



# Message from the Principal

Welcome to the December installment of our monthly Sundown Mountain Monthly Newsletter! I have finished my first six weeks at Sundown and am happy to be back!

It is our goal to provide our students with rich academic opportunities, to find success and eventually earn their diploma in a supportive, safe and nurturing learning environment. We strive to prepare our graduates to be career, college and life ready once leaving the Dysart Unified School District. Sundown Mountain continues to implement the PBIS program (Positive Behaviors Interventions and Support) as a vehicle to promote positive student academic and behavioral outcomes.

In addition, we emphasize the 3 R's as part of the PBIS program. The 3 R's are Respect, Responsibilities and Readiness. They are the guiding principles that each student and staff member adheres to each and every day.

Sundown Mountain has reestablished partnerships with our four high schools and will work closely with each home school to ensure academic success for each of our students. Our current focuses are on maximizing instructional time. We have asked our students to be here, every day, on time; to focus on their coursework during their assigned class time and to take care of their personal business during passing periods to ensure they are in class, learning!

Again, we look forward to continuing a very positive and successful year here at Sundown Mountain. If I can be of assistance, please reach out! Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Stay safe!

Sincerely, Bobbie Lockhart, Principal



PBIS School

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READINESS

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## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### December 2020

Dec. 18 - Jan. 1

NO SCHOOL— Winter Break

Monday, Dec. 14

Mandatory Monday

Monday, Dec. 7

Orange Monday

# MATH

Mrs. Kiecana

Here we are in December already! Students are super busy in Algebra 4 and Geometry 2. We are working on Logarithmic and Exponential functions in Algebra 4, where students apply a variety of properties along with algebraic manipulations to solve equations. It looked quite intimidating at first, but I am amazed to see how well the students were able to grasp each concept. In Geometry 2, students are applying new formulas in order to find the volume of various shapes. It seems to be a very interesting section for all the students, since we are able to draw each figure to fully understand how much volume it could hold. Some shapes are created out of more than one figure; hence, students combine different formulas to find their total volume.

The last day to submit all late assignments for a grade is Friday, December 11, 2020. We will be reviewing for the finals during the week of December 14th. Final Exams will occur on Thursday, December 17, and Friday, December 18, 2020. This will lead us to the end of Quarter 2 and our Winter Break. Happy Holidays!

Ms. Miller

I can't believe we are already in December! Students in both Algebra 2 and Financial Math 2 are working hard on their classes. Thanksgiving was late this year, so we only have 15 more school days remaining in the quarter.

In Algebra, students are working to understand functions and the quadratic formula. These tend to be areas students really struggle with, so we are doing some extra group work in class to try and help them with their online learning. I am hopeful students will be able to conquer these areas and come out on top with a passing grade.

In Financial Math 2, students are into unit 10, which is on Modeling a Business. We will be interpreting trends, identifying correlation coefficients to see how one bit of data impacts another, look at supply and demand, expenses (both fixed and variable), break even analysis, and profit equations. Students really tend to enjoy this chapter as many of them dream someday to own their own business.

As a reminder- CPR is a requirement for graduation as well. Please make sure that you submit your video to your second hour class. It must be submitted via Schoology.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. England

Civics testing went very well this quarter- although there were a lot of absences. We will continue to offer testing for students each quarter. As a reminder- students need a score of 60% to pass this graduation requirement. Students have had the most success by downloading one of the many free apps available for their smartphones.

As a reminder- CPR is a requirement for graduation as well. Please make sure that you submit your video to your second hour class. It must be submitted via Schoology.

**GOVERNMENT CLASSES:** We have finished 2 of the 3 branches of government so far! We will be learning about the Judicial Branch this quarter as well as examining the role of the Supreme Court and Judicial Review in helping us figure out the "grey areas" in regards to our rights.

**WORLD HISTORY CLASS:** We finish World War I this week and just pretty quickly into World War II. We will be examining genocides throughout History in the upcoming weeks, along with the Cold War and the long-term effects of the Cold War on the modern world.

**REMINDER FOR ALL STUDENTS:** ALL work is being accepted for FULL CREDIT in Schoology. If you do poorly on an assignment- please "review and redo" it for a higher grade.

Mrs. Wilfong's Classroom News

Our economics classes were very busy this month looking at the business cycle, business organizations and finishing the course with the Global Economy.. Students compared sole proprietorships with partnerships, limited liability corporations and corporations. Most businesses in the United States are sole proprietors and they can one day have their own business too.

