Message from the Principal

Greetings and welcome to Fall 2021! I hope that this finds you and your family well! 2020 and 2021 have certainly been interesting years!

Sundown Mountain is currently home to 188 students in grades 10th-12th. We have students from all four of our high schools. We also have a middle school program for 7th and 8th graders and currently have two students scheduled here.

It is the expectation that all Sundown Mountain students maintain good standing at all times. To maintain good standing, students must have C's or better in all four classes and have no attendance issues. ARS 18-901 requires that students have no more than 18 total absences per school year. Last year, due to COVID-19, we offered flexibility regarding attendance. This year, with numbers of cases decreasing, we have reiterated that attendance is expected and necessary. When you miss school, you miss out!

Your child/Our student received a complimentary Sundown Mountain t-shirt and water bottle. It is our way of celebrating our students!

I hope that as the holiday season approaches that you and your family stay healthy. Have a great month!

Sincerely,

Bobbie Lockhart, Principal
Mrs. Miller

The school year feels like it is flying by as we approach the midway point of the 2nd quarter. Students are right in the middle of their learning and continue to move forward.

In Financial Math 1 students are learning all about checking and savings account, investments accounts and differentiating between simple interest and compound interest. Coming up, we will be learning about consumer loans: car loans, student loans, credit cards. We will end with learning all there is to know about buying, owning, and maintaining a vehicle.

In Financial Math 2, students are knee deep in stock investments, one of my favorite topics. They are learning how to buy and sell stocks, determine from trends what stocks are good to buy and which ones to stay away from, as well as how to determine the fees when buying and selling stocks. Soon we will move into lifecycle planning as we all know, it’s never too early to start saving for retirement and we will finish up with owning a business.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at cathi.miller@dysart.org

Mrs. Kiecana

Students are continuing to impress me with their work in both - Algebra 3 and Algebra 4 classes! In Algebra 3 we are learning about rational and complex numbers, as well as polynomials. In Algebra 4 students are entering another module, which will introduce them to exponential and logarithmic functions. We are also incorporating the use of many resources, such as an online graphing calculator at desmos.com.

Most of the work is completed in Schoology; however, we do some additional supplemental work in the classroom on paper. If your student is absent, they should complete the listed assignment in Schoology or contact me via email at ewa.kiecana@dysart.org. Parents should also keep track of their student’s grades, which are updated several times throughout the week in Infinite Campus. Keep up the excellent work students!!!

Mrs. Kiecana

Mr. Carvajal

We continue working hard in our current units getting ready for the unit test.

We are learning about transformation in Geometry 2, the basic concept of Geometry in Geometry 1, how to create and solve linear equations in Algebra 1, and working with Polynomials in Algebra 2.

Students can access their courses at home and should be working if they are absent.

If you need to contact me:
angel.carvajal@dysart.org
Mrs. England

**ELECTIVES CLASSES:** By now all students should be approaching the halfway point of their electives class. Make sure you are only doing assignments on the checklist.

**GOVERNMENT CLASSES:** We have completed MODULES 1 & 2. The next module is my favorite! You will be learning about where YOU are on the Political Spectrum. Are you a Democrat or a Republican? And what do those parties believe? Also- the Legislative & Executive branches and all about elections.

**WORLD HISTORY:** We are learning about the Industrial Revolution and Imperialism. This will set the stage for the next Module when we learn about the 20th Century World Wars. We have now entered the modern world!

**ALL CLASSES:** Remember- everything is in Schoology! Remember you can REVIEW & REDO assignments you do poorly on. See me for Module Exams though.

Mrs. Wilfong’s Classroom News

The economics classes are finishing up Module 2 “It’s All About You”. The students have explored career choices, learned about taxes and even completed an income tax return. This module also explains the differences in investment accounts. The students created their own investment plan using the salary from the career investigation. We explored the role of credit in our lives and all the different types of insurance. Our next unit of study included the factors of production moving on into business and entrepreneurship. This is the 4th week of the class and half way to completion.

This first three weeks of US History 2, begins with America entering World War II with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. We will identify how the US mobilized for war in such a short period of time. Japanese internment, race riots, the roles of women are during the war have been discussed and analyzed. The students will critically think about President Truman’s decision to end the war by using nuclear weapons against Japan. Then the Cold War is fought with the Soviet Union by looking at the origins of the tensions that resulted in the Korean and Vietnamese wars that were fought, backed by the US and the communists. The quarter will end with the country in distress with the Watergate Scandal, Carter presidency and our first encounter with Middle Eastern terrorism.
Mrs. Kuettel

A primary goal for English 6 (Junior English) is to use writing to not only express our opinions, but to also challenge us to a deeper level of reflection and understanding by supporting those thoughts with specific evidence. In class, students are concluding work with the essential question, “How do people respond when challenged by fear?” We studied the essay, “Why Soldiers Don’t Talk” by John Steinbeck and Edgar Allan Poe’s short story, “Masque of the Red Death.” Now, we are developing an argumentative essay, quoting evidence from the text to PROVE insights developed through this survey of literature. Taking the extra step to “prove” the value of reading literature as it relates to fear has encouraged students to read and ponder the selections on a deeper level and find areas of relevance to our own trials and “battles,” so to speak. After completing this project, we will switch gears and launch into a different genre of reading that requires as much, if not more, investigation and personal introspection – poetry.

