Dear Students and Families,

STEM education is a critical component in what we do here at Mountain View School. STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications. At Mountain View School, we understand that the Arts is an important component in students’ education so we added the “A” in STEM to make STEAM.

**STEAM Vision:**
To be a model for STEAM Literacy and skills in preparing our future Dysart graduates in their pursuit of STEAM careers, a future workforce, and higher levels of education.

**STEAM Mission:**
To create a sustainable impact on the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics education at Mountain View School.

**STEAM Purpose:**
To use critical thinking skills through the Engineering Process and Design Thinking principles to solve real world problems.

What separates STEAM from the traditional science and math education is the blended learning environment and showing students how the scientific method can be applied to everyday life. It teaches students computational thinking and focuses on the real world applications of problem solving. It is critical to begin STEAM education at a very young age. At the Elementary level, STEAM education focuses on the introductory level STEAM courses, as well as awareness of the STEM fields and occupations. This initial step provides standards-based, structured, inquiry-based, and real world problem-based learning, connecting all five of the STEAM subjects. The goal is to pique students’ interest into them wanting to pursue the courses, not because they have to. There is also an emphasis placed on bridging in-school and out-of-school STEAM learning opportunities.

We have many innovative learning opportunities for all of our students. Please refer to the list of before and after school activities. We have two STEAM Family Nights and two STEAM Days scheduled for this year. Our three student Chief Science Officers will be working with different grade levels on several STEAM challenges. If you would like to volunteer or support in our STEAM initiative, contact your child’s teacher.

With Gratitude,
Mrs. Miller  Mrs. Wolford
Principal, M.Ed  Assistant Principal, M.Ed

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**Upcoming Dates**
- 9/3 - Labor Day - No School
- 9/5 - Informational meeting - News Crew with Mrs. Rodriguez 8:20am
- 9/5 - Mrs. Watts’ clay activity starts 4pm
- 9/12 - Governing Board Mtg, 6pm @ District Office
- 9/13 - School Picture Day!
- 9/18 - PTA General Meeting 4:15pm
- 9/26 - Governing Board Mtg, 6pm @ District Office
- 9/28 - No school for staff development day

Call the Attendance Line if your child will be tardy or absent!
623-876-7453
Available 24/7

**Student Arrival Reminders**
Please remember:
- **Students are not allowed to be on campus before 8:40** unless they are scheduled to be here. There is NO supervision before this time!
- Please remind students not to ride their bikes, scooters or skateboards on school grounds. Advise students not to throw, toss, or bounce balls before or after school in the front of the building. This can be a danger as other students and families are close by. As stated in the Dysart Student Parent Handbook on page 7, bikes, scooters and skateboards must be walked in crosswalks and once on school grounds.

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The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the executive director for human resources at (623) 876-7000.
On August 17, 2018 Mountain View School had the privilege of hosting software engineer expert Ken Safsten for a day of reverse engineering. In our Makerspace, 6th graders were able to dive into the inner workings of both computers and laptops by dissecting their hard drives, and learning how computer brains work from the inside out. The students wrote thank you letters, and the 6th grade team would welcome more families to help connect academics to real-world experiences for the students’ future. ~ Mrs. Rose, Ms. Abney, Ms. Larson, Ms. Scott
SCHOOL NEWS
MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL

18302 W. Burton Ave., Waddell, AZ 85355 • Phone: 623.876.7450 • www.dysart.org/mountainview
facebook.com/MtnViewSchool
Did you know that we have a wide variety of activities that students can sign up for here at MVS? Here are some of the amazing opportunities our staff are providing this year:

**National Junior Honor Society** - Mrs. Perry sponsors NJHS for students in 7th and 8th grade. NJHS focuses on acts of service within our school and neighborhood community. Student members exhibit the 7 pillars of character, uphold high standards for academics, and are examples of leadership on our campus. Students must be nominated by a teacher annually to join.

**Student Council** - Ms. Khashayar and Mrs. Rodriguez sponsor Student Council, which meets before school on the first Tuesday of each month. Students in grades 5 through 8 are elected to Student Council by their peers and they work together to manage the Student Activities funds and plan activities for the MVS student body.

**Yearbook** - Ms. Featherstone leads the Yearbook team, which will start meeting after fall break for students in grades 5-8. The student editors will learn the process of putting together a school yearbook, including photography, layout, and design.

