



DoDEA Virtual High School

SYNCHED

Department of Defense Education Activity

Connecting Parents, Teachers, and Community

Winter, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings from DoDEA Virtual High School! As we begin our second semester, we are excited to welcome both brand new DVHS students and Virtual High School “Veterans” who have taken courses with us before!

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find a guide to our “Hub” model and how we reach students across the globe in addition to updates from our DVHS Counselors and PPS (Pupil Personnel Services) department. Also, it’s not too early to start thinking about the end of this school year and the upcoming DVHS Summer School term. We look forward to both!

Sincerely,

DVHS Staff



Ms. Patricia Riley, Chief
DoDEA Headquarters – Alexandria, 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.

Parents and Sponsors:

Here are three easy ways you can stay up-to-date on your student's progress and what's happening in his or her DVHS class!

Get a Parent Account for Gradespeed to stay current on assignment grades

Contact your local school front desk or ET to obtain an account.

Once parents have their student's login information, they can check their student's current grades at any time.

Ask your student to show you his or her class in Schoology

Schoology is available 24-7 from any computer with internet access.

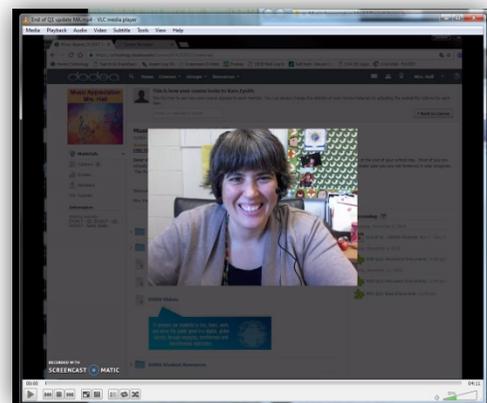
Students can show their parents what they are working on in their courses at any time.

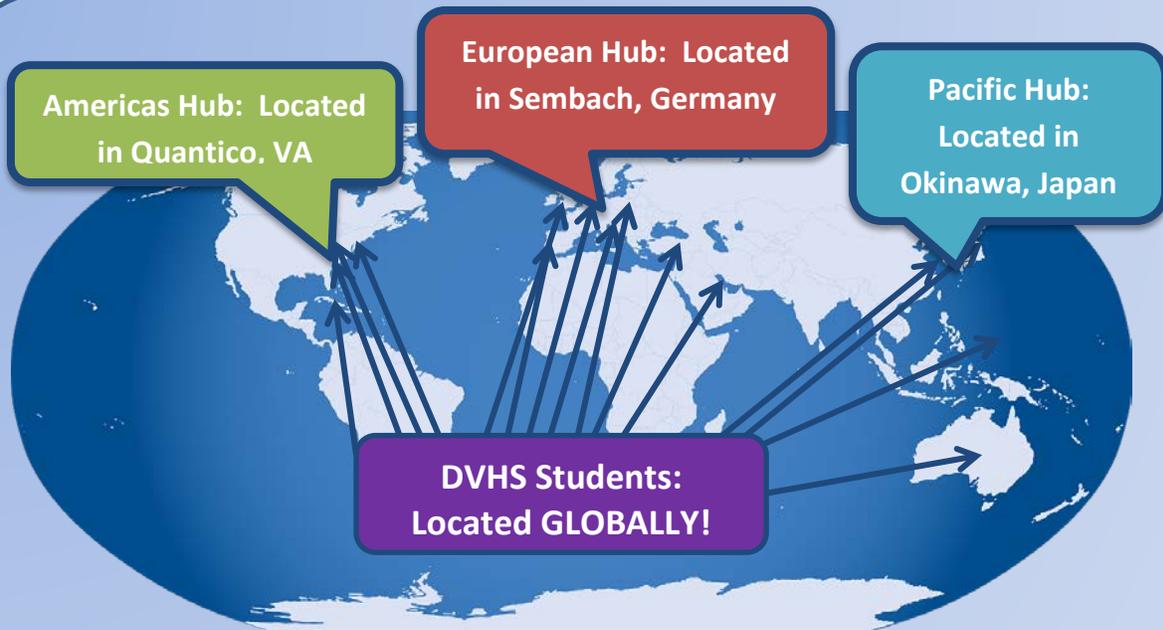
Print a copy of your student's Assignment Schedule for each DVHS class

Course schedules are available in the "Assignment Schedules" folder in each Schoology course. They list ALL assignments and when they're due. Ask the teacher if you have questions.

DVHS Teachers: Increasing Teacher Presence

Over the past year, DVHS teachers have been focusing on increasing **teacher presence** in our courses. Since we do not have the ability to interact face-to-face with our students, we make the most of available technology to improve the way students experience our courses. One example of this is by creating course introduction videos and lesson walk-throughs for students, such as the screenshot here from Mrs. Hall's Music Appreciation class. Other teachers use screencasting tools to record themselves going over concepts or looking at assignments with students. These tools allow teachers to record what's happening on the screen – whether it's showing a document, grading an essay, or demonstrating how to use an item in the class. As our teachers develop their teacher presence through our online tools, we are able to provide students with new ways to display their knowledge.





