



D.C. Everest Area School

District

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MISSION STATEMENT

D.C. Everest Area School District, in partnership with the community, is committed to being an innovative educational leader in developing knowledgeable, productive, caring, creative, responsible individuals prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

To: Dr. Casey Nye, Superintendent
From: Mike Raether, Director of Teaching and Learning
Date: February 11, 2026
Re: 2026 Summer Learning New Course Proposals

Suggested Motion: To approve the new Summer learning course proposals for 2026.

Our Summer learning team submits the following new courses for approval by the Board, to be offered as part of our Summer 2026 program:

Ready, Set, Draw! (Grades 1-3) - Grab your pencils and colors and get ready to create! This class transforms the "blank page" from a challenge into a drawing playground! Every student will take home a "Ready, Set, Draw!" Portfolio featuring their favorite sketches, a set of new skills, and a newfound excitement for drawing and the confidence to say, "I am an artist!"

Freedom to Perform (Grades 5-11) - "Freedom to Perform" is a fun, summer musical theatre class celebrating America's 250th birthday through songs from Broadway shows. Students who have just completed grades 5-11 will join past and present DC Everest Performing Arts' directors Mrs. Vesper, Mr. DeLonay, Mrs. Bates, and Mr. Atkinson to prepare and perform an entire musical experience. The cast will sing, act, move, and work as an ensemble, while learning how to tell stories on stage and build confidence as performers. The class will end with a short, patriotic performance, inspired by the American musical theatre tradition. Come join our musical celebration!

Adventures in German (Grades 3-5) - This fun and interactive summer school class introduces elementary students to the German language and culture in an engaging, beginner-friendly way. Students will learn basic German vocabulary and phrases through hands-on activities, games, songs, crafts, and conversations. Topics include colors, counting, simple greetings and conversations, as well as an exploration of German culture and traditional foods. Designed for young learners with no prior experience, this class encourages curiosity, creativity, and confidence while building a strong foundation in a new language.

Flying Fingers (Grades 3-5) - Interested in learning sign language? Ever wonder what it would be like to communicate without speaking? Want to be able to talk with a friend or family member that relies on signed communication? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this class

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might be for you! In this class you will learn the basics. You will learn the American Sign Language alphabet, simple signs, how to hold a brief conversation, the history of American Sign Language, and a little about hearing loss in general. Hopefully, you will come to respect this beautiful language and have fun in this “hands-on” course!

Exploring German Language and Culture (Grades 6-9) - In this exploratory course, students will be introduced to a variety of basic German greetings, questions and answers and various other terms. We will also be exploring the various cultures of the German speaking nations of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, and Belgium, as well as the impact of their immigrants on the United States. After this introductory course, students can continue their studies in the formal German courses offered at the secondary level buildings.

Podcasting and Digital Storytelling (Grades 5-8) - Podcasting & Digital Storytelling is a hands-on summer school course where students explore speaking, writing, and media creation through podcast production. Students analyze professional podcasts to understand structure, audience, and purpose, then develop original podcast topics of their own. Using GarageBand, students script, record, edit, and publish both solo and co-host podcast episodes. The course also includes visual branding as students design podcast cover art using Canva. Emphasis is placed on clear communication, collaboration, media literacy, and creative expression. The course culminates in a podcast showcase and peer feedback experience that builds confidence and presentation skills.