Dysart schools assigned new principals

Two Dysart staff members from Sunset Hills Elementary School earned prominent awards during the 2013-2014 school year. Principal Karen Winterstein earned the prestigious title of 2014 Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and Mrs. Beth Maloney, fifth grade teacher at Sunset Hills, was named the 2014 Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) Teacher of the Year.

NAESP will recognize Ms. Winterstein in October in Washington, D.C., at the annual National Distinguished Principal Awards Banquet. The selection committee was very impressed with Ms. Winterstein’s passion and enthusiasm for education, as well as her contributions to staff, students, and community.

The National Distinguished Principals program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America’s children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement.

The annual Teacher of the Year program is the premier event of the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF), a statewide organization that promotes and awards the exceptional efforts being made in Arizona’s public schools. During the AEF awards luncheon, the Teacher of the Year is honored among 500 attendees including Arizona educators, elected officials, and business leaders. As Teacher of the Year, Beth Maloney will receive a host of awards and recognitions, march in the Fiesta Bowl Parade alongside the Wells Fargo Stagecoach, and serve as spokesperson for her profession, advocating for excellence in the classroom by making presentations statewide to education, civic, government and professional organizations.
High school registration

Students must register and have their ID badges before the first day of school on Wednesday, August 6. For more information regarding the high school registration process, including any updates, please call the schools or visit their websites.

Dysart High School
11425 N. Dysart Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623-876-7500
www.dysart.org/dhs

Shadow Ridge High School
10909 N. Perryville Road
Waddell, AZ 85388
623-523-5100
www.dysart.org/shs

Valley Vista High School
15500 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623-523-8800
www.dysart.org/vhs

Dysart High School

K-8 registration information

To register in the District’s K-8 schools, please visit your local school to begin the registration process. To ensure a smooth and complete transition to our schools, please note the following: Children must be five years old prior to Sept. 1st to enroll in kindergarten, a parent or guardian must be present to enroll a child, and the registration packet must be completed and submitted. Please double-check that all forms have been completely filled out and signed in all appropriate places.

The following documents are required for registration:
• Child’s original birth certificate
• Immunization records (for more information on locations for immunizations, please visit www.maricopa.org/immunization_clinics.php)
• Proof of residency (i.e., lease of purchase agreement, utility bill, etc.)
• Parent or guardian’s government issued photo identification
• Official withdrawal paperwork from previous school (if enrolling during the school year)

To ensure that your child receives the appropriate services, it is highly recommended that parents provide the following:
• Academic records and information from previous school
• Current individualized education plan (IEP)
• Existing 504 plan

For more information, including need-to-know items such as school boundaries, transportation, immunizations and special education services, please visit www.dysart.org.

School Supplies
Arizona law requires that public schools provide the supplies required for academic success. All materials required for a student’s education will be provided by the Dysart Unified School District. Please check with your K-8 school and your child’s teacher for an optional supply list before purchasing any supplies. If you have any questions, please contact your K-8 school.

Dysart Safety Tip
Parents, students, staff and community members must work in partnership to identify and resolve situations that impact the safety of every campus. Please share with your children the following safety tips for walking to and from school:
• Students walking or riding bikes to and from school should walk in groups and avoid walking alone.
• Encourage your child to be aware of his/her surroundings and report any suspicious behavior to you as parents and to the school office.
• Teach your child to always let a trusted adult know where they are going and what route they’ll be taking.
• Urge your child to get away fast if someone does or says something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Meet the Governing Board

Governing Board Meeting Schedule

The Dysart School District’s Governing Board welcomes the public, including all school staff, parents, and community members to its meetings.