The HUB Model: How DVHS Teachers Reach Students Across The Globe

Everyone knows that the internet doesn't have an "off" switch. We can access almost any website from any internet connection, no matter what time of day or night. DVHS is a little like this, but although the SCHOOL doesn't need sleep, DVHS teachers do!

DVHS teachers do not work out of one central location. Our three "hubs" allow the DVHS to have a worldwide presence. Each of our main regions is home to one of our hubs (located in Quantico, VA; Sembach, Germany; and Okinawa, Japan). Our teachers spend most of their workweek teaching from their assigned hub, so the teacher assigned to your student's course may live and work in a time zone different from your own. Additionally, any given DVHS course may have students enrolled from all three of our main regions: the Americas (schools located in the continental United States, Puerto Rico, and Cuba), Europe (schools located in Spain, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Bahrain, Belgium, and the Netherlands), and the Pacific (schools located in Guam, Japan, and South Korea). The majority of our students are enrolled concurrently in a local DoDEA school, but we also serve eligible students via the Non DoD School Program (NDSP).

Parents who have students taking DVHS courses might be concerned that their student's teacher is located in a different time zone. However, DVHS teachers have honed their skills in presenting lessons both synchronously and asynchronously using our available technology, such as Spark (instant messenger) or Adobe Connect (a web conference tool), which allows us to have online meetings with students, and the telephone!

While it can be challenging to meet the needs of students in so many different time zones, DVHS teachers adjust their schedule and work hard to meet with students synchronously to ensure all students have all the information they need to work independently during those times when teachers and students are not online at the same time. We are proud to be a worldwide school and to say that our system allows us to develop and maintain relationships with all of our students, no matter where they are located.



Parents and Sponsors:

If you are considering Summer School enrollment in DVHS for a student on an IEP or 504 Plan, please consider the following:

When requesting enrollment for a student who has a 504 Plan or IEP, please consider the following:

- Does the student regularly rely on teachers and other students for extra help?
- Does the student receive one-on-one support during the regular school year?
- Does the student need frequent prompting/ cues to initiate a task or to remain on task?
- Does the student have difficulty working independently?
- Does the student depend highly on an extended time accommodation?
- Does the student require test/ assignments/texts to be read aloud?
- Does the student need directions, assignment requirements, or questions restated?
- Does the student require step by step directions?
- Does the student use a planner for assignment completion, which must be signed by teacher and parent?
- Does the student require a structured environment or access to structured support?
- Does the student work at an exceptionally slow pace?
- Does the student require specialized instruction i.e., Learning strategies/resource room/inclusion support?
- Does the student need a reduction in assignments, test questions, etc.?
- Does the student need modified tests and assignments to demonstrate mastery?
- Does the student have difficulty in comprehending and applying information independently?
- Does the student have difficulty retaining and recalling information?



Please Note:

Answering YES, to any of the above considerations, WILL NOT prevent the student from being enrolled. However, please consider contacting the DVHS Special Education Coordinator, Dr. Lynda Alexander, prior to enrollment, to discuss course considerations and summer school support.

Email: Lynda.alexander@am.dodea.edu

Telephone: 703-630-7035



DVHS: Celebrating Life-Long Learning

Many students don't realize that their teachers are constantly undergoing training and taking courses in order to improve their practice and become more proficient in their craft. One way teachers do this is by earning advanced degrees, such as a Master's or Doctor's degree in a variety of fields. When you're a teacher, you never stop learning! Here are some of the DVHS team who have earned the highest possible degrees in their fields:

Dr. Terri Marshall, DVHS Principal

Dr. Keri Lohmeier, Assistant Principal, Pacific Hub

Dr. Lynda Alexander, SPED Coordinator

Dr. Harvey Burgess, Instructional Designer

Dr. Lenna King, Instructional Designer

Dr. Keith Riley, Teacher, Americas Hub



Congratulations to DVHS Spanish Teacher, Dr. Vilma Melendez, Upon Earning your Doctoral Degree!

DVHS Spanish teacher Dr. Vilma Melendez recently completed her PhD in Puerto Rican and Caribbean Literature, through studying at the Centro Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y El Caribe in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Melendez's love and expertise in the area of Spanish language literature and her experience living abroad and studying in Puerto Rico shines through in her classes. Dr. Melendez currently teaches Spanish III, IV, and AP Spanish Language and Culture with the DoDEA Virtual High School. Dr. Melendez is stationed at DVHS's European Hub in Sembach, Germany. Congratulations to Dr. Melendez!



Are you interested in having your student enroll in a DVHS Summer School Course? Plan ahead now for Summer Session 2017!

- DVHS Summer School is an intensive, compressed course that allows students to earn the equivalent of .5 semester credit.
- DVHS Summer School course offerings consist of both elective and core courses.
- For more information, please contact your local school Counselor!