



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

February 28, 2019

Dear Desert Canyon Middle School families,

Teaching and learning is a high priority and our teachers and students are closing out the 3rd quarter on a strong note. Our teacher collaborative teams are reviewing student assessment data to ensure that our students are learning state standards so that all students are ready for college and/or careers. Please continue to partner with us by engaging with your students. Testing season is almost upon us. This is a time when student demonstrate what they have been learning.

- March 8 – Spring Benchmark Testing Due
- March 25-29 - State Testing, Science
- April 1-24 – State Testing, AzMERIT
- April 22-May 10 - Math Placement Test, Math

In February, four DCMS teachers attended the Solution Tree PLC's at Work Summit at the Phoenix Convention Center. Teachers who attended are bringing back to their teams valuable strategies and best practices that will help our teams to work effectively and increase student learning. Our PTO provided funds to help make this possible. Please consider visiting their website and discover ways how you can get involved. <http://www.dcmspto.org/> We are very fortunate as a school to have a dedicated parent organization.

Opportunity: Please consider making a Tax Credit donation to DCMS. Arizona state law allows taxpayers to receive a dollar for dollar tax credit of up to \$200 for single filers and \$400 for married filers when they contribute to a public school. Please visit <https://www.susd.org/index.php/departments/susd-finance/susd-tax-credit> to learn more about Tax Credits and how these dollars benefit our children. Recently, general tax credit dollars have been allocated to support the after school Shakespeare club. Site Council is reviewing an opportunity to bring a technology safety presentation to both students and parents, for which tax credit dollars can be allocated. As you consider making a tax credit donation, **please consider giving to the General Tax Credit Fund.**

Pick-up/Drop-off: Please help us alleviate the traffic congestion and blocked roads during pick-up and drop-off times. During morning drop-off, we are noticing much less traffic between 7:20am and 7:30am when compared to 7:35am and 7:40am. Please consider arriving a few minutes earlier. Also, during pick-up time after school, to prevent blocking the streets in front of the school, please avoid lining up on the street when waiting to enter school property. The **Arabian Library** has offered the **east side of their parking lot** to serve as a waiting area. Please simply pull into a parking space and wait a few minutes for the traffic jam to subside. Then enter the school pick-up zone. **(Similar to the Cell Phone lot at the airport).**

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dale Link - Principal



EDUCATION CORNER:

It has been a privilege to work with teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists and parents to review materials and provide a recommendation to the SUSD Governing Board for the adoption of new K-12 math curricula. We want to thank everyone who served and supported this productive committee. On Feb. 12, the Governing Board approved the following materials: Cengage Math in grades K-5, Curriculum Associates in grades 6-8, Pearson in high school Math, and Pathways for high school Algebra 2. We look forward to full implementation, including professional development and support for our teachers so we can continue to teach mathematics with excellence in SUSD.~ Sheryl Rednor

Executive Director, SUSD Teaching and Learning



DISTRICT CORNER

SUSD was proud to host dedication ceremonies this month at our newly rebuilt Pima Traditional and Hopi Elementary schools. These renovated campuses fully embrace the way students learn and the way teachers teach. And they're equipped with technological resources not even imagined 60 years ago, when those schools first opened. Take a look at the new [Pima](#) and [Hopi](#)!

Just a reminder, March Kindergarten Roundups are on tap for the first week of March. For the complete schedule, go to <https://susd.org/kindergartenrundup>. Find out what makes our kindergarten classrooms special: meet the teachers, principal and fellow parents, and get a sense of the great things ahead for your little learner! We appreciate your referrals!