July 16, 2014
August 6, 2014
August 20, 2014
September 3, 2014
September 17, 2014
October 1, 2014
November 5, 2014

November 19, 2014
December 3, 2014
December 17, 2014
January 7, 2015
January 21, 2015
February 4, 2015
February 18, 2015

March 4, 2015
April 1, 2015
April 15, 2015
May 6, 2015
May 20, 2015
June 3, 2015
June 17, 2015

The Governing Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month with exceptions in July 2014, October 2014 and March 2015 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 85374, 623-876-7602

District Administration
Gail Pleminck, Ed. D., Superintendent
Stephen Poling, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent of Education
Jim Dean, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services
Jack Eaton, Executive Director for Business Services
Patricia Buck, Executive Director for Human Resources

Back to school/meet your teacher

K-8 Schools
• Ashton Ranch
  August 4, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
• Canyon Ridge
  August 4, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
• Cimarron Springs
  August 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
• Countryside
  August 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
• Dysart Elementary
  August 5, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
• El Mirage
  August 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
• Kingwood
  August 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
• Lake
  August 4, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
• Marley Park
  August 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
• Mountain View
  August 4, 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.
  August 4, 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.
  August 4, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
• Parkview
  August 4, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
• Rancho Gabriela
  August 1, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
• Riverview
  August 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
• Sonoran Heights
  August 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

High Schools
• Dysart High School Open House
  August 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
• Shadow Ridge Open House
  August 4, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
• Valley Vista Open House
  August 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
• Willow Canyon Open House
  August 4, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Other Programs
• Sundown Mountain
  August 5, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Dysart Achiever - August 2014
Factual information about the override renewal

Maintenance and Operations Override - Not a New Tax

The Dysart Unified School District will ask voters to renew the Maintenance and Operations Override during the November general election. The Maintenance and Operations override will be on the ballot for renewal. This is not a new tax initiative. The override is in a cycle of an override passed initially in 2000 and renewed in 2004 and 2010. Override funds are not spent for overhead or administration expenses. The override provides funds for specific programs.

The programs funded by the override include:

Full-Day Kindergarten

Full-day kindergarten is paid for with override monies. The State of Arizona eliminated funding for full-day kindergarten but the override has allowed the Dysart Unified School District to continue to provide full-day kindergarten to all students. The fact is students in full-day kindergarten make greater gains in mathematics, language, and problem-solving skills, and prevent student failure in later grades. Additionally, override money is used to support early intervention and prevention by providing math and reading intervention resources for primary level students. Early intervention and prevention is the best solution to preventing failure and preventing dropouts.

Supporting the Fine Arts and Athletics

The approval of this override will allow the Dysart Unified School District to maintain student programs in art, music, physical education, and band, and continue to offer high school elective courses in these areas. Additionally, override funds help support athletics.

Prior to the passage of the May 2000 override, due to lack of funding, the arts programs, physical education and band had to be cut! The passage of the May 2000 override set the stage for the District to accomplish the commitments it made to the students, community and staff. Thanks to voter support for the 2000 override, the Dysart Unified School District was able to return these very important programs to Dysart students. Without override funds, these programs would be cut, as well as the staff for the programs.

Retaining Effective Class Size

The approval of this override will provide the financial resources needed to retain effective class sizes. The override will assure the continuation of sound educational practices that center on adequate teacher-to-student ratios at all grade levels.

The Dysart Unified School District has established class-size limits on the ratio of students to teacher for all of its grade levels. The override funds are utilized to help maintain these class-size ratios. Addressing adequate class size is an important component for academic success. Without the override funds, higher class sizes will be necessary and hundreds of jobs within the Dysart communities will be eliminated.

The 2014 override Ballot question is not a new tax but a continuation of the override approved in 2000, 2004 and 2010. It will be used specifically for funding full-day kindergarten, primary level reading and math support, art, music, physical education, high school electives and athletics, and to retain effective class size. These programs are an important component to the quality education offered in the Dysart Unified School District.

Dysart District Superintendent honored by Education Week

Dysart Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Gail Pletnick, was named by Education Week as a “Leader to Learn From.” Pletnick was selected from a group of more than 900 nominees submitted by readers, members of the Education Writers Association, and state and national education groups from across the country. Education Week launched “Leaders To Learn From” in 2013 as a way to recognize district leaders who seized good ideas and executed them well in their school systems, officials of the event said.

