



Deer Valley Academy

Course Description Guide

2016 – 2017



DEER VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

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www.DeerValleyAcademy.org

Annual Notification to Parents Regarding Confidentiality of Student Education Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, school must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest
 - A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
 - A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
 - Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that protects the rights of students with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information, Individualized Education Programs and related notices and consents, progress reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from a number of sources, including the student's parents and staff of the school of attendance. Also, with parental permission, information may be gathered from additional pertinent sources, such as doctors and other health care providers. This information is collected to assure the child is identified, evaluated, and provided a Free Appropriate Public Education in accordance with state and federal special education laws.

Each agency participating under Part B of IDEA must assure that at all stages of gathering, storing, retaining and disclosing education records to third parties that it complies with the federal confidentiality laws. In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be in accordance with IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the federal government at (202) 260-3887 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) OR the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602) 542-4013. Or you may contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-5901	Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services 1535 W. Jefferson, BIN 24 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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This notice is available in English and Spanish on the ADE website at www.ade.az.gov/ess/resources under forms. For assistance in obtaining this notice in other languages, contact the ADE/ESS at the above phone/address.

DEER VALLEY ACADEMY

MISSION STATEMENT

Deer Valley Academy's mission is to provide a quality education in a safe and productive environment for high school students attending full time, participating in credit recovery or advancing their program of study.

VISION STATEMENT

Deer Valley Academy's vision is to develop competent, productive students who are prepared to enter the global community. Deer Valley Academy is committed to providing a student-centered education that focuses on high standards, technology competence and life-long learning.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To register at Deer Valley Academy, the following will need to be provided:

- Official Transcripts
- Withdrawal from previous school
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Verification of Residency

Policy 10.0 Graduation Requirements

English Language Arts	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
CTE/Fine Arts	1 Credit
Electives	7 Credits
	Total Credits: 22 Credits
⁽¹⁾ Social Studies shall consist of one credit of World History/Geography, one credit of American History, one-half credit of American/Arizona Government and one-half credit of Economics.	

REPORT CARDS

Deer Valley Academy uses the following grading system:

A - Excellent 90% - 100%

B - Above Average 80% - 89%

C - Average 70% - 79%

D - Below Average 60% - 69%

F - Failing Below 60% Students receive no credit for a grade of an F.

SENIOR YEAR TRANSFER

Transfer students must be enrolled in classes that place them on track for graduation. Students who transfer during their senior year must earn (2) DVA credits AND be enrolled no later than January in order to be eligible for a DVA diploma.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students planning on early graduation must file a request for early graduation at the beginning of their last year of attendance. Early graduation requires administrative and parental approval unless the student is 18 years of age. Diplomas will be awarded at the yearly commencement. All final exams must be completed by the end of senior final exam day.

Course Information

REQUIRED CLASSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 1-2

This course introduces the student to the concepts and genres of literature. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 3-4

This course introduces world literature and its geographic, ethnic, and historic influences. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening and complete a research paper.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 5-6

This course introduces the literature and documents of America. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. A research paper and a speech unit are included.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7-8

This course studies the comparative themes and literature of the world with an emphasis in British literature. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. This course also will offer expanded opportunities to learn and practice essay strategies, including sentence/paragraph development.

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1-2

This course includes formal mathematical concepts such as polynomial operations, linear equations, and the quadratic formula, as well as the study of statistics and geometry from an algebraic perspective. Emphasis is placed on studying algebra in context through problem solving and real-life applications.

GEOMETRY 1-2

This course deals with plane and solid geometry as well as transformational geometry and their applications. Geometry will be studied from an algebraic and non-algebraic perspective, including strategies on geometric proofs.

ALGEBRA APPLICATIONS 1-2

This course extends and applies the concepts of Algebra I and introduces concepts from Algebra 2. The curriculum includes the study of linear, quadratic, polynomial and exponential functions as well as the study of coordinate geometry. Data collections and analysis are emphasized and technology is utilized.

