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 198 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.

Our students finished the first quarter on Friday, October 1st. We offered a ten-day extension for students who were not able to finish successfully by the quarter deadline. Many students took advantage of this extension and passed their classes.

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
Ms. Miller

Well here we are at the end of quarter one and students are feverishly working to finish their coursework and pass their class. Students have really worked hard this quarter and I hope they can say they have learned valuable lessons on financial responsibility and will apply these concepts throughout their lives.

In Financial Math 1 we learned about Employment, Budgeting, Bank Accounts, Consumer Loans, and Automobile ownership. In Financial Math 2 students learned about Independent Living, Income Taxes, the Stock Market, Lifecycle Planning (Retirement), and finally, Creating your own Business.

Quarter 2 will begin on Monday, Oct 4 for two weeks and then we will head into Fall Break. Please remember, I am available for tutoring in the mornings from 8:30-9:30 and by appointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathi.miller@dysart.org. Excited to dive into our second quarter!

Mrs. Kiecana

The month of October has been super busy for all students in Algebra 3 and Algebra 4. They are getting ready to finish the Quarter by successfully completing their Final Exams on Friday 10/01/21. We are entering into the second quarter on Monday, October 4th!

Algebra 3 students will review their algebraic skills at first, then will move on to work related to Rational and Polynomial functions. Students in Algebra 4 will be learning about the Systems of Equations and Inequalities. Next, we will be moving on into Exponential and Logarithmic Functions. Most of the assignments are completed in Schoology, while we supplement with additional technology through Desmos.com and in-class practice done on paper.

Overall, I am seeing a great deal of progress and I love it! I am also available for additional tutoring by prior arrangements during the morning or afternoon hours. Students need to simply ask me if they want to meet with me before or after school.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ewa.kiecana@dysart.org

Mrs. Kiecana

Mr. Carvajal

Welcome to the second quarter.

This quarter will go fast with all the holidays but, we will keep working hard in our classes of Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry 1 and Geometry 2.

A lot of knowledge to share and learn. We will learn about shapes in Geometry 1, in Geometry 2.

We will learn about similarity, trigonometric functions and the circle. In Algebra we will learn about functions and polynomials and how to apply this knowledge to the real world.

If you need to contact me:

angel.carvajal@dysart.org

Ms. Miller
Mrs. England

Quarter 1 is ending and so many of my students are going on to other classes next quarter. Best of luck! It’s been such a pleasure having you in class!

I’m looking forward to meeting so many new (to me) students Quarter 2. Just as a heads up: ALL work for my classes is submitted via Schoology and I am almost entirely paperless (although I do give you note packets for each unit— they are for YOU and not collected).

Mrs. Wilfong’s Classroom News

Wilfong’s Classroom News October 2021

September came and went very quickly. October in Economics class we are taking in the “basics” of economics. Just what is economics? October 4th I will welcome a new class with introductions and activities to explain what economics is. Students will pre-test and begin the course in Florida Virtual Academy (FLVA). While working our way through Module 1 we will break October 18 – 22 for Fall Break.

US History 2, Our first days will be the usual introductions and pre-testing for the new quarter. I have many of the same students that I worked with in Quarter 1 now in the second half of US history. We will pick up when we left off in the 1920s. What was the culture like in the 20s? What hampered the Civil Rights of African Americans, women and immigrants? Then the crash of 1929 leading into the Great Depression. The leads into the rest of the 20th Century.

Welcome to Quarter 2. Students have a weekly goal they need to meet in their course. You can see students’ grades and weekly progress when they log into their course. Please ensure students are working at home for at least 30 minutes each night to ensure they are on track. As stated in the course syllabus, zero’s will be entered if students are not on track.

