

# Sequoia Choice Times

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Sequoia Choice—  
Arizona Distance  
Learning

323 North Gilbert Road  
#104  
Mesa, Arizona  
85203

Phone: (480) 461-3222  
Fax: (480) 890-4106  
Email:  
[info@sequoiachoice.org](mailto:info@sequoiachoice.org)

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As a learning community we will help all students achieve their maximum potential, through a caring environment of high expectations, individual attention, great teaching, and advanced technology.



**Sequoia Choice**  
ARIZONA DISTANCE LEARNING  
An Edkey School

Dear Sequoia Choice Families,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We are destined to have a great year as we have continued to improve and grow as a school. Last year Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning received the highest letter grade of all the distance learning schools in the state. Currently, we are patiently waiting our state grade with all indicators pointing to success! Each student's gifts and talents combined with the dedication of the school staff and the support of our parents will allow us to continue to strive for excellence. It is an exciting time to be a distance learner!

This year we will continue to transition to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standard. These standards have been developed with the future in mind. Students are gaining the skills needed to be prepared to attend college or pursue their desired career choice. I feel honored to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff. The teachers have spent most of the summer refining their courses, and developing measures to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of our students.

Strong parental involvement is cornerstone to a successful distance learning experience. I encourage all parents to get involved their child's learning. Your child's teachers, advisors, and academic coaches are ready to assist you in helping your child. Never hesitate to contact us to help your child succeed.

Best Wishes,

Cindy Chleborad  
Principal- Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning

## Responses Needed

To be compliant with Arizona state requirements all parents need to complete an annual updated information form. To update your student's information, please go to <http://www.azdl.org/school-year-enrollment-update>. A paper copy is available upon request through your student's advisor. The completion of this form will allow us to stay in contact with your family throughout the school year.

## Tips for Distance Learning Success

Learning at distance is a new and exciting frontier. The current generation of students who are experiencing distance learning are accessing school in a way that is new and foreign to many parents. There are some basic things that parents can do with their children that can help students be more successful.

1. Create a contact list and put it someplace accessible: Make a list of the contact information of important school personnel your child may need. This should include names, phone numbers, and emails of teachers and academic coaches. Teacher contact information can be found on the left side of the front page of all online courses.
2. Know your daily schedule: Working in an environment that allows a student to move between classes with a click and this can lead to an inefficient use of learning time.
  - **Parents:** Ask your student to explain to you how they spend their day, and how much time they are spending in each of their classes. If at any time you are unsure of how your child is spending their time contact your child's academic coach. They can show you activity logs and progress reports.
3. Stay organized: It is important to find an organizational structure that works for you. Staying on top of school work is going to determine success in a distance learning school. It is important to keep a calendar so you are not taken by surprise when assignments are due or the semester comes to an end. All the information that is needed for planning is built into the each course. Find it and make a solid plan. If you can't find the information you need for your planning contact your teacher or advisor using the contact list you have created.
  - **Parents:** Be sure to ask you child to show you their calendar on a regular basis.
4. Know how to read the progress report: If your courses are in SCORE there is a progress report that can be used to help you understand how you are doing. Understanding and paying attention to this report can help you stay on track.
  - **Parents:** Ask your student to print their report for you weekly. This will create a time of reflection and planning for both of you, and possibly eliminate unwelcome surprises.
5. Contact your teacher if you need help: The teachers at Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning are extremely dedicated and they want you to succeed. They also really like hearing from and talking to their students. Every educator in this organization became a teacher to teach students just like you. When you are stuck, unsure, or confused be bold and call your teacher. They want to help.
  - **Parents:** You are also encouraged to contact the online teachers if you should have a question or concern. Although the teachers are not in the classroom with the students, they are accessible by phone or email

## Benchmark Testing



**Remember that  
benchmarks aren't  
just tests, they show  
what you know!**

In the next few weeks, our students will be completing their first benchmark tests. With Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning on a trajectory of success it is important to remember that daily attendance, benchmark effort, and course work make a difference. Benchmark testing provides the teachers with data that allows for tailoring to the needs of each student. Courses are adjusted based on benchmark performance. Students who demonstrate that they have already mastered standards within a course may be excused from some repetitive assignments. Students who demonstrate that some foundational skills are lacking will be assigned additional interventions to provide an opportunity to fill educational deficits. Benchmark testing promotes meeting the needs of the individual learner, as well as, providing data that allows the teachers to evaluate the content in their courses. It is critical that every student tries their best on each benchmark test.

## Data Discussion

We know that testing is just one indicator of what a student is learning. Our students demonstrate daily just how amazing they are! However the students of Sequoia Choice Distance Learning showed that they are exceptional.

The table below represents a comparison of 2014 to 2013, full-year students who met or exceeded the AIMS test. We are pleased to see an increase in performance at every grade level in both reading and math. Clearly our students and staff are committed to success.

All Full-Year Students				
Grade	Reading Pass Percentage		Math Pass Percentage	
	School Year 2014	School Year 2013	School Year 2014	School Year 2013
Third	100	70	90	56
Fourth	100	84	64	54
Fifth	95	76	67	59
Sixth	84	73	54	26
Seventh	86	68	70	48
Eighth	62	58	45	30
Tenth	90	74	53	41

## Calendar of Events

### August

**25:** Benchmark Testing Window Opens

**26:** Annual Title I Meeting at 10:00am, 1:00pm, and 4:00pm– Please join us on via the following link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012688&password=M.6EFBD3E865256258942B8DD37F780A>

### September

**2:** Staff Professional Development Day (Students may still access courses during staff training)

**3:** Annual Title I Meeting– Make Up session at 10:00am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm– Please join us on via the following link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012688&password=M.6EFBD3E865256258942B8DD37F780A>

**5:** Benchmark Testing Window Closes

### October

**6-10:** Fall Break

**For a complete view of our school calendar, please visit our website at [azdl.org](http://azdl.org)**

**Remember that students  
may still access courses  
during staff training and  
holidays! It's a great time  
to get caught up or get  
ahead!!!!**