

Welcome to Quarter 2 of the 2016-2017 school year. We are very pleased with the start of our 21st Century program.

Vulture Peak has a rich tradition, which, combined with our initiatives to meet the challenge of today's learner, gives students the opportunity to blossom both academically and socially. These initiatives include the following:

- Honors Courses – In this program, 7th and 8th grade students are afforded an opportunity to move ahead of the instructional pace and are also introduced to a variety of areas to enhance their learning experience. The honors curriculum is currently offered in English and social studies.
- Accelerated Math - Students may be placed in accelerated math courses based on a placement test, teacher, or parent recommendation. Algebra and geometry courses will take place at Wickenburg High School. Students taking these courses, while enrolled at Vulture Peak, will receive high school credit upon completion. The placement test has already been given to 7th and 8th graders, and also to 6th graders per parent request.
- Reteach and Enrich - This program is built into the school day during seventh hour. Reteach and Enrich is designed to provide immediate help for students who did not achieve mastery while providing extended learning opportunities for students who did achieve mastery on a given lesson.
- Digital Learning Lab - Digital Learning Lab is an intervention class that has been created to target students who scored in the “minimally proficient” category for the majority of the prior school year. The concept is to provide additional support for students to close their learning gaps. Students have access to the iReady program, Dreambox, and other interventions that are specifically tailored for personalized student learning.
- iReady - iReady is an adaptive learning program for reading and mathematics that pinpoints student needs down to the sub-skill level. Diagnostic tests and ongoing progress monitoring show whether students are on track to achieve end-of-year targets. Research states that using iReady for 45 minutes a week should produce one year's growth for each child.
- Eureka Math - Eureka Math connects math to the real world in ways that take the fear out of math and build student confidence, while helping students achieve true understanding

lesson by lesson and year after year. The team of teachers and mathematicians who wrote Eureka Math took great care to present mathematics in a logical progression from pre-k through grade 12. When implemented faithfully, Eureka Math will dramatically reduce gaps in student learning, instill persistence in problem solving, and prepare students to understand advanced math. We will continue to use Eureka Math as our sixth through eighth grade math curriculum this school year.

- EngageNY - EngageNY is developed and maintained by the New York State Education Department. EngageNY is dedicated to providing educators across the country with real-time, professional learning tools and resources to support educators in college and career ready education for all students. Our ELA teachers will be piloting this program for the 2016-2017 school year.

Please plan on joining us for our monthly principal's coffee. Principal's coffee provides an opportunity to share celebrations and Vulture Peak happenings. Please make sure to visit us on a regular basis and "like" us on our school Facebook. Both of these venues are ways to keep up with the most current events at school.

Warmly,

Jennifer Lougee, Principal

Jennifer Lougee, M. Ed.

Principal

Vulture Peak Middle School

Wickenburg Unified School District #9

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LIVE FOR TODAY,

HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

- ALBERT EINSTEIN