

DV Crossroads



Deer Valley
Unified School District
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You get the best
out of others when
you give the best of
yourself.

— Harry Firestone

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Congratulations Students! Have an enjoyable and safe summer!

The end of the school year means a new journey begins for many of our students and staff who will be moving on to new places next year, including myself. While change can be exciting, saying our good byes will be both joyful and sad for many of us.

We hope all of our students will experience a safe and sensational summer vacation and encourage them to share with you what proactive choices and anti-drug activities they will select to engage in during the summer months. The majority of our students will be returning to their home school on August 11th. Prior to that first day, they will need to call and schedule a reentry conference with administration. Students returning to Crossroads will pick up their schedules on that first day back.

We also have two staff members whose choices will be taking them down different paths and away from Crossroads. Mrs. Cindy Ticer will be completing courses necessary to finalize her secondary certification as well as

continue to teach part-time at a charter school in Cave Creek. Ms. Birmingham will soon become Mrs. Smith and move to Chicago to be with her future husband. We wish them well and thank them for their many contributions in making Crossroads a positive learning environment.

As for myself, I will be taking a position at the district office as an Instructional Technology Administrator. I have had the pleasure of serving as the principal of Crossroads for the last four years. During that time, I quickly discovered I had found an educational niche I thrived in. I take great pride in the successes we have experienced and the deep commitment my staff has made in helping our suspended students get

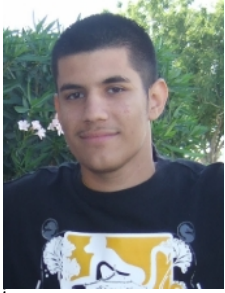
back on track academically and behaviorally. At this time, I would also like to welcome the new Crossroads principal, Mr. Kevin Imes. Mr. Imes definitely has a place in his heart for Crossroads, as he began the program back in 2001. It is in good hands I leave the school where I began my administrative experience.



Ms. Luedke

Crossroads has been
designed to:

- Promote growth
- Foster student success in school
- Encourage students to return and remain in school
- Provide educational opportunities for students to earn credit
- Provide an environment where students feel good about themselves and others



AAA Cares Program

If you had an opportunity to improve yourself in many ways that benefit your future and what type of job you had, would you take that opportunity or let it pass you by?

That opportunity was to me. At first I was skeptical about whether or not I should take the opportunity. As time went on my family members and teachers convinced me to take advantage of the opportunity being offered. The opportunity was the AAA cares program. They go to several high schools in the Deer Valley district and interview those students who are interested. Luckily I was accepted into the program.

The program was made up of 20 students from different schools. I didn't know what to think of the program at first. To be honest I thought it was going to be a waste of time, but little did I know this program was going to have a huge impact on my life. We were to attend the program every Tuesday from 4pm-7:30pm. After a couple Tuesday's I began to realize that the program wasn't bad at all. They even fed us.. I was making new friends and learning all kinds of new things.

However things were not always cheerful and happy. In the month of January a student attended the program (who I had become friends with) a very likeable, outgoing, funny guy named Daniel Byrd. We heard he had taken the life of his ex-girlfriend as well as his own life. It was a horrible tragedy. But it brought everyone closer like a family. As hard as it was the program continued.

The leaders of the program put us in groups of four and had every group come up with a business proposal to present to the head of AAA's cares program. Three students within the program would be chosen to work at AAA with a starting pay of \$10.50. So, even though we were like family it was competition. They even matched us up with mentors.

Up and came graduation, all the groups went up and presented their business proposal in front of a crowd of parents, parents of their fellow peers from the class, mentors and the head of the program. Unfortunately I wasn't cho-

May 14, 2008



Dear Crossroads,

I want to thank you for providing me with such a great teaching experience over the past three years. I feel extremely lucky to have had the chance to work with all of the great teachers, staff, administration and, most of all, awesome students over the years. Crossroads has given me a lot of good memories and I hope to stay in touch. Please feel free to email me with any updates and exciting (or boring) news or just to drop me a line.

Very Truly Yours,

Carolyn S. Birmingham

Social Studies Teacher

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sen to work there, but I congratulated those who did.

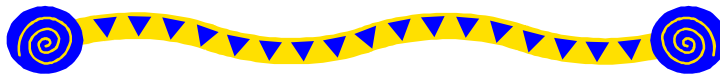
As quick as the program started it was just as quick to end. Overall I learned and developed tons of skills. I learned to project myself in front of a large crowd, interviewing skills, how to create a resume, to be confident in myself, learned a lot about computers and a lot more. My personality has improved as well.

