

Welcome to DSIS!



2007-2008 School Year

School Hours

DSIS is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00AM-5:00PM, Wednesday from 10:00AM-5:00PM and Friday from 8:00AM-4:00PM. The school is closed on holidays and teacher work days during the school year.

Teacher Meeting

We are going to do the best we can to keep our meeting times to 50 min. this year. It is often hard to be limited to this time but it will help your DSIS teacher to be prepared when you arrive, accomplish paperwork tasks, and maybe even occasionally use the restroom. ☺

Photocopier

The photocopier for homeschool families to use is in the hall across from Amy's office. If you need help, please be sure to get a lesson on how to use it from your homeschool teacher. Please be reasonable in the amount of copies you make and limit use to DSIS schoolwork related copying. We want everyone to have what he or she needs, but our budget is tight.

DSIS computer lab

The computer lab is open to students when the school is open except during computer classes and workshops. The schedule of classes will be posted on the computer lab door. A **Computer and Internet Use Agreement must be signed** by the parent/guardian and student before a student may get a password and use the computers. Please remind students to log off of the computer when they are done and to handle software disks carefully and put them away when they are done with them. If you are new to our school and/or the lab or just need a refresher please see your DSIS teacher or Mrs. T about getting an orientation to the Lab.

Workshops - Elementary and Junior High Workshops will be starting the week of September 17th

Please sign-up for workshops and classes in the hall next to the DSIS computer lab so that we know how many students to expect and prepare for in each group. At the end of this packet you should find a yellow workshop schedule with the times and offerings for each grade level and more information about the focus of each workshop.

Classes - for grades 7th through 12th will begin meeting on September 4th

Classes in topics including math, computers, Spanish, and art are available to junior high and high school aged students. These classes are run similarly to college classes in that a small group works with a teacher once, twice, or three times a week, has homework, projects and tests from that teacher, and gets a grade from that teacher. To find out more about what is available please talk to your DSIS teacher.

*Reminder: "Classes" and "Workshops" are different. While the workshop schedule is occasionally interrupted for special activities (like Apple Pie Day or the Valentine's Talent Show), **classes** meet every week unless the teacher specifically tells students otherwise.*

Davis Joint Unified School District Music program grades 4-6 information

The DJUSD 4-6 grade music program parent meetings information is in your DJUSD packet. At the meeting, parents will get information about having their child attend music instruction at the elementary school near their home. Attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory if you would like your child to participate in the music program.

4th, 5th, & 6th Grade Strings Meetings

Tuesday, **September 11**, Patwin MPR 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, **September 12**, Patwin MPR 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, **September 12**, Patwin MPR 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, **September 13**, Patwin MPR 7:30 p.m.

- Enrollment Forms are due **Friday, September 14 - before noon.**
- Students will be notified regarding their lesson time, instrument and use of a District instrument on **Monday, September 17 and Tuesday, September 18.**
- Instruments will be checked out on **Wednesday, September 19, Thursday, September 20, and Friday, September 21.**
- Instruction begins on **Monday, September 24.**

5th & 6th Grade Band Meetings

Wednesday, September 10 - 7:30 p.m. Emerson Jr. High
Thursday, September 11 - 7:30 p.m. Emerson Jr. High

- Enrollment forms will be distributed and collected at the band meetings.
District Instruments will be distributed at the band meetings.
- Instruction begins on **Monday, September 17.**

DSIS mailboxes

Homeschool families: Please remember to check your DSIS mailbox regularly. You will be getting information about DSIS events, book orders and fliers from the DJUSD. Teachers also use these boxes to send home things students have worked on in workshops or that have been accidentally left behind at school.

Scholastic book orders

Cathy organizes book orders for our school. This year there will be several opportunities to order from Scholastic. If you would like to have book order forms to peruse, please put this sticker next to your name on your student mailbox. Book orders and book order questions go to Cathy. You may drop off book orders to Cathy in her office or in the main office in her teacher mailbox.



Please put this sticker on your DSIS mailbox if you would like to get book orders.

Would you like to be part of a DSIS homeschool family contact list?

We are putting together a DSIS family phone list and/or e-mail list. You should find a beige information form at the end of this packet. Please complete information you would like to be shared with our homeschool families and return it to your DSIS teacher as soon as possible.

