

# Principal's Message

October 2017



Dear Day Creek Families,

It's hard to believe that we are entering the end of the first trimester! I hope you were able to join us for parent conferences this year. Achievement will look different for each student and it is important to recognize the areas where your child has been successful and then discuss those areas that have been challenging. Use suggestions from your child's teacher to improve skills in the targeted areas which will help build confidence. We enjoyed the opportunity to get to meet our students' families during parent conferences. Feel free to contact your child's teacher later in the year if you would like another conference.

By October, study routines at home have begun to take shape. It's a great time to review and possibly improve your students study habits.

**ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME-STUDY ROUTINE WITH YOUR STUDENT.** Encouraging, supporting, and participating in this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and support a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.

1. **SET A SCHEDULE:** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this habit. In many ways, it's his/her job and should become routine. Your support and involvement in your student's home-study effort makes a huge difference in the high school experience.
2. **CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important requirements are time, focus, and your support. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention.
3. **OBSERVE AND ENGAGE:** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Now that the new school year has begun, commit three weeks to this routine with your student. Make it become a habit for both of you. Your daily assistance and attitude toward school have a huge impact on your child's success.

I am so proud of our hard working Coyotes and look forward to their continued success! Here are some links to parent resources regarding CAASPP test scores and standards that your child is learning.

#### CAASPP resource

- <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caasppparentres.pdf>

#### CAASPP scoring guide

- <http://testscoreguide.org/ca/>

#### Parent Roadmap

- <https://www.cgcs.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=328>

Sincerely,

David Apodaca  
Principal

#### 2017 - 2018 Administration

David Apodaca, Principal

Nichole Kelley, Assistant Principal

Amy Raymond, Assistant Principal

#### School Information

12345 Coyote Drive • Etiwanda, CA 91739

Phone: 909-803-3300 • Fax: 909-803-3309

Attendance Line: 909-803-3016 • Website: [www.etiwanda.org/DCIS](http://www.etiwanda.org/DCIS)

## Failure Is Not An Option!

# Students of the *Month*



## August *Responsibility*

Phoebe Kim  
Jimmy Kuhlman  
Sabrina Herness  
Susan Xu  
Alanna Quinn  
David Stephens  
William Pico  
Jeremy Tanius  
Diana Niazi  
Logan Dobbins  
Isabel Gonzalez Salgado  
Chase Gonzalez  
Camron Tuthill  
Gean Hu  
Selena Vidana

Sophia Jimenez  
Sydney Oravets  
Jacob Orta  
Ja Daiah Watson  
Raghuvendra Chowdhry  
Diego Arreola  
Raisa Rana  
Keegan Aldrich  
Savannah Wheat  
Camila Pettenuzzo  
Mangaser, Angelita  
Bailey Miranda  
Natalia Mitchell  
Brooklyn Donaldson  
Joshua La

Sabrina Seretis  
Lauren West  
Bryanna Binsol  
Gitali Jain  
Sean Clenista  
Kierra Wang  
Montana Leyva  
Aydin LaVoise  
Kealy Mohr  
Rohan Chowdhury  
Jasnoor Massoun  
Amy Atalla  
Ashton Merrill



"Coyote Connection"  
October 2017 • Issue #4  
Published Six Times Per Year  
Etiwanda School District  
12999 Victoria Street • Etiwanda, CA 91739-9532

## September *Teamwork*

Constantine Korovessis  
Vince Villamena  
Jaden St Cyr  
Michael Shaw  
Deja Zeiglar  
Joy Liu  
Jonah Dawson  
Alexander Halkidis  
Amanda Sayers  
Natalee Bezi  
Julie Ibrahim  
Bryden Brown  
Cameron Bogan  
Nathan Mattered  
Pablo Flores

Sol Alexander  
Jake Jensen  
Hayden Kazerooni  
Zahed Siddiqui  
Brody Foulds  
Ellie Park  
Mason Ramirez  
Layth Alqaza  
Sohum Mehta  
Chris Guirguis  
Sharon Lu  
Missy Scimia  
Matthew Ramos  
Ashley Chavez  
Janice Boktor

