



DoDEA Virtual High School

SYNCHED

Department of Defense Education Activity

Connecting Parents, Teachers, and Community

Fall, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings from DoDEA Virtual High School! The first semester is flying by, and we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things happening at DVHS.

In this newsletter, you'll find an update on College and Career Readiness implementation and an update from our PPS (Pupil Personnel Services) Department. Make sure to look for the info on how to interpret the grading codes and notes in Schoology and Gradespeed! Thank you for the chance to work with your amazing students!

Sincerely,

DVHS Staff



Ms. Patricia Riley, Chief
DoDEA Headquarters – VA

Dr. Terri Marshall, Principal
Americas Hub – Quantico, VA

Ms. Scarlet Lake, Assistant Principal
Europe Hub – Sembach, Germany

Dr. Keri Lohmeier, Assistant Principal
Pacific Hub – Okinawa, Japan

Ms. Lynn Lund, Assistant Principal
Americas Hub – Quantico, VA

DVHS Vision:

To prepare our students to live, learn, work, and serve the public good in a digital, global society through engaging, synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

DoDEA Mission:

To provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

DVHS and College and Career Readiness

In 2015, DoDEA adopted College and Career Readiness Standards in Math (CCRSM) and Literacy (CCRSL). Having common standards across our schools is an advantage for our military families and students, especially those who have experienced what it's like to change duty stations every few years. You can feel confident that your students will have the same high standards at all of our schools, including DVHS. Like our counterparts on the ground, DVHS teachers are learning how to integrate elements from CCRSL and CCRSM into our courses. Teachers have attended training with our brick and mortar counterparts and learned more about the three shifts of the literacy standards. Math teachers have also had multiple training sessions to learn more about CCRSM for their subject areas.

The three shifts in CCRSL Literacy are applicable to all subject areas. Students will read challenging, diverse texts that they will examine critically using **close reading** skills. They will expand their **vocabulary**, using academic language that will assist them in college and beyond. Students will learn how to **cite evidence** to reinforce their position in the text they read.

Students will also see College and Career Readiness elements in math courses, to include working on rich tasks. Both CCRSL and CCRSM will be implemented over the next few years across DoDEA, including the DVHS. Parents can learn more about the standards and how they apply to your students at DoDEA's website. Click [here](#) to visit the site and learn more!





DVHS Teacher Megan Youness honored as 2016 American Geographical Society Geography Teacher Fellow

This September, The American Geographical Society named DVHS teacher Ms. Megan Youness as an AGS Geography Teacher Fellow for 2016. Teachers selected for this honor will attend the AGS Fall 2016 Symposium “Envisioning a Sustainable Planet” in New York City during November, 2016. Only 50 teachers nationwide were selected for this honor.

Ms. Youness has been a part of DVHS since 2010 and has been a teacher leader in both the Social Studies and World Languages Departments, serving as Department Chair. She has taught all levels of French, AP US History, and AP Human Geography, among other courses. A New York City native, Ms. Youness is based at our European Hub in Sembach, Germany.



Hour of Code

In honor of Computer Science Education Week (December 5th to 11th), our computer science students will be participating in the Hour of Code along with millions of students from around the globe. There are programming activities for all ages from pre-readers to adults. To learn more and participate in the Hour of Code, visit: <https://hourofcode.com/us>



Counseling, SPED and ESL (English as a Second Language) Specialists

ESL: Brian Keller (Brian.Keller@pac.dodea.edu) serves as our specialist for the many ESL students we serve. Virtual school has many benefits for our ESL population, including:

- Flexibility to work online and at home, with their resource teachers, anywhere students can access the internet.
- Access our DVHS e-library and take advantage of the multimedia elements in our classes that enhance lessons.
- DVHS teachers can work closely with ESL students to make sure they have support and resources as necessary to succeed.

You can contact Brian in Okinawa at DSN: 315-634-1678 to learn more!

SPED: Dr. Lynda Alexander (Lynda.Alexander@am.dodea.edu) serves as DVHS's Special Education specialist, working with the home school to ensure that students' accommodations are appropriate for the online environment. Additionally, she monitors student progress and maintains close communication with the home school. Parents are welcomed to contact Dr. Alexander directly with any concerns or needs at (703) 630 – 7035.

