purposeful use of technology and preparing students to be future-ready. Registration to attend sessions will open for all DVUSD employees before spring break.

If you are interested in presenting at DV Summer Tech Fest 2018, complete this form by March 9th: <https://url.dvusd.org/8925d77a>

CALENDAR CORNER

- **March 2** – National Read Across America Day & Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- **March 5 – 9** – National School Social Work Week & National School Breakfast Week
- **March 13** – Regular Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Room. Within 24 hours of a meeting [Click here to view Agenda](#)
- **March 26 – 30** – Spring Break
- **March** – National Athletic Training Month, National Nutrition Month, National Cheerleading Safety Month, and Music in our Schools Month

NATIONAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK MARCH 5-9

Why do today's schools need School Social Workers?

Children today are increasingly victims of many social forces that negatively affect their role as students. Children's unmet physical and emotional needs interfere with their ability to learn and adjust in school. **Who are School Social Workers?** School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to a person's social, emotional and life adjustment to school and/or society. **What is the role of School Social Workers?** They are the link between the home, school and community by providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

PARENT SURVEY

Are you a DVUSD Parent? Please take the annual parent and community member satisfaction survey. Please click or ctrl-click on the link below to begin the survey (or copy into your browser).

<https://url.dvusd.org/55045c34>



Thank you for reading the Deer Valley Voice! To make comments or ask questions, email monica.allread@dvusd.org.

UPDATES ON RECENT PROPOSALS

At the February 28 Governing Board Meeting, two reports and two preview items were presented to Board members. Below you find a summary of these items. View each topics PowerPoint at:

<https://www.dvusd.org/Page/55767>

Late Start/Early Release Update



Late Start/Early Release to Support Teacher Professional Learning or PLC time - The Governing Board heard the proposal for a 2019-20 school year change to the calendar to eliminate the monthly Friday half-day release and change to a weekly 90-minute early release on Wednesdays. The Board requested additional information to be brought back for consideration:

1. Student achievement in other districts implementing an early release
2. Provide a consistent structure for the PLC time
3. Impact with instructional minutes and budget
4. Structure of each early release during the month
5. Research possibility of a late start at high school and early release at elementary

Deer Valley Academy

DVUSD Board Meeting
2-28-2018

Deer Valley Charter Academy and Expanded Flexible Learning Options in DVUSD - The Governing Board was presented three models to consider to expand learning options for high school students and remove Deer Valley Charter Academy from residing on one of the high school campuses. The three options include:

- Brick and Mortar model: in person, face to face instruction, smaller class sizes, late afternoon, evening classes, summer courses, compressed instructional time, and no charge for credit recovery courses
- Blended Learning model: utilizing the best of online learning and face to face support, regionally-based in-person teacher support, late afternoon and evening with compressed instructional time
- Online Learning model: move away from addenda positions to full time online teacher positions, provide dedicated in-person supports, increased student engagement opportunities

The Board asked for additional information to be brought back for consideration:

1. Impact on DVUSD high schools
2. Transportation and access
3. Credit recovery and not charging students

Senior Year Seniors

DVUSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
2-28-2018

Senior Year Seniors - The Governing Board heard a preview item to consider a course credit requirement change for the incoming freshman class. The proposal would require a minimum of four courses to be completed during the senior year. This change is proposed to be phased-in with the incoming freshman class graduating in 2022.

AzMERIT Grade Enhancement

DVUSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
2-28-2018

AzMERIT and AIMS Science Grade Enhancement for High School Classes with a State Assessment - The Governing Board previewed a plan to utilize the state assessments, AzMERIT ELA and Math and AIMS Science, to enhance end-of-course high school grades. The Arizona State Board of Education adopts assessments to measure student proficiency of academic standards. Each year, students in grades 7-12 enrolled in high school courses take AzMERIT and/or AIMS assessments to show their proficiency with the state standards. With this plan, we intend to incentivize students to "show what they know" on the state assessment.

STUDENT ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT



Students from across the District in the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council held their annual event. The Environmental Summit: Educate - Act - Change had three guest speakers who addressed the environment, recycling, waste water, trash, and other environmental concerns. After listening to speakers, the students broke into groups to attend different sessions, including environmental "Jenga," growing your own garden, and a water pollution demonstration. The students attending the summit identified environmental problems in their community and possible solutions to fix the problems.

