

DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

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-Monthly Newsletter-

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Greetings DLA parents and students-

As we continue with virtual learning, I wanted to take a moment to remind all students and families of the importance of regular school attendance. Attendance at DLA is determined according to work completion. It is expected that all students at DLA spend a minimum of four to five hours (depending on the grade level) per day on the Edgenuity platform working on their assigned course work. It is important that all students work on their assigned courses and meet their weekly target completion rates. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving less than perfect attendance.



Parent Contact Information

Here at DLA we frequently send out important information using our email mass notification system. This system will send information to the email address that you provided when your child was registered. If for some reason your email has changed please let us know so we can update your contact information to make sure you do receive all messages. Please call Mariana at 760-778-0487 to update your contact information.



Desert Learning Academy's middle school team is pleased to introduce Victoria Jones to the DLA community. While new to our school, Mrs. Jones has supported students and families on the independent study journey for nearly a decade. This week, she has been busy planning, collaborating with her incredible team, and setting up her classroom to ensure the very best educational experience for DLA's amazing students.

Mrs. Jones began her educational career in 2000 after graduating from the Ohio State University with a graduate degree in education. She spent her first five years of teaching in the primary grades where she worked as an adventure education facilitator and intervention teacher. During those years, she frequently vacationed in Palm Springs and soon fell in love with the mountains and beautiful sites of the desert. In 2005, she and her husband decided to relocate. They packed up their belongings and three cats and made their way to North Indio where they've lived ever since.

Not long after moving to the desert, she and her husband had the shock of their lives. They found out that they were expecting, not one, not two, but unbelievably, three babies! Yes, you read that right--triplets! Two boys and a girl. Becoming a family of five overnight had its share of challenges, but through the flexibility of virtual teaching, they made those early years work.

Over the next decade, Mrs. Jones taught primarily in a virtual setting providing instruction to various grade levels from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Having this experience has given her knowledge of scope and sequence of state standards as they progress over time. She particularly enjoyed providing intervention to students struggling in math and reading as well as students learning the English language. In 2009, she welcomed into the world a baby girl making her family of six complete!

In her spare time, Mrs. Jones loves to do yoga, jog, paint, write, and make videos with her Great Dane, Chowder. He had garnered quite a few fans over the years. Over the summer, she published her first children's book. She has a few more stories rattling around that she will undoubtedly publish one day as well!

We hope you will join us in warmly welcoming Mrs. Jones to the DLA community. As you see her around campus and on zoom, feel free to say hello. You will find her to be a dedicated, innovative, and creative addition to our team!



Desert Learning Academy Website



Please make sure that you bookmark the newly updated Desert Learning Academy website for easy access using the following link:

<https://www.pusd.us/dla#calendar18002/20211028/month>



Please take a moment to review each of the portals to browse the information that is posted on the site. Should you have any suggestions about how we can improve our website, please don't hesitate to

Desert Learning Academy Leadership Elective Class

If you are interested in participating in a leadership elective classes here on the Desert Learning Academy campus please contact Mr. Wheaton at rwheaton@pusd.us and let him know.

The class is open to all current DLA students enrolled in middle school and high school. Ms. Jasmine Rosario our technology paraprofessional will be working with enrolled students to create weekly public service announcement that will be broadcast on DLA's YouTube channel. We are currently in the process of procuring all the necessary digital medial equipment for students to use while enrolled in the class. It is preferable that students come to the campus to participate in the class but virtual instruction is possible.



Desert Learning Academy Parent Ambassadors



Desert Learning Academy is looking for two parents who are willing to serve as ambassadors for the Desert Learning Academy campus. Duties will include attending virtual meetings once a month and serving as a spokesperson for DLA. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity please contact me here at DLA at my email address: mgrainger@pusd.us or my cell phone at 949-702-4055.

Festive Holiday Recipe

Try this wonderful festive appetizer as you plan your holiday celebration meal.

