

Desert Hills High School has a strong family culture. We're the Thunder Family. The Thunder Family culture means we work hard to ensure you have the opportunity at a top quality academic education and also that you matter here! We believe we can be proactive in cultivating leadership and behavior skills for our students, and empowering student leaders goes hand in hand with their academic success. Ten years ago the School of Life program started at Desert Hills with administrators looking to find a better approach to motivate tier 2 students who were starting to go off track and needed to see their full potential. We also wanted to find a solution to train our student leadership groups to hone their skills and work better with their peers as student leaders. The School of Life program was the solution.

For over a decade now students at DHHS have had the opportunity three times per year to learn leadership and behavior skills, to feel empowered over their choices and develop character traits for growth. The ripple effect of this training for many is an improved overall GPA, positive behavior, better attitude and overall improved happiness.

The School of Life Foundation (SOLF) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to increase high school graduation rates by assisting students in reaching their full potential in life. SOLF partners with high schools in providing an after-school Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Tier 2 program. The curriculum is titled *"Learn to School Your Toughest Opponent"* which reveals how to *"Achieve Straight A's in the School of Life!"* Certified SOLF Trainers instruct the curriculum to groups of 17 students who have been selected by the school administrative team. A total of 4 classes are provided to each group over a 4 week period with each class lasting 2 hours. Over the past 10 years students who have been off track to graduate experienced an 85% success rate of graduating after completing the program. These students also saw overall increases in GPA scores, positive behavior attitudes and a decrease in tardies. The outcome data has been produced through a partnership with the University of Utah Education Program. You can learn more about SOLF at <https://schooloflifefoundation.org/>

We're proud of the success the School of Life program has provided to our students here at DHHS! Over the years the program has expanded into several schools around Utah and all are reporting positive results with their students. It is changing and empowering our students for the better and gives us the data to prove it's making a difference in the lives of our students!

We love our continued partnership with the School of Life Foundation for a shared innovative solution that promotes student growth. We are grateful for this program and the positive impact it has on our students!

Justin Keate is the Principal at DHHS and has led the school through the implementation of several SEL, Behavior and Leadership programs with a proactive approach at meeting the needs of all students. Mark Christensen and Terri Howell are the Assistant Principals who take the lead to maintain many of these programs moving forward for student success. We love our jobs and are grateful to work with amazing staff and students here at Desert Hills High School!