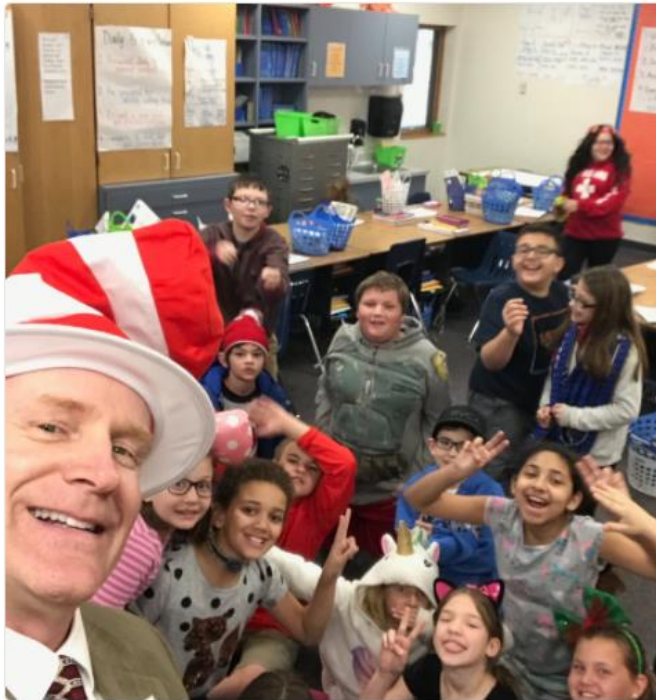
DR. FINCH – OUT & ABOUT



Deer Valley Skyhawks @DVHSSkyhawks · Feb 27
Boys had a great season. Skyhawk Nation is proud! #TakeFlight State Runner Ups!
@DVUSD @DeerValleyStuGo



Curt Finch, PhD @DrFinchDVUSD · 3h
Oh the Places You'll Go! @DVUSD at Mirage. #ReadAcrossAmerica #DrSeuss



Curt Finch, PhD @DrFinchDVUSD · 1h
Thanks to @dougducey for stopping by @DVUSD at Sierra Verde.
#ReadAcrossAmericaDay #DrSeuss

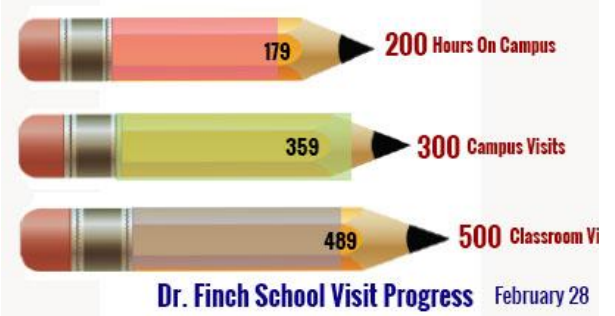


Curt Finch, PhD @DrFinchDVUSD · Feb 23
Kindergarten Celebration in Mrs. Carol's class at Sunrise @DVUSD.
#GreatAmerica



DR. FINCH – #500 CLUB UPDATE

Dr. Finch is just 11 classroom visits away from making his goal of 500 classroom visits across the District during this school year! The 500th classroom has been selected for a special "milk and cookies visit." We will reveal the lucky classroom in the next Deer Valley Voice!



TWITTER INFO

--Follow Dr. Finch on Twitter: @DrFinchDVUSD
--Follow the District on Twitter: @DVUSD and Tag @DVUSD in your tweet for a retweet!

DVUSD COMEBACK KID!



Jordan Stanford as a young child, a DVHS Graduate, and now as a Music/Band/Choir Teacher at New River.

Jordan Stanford attended Mirage Elementary from Preschool through 6th grade, Desert Sky Middle School from 7th through 8th grade, and Deer Valley High School from 9th through 12th grade. He began teaching at Bellair in August 2015 and has taught at New River since August 2016.

What is your best memory as a student or as a staff member of DVUSD?

