

Cougar Communiqué

A publication of
Desert Sky Middle School
"Building a Community of Learners"
9850 E. Rankin Loop

January 2018



Principal, Katie Dabney
E-mail:
dabneyk@vailschooldistrict.org

Assistant Principal,
Rebecca Marsh
E-mail:
marshr@vailschooldistrict.org

Office: (520) 879-2702

Fax: (520) 879-2701

Website:
<http://dsms.vail.k12.az.us>

Desert Sky Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Site Council

Jon Carlyon
(Parent/Community)

Chach Jackson
(Parent/Community)

Kiki Ngo
(Parent/Community)

Karleene Talley
(Parent/Community)

Rayna Kruszewski
(Support Staff)

Abby Jackson
(Certified Staff)

Melissa Thach
(Certified Staff)

Dates to Remember

January

- 8 School Resumes
- 9 STEEP Screening – Schoolwide
- 10 Band and Orchestra Concert – 6:00pm - VTOTA
- 15 No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17 High School Choice Parent Night - Gym - 6:30pm
- 19 District Spelling Bee @ VTOTA
- 22-26 GRIT Spirit Week
- 24 Early Dismissal @ 12:00pm – Teacher Inservice
- 25 GRIT Skate Night @ Skate Country – 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- 30 Open House @ VAHS and AHS – 5:00pm – 7:00pm
- 31 Middle School Music Festival @ CHS
- 31 PTA Meeting – Media Center – 4:30pm

February

- 1 Open House @ CHS, EHS and VIC – 5:00pm – 7:00pm
- 2-9 Spring Book Fair
- 8, 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal – 12:00pm
- 10 Science Olympiad @ DSMS
- 16 Early Dismissal – 12:00pm
- 17 Vail Pride Day – Pima Country Fairgrounds
- 19 Reading, Writing, and Math Benchmarks #3 begin
- 22, 23 No School – Rodeo Break
- 26 Algebra and Geometry Benchmarks #3 begin

From the Principal..

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we have already started the 3rd quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. As we move into the second half of the school year, students are more focused and ready to learn more than ever. Each instructional day provides students with the opportunity to learn something new, master a skill previously taught, or extend their learning through enrichment. At Desert Sky we believe that we are building a community of learners, which means that every minute of every day students are engaged in the learning process.

We know that the level of parental involvement is an essential element to our school's success. I would like to share some easy ways to stay involved:

- * You can access your child's grades anytime at <https://ps.vail.k12.az.us/public/home.html> as long you have a username or password. Our Site Tech Coordinator, Mr. Jones (879-2707), can provide assistance with Powerschool as needed. This is a great way to stay informed of your child's progress, view assignments, and citizenship.
- * Be sure to check your child's agenda each day to view homework assignments, DMS daily scores, and student behavior.
- * Check out our teachers' blogs for the latest news and assignments found under the staff tab on the DSMS website at dsms.vail.k12.az.us.
- * Call or email your child's teacher. Our teachers strive to return voicemail and email by the following day (Monday-Friday).
- * Attend parent teacher conferences, which will occur on February 8th, & 9th.
- * Volunteer! Mrs. Wactor, Desert Sky's Volunteer Coordinator, is always searching for volunteers to work in classrooms, tutor students, help out in the workroom, or support staff at our various community events. She can be reached at 879-2011.

We look forward to working with you and your child during the second-half of the school year.

Sincerely,

Katie Dabney, Principal

Desert Sky Middle School

Yearbook Order Form



Order your yearbook now and
enjoy a lifetime of memories!

To order now go to
www.jostensyearbooks.com
Select Desert Sky Middle School
(Be careful to choose the one in Tucson)

Order now and save! The cost will increase
from \$35 to \$40 in February!

If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Willard
at 520-879-2754
or willardm@vailschooldistrict.org



Did you know in Vail you have high school choice for your 8th grader?

The Vail School District is committed to offering unique high school offerings throughout the district that meet your student's specific interests.



Andrada



Cienega



Empire



VAHS



VIC

High School Information Nights

Please plan to attend this important event for parents and students. Representatives from each high school will be available to provide information and answer questions about their school. If you are unable to attend your school's meeting, please feel free to attend at any other school.

January 16th – 6:30 pm – Old Vail

January 17th – 6:30 pm – Desert Sky/Esmond Station @ DSMS

January 23rd – 6:30 pm – Rincon Vista/Civano/VIC @ RVMS

January 24th – 6:30 pm – Corona Foothills

High School Open House Nights

Take the opportunity to visit and see each high school campus in person.

January 30th – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Andrada Poly HS and Vail Academy & HS

February 1st – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Cienega HS, Empire HS and the Vail Innovation Center

High School Choice Process

Families can submit their school choice rankings beginning February 1st on <https://vailhighschoolchoice.org/>

School ranking submissions can be submitted through February 28th, and are not first come first served.

In the event a lottery is needed, it will be held March 8th.

Families will be notified of final school placements by March 9th.

In the meantime, please verify your PowerSchool login information and email address is current.

Contact the school office if assistance is needed with PowerSchool.

For further questions please email schoolchoice@vailschooldistrict.org

PK-8 STUDENT CALENDAR 2018-2019

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- B/E = Beginning/End of school
- C = Parent/Teacher Conferences (1/2 day for Students)
- T = Teacher Grading Day (1/2 day for Students)

- Y = Inservice for Teachers - 1/2 day for Students
- VPD = Vail Pride Day
- [Black Box] = Holidays/Vacations (No School for Students)