Greetings to all from the DoDEA Virtual High School!

School year 2019-2020 is well underway, and we have successfully completed the first quarter. We know that communication is key, and we encourage students to continue to stay on task and continually connect with their online teacher.

The goal of our newsletter is to highlight our school and to capture the unique perspectives of our students, staff, and other stakeholders. In this, our first newsletter of the year, you will find a student spotlight of a student enrolled in one of our German courses, a teacher spotlight, and a tip for connecting with teachers via Google Hangouts.

Lastly, the theme for DVHS this year is IMPACT! We will continue to build on the DoDEA goal of helping our students to become college and career ready. We are committed to student achievement and preparing students for the future. To this end, our school will participate in an accreditation Engagement Review this spring. As we continue evaluating our level of impact in DoDEA, we will celebrate our successes and create a plan to address our opportunities to grow.

It’s a pleasure to be a part of your community!

Sincerely,
Dr. Terri L. Marshall

“Your life has purpose. You story is important. Your dreams count. Your voice matters. You were born to make an impact.”—Angela Leigh, attributed

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

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.
What is the relationship between the DVHS and our DoDEA high schools?

The DVHS allows all eligible students the opportunity to take many classes they might otherwise have missed. It was created to provide students with the opportunity to supplement local high school coursework. It compliments the face-to-face learning experience of a traditional brick and mortar high school.

What are the characteristics for student success in a course provided by the DVHS?

To be successful in an online course, students must be proactive with their communication and confident with their learning. Successful practices of DVHS students include completing the Student Orientation found in their course, downloading and following their assignment schedule, communicating with their teachers on a regular basis through email and Google Hangouts, and reaching out for help from their facilitator, their ET, and, most importantly, their teacher.

How can students get help if they have questions/challenges?

DVHS students are encouraged to establish a strong rapport with online teachers to help address course questions or challenges. Each DVHS student has a variety of ways in which to contact the course instructor when questions arise about course content or if one-on-one assistance is needed. Listed within each course are the teacher’s email address, office phone number, and availability. Instant messaging (IM) and web-conferencing tools are used to support student-student and student-teacher real time interaction.

A facilitator is assigned by the local school to provide routine monitoring and to help address on-site issues in the DVHS class period. The local facilitator’s role is critical for helping students to develop time-management skills, ensure successful completion, and address academic integrity issues.
5 Frequently Asked Questions about DVHS

Q: Where do students view their official grade?
A: GradeSpeed is DoDEA’s official gradebook--and this includes the DVHS! Although many DVHS students use the Schoology learning management system which also has a gradebook, students should always refer to GradeSpeed for their official grade.

Q: How do students determine due dates?
A: Please do not use the date in GradeSpeed as the due date! Every course has an assignment schedule. Students should use their assignment schedule for official due dates.

Q: Why are assignment due dates different from the due dates listed in GradeSpeed?
A: DVHS serves students from all over DoDEA with 17 different calendars. GradeSpeed will only allow one due date per assignment to be posted in its system. Students should refer to the course assignment schedule for due dates and be in close contact with their online teacher if questions arise.

Q: Do students work at their own pace?
A: DVHS teachers set the pace for the online course with lessons and assignments guided by specific due dates. Students should follow the course assignment schedule and communicate with their teacher if a situation arises which will require that they deviate from the dates listed in the assignment schedule.

Q: I’m going to be absent for a (school sponsored activity, school training closure, etc). Will my work be excused?
A: Yes. But because the DVHS operates on 17 different calendars, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor of their course in advance regarding situations of this sort. Advance notice is recommended.
What is it like taking a virtual course?
Taking virtual courses has been a very interesting experience. I enjoy being able to talk with my teacher more one on one and the material being taught becomes easier to understand with her guidance and expertise. Her curriculum and instruction encouraged me to take a second-year virtual course. The virtual course has helped me manage my time more efficiently and try my best to become a more Independent and organized student.

Why did you decide to take a virtual school class?
I took a virtual class because I was interested, specifically, in learning German. Sadly, I attend a DoDEA school in Japan, so there were no options for a German class at my school. I was so excited when I learned about taking German online. Ms. Interian’s class has grown my appreciation for German culture and language. I have learned so much in under two years and I am so thrilled to continue learning German, even after I graduate high school.

What are the benefits of taking a virtual course?
Some benefits of taking a virtual course are managing your work and schedule to better accommodate your life. Of course there are still due dates that need to be followed, but for my course, a unit is due every 7-10 days and if anything suddenly occurs in your life that you can't control and it just so happens to throw your life out of orbit, you can email your teacher or message them on Hangouts at any time to notify them. I am a competitive dancer and last year I traveled to Europe for a week for a major competition and Ms. Interian was very understanding of my late work because of my circumstances.

What is the average day like for you as a virtual learner?
An average day for me as a virtual learner is not as rigorous as some of my other classes. However, that doesn’t mean it doesn’t take effort to stay on top of my virtual class assignments. As well as using my designated class period during my school day at my high school, I take about 30-60 min every day, depending on what I’m learning, to study or work on my virtual school work. Sometimes I call my teacher on Hangouts to practice or do speaking assignments, but that’s usually about once a week.