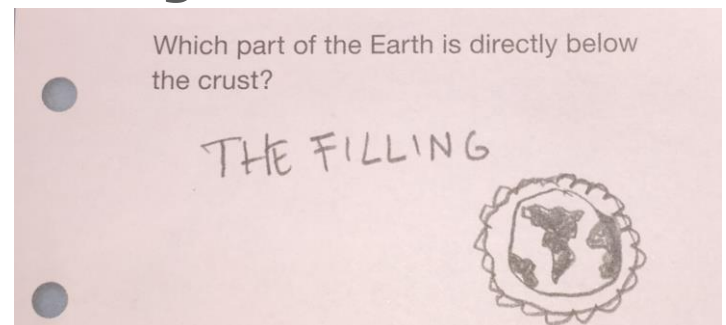
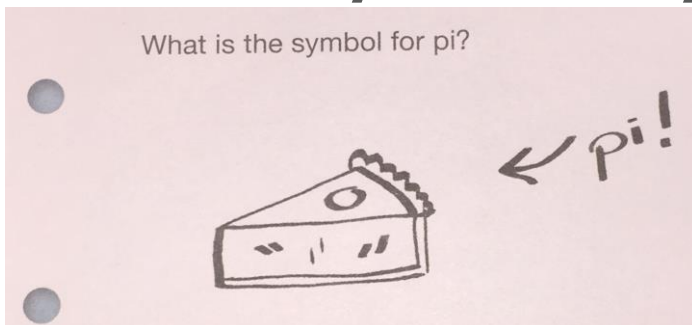
My best memory was as a student when my Jazz band in high school performed at the prestigious Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. We were selected to perform out of MANY applicants from around the country. It was only a few days before Christmas in December of 2006, and I was a junior in high school. David Duarte, who is now our District Fine Arts and PE Specialist, was actually my band director at the time. I cannot thank him enough for providing us the opportunity to be part of something so special. It was the performance and trip of a lifetime that I will never forget.

Why did you return to work at DVUSD after attending school in the District?

I returned to work in DVUSD because I wanted to teach in the same school district as my wife. I also knew that DVUSD had a strong reputation with its Fine Arts, as well as its academic expectations with the students.

⇒ Are you a comeback kid? Click on the link below to tell us about your experience, and we may feature you in an upcoming Deer Valley Voice! <https://dvusd.wufoo.com/forms/r1a7d3f10xhbclm/>

The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers!



Happy Pi Day -- celebrated on March 14 (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter " π ") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159.



@dvusd



/DVUSD

FREE Lunch for Teachers!



Papa John's would like to help you recognize the hard work and dedication of our teachers by offering them a pizza party!

Here is how to get your Teachers FREE Lunch:

We will provide lunch for your entire staff, if you sign up for at least two "School Nights" before the end of the school year.

"School Nights" Are one of the most successful fundraisers we offer. They provide your school with 20% of the sales brought in. We would provide all flyers for you to distribute as well as a pdf for you to promote digitally. We will also give you stickers to pass out to the students on your fundraising day & have Mr. Slice (our mascot) there at dismissal. The class that receives the most orders will win a pizza party!

Orders can be placed online or over the phone, for Carry out or Delivery. Customers can use ANY special that they would like. Parents, teachers, friends and family will only need to provide the bottom portion of the flier to their delivery driver or the team member at the register if they pick up.

We want to start building a long term partnership with you and your staff, we also offer discount cards for teachers and reward cards for students!

Are you ready to sign up and get FREE Pizza for your Teachers???

Please provide us with the following:

- School Name for Flyer
- Date for Fundraisers
- How Many Students (for your flier count):
 - Can Mr. Slice (our mascot) wave to kids at dismissal ?
If Yes, what time is dismissal?
- Date and time of delivery for your teachers and staff. Please include total number of staff we will be serving.

**Questions? Contact Jessi 480-862-4061 or
e-mail: JRutledge@RoundRockAz.com**



JANUARY 19, 2018



#EXTRAORDINARY RIBBON-CUTTING

DVUSD preschoolers helped cut the ribbon on a new outdoor classroom at Copper Creek Elementary School last week. The space has a garden, stage, and benches to promote learning outdoors! The project was spear-headed by Pre-Kindergarten Lead Instructor Kelly Simmons. She said, “Our outdoor classroom connects the school to the neighborhood and the world at large. Young children are multi-sensory learners. By preserving a child's innate sense of curiosity and wonder, we will foster life-long learners.”



IN THIS EDITION

- [DV Grounds Dept. Goes GREEN!](#)
- [OPEN: Budget Priorities Survey](#)
- [Dr. Finch's New Year's Message](#)
- [The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers](#)

⇒ Did you Know... Your Emails are a Public Record?

Any person may request to view or receive copies of the District's public records. *Public record* means any recorded information that is made, maintained, or kept by, or is in the possession of the District. Records include things like minutes of Governing Board meetings, financial records, and emails sent and received by DVUSD employees. When emails are requested, they are retrieved from the District server. Emails are reviewed and redacted of any personal, confidential, and/or student-protected information.