**News Crew** - Mrs. Rodriguez leads the News Crew for students in grades 5-8 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8-8:40 a.m. Students learn how to use online video editing tools to create the daily morning announcements.

**Geo Team** - Mr. Roberts leads the Geo Team for students in grades 4-8, on Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. The Geography team is designed to help students gain knowledge of the world around them. Students will play trivia, explore unique countries and places. Each year, the students compete in a school Geography Bee. The winners can compete at the District level, and can go on to compete at the state or national level in the National Geographic GeoBee. This is a great opportunity to learn geography in a fun way!
Extracurricular Activities at Mountain View

**Junior High Choir** - Ms. Featherstone leads the Junior High Choir for grades 6-8 every Wednesday from 7:45-8:40 a.m. Junior High students learn to sing as an ensemble. Right now, they are working on music for the Dysart District Festival of Choirs on Saturday, October 6th - concert at 4pm at Valley Vista Performing Arts Center.

**Elementary Choir** - Ms. Featherstone leads the Elementary choir every Wednesday from 4-5pm for grades 3-5. Elementary students learn to sign as an ensemble as well, and are preparing to sing at 11am on October 6th at the Dysart District Festival of Choirs.

**Clay Crew** - Mrs. Watts is leading the Clay Crew on Wednesdays from 4-5 pm for 6th-8th grade students. They will work with polymer clay to create miniature figures. Each will have a different theme, which students will vote on during the first class.

**Lion Cub Spirit Squad** - Ms. Scott and Ms. Watts are leading the Lion Cub Spirit Squad, which is a school spirit group for students in grades K-4 on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m. The Lion Cubs will spread school spirit in support of extracurricular activities, PTA events, and community outreach programs. Students will create cheers, chants, and posters that advertise and promote Mountain Lion Pride within the school.

**MVS Spirit Squad** - Ms. Scott and Ms. Watts are also leading the MVS Spirit Squad on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. for students in grades 5-8. Students will have a leadership opportunity by facilitating, role modeling, and mentoring the Lion Cubs. They will assist in creating cheers, chants, dances, and stunts.

**Middle School Sports** - students in 7th and 8th grade can try out for middle school sports. The first season is Baseball and Softball, which runs from August to the beginning of October. Second season is boys' and girls' Soccer, which runs from October through December. The third season is boys' and girls' Basketball and the first session of Cheer, which runs from mid-December to the end of February. Finally, the last season has girls' Volleyball, Flag Football, and the final session of Cheer, which runs from March through May.
STEAM Extracurricular Activities at Mountain View

Little Learners Lab - Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. De La Cruz are leading the Little Learners Lab for students in grades 1-2 twice a month on Thursdays. From 4-5 p.m. This is a STEAM activity.

Science Olympiad - Mrs. Strahota leads Science Olympiad for students in grades 7-8 on Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. Science Olympiad is a national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math program that allows students to apply what they know in a competitive setting. It allows students to explore the world of science and its many branches, as well as careers related to science and engineering, giving them opportunities to compete in these areas against middle schoolers from across the state of Arizona.

Keva Planks Activity Team - Ms. Plonski leads the Keva Team for students in all grades on Wednesdays (7:40-8:40 for K-4, 4-5pm for grades 5-8). The Keva Team allows students to develop an Engineering Program on campus that incorporates the Engineering Design Process, Design Thinking principles, and STEAM elements through engineering and architecture. The program will provide learning opportunities for students that will create an interest in architectural design and engineering through the use of KEVA planks, which will lead into our high school programs and on into higher education or career fields.

SkillsUSA - Mrs. O’Donnell and Mrs. Lopez are leading the new SkillsUSA team for grades 7-8, tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays from 4-5 pm. This is a brand new middle school level Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) focused on student, chapter, and community development. This will be accomplished through leadership activities and practices, community service projects, promotional and fundraising activities, and competitive events at the regional, state, and possibly national level. The goal is to prepare students for high school CTE programs through career exploration and exposure to professional settings and competitions.
More STEAM Activities at Mountain View

For all programs on this page, see Mrs. Miller in 8th grade for more information!

