



VDP Update



Vail Distance Learning Program

Monday-Friday
From 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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Website: vdlponline.org

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VDP Open House September 24th

On September 24th the Vail Distance Learning Program will be holding an Open House at Java-Edge in Rita Ranch at 6:30 pm. This is an important event, as it helps to inform the families in our community about 21st century educational opportunities within our district. We feel this can be of great benefit to many families and students who are not aware of the program and its unique benefits.

We will be serving food and holding a raffle of items donated by local businesses who support our program. There will also be students and parents sharing how the VDP helped them to achieve their goals.

We encourage you to invite any of your friends, family, and neighbors who may also benefit from our program to join us. Also, if you have any thoughts or experiences you'd like to share, please call our office at 879-1908 or e-mail us at vdlp@vailhs.net.

History of the VDP

The VDP started in April of 2006 through the cooperative efforts of Vail High School, Mesa Public Schools and the Vail Unified School District. Over the past 3 years VDP has enrolled over 300 students, graduated 11 students from Vail High School and many more from their current school. Students have utilized the program to further their education in many ways. Some students have been full-time students since they first enrolled while others are taking individual classes to get ahead in credits, school, or simply to catch up.

The dynamic nature of the VDP and its classes has allowed our students to travel around both the US and the world. Students have successfully worked on VDP classes from Texas, California, and New Mexico all the way to Poland, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Technical Support

Monday-Friday
From 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 602-402-8451 or
800-826-3386
Email: support@mdlp.org

Response to messages and
e-mails within 12 hours

Technical support not
available on school holidays

Student of the Month

Nichelle Ferolie started with VDP back in August of 2008. She said she was "falling behind in school because of social issues, and she had already tried another online learning program that wasn't very helpful". When her mom found VDP on the Vail district website, they decided to give us a try and things have been going great since. She has not only caught up in her school work, but she is working ahead of her current grade level toward her goal of graduation. Although she is not sure what she wants to do after graduating, she says she "wants to go to college or trade school for a career in some artistic field".

Nichelle's mom, Amy, is also very happy with her progress with VDP. As a parent, she thinks it is great because it is "not a one size fits all program" like traditional school. When she isn't learning online with VDP Nichelle likes to read, play computer games, listen to the Deaf Tones, and travel when possible, like her current trip to Disneyland. Congratulations Nichelle!

Important Reminders!!

Testing — Please remember that in order to take a mid-term or final exam, students need to have approval to do so first. Testing is normally done on Mondays & Thursdays at 3:00 pm at Vail High School. However, students still need to have contact with Mrs. Ferrell prior to arriving for tests. If you have any questions about testing, please call Mrs. Ferrell at 879-1908.

Tutoring — Tutoring is available to all VDLP high school students. This is available during the traditional school year at Vail High School. For more information on days and times, please see www.vailhs.net/vdlp/tutoring.html.

Dress Code — The VDLP requests that all students follow the Vail High School Dress Code guidelines when visiting the school for testing, tutoring, or events. You can see the VHS Dress code at www.vailhs.net/vdlp/conduct.html.

Checking Announcements — From time to time, the VDLP staff and teachers place important announcements on the website. Please remember to check your announcements frequently for important information and reminders.

Activities — All full time VDLP high school students are invited to join Vail High School teams as well as attend Vail High School activities such as Game Night and Movie Nights. Watch for announcements about upcoming events are our website.

Parent Resources

As we know, being a parent doesn't end when your child reaches a particular age. However, sometimes it can be difficult to know what to do with older students. With things like technology and changing social conditions, some of the challenges our teenage children face today are some that have never been encountered before. So what's a parent to do when these issues or problems arise?

Vail High School and the Vail Distance Learning Program are helping to provide some resources for parents of teenage children. The Parent Institute has provided monthly newsletters entitled, "*High-School Parents Still Make a Difference*". This easy to read publication is full of valuable and realistic tips and information on how to address some of the greatest concerns including how to help your student achieve more in school and prepare for life after high school.

We encourage all parents to take a moment and check out this creative and valuable resource. You can click on the purple "Parents" banner found on the Vail High School front page at www.vailhs.net.



New Features of the VDLP

TEST APPROVALS

VDLP students can now get their approvals for tests the same day!! If you have completed all of the work necessary to take your mid-term or final exam, the system should prompt you for a testing appointment of Monday or Thursday @ 3:00 pm. When a holiday conflicts with a normally scheduled testing day, please check your announcements for directions, or contact Mrs. Ferrell @ 879-1908 for assistance.

PARENT ALERTS

In addition to receiving weekly progress reports via email, there is now a new option for parents to receive text messages regarding their students performance on their cell phones. Along with the weekly progress report, parents can also choose to receive notification if the student has not logged in for a specified number of days or if the student's overall grade drops below a specified percentage. See the User Information screen or call us at 879-1908 for more details on how to set up this useful feature.

TEXTBOOKS

Several more classes now have the textbook imbedded in the online course including some math classes. We still have math books available for students who would like to use them for easier reference. However, other classes, such as Spanish, no longer need a textbook.

Classes Now Available

The Vail Distance Learning Program is proud to announce new classes available to its students. If you are interested in adding any of these classes, or if you have any questions, please call our office at 879-1908.



Mandarin Chinese 1st & 2nd Semester (Grades 7-12)

Introduces students to the basic vocabulary of the language and components of the culture of the countries in which the language is spoken. Prepares students to begin to read, write, speak, and understand Mandarin Chinese.

Spanish I 1st & 2nd Semester (Grades 7-12)

Introduces students to the basic vocabulary of the language and components of the culture of the countries in which the language is spoken. Prepares students to begin to read, write, speak, and understand Spanish. A PC and headset are required for this class.

Mythology (Grades 9-12)

During this one-semester course of Mythology, students read, analyze, and respond to a variety of world mythologies. Throughout the course, students will gain an appreciation for their cultural contributions and will form a foundation for understanding later literary works. This course aligns with State standards.

Psychology (Grades 9-12)

The purpose of this course is to develop a curiosity about and appreciation of the extent to which scientific methods can be applied toward a basic understanding of human behavior. The course includes a basic introduction to what psychology is, its relationship to learning, personal and social adjustments, the brain and behavior, and behavioral disorders and treatments.

Sociology (Grades 9-12)

Offers materials essential to understanding ourselves and the complexities of today's society. Includes understanding basic social units, social institutions, social norms and social changes, each of which are relevant in our present society. The study of sociology requires that students and teachers alike study various aspects of society from a non-biased point of view.

Driver Education (Grades 10-12)

Driver Education is a one-semester course aimed at the development of knowledge, skill, and attitude necessary for performing as a competent vehicle operator and highway user. Driver Education consists of three components: content instruction, simulator experience, and behind the wheel experience. This course fulfills only the first component of driver education; content instruction. This course is open to all students who will be turning 15 and 7 months during the course. This course does not qualify for the Arizona driver's license waiver. Students must have access to a scanner for submitting documentation throughout the course.

Service Learning (Grades 9-12)

This course combines online study of community issues, civic engagement, and career interest with field experience helping out in the community. Students work through online lessons and activities while volunteering at one or more sites such as schools, community organizations, or sports leagues. Online activities focus on personal and inter personal skill development, leadership, project planning, and employment skills. Online lessons and volunteer hours combined total over 90 hours for a 1/2 elective credit. Note: notarized and scanned documents are required for this course.

Career Exploration Program (Grades 9-12)

This course gives students an opportunity to earn credit while they are working. They will also learn to analyze their personal skills and strengths as they relate to current and future jobs, explore different careers, and discover what it means to be successful at work. A scanner is required for this course.