DV GROUNDS DEPARTMENT GOES GREEN



The DVUSD Grounds Department has completed a training class with the City of Phoenix for the “Certified Clean Green Training Program.” Approximately a year ago, The City of Phoenix approached Michele Cohen and Mike Lee, two grounds employees, about getting certified in the Going Green Program. This program is a way to assist companies in saving money and keeping recycle materials out of the landfill.

The City of Phoenix is committed to reaching a 40% diversion rate of recyclable material by 2020. Americans generate about 180 million tons of garbage each year of which 32 million tons is recyclable yard waste. The recyclable material is reused for organic compost and/or mulch. Recycle material consists of grass clippings, leaves, cactus, plant trimmings, branches or limbs less than four feet in length and 24 inches in diameter. Non-recyclable consists of trash, dirt, rocks, food waste, glass, metal, etc. Going Green helps the environment and will also extend the life of our landfill by conserving precious landfill space.

The city currently charges \$28.00/ton for recyclable loads compared to non-recyclable loads at a cost of \$38.25/ton. The DV Grounds Team met after the class and developed a plan on ways to Go Green. The cost in savings to the district is \$10.25/ton. The team felt this was worth the extra effort. Implementation began in December and the two initial weeks showed a savings of \$265.00.

Congratulations to the DVUSD Grounds Department for their certification in the “Certified Clean Green Training Program.”



Thank you for reading the Deer Valley Voice!
To make comments or ask questions,
email monica.allread@dvusd.org



The Deer Valley Unified School District is seeking input on **budget priorities for the 2018-19 school year**. Please take this very brief survey to rank budget priority options (There are seven options that need to be ranked). The survey will be available through **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**. Your input is very much appreciated to help us target our limited resources to our greatest needs.

Here is the survey link:

<https://url.dvusd.org/97991a70>

HOW ARE WE DOING ACADEMICALLY?

Students in grades 3-12 completed the Fall reading benchmark assessments in November. These benchmark assessments help teachers determine students' progress toward meeting proficiency of the grade level standards in English Language Arts. Here is a summary of the results:

- Grade 3: 23.1% proficient (increase of 9.8 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 4: 37.9% proficient (decrease of 10.6 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 5: 37.1% proficient (increase of 2.7 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 6: 44.0% proficient (no change)
- Grade 7: 39.5% proficient (decrease of 6.9 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 8: 43.2% proficient (decrease of 5.7 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 9: 57.8% proficient (increase of 7.7 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 10: 42.0% proficient (decrease of 8.1 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 11: 41.0% proficient (decrease of 6.8 percentage points from last year)
- Grade 12: 32.7% proficient (increase of 3.7 percentage points from last year)

Every grade level had a reduction in students at the minimally proficient level and four grade levels (5, 6, 7, and 9) had more than 5% of the students at the highly proficient level.

KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW NIGHT



Join us for Kindergarten Preview Night!

Thursday, February 1, 2018

5:30 - 7 p.m. at all DVUSD K-6 and K-8 schools



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

www.dvUSD.org
www.facebook.com/dvUSD

SUCCESS STARTS EARLY.

SPRING 2018 CANVAS TRAININGS



canvas
BY INSTRUCTURE

DVUSD is offering the following training sessions for all K-12 teachers and administrators in DVUSD who want to learn about and receive support using Canvas,

the district adopted Learning Management System (LMS).

- 1/23 - **Adding Rich Media** (videos & more)
- 2/05 - **Coffee Shop** (self-paced work time with support available)
- 2/15 - **Inspired Design & Visual Elements** (course design & enhancements)
- 3/15 - **Best Kept Secrets** (become a power user of Canvas)

Each training session is in the IS&T Training Lab from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM with an optional lab time until 7:00 PM. Participants earn professional development hours for participation. [Register today on My Learning Plan](#)

Additional Learning Opportunities:

- *Explore DVUSD's Canvas Tips for Staff - <https://dvUSD.instructure.com/enroll/39E7M9>*
- *Click "Help" in Canvas to access the Canvas guides or start a Live Chat with Canvas support.*
- *Call the Canvas support hotline: 866-681-4377*

For more information, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

CALENDAR CORNER

- **January 23** – Regular Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Room. Within 24 hours of a meeting [Click here to view Agenda](#)
- **January** – School Board Recognition Month
- **February 5 – 9** – National School Counselors Week
- **February 7** – Professional Development Day – No school for students
- **February** – Black History Month & CTE Month

