Dear Students and Families,

Under Dr. Kellis’ leadership, each school in the Dysart Unified School District has been creating their own unique Signature Focus. We are excited to announce that Mountain’s View Signature Focus is S.T.E.A.M. Through Life!

Mountain View is committed to engaging students in the literacy and skills of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics in everything that we do. We are an AdvancED S.T.E.A.M. certified school!

In all content areas, students learn to use the Engineering Design Process to solve real-world problems, design and evaluate their solutions. All of our students apply the content skills they have mastered in class to solve new challenges that arise from a rapidly changing world. Our students are taught to be creators, collaborators, communicators, and critical thinkers.

Through our S.T.E.A.M. Through Life focus, MVS allows students to explore STEAM through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area of Engineering, Digital Communications, and Business & Marketing. Through partnerships with Shadow Ridge High School’s CTE department, students will be able to explore career pathways at the Elementary, Middle, and High school levels, as well as at the collegiate level.

Students have a variety of opportunities to showcase their work: STEAM Community Nights, Shark Tank Competitions, Robotic Competitions, Science Olympiad, State Competitions, District and School level activities. Most importantly, students and staff build STEAM partnerships to enhance their learning and product productivity.

We love helping our students explore where STEAM can take them in life. We look forward to seeing all of our families at our first STEAM night of the year on September 26th! Come see STEAM in action from 5p.m. to 7p.m!

With Gratitude,
Mrs. Miller
Principal, M.Ed

Mrs. Miles
Assistant Principal, M.Ed

Upcoming Dates
9/2 - Labor Day - No School
9/3 - Cross Country practices start 7:30 am
9/11 - Governing Board Meeting, 6pm @ District Office
9/12 - School Picture Day!
9/19 - 6th Grade Field trip at Chase Field
9/25 - Governing Board Meeting, 6pm @ District Office
9/26 - STEAM Night at MVS, 5-7pm

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.
Arizona Tax Credit Contributions

Did you know that many of the extra-curricular activities MVS holds for our students are paid for entirely through Arizona Tax Credit donations? Our sports teams, fine arts programs, tutoring, and STEAM activities are possible only through the tax-credit donations of community members.

What types of things are Tax Credit funds used for?
Great question! Tax credit money can be used to pay for:
• Stipends for teachers who sponsor extra-curricular activities
• Supplies and equipment for extra-curricular activities
• Registration fees for participation in societies (like National Junior Honor Society), for competitions (Spelling Bee, Geographic Bee), or at conferences
• Athletic uniforms and equipment for middle school sports
• Activities or presentations to reinforce the application of character traits to include PBIS or Character Education programs
• Furniture, technology, and instructional aids

At Mountain View, we have a host of clubs and activities for students to choose from (see the next few pages!), and they all depend on tax credit donations to run each year!

Per Arizona state law, married couples filing joint taxes may donate up to $400 per year; individuals may donate up to $200 per year. This tax credit is available to all who reside in Arizona and have a tax liability at least equal to that of their donation. (Tax credits are not available for businesses.) You can receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. You can select a category to support and 100% of your donation goes to the activity and school of your choice. You do not have to be a parent of a child enrolled at a Dysart school to benefit from this law. Donations may be made through April 15, 2020. These activities fall under four categories:
• 5500- School May Designate
• 5501 - Athletics
• 5502 - Fine Arts
• 5505 - Enrichment

How can I make a Tax Credit contribution?
You can make a tax credit contribution online or you can complete a Tax Credit Contribution Form and you can make your contribution at any Dysart school or you can mail your check and form to the address below:

Dysart Unified School District No. 89
Attn: Tax Credit Program
15802 North Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
Extracurricular Activities at Mountain View

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** - Mrs. Lopez sponsors Student Council for students in grades 5 through 8. Representatives 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 for students in grades 6-8. Yearbook Club is all about making memories last! In this club, students in 6-8th grade take pictures of school events and classroom activities as well as create the annual Yearbook for the year. This is a completely student generated product that is available for purchase by students and families of MVS.

**Geo Team** - Mr. Roberts leads the Geo Team for students in grades 4-8. 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!

**Mathletes** - Mrs. Rose helps lead the Math Challenge team, or Mathletes. Mathlete teams are made up of students who have an innate desire and creative spirit when it comes to mathematics. Teams from schools across the district compete in math facts, problem solving, and a final challenge round to see which team can “math it up” the best! The season starts in late January or early February. The competition event is the first week in May. All meeting dates and times will be determined by the Mathlete coaches closer to the start of the season. More information will come out from classroom teachers and coaches in early January.
STEAM Extracurricular Activities at Mountain View

Little Learning Lab - Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Hines are giving students in 1st and 2nd grade the opportunity to explore STEAM after school. They will offer multiple exploration stations for students to have the freedom to use and create using STEAM items such as Magnetic Putty, brain teasers, various experiments and many more ways to explore! It will be a stress free environment where students are free to explore, design, collaborate, and most importantly have fun!

Science Olympiad - Mrs. Strahota leads Science Olympiad for students in grades 7-8. Science Olympiad is a National Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program that allows Middle School (7th and 8th grade) students to apply what they know in a competitive setting, competing against other students from across the state of Arizona. Our MVS Science Olympiad team meetings will begin September 17th, meeting after school from 4-5 PM every Tuesday in Coach Strahota’s classroom, room 238.

Keva Planks Activity Team - Ms. Plonski leads the Keva Team. In our program we build using Keva Planks. Keva Planks are a center for design thinking and engineering. Students, each week, are given different challenges. Some challenges will be GIANT towers made of almost all of our Keva block collection. While others will be focused on architectural structures that needed to be stable and have symmetry. Students will also be able to create a Keva City, amusement park, or other multi-building construction. Students could build anything they want. After building it, students will need to describe what the structure is and who would visit it, use it, or want it. These challenges and activities inspire deeper thought and meaningful conversation among students. Keva Planks really tap into each child’s unique potential and creativity. The Keva planks are a great exposure to modern architecture and engineering! Who knows... maybe they will inspire future careers!

SkillsUSA - Mrs. O’Donnell and Mrs. Lopez are leading the SkillsUSA team for grades 7-8. This is the second year for the 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.
Extracurricular Activities at Mountain View

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.

Elementary and Junior High Choir - Choir is open to all 3rd - 8th graders who love to sing. We have two choirs - an elementary choir that has 3-5 graders and Jr. High choir that has 6th-8th graders. We sing together and perform in various events such as the Dysart District Festival of Choirs, Dysart Festival of the Arts, and even at the AZ Coyotes Sing for Santa Event.

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 will have a different theme, which students will vote on during the first class.

Putting the A in STEAM Craft Club - Sponsored by Mrs. Watts, this is a student-led crafting club where students will use their creativity to use various items in the Makerspace Room to create themed projects.

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 Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Soccer, which runs from October through December. The third season is boys' Basketball, Girls' Soccer, and the first session of Cheer, which runs from mid-December to the beginning of March. Finally, the last season has girls' Basketball, Flag Football, and the final session of Cheer, which runs from March through May.

Elementary Cross Country - students in grades 3 through 8 can participate in Cross Country. The season began at the beginning of September and students participate in four district-wide meets throughout September and October.
Fall Picture Day
Fall picture day is Thursday, September 12th! Order forms will be sent home the first week of September, or you can preorder online directly from Grads Photography. If you have questions, you can call Grads Photography at 623-580-4723.

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
9/10 - PTA General Meeting and Family Workshop, 6pm
9/23 - Chipotle Family Night, 5pm

The Mountain View PTA has a new website! Check us out online for information about our fundraising and activities!

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.

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.

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