Pletnick gained attention by implementing the Move On When Ready program, which was authorized by Arizona legislation and is also known as the Grand Canyon Diploma program. According to Pletnick, Dysart became one of the early adopter districts and uses the Cambridge program, which is one of the state-approved frameworks and exit exam systems that can be used to qualify students for a Grand Canyon credential.

According to Pletnick, using the program as a schoolwide framework “has raised the rigor of our academic program and allows us to focus on real world learning experiences that integrate 21st century skills.”

“We know that many of the jobs and careers available now and in the future won’t necessarily require a traditional four-year degree but will require specialized training or courses. You can see from our academic pathways our goal is to prepare students for that option: college or career ready,” Pletnick said. Dr. Pletnick selected “Leaders To Learn From” at a forum in Washington, D.C., on April 1, 2014, with others named for this award.

To learn more about the various academic pathways developed in the Dysart Unified School District, visit www.dysart.org.

2014-2015 Meal Prices

Meal prices remain the same for the 2014-2015 school year for elementary, high school, and adult lunches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Full-Price Breakfast</th>
<th>Full-Price Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
<td>$3.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dysart Unified School District offers automated prepayments to your child’s meal account via the telephone or internet. Simply call 1-877-217-6046 or log on to www.MyPaymentsPlus.com to fund your child’s meal account. Make payments quickly and securely at your convenience. The service is available 24/7 and payments can be made with check, VISA, Mastercard, or Discover. It may take up to 48 hours for your payment to show up at the school site. Please note: A $2 convenience fee will be added to the total payment amount of your transaction if your payment is less than $14.00.

Dysart School District Boundaries

At the meeting on December 18, 2013, the Dysart Governing Board approved school boundary changes for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents and community members can explore the high school and K-8 boundaries with an interactive online map at www.dysart.org/boundaries. The Dysart District offers parents the opportunity to express their preference for any district school. Students may apply for Open Enrollment at any school in the district provided space is available. For more information, visit www.dysart.org/oe.

Volunteers strengthen school-community relations

More than 1,750 volunteers generously gave 64,000 hours of their time and talents regularly to Dysart schools during the 2013-2014 school year. Each of us has the power to initiate change and improve the lives of others. Regardless of your background or area of interest, we are always looking for motivated, compassionate parents and community members to join Dysart as volunteers. Whether you have an hour, a morning, or a day, spending time in a classroom better a child’s education. Every volunteer’s efforts truly enrich the lives of the community we serve. Share your gifts with our students while teaching them the benefits of helping others.

Let us help make your volunteer experience fulfilling. Please visit www.dysart/volunteer or call 623.876.7875 to learn about the numerous volunteer opportunities that exist in K-12 classrooms, libraries, offices, district sports programs, and early childhood development program in the Dysart School District. Every minute counts!
The Dysart Unified School District believes that there is a connection between student dress and academic success. In the spring of 2009, a Strategic Plan committee reviewed and revised Dysart’s student dress code. The committee, consisting of parents, teachers and administrators, presented dress code revisions to the Governing Board and the revisions were implemented in the 2009–2010 school year. Dysart’s student dress code is set to remain unchanged for the 2014–2015 school year. The student dress code can be viewed at www.dysart.org under the tab, “Parents and Students.” The most prominent items in the K-12 student dress code include:

Shirts/Tops

- Must not include tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops and racer back tops. Tank tops are any sleeveless top with a strap of less than three inches.
- Must not have a neckline lower than 4 in. from collarbone and must not expose cleavage.
- Must not extend in the armpit lower than six inches from the collarbone.
- Must not expose the midriff when sitting, bending or standing.
- Must not expose undergarments when sitting, bending or standing.

Pants/Shorts/Bottoms

- Must be no shorter than 4 in. above the top of the knee when standing, if shorts/skirts.
- Must be worn at the waist at all times.
- Must be no shorter than 4 in. from collarbone and must not expose cleavage.
- Must not expose undergarments when sitting, bending or standing.

