

DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

760-778-0487

-Monthly Newsletter-

In this issue :

- Welcome message from Dr. Grainger
- Parent involvement opportunities
- Back to school night
- Desert Learning Academy attendance policy
- Parent's guide to A-G
- FAFSA information

Welcome to the 2020/21 school year

On behalf of the Desert Learning Academy learning community, I want to welcome you to the 2020/21 school year. As the new principal, I want to introduce myself and provide you with my contact information.



I have worked for Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) for the past fifteen years, as a math teacher, math instructional coach, assistant principal (DSMS) and principal (PHMS and DLA). I am delighted to be working at DLA with this amazing team of dedicated professionals. Please know that I am always available should you have any questions. My district email address is mgrainger@psusd.us and my personal cell number is 949-702-4055

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.

Back to School Night (09.14.20)

On Monday September 14, 2020 DLA held its annual Back to School Night event via Zoom. Approximately 75 families participated in the event. Following the Title 1 Parent Meeting at 4:00pm, elementary, middle, and high school teachers met with parents synchronously via Zoom to provide important information about the Independent Study program, and answer questions. I want to take a moment to thank all the parents who participated in the event. A link to all the teacher presentations was sent using the school's email system. If for some reason you did not receive this information, please let us know and we will resend the links.

Desert Learning Academy Attendance Policy

Desert Learning Academy is an Independent Study program that offers individualized high-quality learning opportunities for K-12 students. Due to the fact that students work independently on the Edgenuity platform, our attendance policy is different from that of a traditional brick and mortar school. Please take a moment to review our attendance policy which is posted below:

DLA Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is very important to the success of both your student and our school. In California, each person between 6 and 18 years of age, unless otherwise exempt by law, is required to attend school full-time with regular and punctual attendance, and schools are required to enforce this compulsory attendance law. (See Ed. Code, § 48200 et seq.) Since independent study students do not attend in the traditional on campus model, attendance is calculated based upon the amount of work that is completed and turned in weekly on Edgenuity. This work completion will be calculated Sunday of each school week. Our school is funded partially by this work completion.

Work completion will be calculated on Sunday of each school week. If a student fails to complete assignments within that school week they may be subject to discipline, and/or removal from the program.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

It is my firm belief that parent involvement is essential to the success of any school. Title 1 regulations provide funds to support parent involvement and in fact mandate that parents are proactively involved in the decision making systems at all Title 1 schools. That said I wanted to take a moment to share some of the ways that you can get involved here at DLA:

- **School Site Council (SSC):** Parents are required to participate on School Site Council to support the development of the annual Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). School Site Council membership includes DLA parents, teachers, students, community members and the site principal. Council members are responsible for deciding how state and federal funds are allocated each year to support student success on the DLA campus. This commitment would involve a one hour meeting on the last Monday of every month at 3:00pm. Please click the following link for more information about SSC duties and responsibilities: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/co/ssc.asp>
- **School Connected Organization (SCO):** DLA does not currently have a school connected organization such as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). As the new principal, I am actively seeking a group of parents and community members who would be willing to start a PTA to raise funds for students attending DLA. If you would be interested please let me know my sending me an email to mgrainger@psusd.us or by telephone at 949-702-4055.
- **English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC):** This committee meets throughout the school year to review the programs, materials, and budgets set up for our English Learners (EL). This committee is facilitated by our EL Specialist and is open to all parents to discuss the services provided to our EL students
- **Parent volunteer opportunities:** DLA is always looking for parent to volunteer in our office and to provide help with supervision duties. Please be aware that all parents must submit to Department of Justice background checks to work directly with students on our campus.

Brain Teaser??

Each month we will feature a Brain Teaser puzzle that is open to all students attending DLA.



The first student to submit the correct answer will win a \$25 gift card of their choice. Please submit your answer via email to mgrainger@psusd.us

Below is this month's Brain Teaser:

The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?