Our DVHS Counselors, Mr. Korry Mial and Mrs. Jamie Henshaw, are assigned to our DoDEA Schools by the first letter of the school's name. Since we serve students in all areas of DoDEA, this allows them to closely communicate with parents, local school teachers, and staff members as students are enrolled in our courses. Look here to see which counselor is assigned to your school!

- Jamie: All Middle Schools (A-K), All Secondary Schools (A –Kinnick)
 - Contact Jamie at: Jamie.Henshaw@am.dodea.edu
- Korry: All Middle Schools (L-Z), All Secondary Schools (Kubasaki – Z)
 - Contact Korry at: Korry.Mial@am.dodea.edu

KORRY JAMIE

Europe	Pacific	Americas
AF North	Daegu American	Antilles
Alconbury	Edgren HS	Ft. Campbell
Ankara	EJ King	Ft. Knox
Ansbach	Guam	
Aviano	Humphreys	
Bahrain	Kadena	
Baumholder	Kinnick	
Bitburg		
Brussels		
Kaiserslautern		
Europe	Pacific	Americas
Lakenheath	Kubasaki	LeJeune
Naples	MC Perry	Quantico
Ramstein	Osan American	Ramey
Rota	Seoul American	WT Sampson
SHAPE	Yokosuka	
Sigonella	Zama American	
Stuttgart		
Vicenza		
Vilseck		
Wiesbaden		



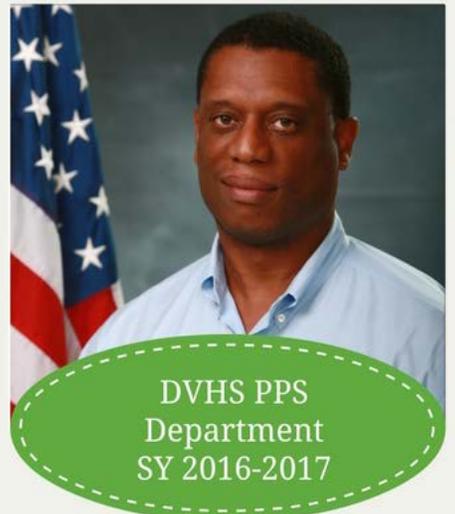
Brian Keller



Lynda Alexander



Jamie Henshaw



Korry Mial

DVHS Grades: Access and Information

By this point in the school year, all of our students are in the second grading period, Quarter 2. Remember that both first and second quarter averages along with the semester exam are used to calculate a student's semester grade. The student semester grade is critical because it is used to determine course credit. While students receive a report card for first and second quarter, only the semester grade appears on student transcripts and is the mark used for GPA calculation.

To assist in keeping track of student grades, the DoDEA Virtual High School encourages all students and parents to have GradeSpeed Connection accounts and to login frequently to check progress. This account gives access to your local school's classes as well. If you don't have an account yet, please contact your local school for directions on obtaining an account.

It is important to note that there are numerous calendars in DoDEA with grading periods ending on different dates. Thus, there may be times that a due date listed for assignments in GradeSpeed are not the ones for your student. Official assignment dates specific to your student can be found on the Assignment Schedule posted in the course within Schoology.

Though you may see grades within Schoology, the transfer of grades from Schoology to GradeSpeed is not automatic. Though we strive to keep GradeSpeed up-to-date, there may be times when the two systems temporarily differ. Please remember that GradeSpeed is the official grade book for all DVHS classes and all final grades are entered there.

Again, we urge you to obtain a Gradespeed account and login regularly. The DVHS administration and staff encourages communication, so please reach out to your student's teacher, counselor or administrator if you have questions.

Gradespeed Codes At-A-Glance	
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This indicates that a student has attempted an assignment, but has earned no credit or a student has cheated on an assignment.
MSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This indicates that an assignment is past due. "MSG" calculates as a zero into the student's total grade.
EXC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This indicates a student is "excused" from a particular assignment, and does not have to complete it.
ABS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This indicates an assignment is missing due to an excused absence. "ABS" does not affect the student's overall grade.
INC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This indicates the student has turned in an incomplete assignment. "INC" does not affect the student's overall grade.
BLANK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A blank space indicates that assignment has not yet been graded or entered into the grade book. This does not affect the student's overall grade.