Alexandria Romero  
Dylan Reiner  
Juli Salhab  
Nehemiah Dominguez  
Ethan Nguyen  
Joaquin Gonzalez-Salgado  
Nicole Sanchez  
Ashlyn Howell  
Andrew Chung  
Emily Valtier  
Eric Burt  
Jackson Fajardo  
Richard (Zhanhou) Cao

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# Halloween Bash

The DCIS Halloween Bash is on Friday, October 27, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. We have the best haunted house in the neighborhood and lots of great games for the students to play. This event has grown every year and this year will be no exception. It is a much anticipated event for our students and lots of fun! We need many parent volunteers will join us to keep the fun and games moving seamlessly. If you would like to be a volunteer, visit the DCIS PTO webpage and sign up. (Students are invited to change into costumes right after school to enjoy the festivities, school dress code still applies.)



## Student Calendar 2017-2018

"Excellence in Education"

2nd Trimester 60  
3rd Trimester 63  
Total Days 180

schools.

October 17						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

16 Student Recess  
27 End of 1st Trimester

November 17						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

5 Daylight Saving Time ends  
10 Veterans Day - No School  
20-24 Thanksgiving Break

December 17						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

22-29 Winter Break

January 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1-5 Winter Break  
15 Martin Luther King's Day - No School  
29 Non Student Day

February 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

12 Lincoln's Day - No School  
16 End of 2nd Trimester  
19 Presidents' Day - No School

March 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11 Daylight Saving Time starts  
26-30 Spring Break

Minimum Day ALL SITES

April 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 TK/Kindergarten Online Registration

May 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

24 Last day of school  
28 Memorial Day

June 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Board meetings of the Board of Trustees are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at the Etiwanda Education Center. Meeting agenda is posted at all school sites and the district office 72 hours prior to the meetings. Information is available online at [www.etiwanda.org](http://www.etiwanda.org)

Holiday - No School  
 Minimum Day Elementary  
 Non Student Day-No School

1st Trimester 57  
Student Recess-No School

Revised: April 13, 2017  
Approved: January 10, 2017

## Renaissance

At the end of the first trimester, students will find out if they are eligible for Renaissance incentives during second trimester. Renaissance students receive monthly treats and special activities based on their GPA and citizenship. November holds a special treat for all 3.0 GPA and above students and December's Pancake Breakfast is a special event for those who can maintain a 3.6 GPA and above. We also celebrate students who exemplify our character trait each month with a pizza lunch, certificate, and reward. We are so proud of our students and their hard work!



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## Starting Off on the Right Path

The students and staff at Day Creek Intermediate work as a team to make the school year positive and productive. Please take a minute to review some of our important school procedures and routines that will help everyone get off to a good start.

Get connected to the communication tools we use at Day Creek. The Day Creek website <http://teacherweb.com/CA/DCIS/SchoolHomePage> is a valuable communication resource for students and parents. You can use it to access teacher websites, stay current on school events, and connect to school resources. Our school NewsFlash is a great way to get immediate email or cell phone text updates and reminders. You can register your email or cell phone number for Day Creek's NewsFlash using the link on the school website.

ESPRI Grade books will be open and ready for viewing within the first two weeks of school. Planning a weekly review of your child's grades on ESPRI is an excellent way to stay informed on missing assignments, progress on tests, and identifying areas of need or strength. Pick one day during the week that you and your child will sit down and discuss their progress in class. This will provide a chance for discussions on education, good study habits, and what to do when you get behind. Allow your child to practice communicating with their teacher and resolving issues

before you step in, this will help prepare them to be an advocate for their education in high school and college.

Please review the Etiwanda School District Dress code guidelines at our school website using the School Information and Policies link. Our school year starts off HOT and sometimes students want to wear shorts or shirts they purchased for more casual summer attire which may not be appropriate for school. Some reminders include: shirt straps must be at least 2 inches wide (no spaghetti straps or halter tops), skirts and shorts must be within the length of fingers when arms are placed at the side of body, and shoes must have a back strap (open toes are fine). A reminder that clothes may not display drugs, alcohol, violence (including the Hundreds clothing) or sexual innuendos and excessively saggy pants that show undergarments are not allowed.

