



A NEW WAY OF LEARNING

Student Art Auctioned For Charity

Five Desert Sands students gave their artwork to a recent art auction in Pasadena.

The auction highlighted work created by students, and raised money for a scholarship fund for charter school students.

Brandon Colby, Jon Amaro,



Artwork submitted by DSCHS students for the charity auction included pastels and watercolors

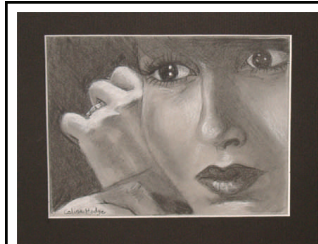
Sayda Lopez, Marlene Vassallo, and Talena Brandon - all of them DSCHS students - submitted one piece each to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Desert Sands applauds their hard work and charity.

Additional student artwork has been submitted to the Annual Antelope Valley High School Juried Art Show, to be held in April at the Lancaster Museum and Art Gallery. Students can win up to \$50 for their work.

DSCHS Art Teacher Jane Holmes asked students to submit artwork to be

judged by a panel on March 24. Celina Hodge, Chris Reboledo, Xavier Salazar and Bobby Dunn all submitted pieces for the show.

Submissions can be viewed at the Lancaster Museum and Gallery on Sierra Highway beginning on April 2.



Artwork submitted by Celina Hodge for the Juried Art Show in Lancaster.

Geography Contest—Open to all students!

How well do you know your geography?

If you think you can outsmart the rest of the DSCHS Student Body, unscramble the following 10 geography terms, define each of them, and submit your answers to Robert Berry (rberry@dschs.org, 661-272-0044) no later than April 29.

One winner will receive Cinemark Movie Passes. One

winner will be chosen, at random, from all qualifying entries.

Remember, these are all geography terms.

1- cnonya

2- tuteb

3- tdtaeilu

4- eplo

5- ushot

6- tlauaep

7- ennlpuias

8- elgcrai

9- snalpi

10- lveayl

GOOD LUCK!

Important Announcements

- CST Testing is in May, and mandatory for all students.
- Senior Portfolio is now a requirement for graduation.
- Make sure to take the Scan-Tron assessment ASAP!
- Tutoring now available full time at both campuses! Ask the front desk for details.
- The deadline to complete your credits for graduation is June 9, 2005.
- Student submissions for this newsletter are ALWAYS welcome. Ask your teacher for details.

Important Dates

Contest Entries Due	4/15
Spring Break	4/18 thru 4/22
CST Testing	Mid-May
Memorial Day Holiday	5/30
Last Day of Spring Semester	June 30

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AND MUCH MORE!

Did You Know?

A professor was giving an important exam to his students one day. He handed out all of the tests to his students and went back to his desk to wait.

The students handed them in, and the professor noticed that one of the tests had a \$100 bill attached to it with a note that said "\$1 per point."

The next class, the professor handed back the tests. The student got back his test and \$63 in change.

Your thumbnail grows more slowly than any of your other fingernails.

The world's largest consumer of sugar is Coca Cola.

There are enough calories in a Big Mac to run a vacuum cleaner for 98 minutes.

The Caspian Sea and the Dead Sea are actually both lakes.

The largest living thing on Earth is an underground mushroom in Oregon. It's 3.5 miles across.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.



An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.

If the entire population of China walked past you, in sin-

gle file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, purple, or silver.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

There are more chickens in the world than there are people.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Nearly 50% of all bank robberies take place on a Friday.

Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Computer Courses Available

By Tim Pollard — Computer Teacher

No doubt you have heard a lot about Desert Sands Charter High School's computer classes at the Lancaster site. Many students are learning skills that will make them more productive as students and employable as adults when they enter the work force.

Students taking Word, Excel, Power Point, and Access who complete all the credits in a timely fashion are receiving a certificate from the instructor that verifies the student has

passed a course in basic competency in that particular program. These are skills that employers are actively looking for when it comes time to hire.

