



BOOKEND

Desert Thunder School

GOODYEAR, ARIZONA

In recent years, the student population at Desert Thunder School in the Avondale Elementary School District has grown in number and diversity, requiring teachers to strengthen their ability to differentiate instruction while continuing to set high expectations. A commitment to the best practices and structures of NIET has allowed the school to meet the needs of

all students. Specifically, Desert Thunder School has focused on building the capacity of teachers through dedicated time for collaboration and school-based professional learning, strengthening the use of high-quality instructional practices, and creating a positive learning environment for teachers and students alike.

With its implementation of NIET structures, Desert Thunder School has earned an “A” rating for several years under Arizona’s school letter grade system — most recently in 2024. With the campus’s positive learning environment, Desert Thunder School students have outperformed students statewide on state assessments. ●