During the first week of school, students will be given a PACK Planner to help them organize their school work. The PACK Planner is a valuable communication tool for parents and students. It contains important information about online textbooks including passwords, reward programs at Day Creek, and school procedures. We expect our students to keep their PACK Planner throughout the year and use it to record homework, plan projects, and organize their academic responsibilities. Replacements may be purchased for \$5.00.

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## Middle School Success

Here are few ways to navigate through some of the middle school obstacles and come out a winner in the end. Let's start with the basics:

### **Supplies and Organization:**

Your child will be given a planner calendar each year. Have him/ her learn how to use it; it will keep everyone up to speed on homework and long-term assignments.

Stick to the list of materials each teacher recommends. Complicated notebooks and folder systems tend to fall apart as they move from class to class. A simple color coded system – red spiral notebook for math, blue for social studies, green for science, and yellow for language arts and some matching folders can keep homework and classwork organized at home and in school.

Clean out your child's backpack once a week, together. Middle school is the time when they begin to "forget" those permission slips or teacher notes with increasing frequency.

### **Structure:**

There are seven periods in our school day and as students advance through the grade levels, they move more frequently. Each student has four core classes (language arts, social studies, math, and science), a PACK class, a PE period, and exploratory class. PACK is a daily class period developed to meet the needs of students in language arts and math. Assessments and classroom grades are used to group and re-group students throughout the year into academic target areas for PACK classes.

The busy schedule may be intimidating to new students, but they catch on quickly and begin to enjoy the physical breaks between classes. Remind your child to use the breaks between classes to munch on a snack or quickly use the restroom, but to avoid socializing which may result in a tardy to class.

### **School to Home Connection:**

Be sure to attend Back to School Night to get a feel for the school campus in general, meet your child's teachers, hear the outline for the class expectations, and more importantly, learn how to contact them about assignments and student progress.

Keep a file of materials handed out at Back to School Night, e.g. procedures for absent or late work in math class or trimester reading requirements for language arts, etc. Hand-outs often include important contact and procedural information that you can refer to throughout the year.

Explore the teachers' websites to see homework assignments, long term assignments and valuable resources and links. Be sure to bookmark the teacher sites for easy future access for you and your child. Make an email

distribution list of your child's teachers. That way when your child is ill or you want to confirm that your child is staying after school for additional help, you have all the teachers' emails in one spot.

Explore the school website to see the resources and links available to you and your child. Daily announcements, community events, online textbooks and subject area support, calendar and bell schedule, and extra-curricular activities are just some of the ways you can stay in the loop.

### **Homework:** Four important steps:

1. Know the homework. Be sure your child understands what he/she needs to do and writes it down. Ask your child to use the planner and then reinforce the habit by regularly checking.
2. Get the homework. Putting the hand-out in the folder and in the backpack can be a challenge. Your child must learn to check that they have the hand-out and spend a valuable minute getting papers in the right place.
3. Do the homework. In middle school, this can be the toughest part. Our school library is open until 4:00 pm and sometimes staying another hour after school, while still in the "study zone," helps students complete a chunk of their homework before heading home. Be sure to use that valuable time before dinner or sports practice to complete a portion of homework, so that it will not seem overwhelming later in the night.
4. Turn-in the homework. It is always heartbreaking when students do the homework, get it in the folder, and then forget to turn it in the next day. Get your child in the habit of knowing what needs to be turned in and in what class. Sometimes a separate colored homework folder reserved for assignments they need to turn in the next day is helpful.

### **Social Situation:**

Elementary friendships often change in middle school. Talk to your child about ways to make new friends in their classes. Classroom buddies can share phone numbers in case someone needs help with homework or just has a question. Encourage your child to invite new friends over to work on a project or just eat pizza and watch movies. Socializing with a large group of friends will reduce the chances of hurt feelings when a "best friend" starts hanging out with a new group more often.

### **Final Note:**

Be good to yourself. Middle School is difficult for everyone, kids and parents alike. There's no right way to do it. You may find it is not as difficult the second time around....you may even enjoy Middle School Madness.

## Coyote Cars, Crosswalks and Cautions

We encourage parents to think about car pool options and to make full use of the drop-off and pick-up locations surrounding the school. Please follow the school traffic guidelines in order to avoid traffic issues.

