



Message from the Principal

Welcome to the January installment of our monthly Sundown Mountain Monthly Newsletter and the beginning of the second semester. 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. Last year, Sundown Mountain was able to prepare and graduate over 122 seniors, a number we are proud and strive to replicate for the 2019-20 school year.

In our efforts to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all students, to prepare them to be career ready, we are refining our site goals as a means to this end. Sundown Mountain will be focusing on Personalized Learning, Digital Citizenship, and the Acquisition and Utilization of Resources as our areas of focus.

In keeping with past practice of tapping into community talents and resources, Sundown Mountain is looking for parent and community involvement in supporting and fostering our educational mission. Volunteering is a great and simple way to get involved and make a powerful impact in a student's life and serve the community you reside in. If you have the time, have a special talent or expertise, we would be glad to have you become part of our Sundown Mountain team. Please find additional information regarding volunteering in the Dysart District website or call 623-876-7250.

Again, we look forward continuing a very positive and successful year here at Sundown Mountain.

Sincerely,
Anthony Capuano

PBIS School

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READINESS

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2020

Mondays, Jan. 27

Orange Mondays

Monday, Jan. 6 and 13

Mandatory Mondays

Monday, Jan. 20

No School-MLK D

Jan 6

Beginning of Quarter 3

MATH

Mr. Brook

We just started the second semester and the third quarter of the school year. In Algebra 3, we completed introduction to functions, domain, range and behaviors and characteristics of graph transformations of functions on the first week. We will continue on transformations of functions and inverse functions this week.

In geometry, segment length, midpoints, angle measures, angle bisectors, representing and describing transformations are some of the materials we will cover in the first two weeks. Please, start working hard from the beginning of the quarter, ask questions and take advantage of the academic enrichment program. This will make it a lot easier around the end of the quarter on.

Any questions or concerns, please, feel free to contact me at daniel.brook@dysart.org.

Ms. Miller

Another new year and we are off to a great start in both Algebra and Financial Math. This quarter there will be three Financial Math classes and they will be First, third and fourth hour. Algebra 1 will be taught during second hour. As it was in the first semester, all classes will be online and somewhat self-paced. Students will be given all their materials at the beginning of the course and will be expected to complete it by the end of the third quarter. Students will also receive a suggested self-paced calendar as a guide to finish all coursework on time.

Financial Math 1 will be working on Employment and Budgeting in January. Both of these units will be very beneficial to students in their current world as many are looking for their first job and managing their own money for the first time.

Algebra 1 is working on the Foundations of Algebra and Equations and Inequalities. All students in this class have previously taken Algebra and so this course is more of a credit recovery. Students take a pre-test and have the opportunity to "test-out" of areas they are already proficient in. Students are working hard and I predict they will all be successful with their classes.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at (623) 876-7250 or cathi.miller@dysart.org.

Ms. Kiecana

ELECTIVES

There are a lot of changes to the requirements of all elective courses this quarter. All detailed changes are reflected in the Syllabus, which is required to be signed by all parents prior to starting the course. Please make sure to become familiar with all the new changes.

Students are expected to complete 2 elective courses each quarter. Lessons can be read and notes may be taken in class or at home, if one needs to get caught up. Typed notes are not accepted. Before taking each timed Unit Quiz, students may play the quiz review game.

If you have any questions about the elective courses, please contact Mrs. Kiecana by email at: ewa.kiecana@dysart.org.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. England

Welcome back to our returning students and Welcome to Sundown to our new students!

As a reminder- I do not pass out paper copies of my syllabus. Instead- my syllabus and classroom expectations and pacing guides are all located on my website and on Schoology as well.

A few important points before we get into the Quarter

- We have a quiz every single Friday- based on what we learned that week

- Quizzes may only be retaken with your notes

- Everything we do in class is posted in Schoology

I'm looking forward to an awesome Quarter! Best of Luck!

Mrs. Wilfong's Classroom News

The beginning of another year is exciting and full of anticipation. Economics classes are learning the basics in vocabulary and finding out what the fundamentals of economics consists of. The students Budget Project will be given to the students next week to begin establishing personal budget. This project begins with targeting a career that they wish to explore. What training may be necessary to begin with? Fast forward to getting their own apartments and cars. See what utilities cost, car payment, food and entertainment. Maybe with the unknown explored the students will be more comfortable with their future endeavors.

USAZ 1 , will begin with the American Revolution and developing our new country. Why was the Constitution created and explore the western movement the lead to Manifest Destiny.? We move on to the second revolution with the War of 1812 and those events that lead to this extraordinary experiment in self- government.

SCIENCE

Mrs. Gorosics

The Science classes are off to a great start. All classes have completed the lab safety portion of the class.

Botany and Anatomy classes will begin experimenting and using the microscopes to gather data. Students will be discussing, researching and analyzing information presented in class.

ENGLISH

Mrs. Santacasa

We have started the new quarter, and the beginning of a new year here at Sundown Mountain Alternative Program. I was relatively happy with the progress of the students from the first half of the year. As the students are beginning their new courses, I am pleased in the writing of our new students and their ability to jump in and get started.

There are several students who have taken advantage of the opportunities at Sundown and are in the process of earning their credits back. We are proud of our students and their progress.

English 7 is beginning a unit on Beowulf and the English 3 kids are working on Fall of the House of Usher. Both classes will be reading and analyzing

Mrs. Kuettel

Mrs. Kuettel's classes are off to a great start! The first week of school, students will pretest to demonstrate prior knowledge of the course and provide a benchmark for growth that will take place over the course of the quarter. After that point, we will consider different genres of literature to explore thematic, essential questions.

In English 1, we will begin with expository text that addresses the essential question, "What does it take to survive?" In English 5, we begin our survey of American literature, with historical text that helps us to begin investigating, "What is the meaning of freedom?"

Finally, in English 6, we will examine the 'teaching tools' of literature by considering, "How is literature a snapshot of history?" So, the journey of appreciating and ENJOYING literature and the writing process has begun!

Mrs. Saeed

Welcome Back from your Winter Break!

I would like to welcome the English 7 students to my British Literature Class. I am very excited to begin the semester with you all. We will begin unit 1 learning about the Anglo Saxon influences of that time period and of the famed epic hero Beowulf!

Be sure to stay abreast of your assignments, monitor your progress by checking your grades weekly and communication is the key to your success in my class. I'm looking forward to a spectacular semester with my wonderful students.

Special Education

Mrs. Parish



KEEP
CALM
and
ENJOY 2nd
SEMESTER

Next month I will update you on dates and times for future seminars.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

At this time 3rd has begun and many of you are gearing up for graduation. Be sure to meet with counselor regarding your transcripts and graduation plan. Let's sit down together and look at your classes to make sure you are meeting the graduation requirement that has been put in place by Arizona Department of Education.

If you are planning to graduate May 2020, it's time to buckle down and get to work.

Congratulations those students who graduated December 2019, and those who plan to graduate March 2020. As we can see hard work truly pays off.

Reminder: Sundown Mountain offers zero hour electives for students who doesn't have room in their daily schedule and want to graduate on time. If you are interested in adding zero hour to your schedule, please talk to Ms. Jones.

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

Seniors Reminders: If you have not ordered you cap and gown for the 2020 Commencement Ceremony, now is the time to do so. Seniors who are planning to participate in the May 2020 Commencement Ceremony with your homeschool please contact the homeschool book store for more information.

College Funding

Scholarship Websites:

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

For additional scholarship information please contact Ms. Jones

FASFA: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>

Reminder: Seniors if you need money for college stop by Ms. Jones's office to get FASFA and scholarship information.

Mrs. Jones
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