



# Deer Valley Academy

## Course Description Guide

**2020 – 2021**

*Accredited By*



**DEER VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.**

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## 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](http://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.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Deer Valley Academy's mission is to provide a quality education in a safe and rigorous academic 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 provides a student-centered education focused on high standards, technology competence and life-long learning.

<b>Policy 10.0    Graduation Requirements</b>
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<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>4 Credits</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4 Credits</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 Credits</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 Credits</b>
<b>CTE/Fine Arts</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>7 Credits</b>
	<b>Total Credits:    22 Credits</b>
<p><sup>(1)</sup> 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.</p> <p>Students must pass the required State of Arizona Civics Test with a 60% or higher. This will be denoted on the transcript as a pass/fail.</p>	

### **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.

# 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 includes the study of sequences and series, functions and their inverses, complex numbers and radical, quadratic, rational and exponential functions.

Algebra Applications does not fulfill university admission requirement.

## **FINANCIAL MATH**

This course includes the study of the complex financial world students will encounter in their lives including taxes, bankruptcy, investing, as well as personal financial topics like loans, (car, college, home, etc.), 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 algebraic expressions, functions and relations, systems of equations and inequalities including exponential and logarithmic equations, polynomial, rational, radical and exponential functions.

# **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

### **ACADEMIC LAB**

This course is designed to provide strategies in reading, writing and math based on the individual student's needs for meeting proficiency on state-mandated tests.

### **ADVANCED ART/DRAWING**

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

### **CAREER EXPLORATION**

This course prepares students for the job market. Students will investigate a variety of careers through research, observations and employer testimonials.

### **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.

## **E-CAP (Education & Career Action Plan)**

This course explores the four pillars of ECAP: academic goals, career goals, post-secondary and financial planning and extra-curricular activities. Students will develop their individual college and career plans.

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

In this course, students study the fundamentals of graphic design through hands-on experience with relevant technology in the creative and visual communications by combining visual arts and technical concepts.

## **HEALTH**

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

## **HUMANITIES**

The course will explore the role of art, literature, music, philosophy and history in past and present societies.

## **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**

This course helps students understand personal growth as an individual, a family member, and as part of a community. It explores personality development, decision making skills, communication, and personal and professional relationships.

## **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.

## **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.

## **SCHOOL TO WORK 1-2-3-4**

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 motivational course designed to help teenagers live up to their potential through self-improvement and building relationships with family and friends. Students will examine real-life problems experienced by 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 building relationships, having friends, honoring family, managing life, maintaining good health and being a productive member of society.

## **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.