Bi-monthly Homeschool Newsletter

We distribute a newsletter to our homeschool families in September, November, January, March, and May - each covering two months. Some families have expressed an interest in helping to reduce paper use by receiving these via e-mail. If you would like to continue to receive your newsletter in hard-copy form, please put the sticker below on your mailbox.

Please put this sticker on your DSIS mailbox if you would like to get paper copies of the DSIS Homeschool Newsletter



Fieldtrip Emergency Forms

Please fill out and return a (bright pink) Fieldtrip Emergency form for each child you have enrolled at DSIS. This form covers your child for all DSIS Fieldtrips during the 2007-08 school year in the event of an emergency situation during a fieldtrip. Please remember that, in addition to this form, each child will need a permission slip to attend each fieldtrip throughout the year. Volunteer drivers for fieldtrips will also need to complete paperwork related to their vehicle and insurance.

School Pictures/DSIS Student ID Cards

Wednesday, September 12th is picture day. Please mark your calendar and plan to stop in to have your picture taken as Lifetouch will be providing our ID cards. This is a free service provided by the photographer that will save our office staff endless hours spent creating student IDs. It is our expectation that each student will have his or her picture taken even if you do not intend to purchase photos.

Consumable Workbooks

Some consumable workbooks for grades K-8 are provided by our school district as a result of the agreement made with publishers when textbooks were purchased. These include Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies practice books for K-5 and Science and English study guides for grades 6-8.

In response to parent requests, we have some of the other workbooks that are currently available to check out, but not to use as consumables, available to purchase through our school. Our quantities on-hand are limited, but it is possible to order more. Please see the information on pricing and ordering and let your DSIS teacher or Melinda know if you would like to purchase any of them. Checks should be made payable to DJUSD.

The following student workbooks are available for purchase:

Science Practice Workbook

Grades 1-2 \$5.00

Grades 3-5 \$6.00

Spelling - All grades \$14.00

Please make Checks payable to DJUSD

Site Council

This group is made up of DSIS students, parents, and staff. The important job of this elected body is to represent the school community in making recommendations and decisions to help us be the best that we can be, including making decisions about how to spend our School Improvement budget. This year we are in need of two parent representatives to run for a seat on the council; please consider becoming more involved in DSIS by serving on site council. All members of our DSIS community are welcome and encouraged to come to the DSIS Site Council meetings monthly throughout the school year in order to share ideas and take part in discussion. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:30 PM.

Student Name on work...

Please help your DSIS teacher out by having your child put his or her name on any work that will be turned in. This will save your teacher time during our hectic paperwork crunch times and assure that we meet the state requirement of having student names on all work samples.

New Social Studies Textbooks and Materials K-5

We have brand new Harcourt text books and materials to use this year with kindergarten through fifth grade students. Our school district has adopted these new materials to use district wide for the next seven years. Be sure to look over this new curriculum and talk to your DSIS teacher about it.



August and September DSIS Events

August 29th 7 PM Orientation and Welcome to New DSIS Families

This evening orientation, presented by our counselor, Marvie Paulson, is mandatory for all new 7-12 grade students and parents.

September 3rd Labor Day - DSIS Closed

September 4th DSIS 7th-12th Grade Classes Start

September 10th from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM- Back to School Night

This is a chance to invite family members and friends who are busy during regular school hours to come see our school. Our principal and teachers will be on-hand to say hello and answer any questions you have about our school.

September 11th from 10:30-11:30 Back-to-School Pancake Breakfast

Join us for a pancake breakfast to welcome everyone back to school. The leadership team will help us prepare pancakes and fruit for families and staff to enjoy together.

September 12th School Picture Day

Be sure to come have your photo taken for your school ID even if you do not intend to purchase portraits.

September 17th Workshops start this week

We look forward to seeing everyone in these workshops! Please see the handout on workshops for more information and sign-up in the hallway so we'll have an idea how many students to expect.

September 18th Orientation to the DSIS Library at 10:10 or 1:10- for Parents

While students are attending workshops Melinda Zimmerman will tour parents through the DSIS library, show parents how to check out books when Melinda is not at school, and orient people to OPAC our computerized library catalog system. She is planning on meeting parents at the library desk at 10:10 and a second time at 1:10. Students will also be orientated to the library during computer workshop classes.