DLA Contact Information

Office number: 760-778- 0487
Office FAX number: 760- 778- 0497
School website address: <http://dla.psusd.us/>
 Mariana Anguiano (Front office) manguiano@psusd.us
 Rosalia Mendoza (Counselor) rmendoza1@psusd.us
 Michael J Grainger (Principal) mgrainger@psusd.us

A Parents Guide to the A-G College Entrance Requirements

The A-G College Entrance requirements are a sequence of high school approved courses that students MUST complete (with a C grade or higher) to be eligible for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). These courses represent the basic level of high school academic study that high school students should attain to able to successfully complete university work. The following chart summarizes the A-G college Entrance Requirements:



	Subject	Years	Details
A	History/Social Sciences	2	Two years including one year of World History, cultures, and historical geography, and one year of US History or one-half of US History and one-half of civics or American Government
B	English	4	Four years of college preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. Only one year of English Language Development (ELD) 4 counts towards this requirement.
C	Mathematics	3	Three years of college preparatory mathematics that included the topics covered in elementary and advanced Algebra, and two and three dimensional geometry.
D	Laboratory Science	2	Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
E	Language other than English	2	Two years of the same language other than English
F	Visual and Performing Arts	1	One year including dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
G	College Preparatory Elective	1	One year (two semesters), chosen from additional A-F courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements above, or courses that have been approved solely for use as 'G' electives.

Citation: A parents guide to a-g college entrance requirements. January, 22, 2008. Retrieved from <https://www.lbschools.net/AssetFiles/Counseling/A-G%20requirements%20EN.pdf>

DLA Calendar Events

- Wednesday September 30, 2020:** FAFSA information night for all DLA seniors and their families.
- Monday October 12, 2020:** Inservice day for all teachers. Students do not attend.
- Friday October 2, 2020:** End of first quarter for all high school students.
- Friday October 30, 2020:** End of trimester 1 for elementary and middle school students.
- Wednesday November 11, 2020:** Veteran's Day holiday. School is closed.
- Monday November 23, 2020 through Friday November 27, 2020:** Thanksgiving Holiday. School is closed.

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

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 for 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/afsa>

We will be providing a FAFSA information night for all our seniors and their parents on Wednesday September 30, 2020 from 5pm until 6pm via Zoom. All families will receive an invite via email.

The FAFSA® – Simplified –

About The FAFSA®

1 What Is The FAFSA®?
 The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine eligibility for student financial aid by:
 The Federal Government, State Governments, Colleges and Career Schools

2 Who Should Fill Out A FAFSA®?
 Any prospective or current, post-secondary (college) student who wants to determine their eligibility for:
 Federal Grants, Federal Work-Study Programs, Subsidized and Unsubsidized Student Loans, State Student Financial Aid, Some Schools' Merit Scholarships

3 When To Complete Your FAFSA®
 The FAFSA is available January 1st, and the earlier your application is completed, the better!
 Each State and School Has its Own FAFSA® Deadline!

January Available, Verify Due Date(s)

Filing Your FAFSA®

1 Preparing To Complete The FAFSA®
 To fill out the FAFSA®, you need information about you and your finances. If you are a dependent of your parents, you will need information about them and their finances as well.
Information Needed To Complete Your Application:
 Federal ID Number (or SSN) or Tax Return, Federal Tax Information or Tax Return, Records of Unearned Income, Federal Cash, Savings, & Checking Accounts, Assets About Investments

2 How To Submit Your FAFSA®
 You have a few different submission options:
 Electronic Form (fafsa.gov), Mail Physical Form (Download PDF or Order Paper Form 1-800-4-FED-AID), Electronic Submission By Your School

3 Receive and Accept an Aid Offer
 After submitting your FAFSA® you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that details your answers and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This document should be carefully reviewed to make sure that your information is complete and correct.
 Each school listed on your FAFSA® should send you an aid offer stating the amount of aid you could receive at that school. If you are a prospective student, review and compare the different offers. You will need to formally accept the aid offer of your chosen school.

High Education Information Services Agency www.heisa.org