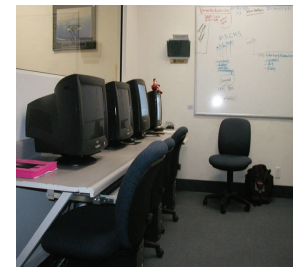
For those continuing their education into college, the ability to work with computers will greatly increase their chance for success and be of great help in mastering their subjects.

The computer lab is

equipped with the latest computers and software so that students are working on what the real world is currently using in business and in colleges around the country.

Come in and visit the computer lab and get the latest on new classes soon to begin.

Tim Pollard can be contacted at the Lancaster Campus at (661) 942-3357, or by e-mailing him at tpollard@dschs.org.



Come and learn various computer skills at the Lancaster Computer Lab!

Parents Have a Voice at DSCHS

By Cynthia Estevez, Power Reading Teacher—Lancaster Campus

Desert Sands now has a Parent Advisory Group. We meet bi-monthly to discuss any concerns or ideas about their students' education.

Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's education, students have higher grades, test scores and graduation rates. They are

more motivated and have better self esteem. They are more likely to go to college.

This year has been a great year for the committee but

we are in need of more parent involvement. We have very exciting and interesting conversations during the meetings.

Refreshments are served and we welcome any parent who wants to make our school the best we can be. We will be meeting again soon.

Parents can contact Cynthia Estevez or Laurie Leonard at the Lancaster Campus, 661-942-3357.

“Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's education, students have higher grades, test scores and graduation rates.”

More Students Set to Graduate from DSCHS

Plenty of smiles, cheers, and tears of joy will be had at Desert Sand’s upcoming bi-annual Graduation Ceremony.

To be held at the Essex House in Lancaster, the ceremony will feature guest speakers and student speakers, in addition to the pomp and circumstance expected at a commencement.

Since 2001, over 560 students have graduated successfully from one of Desert Sands’ two Antelope

Valley Campuses.

Many of our graduates found a second chance at DSCHS, and have gone on to community or 4 year colleges. Many of these students weren’t even expected to graduate from high school.

Desert Sands holds two graduation ceremonies each year. Many students enroll with credit deficiencies, and can’t complete the requirements in time for a traditional June graduation, so

an additional commencement each January serves as a buffer for those students.

DSCHS provides the traditional cap and tassel for each graduate, free of charge, and loans out the gowns.

The number of guest tickets given out to graduates is dependent on the number of graduates who participate, but it can be expected to be between 4 and 7 per graduate.

Political Correctness for Teenagers	
Old Term	“Politically Correct” Term
Lazy	Energetically Declined
Bad Hair Day	Rebellious Follicle Syndrome
Talks Too Much	Abundantly Verbal
Sleeping in Class	Rationing Consciousness
Shy	Conversationally Selective

Desert Sands Offers Fine Art/Foreign Language

Students needing to complete the fine art / foreign language requirement before they graduate can enroll in Art or Spanish at the Lancaster campus.

Students from both campuses can sign up for either class, and can earn up to 10 credits in each.

California law mandates that each graduating student complete at least one year of a fine art or foreign language course.

Students in Art can expect to learn how to create a myriad of different art projects, mixed in with a little art history.

Students in Spanish can expect to learn basic vocabulary and verb usage.

Both courses are considered supplemental, and should be attended in addition to the regular weekly appointment.

“California law mandates that each graduating student complete at least one year of a fine art or foreign language course.”

DSCHS Staff Member Named “Honorary Army Recruiter”

Any student thinking about joining the United States Armed Forces now has help from Desert Sands.

On January 27, the US Army Palmdale Recruiting Station named JoLynn Nolf an Honorary US Army Recruiter. JoLynn has been instrumental in helping many former DSCHS students realize their dream of serving our country.

Not only has she helped put them in contact with the appropriate representative, she

has helped guide students toward graduation

“Jolynn is always going above and beyond the call of duty,” said Staff Sergeant Starks, Army Recruiter. “We call her ‘Sergeant Nolf.’ Without her, 90% of our recruits [from DSCHS] would not have made it.”

