



DoDEA Virtual High School

SYNCHED

Department of Defense Education Activity

Connecting Parents, Teachers, and Community

Spring, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings from the DoDEA Virtual High School! As we wrap up the last quarter of the school year we look forward to the beginning of our 2017 Summer School program as well as to students enrolling in courses for next fall. We would like to congratulate all DoDEA graduating Seniors, but especially five students earning their high school diplomas from DVHS.

In this edition, you will find information on our summer school program as well as a feature on how DVHS teachers have been working to integrate DoDEA's new College and Career Readiness Standards in Literacy and Math this school year. Students will continue to see challenging and enriching activities in courses as new standards and materials become integrated throughout our courses.

Thank you for being a part of our community! We are happy to be a part of yours!

Sincerely,

DVHS Staff

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.

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

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



Who's Eligible? All DoDEA students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 can enroll in one semester (0.5 credit) course. Students can either repeat a semester course to improve a grade or enroll for original credit.

When is it? DVHS Summer School begins June 26 and ends July 31, 2017. **Students should expect to spend at least 2-4 hours a day on their course.**

What courses are offered? Check with your local school counselor for the most current course offerings. Not all DVHS regular school-year courses are offered during Summer School.

What do I need to take an online class during the summer? Students will need a DoDEA Google School account. This will allow them to access Schoology.

Students will need access to a computer or laptop with internet for the duration of the course. Tablets and phones are not designed to work with the Summer School program.

Once enrolled, student login information will be sent to the sponsor's email on file and to the student's Google account.

ESL: Did you know?



DVHS and ESL Students

Did you know that DVHS has many ESL students?

Here are some facts about our program and the students enrolled in our courses.

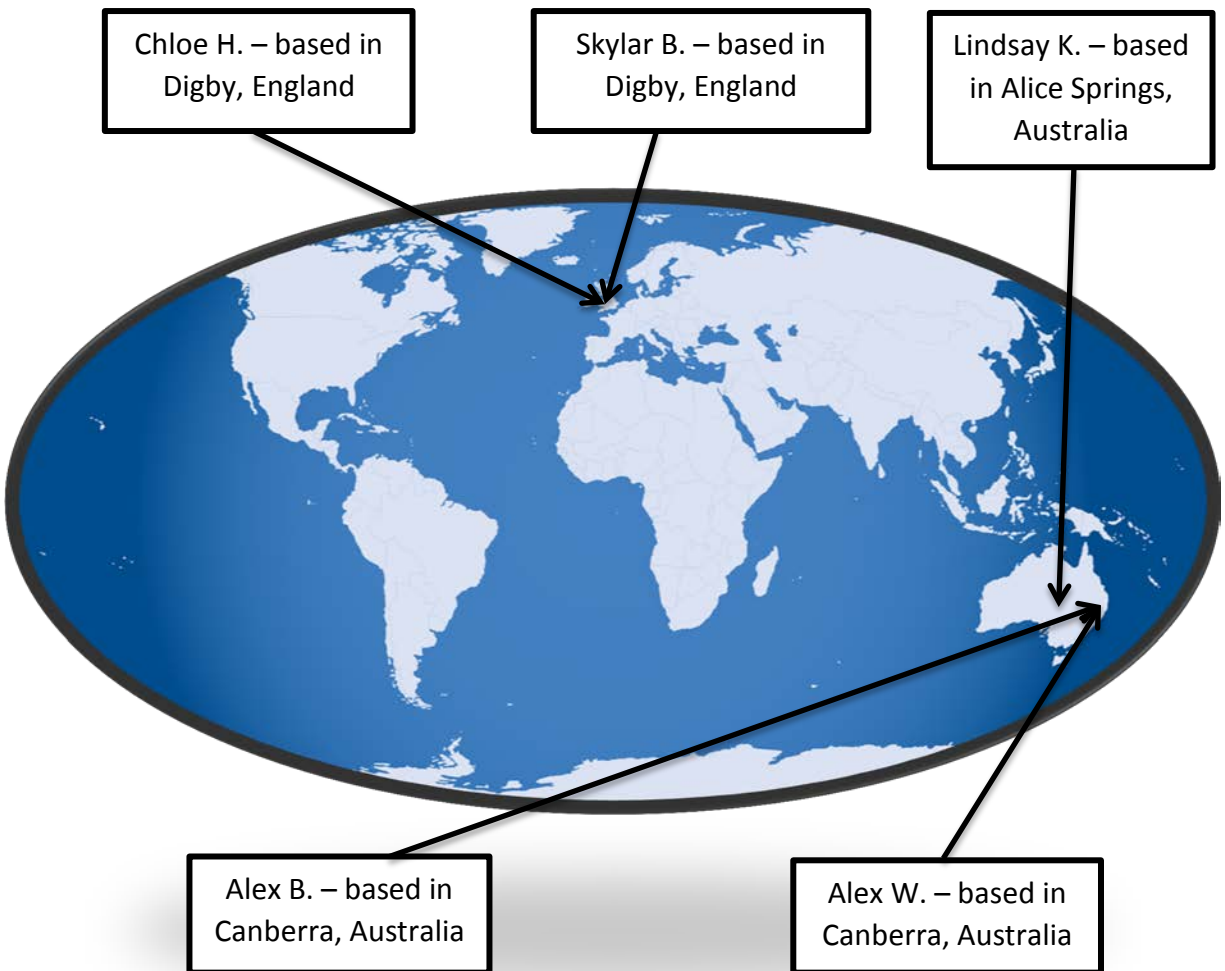
- ✓ DVHS teachers support English language learners based on their proficiency level using the same framework as DoDEA brick and mortar schools.
- ✓ There are approximately fifty students identified as ESL enrolled with DVHS each semester.
- ✓ First languages in order of prevalence are: Japanese, Tagalog, Spanish, German, French, Korean, Italian (tie), Norwegian (tie), Portuguese (tie), Russian (tie), Thai (tie), and Wolof (tie).
- ✓ Students are enrolled in courses from each department. The most popular placements are in foreign language and elective courses. Social studies and math are close behind.