What did you learn about your learning style by taking a virtual course?
I discovered while taking my virtual school course that my learning style is more oriented around having some freedoms to allow me to listen to relaxing music while I study and also that I prefer more quiet learning environments. This is usually difficult to have in a traditional classroom setting, so it’s refreshing for me to work and relax with some music (sometimes German songs so I can get subconscious practice) while I’m doing virtual school work. It occasionally can get loud at my school, so having the music on helps me also block out distracting sounds and helps me focus.

Favorite words to live by:
Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence. - Abigail Adams
What is it like taking a virtual course?

I have never taken a virtual course before. Right now, I am taking two classes, and I enjoy them. In the beginning, I was worried about contact between my teachers and me, but it turns out that I was anxious about nothing. They are always willing to help me and answer my questions whenever they get the chance. I even have the opportunity to call my teachers in the afternoons.

What are the benefits of taking a virtual course?

I am so happy I don't have to worry about hauling around giant textbooks. When I walk into the class, it is quiet, and it helps me focus. I always have a way of contacting my teachers, and they do everything they can to help me. Another thing I love is that I can access the material from practically anywhere and get ahead on assignments if I want.

What is the average day like for you as a virtual learner?

It's like any other school day, just with more opportunities to take my time and relax. It doesn't seem like that big of a deal, but I think it helps my performance in my other classes. I come in, sign in, sit down, and get to work.

What did you learn about your learning style by taking a virtual course.

I learned that silent classrooms are a godsend. They help me concentrate and allow me to clear my mind before I work. I also retain information better when not overwhelmed as I would be in a regular classroom. The classes let me work at my own pace, whether that be ahead or in time with the due dates.

Any advice for future DVHS students?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. I promise that your teachers enjoy helping and interacting with their students. It lets them know what you need help with and that you are engaged in learning the material.

Favorite words to live by:

"If you're going to do something, do it right." - My dad

Why did you decide to take a virtual school class?

I didn't know that my school offered online courses until a friend of mine (Zahreen Schaffer-Harris) talked about it at lunch. My friend was taking German 1 at the time with Ms. Interian, and she was telling our group how much she loved the class and her teacher. I knew that I had to fill my schedule for next year, so I figured that I'd take online, and I haven't regretted it.

-Samantha

Samantha Kurz (not pictured) is a student attending Kadena High School located in Okinawa, Japan.
Core Six's Write to Learn is a learning and writing strategy that can be used in all content areas. Using this strategy helps to improve student’s thinking, deepens their comprehension of the content, and provides formative assessment needed to improve student writing. Here is an example of how DVHS teacher, Dr. Vilma Melendez, recently used Core Six Write to Learn: Three Types of Writing strategy in her Spanish classes.

**Part 1: Provisional Writing – Ideas without Revision**

The student will choose a profession of interest to research.

**Goal:** The student will answer in complete Spanish sentences.

**Project 1: Mi profesión de interés - Ideas geniales**

Submit your assignment here.

Provisional Writing

En la Fecha 1 solo debes contestar la siguiente pregunta:

¿Cuál es tu profesión de interés?

Please answer the questions in complete Spanish sentences:

Mi profesión de interés es la fisioterapeuta.

**Part 2: Readable Writing—Best Writing without Revision**

The student will answer questions adding additional details found in their search about their profession.

**Goal:** The student will answer the questions in complete Spanish sentences using the lesson vocabulary words, grammar, and verb tenses.

**Project 2: Mi profesión de interés - Silueta/Outline**

Submit your assignment here.

Project: Mi profesión de interés - Silueta 20 puntos

Selecciona una profesión que te interese. Estas preguntas te ayudarán a crear un esquema. Investiga todo lo que puedes acerca de esa profesión para aprender lo siguiente:

- ¿Cómo se trabaja en tu profesión?
- ¿Qué se necesita para tener esta profesión?
- ¿Cuál es el salario de esta profesión?
- ¿Cómo se prepara para esta profesión?
- ¿A qué hora trabaja?
- ¿Es una profesión estacional?
- ¿Es una profesión de alto riesgo?
- ¿Es una profesión de alto estatus social?
- ¿Es una profesión que se puede hacer en casa?

**Paragraph 1:**


**Paragraph 2:**

Un otorrinolaringólogo es una doctora que hace cirugía en las orejas, la nariz y la garganta. Necesito tomar 10 años de escuela de médico. También, necesito hacer bien en mis otros clases y necesito ser avanzado en mis clases de ciencias y matemáticas. Recibo 350,000 dólares más o menos cada año. El trabajo es difícil pero es divertido porque es como un rompecabezas y puedes ayudar personas. Lleva una bata quirúrgica y una máscara quirúrgica y usan muchos instrumentos.