FINANCIAL MATH

This course includes the study of the complex financial world students will encounter in their lives including taxes, bankruptcy, investing, hedge funds as well as personal financial topics like loans, (car, college, home and pay day loans), insurance, credit card purchases, loan refinancing, financial software, budgeting, and retirement planning. This class is a project based course.

COLLEGE MATH

This course includes the study of topics traditionally not included in algebra based courses. Topics include set theory, logic, counting methods, probability, statistics, and personal financial management. This course is aligned to MAT 142 from the community college and MAY be available for dual enrollment credit.

PROBABILITY & STATISTICS

This course is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for and skill in applying statistical techniques in the decision-making process. Topics include: descriptive statistics, probability, and statistical inference. Practical examples based on real data are used throughout the course. Students will plan and conduct experiments or surveys and analyze the resulting data.

ALGEBRA 3-4

This course includes the study of matrices, trigonometry, sequences, series, exponentials and logarithms. Concepts will be studied at the application level.

ALGEBRA 5-6

This course is designed to give additional study and depth to the topics covered in Algebra 3-4. This course will reinforce and prepare students to be successful in advanced level math courses.

SCIENCE

EARTH SCIENCE 1-2

This laboratory class is designed to introduce students to the foundations of Earth Sciences. Students will study erosion, plate tectonics, meteorology, astronomy, and the geologic time scale.

BIOLOGY 1-2

This lab course concentrates on the study of living organisms. Labs are designed to investigate objectives presented in class.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 1-2

This is an applied lab science based on experimentation and observation. Students are expected to solve environmental problems that relate to resource depletion, pollution and extinction. This science takes a global perspective focusing on both developed and developing countries.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD HISTORY 1-2

This course introduces students to history and geography and their relationship to economic, political, physical, social, and cultural aspects of early civilization to modern eras.

AMERICAN/ARIZONA HISTORY 1-2

This course will cover American/Arizona history of North American prehistoric cultures through the 21st century.

AMERICAN/ARIZONA GOVERNMENT

Students will learn how our federal government functions and how it compares with other governments. National and state political parties and elections will be studied, along with our state government and state history. Eight hours of community service may be required.

ECONOMICS

Content will focus on comparison of major world economic systems, the American economic system and institutions and personal finances.

ELECTIVES

ADVANCED ART/DRAWING

Independent, art based projects for the student who demonstrates a strong interest and advanced artistic skills.

AIMS TUTORIAL

This course is designed to provide research based strategies in reading, writing and math based on the individual student's needs for meeting proficiency on AIMS. Student's class work and tests will be monitored.

CAREER EXPLORATION/ECAP

This course will help students develop the oral and written communication skills needed to secure and keep a job, and adapt to everyday life situations. Students will develop a comprehensive career plan through personal assessment, identify academic and career goals, explore postsecondary options and recognize the value of extracurricular involvement.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This course examines the developing child from conception through early childhood. Areas of study include the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth of children. Students gain an understanding of issues related to child development.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Learn the basics of personal and business computers by enhancing keyboard skills and a practical knowledge of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students will produce several projects which may include resume, letter of application, brochure and/or PowerPoint presentation.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

This course helps students develop computational thinking and programming expertise, and introduces professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration. Projects include application development, visualization of data, cybersecurity, and simulation.

CREATIVE WRITING

Course emphasis will be on creative and original writings including short stories, poems, and drama. A major class project will be the production of a student literary magazine.

DRAWING 1-2

This course teaches the basic techniques of drawing through the use of pencil sketching, pen and ink, colored pencils, charcoal and pastels.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

In this course, students study the fundamentals of graphic design through hands-on experience with relevant technology in the creative and visual communication s by combining visual arts and technical concepts. Students will acquire technical skills in the use of Adobe Creative Suite's design software.

HEALTH

Health will provide students with the skills and knowledge to make personal health decisions and maintain a healthy environment.

HUMANITIES

The course will explore the role of art in past/present societies. Students will gain an understanding of how art has evolved.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The purpose of an independent study course is to provide students the opportunity to study content areas not offered in the regular curricular program. Independent study courses may not be substituted for core graduation requirements. Independent study must be pre-approved by school administration and sponsored, monitored and graded by a DVA staff member. This is a pass/fail course.