I am available for tutoring before and after school. If you have questions please contact me at martha.aranda@dysart.org.
Mrs. Kuettel

Congratulations to the students for their strong finish of the 1st quarter. **English 5/Junior English** finished with an essay and a project. In the essay, they synthesized the readings in order to develop a response to the question, “What is the meaning of freedom?” In the culminating project, students completed “The Favorite Poem Project.” They listened to video blogs of people whose lives were inspired or otherwise changed by specific poems. These performance assessments as well as the review for final exams evidenced the knowledge and skills mastered throughout the quarter. In **English 6**, we began the second quarter with reading and writing pretests. Just before break, students officially began to survey literature with the article, “Why Soldiers Don’t Talk.” All in all, our fall break will be a vacation well earned – Enjoy!

Mrs. Santacasa’s English Classes

As Quarter 2 begins, there are some new faces at Sundown. We will spend the first week going over our school policies and routines and getting to know our new students. After break, **English 7** will begin with a unit covering sonnets and poetry and **English 4** will be starting a unit on personal possessions and what that can tell us about a person’s character. It will be a quick and busy semester with the holidays.

Mrs. Saeed

**English**—As we close out the first quarter of the school year, I like to congratulate students for their hard work and commitment to finishing the quarter successfully! **English 7** culminating activities explored Sonnets, various forms of poetry and academic vocabulary. As we explored literary works by famous authors in British Literature, student participation in group discussions and critical thinking activities were fulfilling and meaningful. **English 8** culminating activities dove into literary works and research that inspired all students to excel.

**Elective period**—Students earned many credits and are making academic progress toward their graduation goals. Keep up the good work and continue to persevere!

I’m looking forward to working with the next group of students for quarter 2!
Mrs. Skok

It is with great joy that I welcome both new and returning students to Sundown Mountain for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year! I teach one period of Middle School Math along with three periods of various High School Electives. I am available to converse with students on a wide variety of topics and help guide and assist them in their learnings. Students were given a “timeline” of due dates and an elective course checklist is available to them in class or on-line. These can be accessed via the syllabus link, which is found in all elective courses and the CPR folder. Students may come in at zero hour, or stay after school, by appointment, for extra help, testing, etc. I send updates via IC Messenger regularly. **Reminder**: Elective scores do not auto-sync to the gradebook, so always look to Schoology for the most up-to-date grades. The IC gradebook, for elective courses only, may be behind about a week or two, especially at the beginning of each quarter, and on late work that has been submitted. 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

We had a great 1st Quarter. I think everyone is excited to begin quarter 2 and all the fun dissections and labs that go with this quarter.

All classes will be pretesting the first week and then we will dive into our studies.

Anatomy will cover cardiovascular, nervous, digestive, respiratory, urinary and reproductive systems this quarter.

Botany Zoology will begin studying and discussing animals and how the “Circle of Life” is necessary.

Both classes will be dissecting and performing various lab experiments during the quarter.

This Quarter is the most exciting for all Science classes. I can’t wait!
“I can't help it.” “Nothing's ever going to change.” “It is what it is.” “You can't teach an old dog new tricks.” Being proactive is taking the initiative to make a positive change in your life. It is the first habit to cultivate if you wish to embark on your private victory according to Stephen Covey’s Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. It is the belief that you can and the willingness that you are able to make changes. It is the seed that is planted before growth mindset can germinate.

**SOURCE**

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**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

*October 2021 Ms. Jones School Counselor*

**Senior News**

Welcome to Quarter 2: Seniors who failed any classes in quarter 1 please plan to see Ms. Jones, we will need to make schedule changes as soon as possible in order to make sure you are able to meet your graduation requirements by May 2022.

**REMINDER:** Please remember to look at your homeschool’s calendar of events weekly to keep up to date with activities that will take place at your homeschools. When I receive the events from the homeschools, it tends to be at the last minute and many of you are missing senior meetings, pictures, and other important information that relates to graduation.

Students who have question relating to credits, transcripts, classes, and other topics please feel free to stop by my office anytime with teacher permission.

tamika.jones@dysart.org

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**Mrs. Jones**