Senior Spotlight: DVHS Celebrates 2017 Graduates

As a fully accredited, diploma-granting high school the DVHS has the privilege of assisting students in the NDSP in earning their diplomas. These students take on challenging, full-time online course loads, often completing multiple AP courses in the process. This year, we are fortunate to have five Seniors earning their high school diploma through DVHS. Three of our graduates have the opportunity to receive their diplomas in person at a DoDEA school: Lindsay K. and Alex W. in Quantico, VA, and Alex B. in Okinawa, Japan. We would like to congratulate all of our graduates as they celebrate this important milestone!

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
FROM YOUR DVHS TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND STAFF!**



DVHS Senior Spotlight: Alex Wiederock

DVHS serves a special purpose for DoDEA students located abroad, who are not close enough to a DoDDS school to attend in person. We have the privilege of helping these far-flung students complete their high school education and earn their diploma while living overseas. One of our 2017 graduating Seniors, Alex Wiederock, has been taking courses with DVHS full-time since 2015. Recently, Alex reflected on the experience of being a full-time online student and balancing “offline” and “virtual” life.

Located in Canberra, Australia, Alex shared that the adjustment to being a full-time online student was easy, citing as an advantage the flexible schedule that comes with working at home. When asked which courses were the most enjoyable, Alex responded “The most fun for me were Japanese III and Game Design [as a Junior], and AP Computer Science [as a Senior]”. The interest in programming led Alex to apply to Stevens Institute of Technology, earning early admission and a full Presidential Scholarship. Alex plans to major in computer science and minor in music and graphic design.

Before moving to Canberra, Alex was a student at Ankara HS, Turkey. While at Ankara, Alex was inducted into the National Honor Society as well as earning All-Academic Awards for varsity volleyball and basketball. A fundraising event Alex spearheaded while a student at Ankara High School, the Jingle Jog Fun Run, continues to be an annual staple at Ankara Air Force Base.

As a seasoned “pro” online learner, Alex offered the following advice for potential Virtual High School students, sound advice for any graduate about to begin the first year of college:

“Don’t forget to sleep. It’s easy to do; you’ll get so distracted with work. You get on the computer and suddenly you’ve lost all concept of time. Day and night blend together. Who are you? What are you doing? Where do your hands end and the keyboard begin?”

Among Alex’s many talents is a tremendous ability and interest in music, with a focus on piano and woodwinds. Alex has participated in the DoDDS Honors Music Festival in Wiesbaden as a baritone saxophone player and in 2016, passed the ABRSM Grade 8 piano exam with merit.

As part of a music course, Alex composed and arranged an original song, “*L’arte di Indugio*” (*The Art of Procrastination*). The song, which demonstrates Alex’s ability as a pianist as well as composer and arranger, was included in an admissions portfolio to Stevens Institute of Technology.

[Click here to listen to Alex’s composition, *L’arte di Indugio*.](#)



DVHS and College and Career Readiness

This past year, DVHS teachers have been working hard to learn more about the College and Career Readiness Standards in literacy across our content areas. The focus this year has been on using strategies to create more challenging and enriching experiences for our students in the area of reading. Some of the new activities your students may have seen include close reading activities (critically examining a piece of text in order to better understand it), compare and contrast (exploring similarities and differences between a concept or ideas in a text), reading for meaning (using graphic organizers to discover and process the most important elements in a text), and vocabulary enrichment activities meant to create deeper understanding of crucial words and concepts.

While DVHS teachers participated in literacy training, our Math team received training in the Standards for Mathematical Practice! Teachers have learned about challenging Rich Tasks and how to integrate them into their classes. Did you know that there are many areas of the math standards that relate to the literacy standards? Just as students are asked to write clearly and use evidence to support their claims (CCRS Anchor Standard 1), math students learn to *construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others* (SMP 3). All in all, DVHS teachers continue to work together to help our students think critically about the world around them, no matter what they are studying!