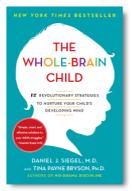
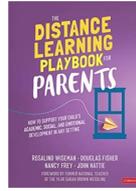
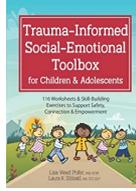


Ingredients: Wedge of Brie cheese, sweetened cranberry dressing, Pistachios

Directions: Cut the wedge of Brie in half; Spread the cranberry dressing (Trader Joes is the best) on the lower half, and place the other half on top to make a sandwich; Microwave for 30 seconds to soften the cheese; Sprinkle pistachio nut meats on top and serve

Principal Book Corner

Here are some books that you might find interesting and I highly recommend that you add them to your reading list.



DLA Calendar of Events– November 2021

- **Tuesday November 2, 2021:** School Site Council meeting at 3PM via Zoom.
- **Friday November 5, 2021:** Elementary Trimester 1 awards assembly: 9:00am; Middle School Trimester 1 award assembly: 10:30am. Both assemblies will be streamed live of the DLA YouTube channel and will take place in the DLA courtyard here on campus.

● **Thursday November 11, 2021:** Veteran's Day holiday. School is closed.

● **Monday November 22, 2020 through Friday November 26, 2021:** Thanksgiving Holiday. School is closed.

● **Friday December 17, 2021:** End of first semester for high school students

● **Monday December 20, 2021 through Sunday January 9, 2022:**

DLA Award Assemblies to Recognize Student Academic Achievement and Perfect Attendance

At the end of each trimester for elementary and middle school students, and each semester for high school students, we will be providing an award assembly to recognize the academic achievement of our DLA students. Each assembly will take place outside here on the DLA campus in our courtyard and will be televised live on our YouTube channel. Refreshments will be served at each assembly and certificates presented to students.

Elementary	Trimester 1	Friday November 5, 2021	9:00am	DLA Courtyard
	Trimester 2	Friday November 5, 2021	10:30am	DLA Courtyard
Middle School	Trimester 1	Friday March 4, 2021	9:00am	DLA Courtyard
	Trimester 2	Friday March 4, 2021	10:30am	DLA Courtyard
High school	Semester 1	Friday January 14, 2022	9:00am	DLA Courtyard

9 Elements of Digital Citizenship



Digital Citizenship 'Code of Conduct'

As you all know, Desert Learning Academy is an online learning institution. All students attending DLA are expected to adhere closely to a code on conduct when working online with district devices. Here are a few reminders:

1. **Plagiarism** is the use of someone else's material that you present as your own without official citation. This means that you cannot use material that you find online without accurately citing the source. Please consult with your lead teacher to make sure you are using the correct citation format.
2. **Online security:** NEVER share your log in passwords with anyone for any reason. If someone logs into your account and creates offensive material you will be held responsible. Also, please make sure that you always log off your district device when you are not using it.
3. **Digital footprint:** Remember that everything that you post on line is permanent. Always remember to create a positive online presence and NEVER share any personal information that may come back to haunt you later in life. Remember -colleges and perspective employers can look you up online.
4. **Digital communication:** Please remember to always use appropriate language when communicating online using your device. All communication are closely monitored by Gaggie. If you do use inappropriate language I will be notified as the site principal and I will share the communication with your parent and/or guardian.

High School- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Beginning on October 1 of every school year, for students who plan to attend college have the option to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA allows you to get free grant money and student loans to pay for your education. This is money that the government provides to students. This is money that parents do not need to pay back. If you would like to learn more information please click on the following link:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Edgenuity Parent Portal-

I wanted to remind parents that the Edgenuity parent portal provides parents with an opportunity to review student progress in their assigned courses, and monitor the time students spend on the Edgenuity learning platform. Please take a moment to visit the DLA website using the link below and watch the video tutorial on how to access the Edgenuity Parent platform. Once you have viewed the video, please contact DLA so that we may provide you with your parent access code. You will need this four digit code to access the portal.



Please use this link to access the orientation video: <https://www.pusd.us/domain/4743>