BOARD MEETING TIME CHANGE

Governing Board Awards & Recognitions now begin at 6:30 p.m. Student presentations will follow, and the regular Governing Board Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

ASSESSMENT WORK TEAM

The Assessment WorkTeam is comprised of teachers, campus administrators, district administrators, curriculum specialists, and data analysts. They are poised with the charge of improving and streamlining grade level and content specific assessments for the purpose of implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum, creating instructional consistency across classrooms and campuses, focusing on the effective measurement of what is determined to be valuable or important learning, and providing teachers with data to monitor teaching and learning. The work team continuously strives to communicate with stakeholders regarding the assessments we use and why we use them. In addition, the guiding principles for this WorkTeam is the DVUSD philosophy that assessment provides the systematic collection of data about student learning based on standards, and the use of that data to create a continuous cycle of improved teaching and learning.

VISTA PEAK CLOTHING BANK

Vista Peak is proud to announce that we now have a clothing bank that will be open to all DVUSD families in need. You may share this information with any students and/or families that are in need of clothing. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM DR. FINCH



Happy New Year! It's that time of year when many of us make New Year's resolutions. I never make New Year's resolutions, and here's why...

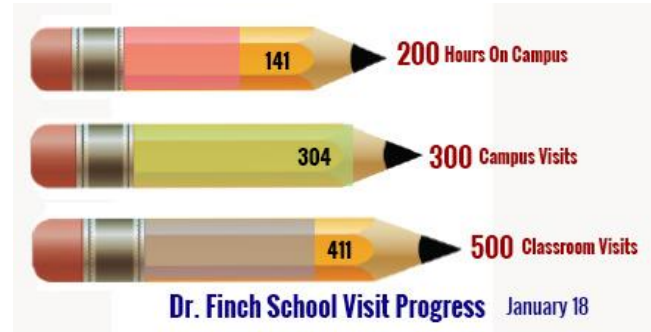
I believe we should stay focused on continuous improvement every day, every week, and every month of the year. If you want to be a better person, achieve something new, or finally accomplish a long-term project – stay focused on it every day. Chip away bit by bit, a little bit every day, and you will see awesome results!

If making New Year's resolutions gives you a little boost to move forward, then do it. Just make sure you're renewing your enthusiasm for your goals every day.

That's how we achieve success here in Deer Valley! Have a happy and #extraordinary 2018!

DR. FINCH – #500 CLUB UPDATE

Dr. Finch spends a lot of time visiting campuses and classrooms. His goal is to make 500 classroom visits across the District during this school year. See the graphic below to view his progress – He has less than 100 classroom visits to achieve his goal!



TWITTER INFO

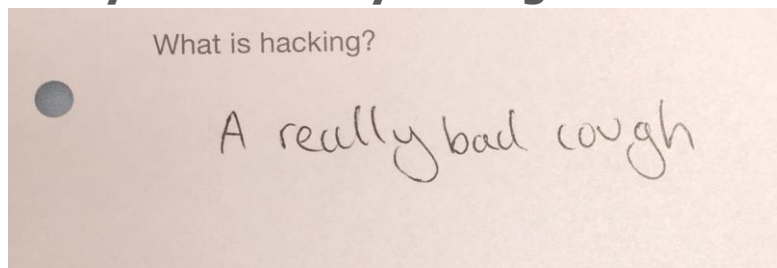
- ⇒ To follow Dr. Finch on Twitter: @DrFinchDVUSD
- ⇒ To follow the District on Twitter: @DVUSD

SUBMIT YOUR GOOD NEWS NOW!

- ⇒ How can your students, staff, and colleagues be recognized for their good work?

Submit your good news, awards, grants, recognitions, honors, etc. from the link under Quick Find on the Portal homepage or by clicking this link for [Submit Good News](#).

The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers!



@dvusd



/DVUSD

SPRING 2018 CANVAS TRAINING



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

Each training session is in the IS&T Training Lab from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM with an optional lab time until 7:00 PM.

Participants earn professional development hours for participation. Register on My Learning Plan.

These training sessions are for all K-12 teachers and administrators in DVUSD who want to learn about and receive support using Canvas, the district adopted Learning Management System (LMS).