Sergeant First Class Sanjurjo heaped praise, as well. “Whenever we need something from the school, she has helped.”

“I feel honored to be considered part of the team, and it is an honor that I never expected,” said Jolynn, upon receiving the award. “This is my way of giving to my country, since I can’t be in the field.”

If interested in joining the Armed Forces after graduation, contact JoLynn at 272-0044.

JoLynn Nolf shows off her Honorary Recruiter certificate, given to her by the U.S. Army Palmdale Recruiting Station.



STUDENT

Skeptic Student Falls in Love with Desert Sands

By Domonique Smith, Lancaster Campus Student

I recently moved to Lancaster in July of last year with my four sisters. I was living in the valley and attending public school. We had been informed that schools in Lancaster were full of drugs, violence, and racism, so my parents were going to keep us enrolled in school in the valley.

I had tried independent study before and didn't really like it, so I was disappointed when I found out my parents were looking for a way for my sisters and I to get into an independent study program.

In September, my dad told us he had found a Charter School for us to attend. I had no idea what that was until I ran across a newspaper article by Daniel Weintraub titled "Charter Schools are Proving Their Worth."

After reading the article, I learned that charter schools are public schools formed by teachers and parents. They have a contract that spells out their mission and they are free from most mandates, but still held accountable to state standards. The article stated that "Charter

"After the orientation and first meeting with my teacher, I was amazed. The campus was so small, and the teachers were friendly and helpful."

Schools are the best hope for the future of education because they provide an outlet for great teachers, a choice for parents, and opportunity for students who might otherwise be stuck in underperforming schools."

In October, my sisters and I enrolled. After the orientation and first meeting with my teacher, I was amazed. The campus was so small, and the teachers were friendly and helpful. They proudly help the students when the slightest problems arise in any subject.

Desert Sands is certainly what I consider a great school. Although I miss being in a traditional high school with thousands of kids, I prefer DSCHS and recommend it to my family and friends.

Why is Desert Sands a Good School For You?

By Ashiya Holmes - Lancaster Campus Student

Desert Sands is a school that has small class sizes and has teachers that care. The teachers at Desert Sands take time for your needs. That's why I go to Desert Sands.

Desert Sands has small class sizes. By that, I mean students meet on-on-one with their teacher. I think that's good because students really don't have anyone else to focus on, so they can pay more attention to their work. There are no problems with other students.

At DSCHS, the teacher has lots of time just for you because there are fewer students. Teachers can see what is the best way for students to learn. I say, "small is better."

I know that everyone learns differently and that's why it's important that the teachers at Desert Sands find out how each student learns. That is why students here can get what they need from the teachers. I know I have

learned more in the past month at DSCHS than I learned in a year at any other school.

I think anyone who has a problem learning in school should come here. The teachers take time with their students. This is a place where students feel they can learn and develop. That's why Desert Sands is a great school.

Mind or Matter

Doing your best with dignity
Giving your all to succeed
Just to fulfill your dreams
To be all you can be
Through the harsh words of others
Through the compliments of others
That should tell you
Those who matter, don't mind
& Those who mind, don't matter
Take your pick
Who would you want @ the end

By Aph Singta, Lancaster Campus Student

Aside from minor formatting and spelling issues, all student submissions appear in the student's own words.

UC Hosts Summer Programs

By Brock D'Avignon, Testing Coordinator

One of the nice things about attending Desert Sands Charter High School is that you can schedule extracurricular courses either for high school or collegiate credit. In the summer, DSCHS won't drop you while you are earning elective credits at colleges.

Programs are 7, 10, or 30 days in duration. Deadlines for these are before April 15.

Space is limited, early application beginning March is recommended; *some deadlines are not firm*, but you cannot start late nor do part-time work while in them. Some award

college credit, others do not. All UCs have some sort of summer program for high school students. Students should contact each program for fee information.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Brock D'Avignon at the Palm-dale campus, 272-0044.

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
- Steven Wright

I not only use all the brains that I have, but all the brains that I can borrow - Woodrow Wilson

The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people
- Theodore Roosevelt