Students may be dropped-off and picked-up along the entire length of Coyote Drive, the street that borders Day Creek Intermediate to the north.

Cross-walks have been added to the north and east parking lot drive-ways to assist students in entering/exiting the campus from Coyote Drive. Please do not ask students to cross through the staff parking lot – there is no supervision in the parking lot for students or drivers.

Duncaster Street has limited curbside parking and quickly becomes congested. The bus turn-around is reserved for busses only and not for student pick-up or drop-off. Staff members on duty will not allow drivers to enter the area to make a U-turn.

If you must exit your vehicle to assist your child with large bulky items, band instruments, or class projects, please park in the parking spaces and walk your child to the black entrance gates. Our traffic flows quickly along the drop-off curb and parked cars slow it down.

Please do not drop-off or pick-up students in front of the office. Pull all the way to the east end of the parking lot by the gym for parking lot drop off if you choose not to drop your student off on the designated surrounding street areas. Students are not allowed to enter through the office in the morning without an adult or appointment.

While we understand that everyone is in a hurry in the morning, please be patient with our staff members as they assist our parents in following school traffic guidelines. And remember, our gates open and we have campus supervision beginning at 7:15 for your convenience.

## Student Safety

Just a safety reminder...Talk with your student about street safety before and after school. We see kids dropped off in the middle of the street who cross between cars to reach the sidewalk. We also see students on scooters, skateboards and bikes without a helmet. Please be sure your child is safe and wears a helmet when riding anything with wheels. If you could help us by discussing safe pedestrian, bike and skateboard/scooter practices with your student, we would greatly appreciate this.

## Important Reminders for Our Coyotes...

**CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL** - While we understand the importance of cell phones, our students are not allowed to use cell phones during the school day. Cell phones should be turned off during the day and must remain out of sight while on school property. Students who use their cell phone during the day will be subject to progressive disciplinary action which may include requiring parents to meet with an administrator to pick-up student cell phones. Please do not encourage your child to use their cell phone during the day by texting or calling them with information. Students may use classroom and office phones throughout the day for urgent communication needs. Please remember, Day Creek is not responsible for cell phones brought to school.

**DOCTOR OR DENTIST APPOINTMENTS** - Whenever possible, please schedule appointments before or after school to preserve valuable academic time. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please have them bring a note to the office in the morning stating the time of the appointment and when you wish to pick-up your child. This will assist us in having your child ready and waiting for you in the office. Please be ready to sign your child out with a driver's license or other form of identification. Please remember to bring the appointment card from the doctor/dentist office to verify your early pick-up or late drop-off.

**STUDENT WINDOW** - In an effort to minimize disruptions in the classrooms, the school office will not call students to the office to pick-up forgotten items. Students have been instructed to check the Student Window if they have forgotten items at home, including PE clothes, lunches, band instruments, class projects, house keys, homework etc. We encourage students to be prepared for school and that may mean packing important items in their bags the night before, storing important papers for signatures or payment in a consistent location, or using a daily check-off sheet before leaving for school. Please help us preserve quality educational time and support your child with growing responsibility.

**TARDY TO SCHOOL** - Students must be in the black entrance gates by the late bell at 8:00 a.m. or they will be marked tardy. The black gates will close promptly at the 8:00 bell. If the gates are closed students must enter through the office to pick-up tardy slips that will admit them to class. Students who have 6 or more tardies in six weeks will be restricted from student activities, including sports, assemblies, dances, and afterschool programs.



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DAY CREEK INTERMEDIATE

# Coyote Connection

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*A publication for the parents, staff, and community of Day Creek Intermediate*

Etiwanda School District  
**Day Creek Intermediate**  
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Return Service Requested



**Stay Updated – Visit our School Website!**

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in Education*

### Coyote Country!

Day Creek Intermediate School opened its doors for students in the Etiwanda School District in August 2004. We are located in the northwest quadrant of the district's boundaries and educate sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Approximately 1100 students from the city of Etiwanda and neighboring communities are enrolled at our school. Our school vision centers on the belief that failure is not an option and we encourage you to join us in supporting our students to help shape their future.