Mrs. Santacasa’s English Classes

Students have returned from Fall Break and we will continue to work for the remaining five weeks until Christmas Break. Currently we are finishing up our first selection and quiz and will be moving onto the second selection to learn about loss and different outcomes based on how you deal with that loss.

Mrs. Saeed

ELECTIVES: 0 period elective students have been doing an amazing job at completing their electives. Let’s keep up the good work! Some students have already earned up to 4 elective credits since August! The goal is for students to complete 1-2 Modules per week. We have had quite a few students who have completed their first elective this quarter.

Reminder: 0 period begins at 8:30am. Please make sure you are on time. Attendance is very important for your academic success. If you are not in school, you can continue to work on the course through schoology at home.

English 7 - Students are diving into Epic Heroism and beginning to read Beowulf. Students are doing an outstanding job on exploring the concepts of Heroism by diving into multiple literary works of the Anglo Saxon time period. They will begin analyzing informational texts to determine its purpose and theme, in addition to synthesizing multiple texts to develop a clear purpose for writing. Students will construct a culminating project that will consist of an argumentative essay and annotation activities.

English 8 - Students have just completed the Poetry units where they explored a plethora of poetic devices and genres! Students will construct a culminating project that will consist of a reflective narrative and annotate various text and genres of literary works. Make sure students are checking their grades in IC and working on their assignments in Schoology. Weekly progress reports are given along with student conferences.

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Mrs. Skok

We have hit the midway point of the quarter for electives. All midterms should be taken by Fri, November 12th. The late work window will be open through Nov 23rd - all work from the first half of the course MUST be submitted by the 23rd for full credit. The second half of the course will have priority after this - each student’s goal is for them to be completed by Dec 10th, with late work (for the second half of the course only) going through to the 15th. Finals will take place from the 15th of Dec to the 17th of Dec. Reminder - Students must submit all assignments and quizzes to earn credit for the course. Any questions, please contact me via email, at tracie.skok@dysart.org.

CPR Graduation Requirements
All students are required to complete CPR for graduation. If you are missing any of the requirements, you will be notified and pulled at A&E time to go over the criteria, take a test, and create a video submission of you demonstrating hands-only cpr on an inanimate object. Please make sure you submit your CPR video to Mrs. Skok in the “Electives with Skok” CPR folder. The credit will be listed there and then transferred to your transcript later this year.

Mrs. Gorosics

The Zoology students are very excited about dissecting this quarter. So far we have dissected an Earthworm. There are many more dissections to come before the end of the quarter!

Anatomy has dissected a heart and has discussed blood typing and the importance of the process. Both Anatomy and Zoology will continue with labs and research for the rest of the quarter.

All assignments and powerpoints have been placed in Schoology. If your student is absent or is missing an assignment please login to Schoology, the calendar has daily assignments for everyone to access. Please be sure to login to the Parent Portal to monitor student progress.
Begin With The End In Mind

Picture what you want your life to look like in five years. Where are you living? What job do you have? Who are you living with? Do you have a car? What kind is it? Draw, write or create a scrapbook. What obstacles are in your way to achieve each of these goals? What action steps will you are going to take to get closer to achieving your objectives? Have fun setting your goals and checking off your steps towards success.

SOURCE

Ms. Bappe

Ms. Aranda

We are now in week four of the quarter. Students have been placed in their classes and have been working to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams. Students can access their course at home and should be working if they are out for an extended period. All courses have a pacing guide that students can download to ensure they are on track. Students should be working on their course for 8-10 hour each week, that means students are working at home as well. You can check your students' grades and progress on the landing page of their course.

I am available for tutoring before and after school. If you have questions please contact me at martha.aranda@dysart.org.
Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.

Brené Brown

Welcome to Quarter 2, I hope all of the new students are transiting well to Sundown Mountain. As we know the quarters here at Sundown move quickly and for some it may be challenging to keep up. However, the good news is we have a great group of teachers who're here to help. Just remember to do your part and the teacher will meet you somewhere in the middle. Our goal is to support and promote student success.

Students’ reminder:
Seniors please remember to look at your home school’s web page. It is very important to keep up with senior meetings while preparing for graduation. As the Counselor of Sundown I will do my best to keep you up to date with dates and deadlines as I receive the information from each homeschool. If at any time you have questions please feel free to come to my office (with teacher permission).

Do you want to graduate on time? Stop by Ms. Jones office to discuss your graduation plan. Many of you need to add elective classes to your schedule to meet your graduation requirements by May 2022. If this is you come to see Ms. Jones to discuss your options.

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

Seniors: Now is the time to start working on College Applications, FASFA, and looking for Scholarships!