Elementary Workshops

Tuesday

10:10-11:00

K-1 Computer Consult - In an effort to better meet the needs of our youngest computer users, we've restructured the K-1 time in the lab. Rather than attempting to progress through the same skills at the same time with the whole group, Mrs. T will be available during this hour every week to support you in working on computer skills with your child/ren. She'll have suggestions of software and websites for you to explore and offer her expertise on the best ways to support your child's computer learning.

2-3 Science - Structures of Life will be the theme of our first unit of study. We will investigate seeds, crayfish and snails in order to observe characteristics of these organisms and make comparisons between each organism. Our class will be using the FOSS curriculum which is part of the DJUSD science pilot and is being tested as a possible science adoption K-5 in our district. The FOSS curriculum will was developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. The following website has specific information, recommended books, websites and activities related to our unit of study on line that you may want to use with your child(ren) to support our workshop studies at home: <http://www.fossweb.com/modules3-6/StructuresofLife/index.html>

11:10-12:00

2-3 Computers - In this workshop, students will continue to gain skills and confidence using the computer.

K-1 Science -This workshop will begin with an investigation of our five senses. We will learn how these vital senses help us to observe and interact with the world around us, enabling us to become better scientists!

1:100-2:00

Science 4-6 - This group will start the year learning about Earth's weather, climate, sun, atmosphere, clouds, air pressure, wind patterns, and climate. We will be doing activities related to these concepts in workshop. Students in this workshop will have about one project a month to work on a home and bring back to share with our group.

2:10- 3:00

Science 7-9 - Astronomy will be our first area of focus. We will study the Earth, Moon, and Sun, The Solar System, Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe. Each week student will participate in hands on activities in workshop and they will be expected to do some follow up research activities and projects at home to bring back and share at following workshop times.

Wednesday

11:10-12:00

4-6 Art - Crafting with Gourds will be our first activity. During the first 4-6 art workshop students will learn about the history of gourds, how gourds grow, types of gourds, look at different examples of gourd art and learn about art techniques related to gourd art. In following meetings students will select, clean, and decorate gourds to make decorative gourd bird houses and other gourd crafts.

12:10-1:00

4-6 Computers - Computer skills such as keyboarding, and introductions to using software for word processing, presentations, and creating and using spreadsheets will be taught and practiced in this workshop. See Mrs. T for more information.

Thursday

10:10-11:00

2-3 Writing - The primary goal of this workshop is to encourage student enjoyment of writing. Students will make Writer's Notebooks and be encouraged to write in them at home. Time is devoted at the beginning of each workshop for students to share their writing and to receive feedback from their peers. We will begin the year with in-class activities taken from Peggy Kaye's Games for Writing. This workshop is structured to support students who are already capable of writing independently; participants should be able to write a few sentences on their own using invented spelling as necessary to express their ideas.

K-1 Language Arts - This workshop is a condensed version of the morning in a K-1 classroom. It is an opportunity for students to build speaking, listening, and beginning writing skills and to learn to work together in a classroom environment. We will incorporate some of the new Social Studies curriculum into our workshops.

11:10-11:50

K-3 Art - We'll begin the year learning about primary colors and creating self-portraits. Next we'll move on to explore the secondary colors (and beyond), geometric and organic shapes, and positive and negative space as students create Matisse inspired collages.

4th-6th Grade Afternoon Block - We're running out of space in our cozy, little school and trying something new this year - afternoon workshops for elementary. We understand that this Thursday afternoon scheduling presents a problem for some families because of Park Day and have planned the following work-around. Social Studies and Writing will meet every Thursday **except for** the first Thursday of the month. On those "first Thursdays", in lieu of workshop, students who are needing extra help with writing may make arrangements with Christine for some one-on-one attention. Ideally, we'd like to have students commit to both afternoon workshops so that, as needed, the time can be flexed

between the subjects. If this presents a problem for your family, please talk with your DSIS teacher or Christine so we can work something out that will make everyone happy.

1:10-2:00

4-6 Social Studies - Our content focus this year will be United States history. We'll begin the year with a study of explorers. This workshop engages students in the curriculum through hands-on projects and offers many opportunities for working cooperatively.

2:00-2:50

4-6 Writing - The objective of this workshop is to improve student writing. We'll begin the year with some activities to help students understand the purpose of writing (communication), grammar review (using Woe Is I Jr. by Patricia O'Connor), and then move into our first project - an autobiographical narrative.