ADDING RICH MEDIA

*Designed for the INTERMEDIATE user.
[Presented by: Cindy Garraway, DVUSD teacher]*

Liven up your Canvas courses with media. Create videos using external tools (ie. Screencast-o-matic and Jing) as well as with the built-in audio/video recording features of Canvas. In addition, you will learn how to upload videos to YouTube and embed them into Canvas.



COFFEE SHOP

*Designed for the BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE user.
[Presented by: Erika Hopson & Candice Roa, DVUSD teachers]*

Set aside the time to work in your Canvas course(s) as a teacher / designer to create content pages, add resources, setup assignments and make discussion areas. This self-paced session allows teachers and administrators to work at your own speed with facilitators present to answer questions and help advance your skills.

INSPIRED DESIGN & VISUAL ELEMENTS

*Designed for the INTERMEDIATE user.
[Presented by: Chris Pondy, DVUSD teacher]*

Explore various approaches to course design and use of visual elements in Canvas. You will gain valuable skills in designing Canvas courses that seamlessly move kids through the Essential Learning Outcomes, Modules, Assignments, and Quizzes. Exemplar courses will be examined, design tips will be shared, and work time will be provided.



BEST KEPT SECRETS

*Designed for the INTERMEDIATE user.
[Presented by: Lissa Borchers, DVUSD teacher]*

Find out some of the "best kept secrets" in Canvas. We will work within Canvas courses as teachers / designers to explore some of Canvas' best kept secrets like how to integrate apps, use keyboard shortcuts, create question banks, re-use rubrics, sort in SpeedGrader, and much more!

BEGINNER = User has little or no experience with Canvas as a teacher.

INTERMEDIATE = User has published a Canvas course with content as a teacher / designer.

MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Explore DVUSD's Canvas Tips for Staff - <https://dvusd.instructure.com/enroll/39E7M9>
Click "Help" in Canvas to access the Canvas guides or start a Live Chat with Canvas support.
Call the Canvas support hotline: 866-681-4377



canvas
BY INSTRUCTURE

Vista Peak Clothing Bank

NEED CLOTHING?

If you are in need of clothing, Vista Peak School has clothes for adults and children of all sizes. Our clothing bank is open to all DVUSD families. If you would like to shop the clothing bank please contact Jessica Fisher to schedule an appointment. If you have clothes to donate please do not hesitate to give back and assist someone else.

CONTACT INFO

Jessica Fisher, LCSW

School Social Worker

(623) 445-3996

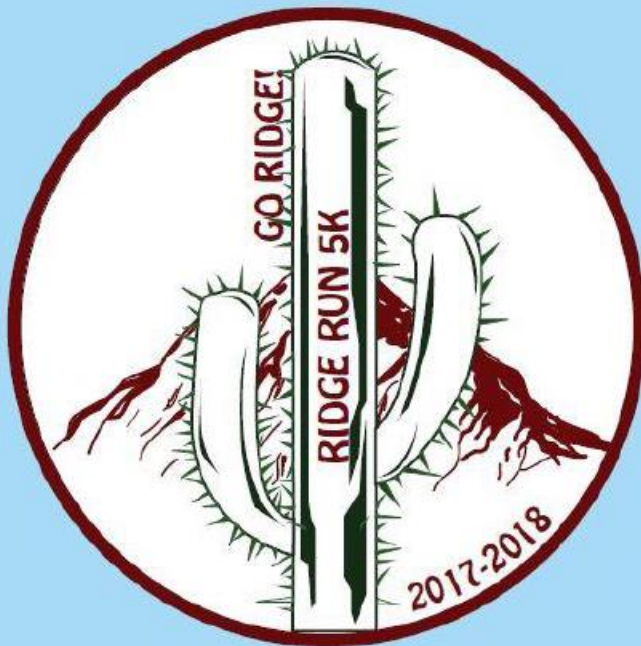
jessica.fisher@dvusd.org

Location

Vista Peak School, 19825 N. 15th Ave. Phoenix 85027

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

Note: We do **not** accept donations of undergarments (bras, underwear, swimsuits, etc.) unless they are still in new packaging for hygiene purposes.



RIDGE RUN 5K

WHEN: FEBRUARY 10, 2018 AT 8 AM

WHERE: MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

COST: \$30 (PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A SHIRT)

Proceeds from this event will go to our 23 sports and activities. Please support the athletic department and celebrate our community by taking part in this event.

Help us spread the word by sharing the link with friends and family.

<https://www.active.com/glendale-az/running/distance-running-races/ridge-run-5km-2018>