**Paragraph 3:**

Espanol me ayuda por esta profesión porque puedo trabajar en muchos países diferentes. Recibo más dinero si hablo dos o más idiomas. Me interesa esta profesión porque puedo ayudar personas y es divertido porque es como un rompecabezas. Mi tío y un amigo de mi padre hace esta profesión y dicen que es muy divertido.
Dr. Vilma Melendez has been with DVHS since 2012 and is located Sembach, Germany.

Part 3: Polished Writing – Best Writing with Revision

The student will turn in an essay using MLA format.

Goal: From the parts to the whole, the student will be able to produce an essay format from their answers to the questions. The student will add transition words at the beginning of the paragraphs.

Student Sample: The student use the transition word “Además” at the beginning of the paragraph.

Part 4: Polished Writing with Recording

Student will turn in a recording of their assignment meeting CCRSL Speaking & Listening Standards.
Dr. Terri Marshall, DoDEA Virtual High School Principal, was honored for her 25 years of government service in DoDEA in September, 2019.

Dr. Marshall began her career in education in Washington, D.C. as a math teacher. Her DoDEA story began in 1994 in a classroom at H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany. From there, she moved into a leadership role, serving as Assistant Principal at Seoul American High School in Korea, as Principal at Hanau High School in Germany, and as Principal at Lakenheath High School in England. She also served as High School Principal in Residence at Headquarters for approximately three years. In her current role as the DoDEA Virtual High School’s Principal, Dr. Marshall reflects on her career and contributions to the field:

**Why did you go into education?**

Education was not my first choice. My mom was a K-8 principal and my dad was a 6th grade teacher. I ran from teaching. I went to the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and I thought I would join corporate America. After college, I was the director of an educational center working for the Higher Achievement Program, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. Part of my job was to tutor students in algebra in the evenings. I really enjoyed helping students learn math and it appeared to be my gift. So, I went back to school to earn my Masters in Education, with a major in Secondary Mathematics. I truly believe that education is the great equalizer of our society.

**What are your goals/vision for DVHS?**

I believe it’s important for the DVHS to continue to offer quality educational opportunities for military-connected students. In many states, online learning is required for graduation, and many companies (and the military) are now providing training online. Taking a class with the DVHS helps students prepare for both college and the workplace.

**What are your words to live by?**

My mom always told me it doesn't cost anything to be kind and that it’s important to help others. My dad taught me that laughter and happiness are essential to having a great life. I've tried to live up to the words of my parents in both my personal and professional lives.
Google Hangouts as a Chrome Extension:
https://chrome.google.com/webstore/search/hangouts

Google Hangouts is a free instant messaging tool that DVHS teachers use to connect with students via chat and audio and video conferencing. If it has not already visible on the Chrome browser toolbar, we recommend that students add Google Hangouts as a Google Chrome extension as it allows users to receive messages even if the Chrome browser is not open.

To check whether the Google Chrome extension is available to you, log into Chrome with your DoDEA Google account. If it is loaded, you will see a green chat icon in the top right corner next to your picture on the toolbar.

Use these steps to add the Chrome extension on your school and home computer:

1. Login to Chrome by clicking the icon in the upper right corner of the Chrome toolbar. Follow the prompts to sign into Chrome with your DoDEA Gmail account ending in @student.dodea.edu.

2. After logging in, click “Link data” if prompted.

3. Once logged into Chrome with your DoDEA Google account, the extension should open automatically or have a green chat icon on the Chrome toolbar. If it does not, you will have to install it from the Chrome Web Store first.

4. To install the Hangouts extension, go to: https://chrome.google.com/webstore/search/hangouts.

5. To add the Google Hangouts extension click on “Add to Chrome.” There are other extensions with the same name listed. Be sure to add the one with the graphic shown below:
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Nominations Are OPEN

dodea.edu/TeacheroftheYear.cfm

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE DODEA TEACHER TODAY!

Do you know a teacher who has had a positive impact on your child, your child’s school, or your community? If so, please consider honoring that teacher by nominating him/her as the District Teacher of the Year. The DoDEA Teacher of the Year program provides avenues for teachers to be honored, awarded, and nationally recognized for their outstanding efforts in providing the best education for our military-connected students.

Your participation is key, so please take a few moments to learn more about how you can nominate an outstanding teacher by visiting the DoDEA Teacher of the Year website - http://www.dodea.edu/teachers/teacherofyear.cfm, and downloading the nomination form for Teacher of the Year. You can now nominate through an online form!

Nominations will be accepted until

November 15, 2019.

Inquiries: Program Coordinator
kelisa.wing@dodea.edu
Why College and Career Ready Standards are Good for DoDEA

College and Career Ready Standards set:
• a foundation for continuous student success and growth
• grade-by-grade learning expectations for students

College and Career Ready Standards are:
• clear, consistent and directed toward high learning goals
• relevant to the real world
• focused on preparing students for success in college and career

College and Career Ready Standards reflect:
• current research and evidence-based best and promising instructional practices
• knowledge, skills and social foundations students need for success in both college and work

AND...
FOR DoDEA STUDENTS, COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STANDARDS

Support a cohesive education for the highly-mobile, military-connected student.

Present an extraordinary opportunity for academic development — no matter where you move, you will know the standards and expectations have not changed.