This was a fun quarter in economics with the Presidential election last month and all the discussion of the election. COVID has been an issue for the last nine months and certainly a topic of discussion in class. We began the Module 7 Civil Rights finding lots of lively discussion on history and current events. This Module so followed by the Modern Era and events of the last 40 years in the USA.

# ENGLISH

## Mrs. Santacasa's English Classes

This month, kids are working on finishing their courses. Whether it is English 4 or English 8, the kids are in the process of learning about Voice.

The English 8 courses will pose as an author during the 1780's trying to fight for women's rights.

English 4 has been working hard on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, which was a difficult read, but the kids hung in there. The kids learned about Victorian era as well as the era of Gothic Literature.

## Mrs. Kuettel

A primary goal for English 6 (Junior English) and English 2 (Freshman English) for December has been to use writing to not only express our opinions, but to challenge us to a deeper level of reflection and understanding by supporting those thoughts with specific evidence from our base of literature.

### Junior English

In English 6, we have explored persuasive techniques in a historical context with "The Declaration of Independence" and in a modern perspective in Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

### Freshman English

In English 2, we have developed a deeper understanding (and appreciation) of poetry. The focus of study has been the Romantic poetry of William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud."

## Mrs. Saeed

All students have been doing an amazing job working diligently throughout this semester. Let's continue to persevere the remaining 3 weeks of the quarter by staying focused on finishing strong!

**Electives-** I am so proud of the many students who have already earned credits by completing one of their required courses for graduation. Keep working hard toward your individual goals by working on your course at home and by monitoring your attendance for 0 period.

**English 8** students have been actively learning about the Art of Persuasion by creating and analyzing elements of argumentation. They have mastered the Logos, Pathos and Ethos strategic approach and are actively engaging by using their critical thinking skills to evaluate effective arguments, speeches and debates. Keep up the good work!

# ELECTIVES

Mrs. Skok

Many students have been working diligently on their elective courses. We have less than 3 weeks left in class. The last day to submit any missing or late work is December 11th. I will only accept the last unit's late work on the 14th and all DBA's should be completed by Dec 15th.

Finals are scheduled for December 15 - 18. Remember, the 17 & 18 are early release days.

In 6-unit or less electives, students should be on the last unit & completing all work by Dec 11th.

In 8-unit electives, students should be completing unit 7 by Dec 4th & unit 8 by December 11th.

In 10-unit electives, students should be working on Units 8 & 9 (the week of Nov 30th) and Unit 10 the week of Dec 7th.

\*\*\*Finals are scheduled for December 15 - 18. Remember, the 17 & 18 are early release days.

In MS Math, students are working on absolute value with number lines, comparing & ordering integers, & adding integers.

# SCIENCE

Mrs. Gorosics

Our second quarter has begun at Sundown. Students will be completing semester 2 for each Science class. Anatomy students will begin with the Cardiovascular System and work inward to the Reproductive System. Labs will be completed for each class with modifications to accommodate Social Distancing.

Zoology students will also be completing labs with modifications. We will begin with a Roundworm and work our way to the Dogfish shark for the final.

All curriculum and assignments can be found in Schoology. If you would like to see what your student is working on each day, there is a calendar in the upper right corner that will have the daily assignment listed.

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*Happy Holidays to all Sundown Mountain Students!*

At this time the end of quarter 2 is quickly approaching and some students will be graduating and moving on to the next phase of life.

Congratulations to the December 2020 graduates. **HARD WORK TRULY PAYS OFF!**

Students who will graduate in December 2020 or hoping to return to your home-school in December, please schedule an appointment with Ms. Jones before winter break.

*To schedule an appointment email Ms. Jones at [tamika.jones@dysart.org](mailto:tamika.jones@dysart.org)*

**December Graduates** please stop my Ms. Jones' office to pick up your graduation check out sheet. All sheets must be signed by your teachers and submitted before December 18, 2020.

- Seniors seeking an official transcript can submit a request under the Dysart Unified School District's web page under the Parchment tab.

- **Seniors: Cap & Gowns**

Please contact your home school regarding cap & gown orders. You can also look on your home-school's webpage to get additional graduation information.

**District Wide Scholarship Link:** <https://www.dysart.org/scholarships/>

**Dysart Graduation Information**

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/default.aspx?pgid=2178>

**Shadow Ridge Graduation Information**

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgid=5278>

**Valley Vista Senior Timeline**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18gdUllWHgy-fKh3JqS2SNej9WeFAZ8E6/view>

**Willow Canyon Graduation Information**

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgid=2192>

## Mrs. Jones

