

DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

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Greetings DLA parents and students-

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Welcome to October and the welcomed relief of cooler weather!

Enrollment at Desert Learning Academy continues to grow as families continue to opt for Independent Studies in lieu of traditional schooling for their children.

In this month's newsletter please make note of the dates for the grade level award assemblies to recognize academic achievement and perfect attendance. These assemblies will be held at DLA here in our courtyard and will be televised live on our You Tube channel.



Also, please make sure that you routinely check our amazing DLA interactive website. There are a plethora of amazing resources for parents and students organized by grade level. You can also reach any of our amazing staff members using the 'School Information' tab on the home page. High schoolers, please make sure that you routinely check on the high school support schedule located under the Students tab on our home page. The embedded links will take you to the support labs that we provided here on the DLA campus each afternoon.

Finally, here at DLA we routinely use our email mass notification system to share information with families. Please make sure that you regularly update your email address in our system by contacting our office. This will mean that you will always

Desert Learning Academy Welcomes Three New Staff Members



Greetings DLA Aviators! I first want to thank Dr. Grainger, Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Anguiano and Mr. Manion for helping me feel so welcomed at DLA. I want to introduce myself to the students and staff here at DLA. I am your school psychologist here at DLA. This is my 7th year as a school psychologist and I have worked in LAUSD, SFUSD, and a charter school in Menifee serving a diverse group of students with exceptional needs. As a school psychologist, I have a strong belief that with the right mindset and equitable support, all students can learn. At the core, I am here to help all students learn best through advocating, being an ally, and an assessor for all of our Pilots. Some

fun facts about me are that I am relatively new to the desert, I am slightly obsessed with corgis and Trader Joes, and I greatly enjoy trying new foods! You can find me in 305 on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Please feel free to stop by and collaborate with me! I look forward to meeting and working with everyone soon!

My name is Mr. De La Cruz and for the 2021-2022 school year, I will be working at Desert Learning Academy and Catherine Finchy Elementary. I have been a special education teacher for 8 years. In the past 5 years, I have worked with grades 4-8.



I was born in Los Angeles and lived in Whittier until Sep 2021 when I moved to San Jacinto. I attended UC Riverside where I earned a Bachelor's Degree. I earned my teaching credentials at Cal Poly Pomona. In 2020, I received my master's degree from Cal State Fullerton.

I spend my free time with family and friends. I have a large family of eight siblings— six boys and three girls. I look forward to a very productive year here at DLA working with amazing students and families.

Hello my name is Charlise Singleton and I was raised in the Inland Empire. I graduated from the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), with a Bachelor of Science Degree in PsychoBiology. Shortly, after I served as an Academic Advisor at a local University for a year, where I discovered her love for education.



I taught Earth Science and Life Science for 6 years. In addition to teaching, I was a Team Leader, to other teachers assigned to me, as well as being the Chairman of the Science Department for a couple of years. While there, I was praised for my teaching strategies that significantly increased the schools test scores. I went on to teach different science classes over the years like, Chemistry, Biology and Anatomy & Physiology.

Although, I have a genuine passion for teaching and helping others, my other passion is athletics. I grew up in a household with brothers and a sports enthusiast Father. That led me to the appreciation that I have for sports today. I spend most of my extra time with my family and reading the bible.

I am currently serving as a Chemistry teacher here at Desert Learning Academy and I am looking forward to working with the exceptional teachers there.

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 certificated presented to students.

Please make note of the following dates and times for each assembly:

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

PSUSD Mental Health Services and Resources

Meet Dr. Galeano

Dr. Galeano has worked in the field of psychology since 1996 serving different communities, particularly underserved populations and migrant families in the state of Minnesota. Other experiences included the correctional system in LA County working with persistent mentally ill adults and the homeless community. Dr. Galeano worked for Riverside County as a clinical supervisor for the county and clinical psychologist for juvenile hall (Indio, CA), and has done extensive clinical work with children and families. Dr. Galeano has worked as a clinical psychologist at PSUSD since 2012.

Dr. Galeano is an integral member of the DLA team and works diligently with teachers to provide a wide variety of services for DLA students and their families. He works at different school sites across the district.



Crisis Numbers/Resources

Call 911 or a Crisis Hotline that is open 24 hours per day:
 Riverside County Mental Health, 24-hour hotline: 760.863.8455
 Desert Regional Medical Center: 760.323.6511
 Suicide Hotline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
 National Crisis Line: 1.800.784.2433

TEXT:
 HELLO to 741-741 to text with a crisis counselor
 SHHELP HI to 274-637 for anonymous support

Safe House of the Desert 760-343-3211
 Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4918

Salud Mental del Condado de Riverside,
 Línea directa de 24 horas: 760.863.8455
 Desert Regional Medical Center: 760.323.6511
 Línea Directa Suicidio: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
 Línea de Crisis Nacional: 1.800.784.2433
 Casa Segura de Desierto: 760-343-3211
 Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4918

To access a complete list of resources please use the link below:

<https://www.psusd.us/Page/253>

DLA Calendar Events– October 2021



- Wednesday October 6, and Thursday October 7, 2021:** Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences (by appointment)
- Monday October 11, 2021:** Inservice day for all teachers. Students do not attend
- Friday October 29, 2020:** End of trimester 1 for elementary and middle school students.
- Tuesday November 2, 2021:** School Site Council meeting at 3PM via Zoom.
- 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.
- Monday December 20, 2021 through Sunday January 9, 2022:** School closed in observance of Winter recess.

DLA School Site Council Update



At our last school site council meeting on October 14, 2021, members allocated available Title 1 funds to four new initiatives. They were as follows:

- Funding was set aside to provide an extended learning session during one of the weeks of Spring Break 2022 for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Funds were set aside to purchase additional digital media equipment to support the DLA leadership elective.
- Funds were allocated to provide career exploration seminars and field trips to our high school students.
- Funds were allocated to purchase additional classroom color printers for DLA teachers.

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

Beginning on October 1 of every school year, 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>

The infographic titled 'The FAFSA - Simplified' provides a step-by-step guide to completing the FAFSA. It includes sections for 'About The FAFSA', 'Who Should Fill Out A FAFSA?', 'When To Complete Your FAFSA', 'Filing Your FAFSA', and 'How To Submit Your FAFSA'. It also lists various federal grants and scholarships available to students.

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.