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

This course helps students understand personal development as an n individual, as a family member, and as a part of society. It explores personality development, decision making skills, health, harmful substances, communication, and relationships with family and friends.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

Student will get an overview of the basic fundamental of design. It includes tools, techniques, media, painting and graphics.

JOURNALISM

This course covers the fundamentals of journalistic writing and desktop publishing. Emphasis is placed on interviewing, various styles of writing, publication design, and press law. This course focuses on the publication of newsletters.

LAW IN SOCIETY

This course studies the American legal system and the problems and issues it encounters. Topics include criminal law, civil law, juvenile law, family law, consumer law, and environmental law and mock trials.

MEDIA

Students will be introduced to audio/visual and multimedia technology. This hands-on course will work in a digital media computer lab to capture, create and edit video to be used in multimedia projects. Students use script writing, lighting techniques and sound editing to create projects that are used for film, television and internet.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

The course will examine the major social, political and economic events of the 1960s-today. Emphasis will be placed on the Civil Rights Movement, the J.F.K. Assassination, the Vietnam War, the Watergate Scandals and Counter Culture Movement, and Terrorism.

NEWSPAPER

This is a publication class for students working on the newspaper staff as editors, reporters, and photographers. Training on computers will acquaint students with desktop publishing technology.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

This course creates student awareness of feeling about body image, benefits of a personal fitness program, and how to use the skill-related components of physical fitness. Students will learn about cardiovascular fitness, and the steps required to designing a personal health and physical fitness program.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

This course is for the student who wishes to improve his/her ability to speak in front of small and large groups. Emphasis will be placed on gaining confidence through learning about organizing and preparing various speeches.

PSYCHOLOGY

Students will explore such topics as human growth and development, the development of personality and intelligence, principles of learning, frustration and conflict, and personality disturbances and their treatment.

READING LAB

This clinical course provides the skills to improve reading proficiency. The emphasis will include study techniques, vocabulary, comprehension development, speed and flexibility, as well as content area concentration. Student AIMS results are used to determine proficiency and may determine course placement.

SCHOOL TO WORK 1-2

This is an occupational employment approach to teaching and practicing the concepts that cross most industries. Students secure their own jobs. It is expected that those beginning the course be dependable in their work and remain on the job for a minimum of 150 hours in order to earn .5 credit. Students must provide their own transportation to and from work. Students must secure administrative approval. **(Charter only students)**

SERVICE LEARNING

Course content incorporates critical/reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Students will plan, implement and participate in community service projects that integrate personal goals and academic skills, while developing a sense of civic responsibility. Focus will be given to the needs of the local community.

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEENS

Seven Habits is a positive, inspirational and motivational course to help teenagers live up to their potential through self-improvement and building relationships with family and friends. Based on the national bestseller by Sean Covey, students will examine real-life problems experienced by other teenagers and learn strategies for developing responsibility, integrity and leadership skills.

SOCIOLOGY

This course is for students who are interested in studying problems and issues in today's society. Subject matter will explore family, race relations, crime, religion, sex roles, dating, law, death, and other human interactions. The course requires reading and special projects.

SPANISH 1-2

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students learn vocabulary and basic language structures through conversation and written expression.

STUDENT AIDES

Students earn ½ credits as a student aide during a session. A maximum of one credit may be recorded on the transcripts. Freshmen may NOT earn credit as aides. Duties will vary. Student aides are placed by staff request.

TODAY'S TEEN 1-2

The course focuses on a teen in his/her world, building relationships, having effective friends, honoring family members, managing life, maintaining good health and wellness through exercise, food, and nutrition, and dressing for success.

WELLNESS

This course provides students the skills to maintain a healthy life style. Students will learn about good nutritional habits, dealing with stress, consumer issues relative to health and how to make life-long healthy choices.

YEARBOOK

This is a publication class for students on the yearbook staff. The staff reports, writes, and edits written material, coordinates all photos, designs and executes all page layouts. The staff is responsible for the annual publication.