**Chief Science Officers & Lions Den STEAM Leadership Program** - Students apply for STEAM Leadership roles and work as student leaders on campus supporting their peers, classroom teachers, and campus in supporting our STEAM initiative at MVS. These students are trained to be technology and STEAM gurus, and help teach mini lessons on various skills, including the engineering design process, design thinking, and technology problem solving. There is no limit to the collaborative work these student leaders are able to learn as we explore and develop leadership skills.

**Coding Lab** - Chief Science Officer Zachary will be facilitating the Coding Like a Programmer lab with 5th-8th grade students interested in programming at a higher level. He will be working with a variety of programming software in his morning session. This lab will be hosted on Wednesday mornings this quarter, and then will move to Thursday afternoons. There will be a schedule in the Google classroom.

**Engineering by Design** - Chief Science Officer Michael will be facilitating this program, which focuses on problem-solving real world problems for the community aligned to our project grant for Keva Planks and GCU Shark Tank challenge. Students will use architectural and engineering design principles to identify and solve a problem identified by our learning community here at MVS to support our school and/or community. They will work to find a viable solution to the identified problem and prototype that will be taken to the GCU Shark Tank for review. We need hard working engineers to join us on Wednesdays with Mrs. Plonski and Thursdays every other week to engineer our solutions.

**STEAMinstrations Lab** - Chief Science Officer Rylie is facilitating this program, where students will use the scientific method as they participate in STEMinstrations involving skills in the area of chemistry, engineering design process, and experimentation. This will be an engaging program for those science minded students who want to do experiments and see what happens. Meetings will take place every other week.

**Makers & Shakers** - Lion Leader Colin will be helping to lead this group, where students will take part in modules to learn how to create their own Virtual Reality platforms, games in gamification, and/or robotics development with VEX robots. Students will learn skills needed to build their own online platforms, apps, and games. VEX robotics are a great tool for advanced builders to learn more about programming and building amazing robots. Students will be able to participate in robotic challenges and competitions, as well!
Fall Picture Day
Fall picture day is Thursday, September 13th! Order forms will be sent home the first week of September, or you can preorder online directly from Grads Photography.

Photo ID Required for Pickup
Reminder: a current photo ID is required to pick up a student, visit a classroom, or to volunteer. Please always have a photo ID with you when you come to our campus. A Dysart Volunteer badge is acceptable as your photo ID even if you are not volunteering. Please remind all emergency contacts to have their photo ID if they are picking up your child from Mountain View.

Privacy Issues
The front office often deals with issues involving the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). We are respectfully asking that parents limit their time waiting in the front office area to 5 to 10 minutes during school hours so that the privacy of other parents and students is not violated. We appreciate your help in this.

No Dogs on Campus
Please remember that no dogs are permitted on campus, for the safety of our students. Thank you for your cooperation!

PTA Corner
9/18 - PTA general meeting @ 4:15pm in the iExplore Lab
Members' Only Bingo Night! Come on September 7th from 6:30-8 for a special event for PTA members. Not a member yet? That's okay - you can sign up for membership at the event!

Pieology Restaurant night on September 18th, 4-9 p.m.
Are you ready for awesome books? If not, you have a month to prepare. The Scholastic Book Fair will be on campus October 8th-12th! Stay tuned for more information!

Contact the PTA at MountainViewSchoolPTA@gmail.com

Parent Portal
We highly encourage all parents and guardians to create their parent portal account now. Once created, you will have access to your child's attendance record, current grades, and links to pay online for field trips, athletics, etc. Each parent can have their own account and can see all of their children from one account. You will need one of your student's ID numbers to sign up. You can find this on the census verification form that will go home, or you may contact the front office.

Office Reminders
If you come to eat lunch with your child, please follow all cafeteria rules - sit at the family table and follow any rules as explained by the Cafeteria staff and School Aides. Thank you!

Please remember that the office is not permitted to call a student down to wait for a parent/guardian in the office prior to the adult's arrival on campus. The parent/guardian must be present, and the office staff must check your identification. This is for the safety of all students. Thank you for your cooperation!

Our office is latex free! Please do not bring latex balloons to campus!

Contacting Teachers
If you need to contact your child's teacher, you can find their email on the “Teacher Pages” portion of the Mountain View website. You may also call the front office to be transferred to their classroom before or after school. Once students begin arriving at 8:40 a.m., all phone calls will be transferred to the teacher's voicemail. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher, please make an appointment beforehand. Thank you.

Stay Connected - Visit our website! Follow us on facebook!