The Dysart Unified School District announces its 2014-2015 Child Find Screening dates. In order to better serve our communities, Child Find Screenings will now be offered at two locations: 15300 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335 and 17999 W. Surprise Farms Loop South, Surprise, AZ 85388. Parents/guardians who have concerns about their children’s development may contact the district office at 623-876-7360 to schedule a free screening. Children must be at least 2 years and 6 months to be eligible for a screening and families must reside in the DUSD district for information regarding screening children ages birth to 3 years old, please call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at 602-532-9960.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004) requires that public school agencies ensure that all children from birth through age 21 with delays or developmental disabilities are identified, located and evaluated to receive the supports they need. This includes all children living within the geographic boundaries of the school district, including children who are homeless or wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, or those who are home schooled.

Public schools and the Arizona Early Intervention Program are responsible for “finding” eligible children and providing services needed for them to reach their developmental milestones or meet their educational needs. The Dysart preschool screenings address vision, hearing, motor, speech and language, self-help, cognitive and social skills. The time to complete a screening is approximately one hour. Parents must be present with their children during the screening process.

Dysart School Directory

K-8 Schools

- Ashlawn Ranch 14908 W. Acorna Drive
  Surprise, AZ 85379
  623.523.8300
- Canyon Ridge
  17359 W. Surprise Farms Loop N
  Surprise, AZ 85388
  623.523.8400
- Cinnamon Springs
  17023 W. Surprise Farms Loop S
  Surprise, AZ 85388
  623.523.8400
- Countryside
  15034 N. Parkview Place
  Surprise, AZ 85379
  623.876.7900
- Dysart Elementary
  12500 W. Vaney Road
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.876.7100
- El Mirage
  13500 N. El Mirage Road
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.876.7000
- Kingwood
  15150 W. Moundell Road
  Surprise, AZ 85374
  623.876.7600
- Lake
  7300 N. Dysart Road
  Glendale, AZ 85307
  623.876.7300
- Marley Park
  15042 W. Sweetwater Road
  Surprise, AZ 85379
  623.523.8300
- Mountain View
  18302 W. Burton Avenue
  Waddell, AZ 85355
  623.876.7450
- Parkview
  18606 N. Parkview Place
  Surprise, AZ 85374
  623.523.8300
- Rancho Gabriela
  15272 W. Gabriela Drive
  Surprise, AZ 85374
  623.523.8500
- Riverview
  12701 N. Main Street
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.52.8950
- Sonoran Heights
  11405 W. Green Tree Plwy
  Surprise, AZ 85379
  623.523.8300
- Sunset Hills
  17825 W. Sierra Montana Loop
  Surprise, AZ 85378
  623.523.8700
- Surprise
  12907 W. Greenway Road
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.876.7400
- Thompson Ranch
  11800 W. Thompson Ranch Rd
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.523.8400
- West Point
  17300 W. Greenway Road
  Surprise, AZ 85374
  623.876.7300
- Western Peaks
  18063 W. Surprise Farms Loop S
  Surprise, AZ 85388
  623.523.8300
- High Schools
  Dysart High School
  11425 N. Dysart Road
  El Mirage, AZ 85335
  623.876.7900
- iSchool
  15034 W. Sunset Lane
  Surprise, AZ 85379
  623.876.7872

Dysart Unified School District No. 89
2014-2015 CALENDAR

Main Preschool Campus
(western schools)

- August 13
- August 27
- September 10
- September 24
- October 8
- October 29
- November 12
- December 10
- January 7
- February 4
- February 18
- March 4
- April 8
- April 22
- May 6
- May 20

El Mirage Location
(eastern schools)

- August 20
- September 3
- September 17
- October 1
- October 22
- November 5
- November 19
- December 3
- December 17
- January 14
- January 28
- February 11
- February 25
- March 11
- April 5
- April 15
- April 29
- May 13

Dysart School Directory

For more information regarding Dysart schools, please visit www.dysart.org/schools

The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures, contact the Executive Director for Human Resources at (623) 876-7100.