



DESERT HILLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

HAWK UPDATE

What's Happening

Principal's Note

Students at Desert Hills are working hard to master core skills like reading, writing, math, science, listening, critical thinking and reasoning. This spring, students will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math, the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) for Science, and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for Reading and Math.

These test scores provide us with an important opportunity to check on student progress and are also used to place students in appropriate classes. Sixth and seventh graders will take English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests while eighth graders will take ELA, Mathematics and Science tests. All of these tests will be administered using our four computer labs and three portable computer stations.

SBA and MAP testing in ELA will take place in ELA classes. SBA and MAP testing in Math will take place in Math classes. The MSP Science testing will take place in 8th grade Science classes. All testing will take place between April 23rd and May 22nd. Even though we will be doing these tests over a five week period, your child will only be going to the computer lab a couple of times to take the tests. Each test will be about 60 minutes in duration.

The MSP, MAP and the SBA ask your child to read, write, listen, think and solve problems – skills your child needs to be successful in the 21st century. However, these tests are just three tools to check your child’s progress toward state learning goals. Classroom grades, assignments and teacher conferences will continue to be good sources of information.

Please make sure your child gets enough rest and has a good breakfast prior to each of his/her testing dates. Your child’s ELA, Math and Science teachers have a schedule of when your child will be going to the computer lab for testing. If your child is unsure of the day, please e-mail his/her teacher for the information.

Mr. Schuldheisz and Mrs. Sievers, our counselors, will help students finish incomplete tests and make up tests that were missed due to being absent. We will do our best to make sure students do not miss any of their other classes.

It would be appreciated if appointments could be avoided during your child’s test dates. At Desert Hills we appreciate all you do to help your child and our school achieve great things. Thank you for making learning a priority in your home.

Steve Jones, Principal

Dress Code

As the weather warms, please remember that a student’s dress or appearance cannot cause a disruption at school. Clothing must be modest and without unnecessary exposure. For example:

- Undergarments must be completely covered.
- Shirt necklines must dip no lower in the front than even with the underarm.
- Tank tops must have straps that are at least as wide as two fingers and arm holes no lower than mid-bicep.
- Dresses, shorts, skirts, and rips in jeans must be modest. Modesty is determined by administrators and teachers – the standard we expect is that when students have their hands at their sides, the dresses, shorts, skirts, and rips in jeans should be at least fingertip length or lower.

Students will be required to fix their clothing “malfunctions”, which might include having parents come with other clothing. More information can be found in your student's planner.

PTO

DHMS 8th grade students and parents would like to say THANK YOU to our PTO for planning and organizing a wonderful breakfast for Honors Students. Also thank you to those parents who brought items.

The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, April 10th at 12:30 pm in the conference room behind the office. All are welcome!

Teacher Appreciation week is coming up in early May. Volunteers will be needed! You will see a Sign-up request later in April. Please consider helping out!

WAY TO GO PE CLASSES!

Mr. Rose (pictured here), Mrs. Blizard, Mr. Owen, and Mrs. Crawford were very excited with the generous donations for *My Friend's Place*.



Important Dates

Week of April 9

Music flower bulbs delivery:

Tuesday, April 10

- 12:30 pm PTO meets
- Lunches - Natural Helpers Meeting

Wednesday, April 11

- SLAM
- 1:10 pm Early Release

Monday, April 16

2:40-4:00 pm Drama Club meets

Wednesday, April 18

- 1:10 pm Early Release
- 1:15-1:45 pm ASB meeting in the Library

April 23-27, MAP TESTING

All ELA and Math Classes

:

Tuesday, April 24

2:40-3:40 Math Club in the Library

Wednesday, April 25

- Secretary's Day!
- 1:10 pm Early Release

April 30-May 22, SBAC TESTING

ELA and Math Classes

April 23 and 24, SBAC TESTING

Science Classes

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