The question is always asked "would I recommend the AAA program to others?" My response to that is if you have no desire to change and help yourself improve your future than no, but if you want to change your outcome of your future and want to make it in life then yes I would recommend going.

I want to thank all the mentors, leaders and the graduating class of 08' from the AAA Cares program. I wish all of you luck in wherever your path takes you. And rest in peace Daniel Byrd.

Joel Perez, AAA Cares graduate

In our classes....



Leadership

Leaders serve others and Crossroads students graciously plan activities and serve refreshments at Village Oaks retirement home once a month. In April 32 students donated stuffed animals, created stories, and shared with our elderly friends. Grateful smiles rewarded students as the ladies hugged their new “pets”. The May theme “Fun in the Sun” was evident with bright beach balls and decorated flowers in cups. Students sang, played the guitar and talked about summer plans. A huge thanks to Mr. Cardon, Mrs. Birm and Mrs. Luedke for joining in the activities. We will miss our V.O. friends this summer; fond memories.

Student letters inviting local leaders to speak were quite productive! Zijah, a 26 year old Bosnian Pro basketball player and entrepreneur shared the importance of hard work and perseverance. Mrs. Saldano, a rehab counselor, encouraged us to live each day to its fullest, forgive and have an “attitude of gratitude”. Sgt. Ransom, “The Max” reminded us not to drink alcohol and to live “balanced” lives. Then Ms. Nannetti, our County Deputy Attorney shed light on numerous legal issues and we are grateful for her role in prosecuting sex offenders. Guest leaders reveal that leading is a choice and each overcame obstacles in their lives.

Finally, we are appreciative of the time Mrs. Threewit

spent patiently assisting Mrs. Davis with students learning to crochet squares for a unity blanket and baby hats to save babies in Africa. Students are currently researching and reporting on the harmful effects of drug use and completed units on “Dating” and “Friends” learning to “Be Proactive” and take responsibilities for their lives. Mrs. Davis will greatly miss all the inspiring student leaders heading back to their prospective schools and looks forward to many visits with success stories.

Biology

Biology students recently utilized their unique lab skills as they dissected HUGE bullfrogs removing and labeling all organs. Cinder, our class pet rat had to sit in the hall as students dissected rats the following week, so she would not be emotionally scarred. Comparative Venn diagrams and finals review round out the semester.

Math

It has been a great year. We are working very hard to get ready for final exams. It has been a pleasure working with this group of students. For those of you going back to your home schools we wish you the best of luck. For those of you staying here, next year will be awesome. Aside from math the guitar lessons on Fridays have been very fun. I hope those of

you who found an interest in it keep it up. Have A wonderful summer.

~Andy Cardon

Marketing

This semester has been exciting. We’ve covered a lot of material and learned quite a bit about marketing and the economy. Students at the beginning of the semester created videos to market a new and improved product, we participated in the Stock Market Game and had several students in the top 100 teams in the state (of over a 1000 teams). We finished up the semester learning about the economy and how it affects businesses.

Career

Career classes have gone well this semester and students have learned about different careers, explored their interests and skills through assessments, have set up accounts in Bridges that they may keep for life (as long as they log into the account once a year). Students ended up the year working on resumes, cover letters and thank you letters and learning a little about investments and insurance protection. Middle school classes recently participated in a Bizworld project and created companies, sold stock, created products and sold them, calculating their net profit after paying for expenses and paying their shareholders. Best wishes to all my students. Remember that you have the power within you for greatness!!!

Ms. Bricker

Contact Information

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Secretary: Ms. Richee 602-467-5104

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<http://crossroads.myteacher.dvusd.com/>



Calendar

AUG

11 First day of school
27 Early Release - Staff Dev.

Sept

1 No School - Labor Day
17 Early Release - Staff Dev.

Crossroads Pledge

I am capable of success. I won't lose hope even when everything seems to be all wrong. I'll maintain a positive attitude and stay real strong. Nothing is really as bad as it seems and even setbacks won't destroy my dreams.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

DV Crossroads welcomes visitors to our campus. As a safety precaution, we ask all visitors to sign in and receive a visitor's badge at the office, located on the north side of the building.

Non discrimination Statement: The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies should be made to DVUSD Human Resources Department at 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027 623.445.5002.