Thompson Ranch earns A+ label

Thompson Ranch Elementary School has been named an A+ school by the Arizona Educational Foundation. The honor, designated to a handful of schools state-wide each year, recognizes outstanding public schools in Arizona. Thompson Ranch is the first school of any kind in the Surprise/El Mirage area to receive the A+ status.

The Arizona Educational Foundation’s A+ Program celebrates education and brings to light the positive stories and successes happening in public schools every day. The A+ Program is an amazing catalyst for bringing together the surrounding community and its local neighborhood school. It was created by the Arizona Educational Foundation in 1983. Its purpose is threefold:

• To identify and give public recognition to outstanding public schools in Arizona
• To make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness that can serve as a basis for participatory self-assessment and planning in schools
• To facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools based on a common criteria related to success

This is the first year that schools in the Dysart Unified School District have applied for the A+ status. Two Dysart schools applied for the award, Sunset Hills and Thompson Ranch, and both made it to the final round of judging.

The year-long process consists of a rigorous application and screening process along with site visits for schools that make it to the final round. Thompson Ranch was notified of their A+ status on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.
Move on When Reading

In 2010 the state of Arizona passed legislation that requires schools to retain students in 3rd grade if they are not reading at grade level. This law goes into effect in 2014 so students who are just finishing kindergarten will be the first group impacted by the new law.

In Dysart, the focus has been literacy at the primary level, and we have had many things already in place to ensure that our students are reading at or above level by grade 3. Thanks to the support of our voters, Dysart passed an override that provides special funding for reading support. This support includes special tutoring and instruction for students who need extra help, resources like books and technology tools, as well as training for teachers.

The Dysart district is establishing a task force to oversee the implementation of the Move on When Reading requirements. The task force will work with district staff and community members to ensure that students make the progress in reading that will guarantee they are exceeding standards and future ready.

Arizona Move on When Ready

The Arizona Move on When Ready initiative is a new model for high school education designed to increase student academic achievement to national and international levels, and prepare all students for college and careers. Key components of the model include:

- The use of proven systems of aligned instruction and examinations, known as Board Examination Systems;
- Offering multiple education pathway options to students, which include a new performance-based high school diploma (Grand Canyon Diploma);
- A commitment to an education model that moves away from a “one-size-fits-all” approach to one that is adaptive to individual student interests and needs.

As an early adopter of Move on When Ready, Dysart has been invited to participate in a collaborative facilitated by the Center for the Future of Arizona. The collaborative includes other schools and school districts planning to offer a pathway to the Grand Canyon Diploma. Members of the collaborative meet monthly to share strategies for planning and implementation of this program. Dysart will offer students programs that align to the Cambridge and International Baccalaureate (IB) board examinations, both of which are providers and qualify for the state’s Move on When Ready Initiative. The International Baccalaureate program is already available as a signature program at Willow Canyon High School. This year a Cambridge Academy will open for grades 6, 7 and 8 at Marley Park Elementary School.

Dysart district student dress code

The Dysart 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 2011-2012 school year. Dysart’s student dress code is designed to increase student academic achievement to national and international levels, and prepare all students for college and careers. Key components of the model include:

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Meet the Governing Board

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

Governing Board Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 13, 2011</td>
<td>November 16, 2011</td>
<td>Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3, 2011</td>
<td>April 4, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7, 2011</td>
<td>April 18, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<td>August 17, 2011</td>
<td>May 2, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7, 2011</td>
<td>May 16, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21, 2011</td>
<td>June 6, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5, 2011</td>
<td>June 20, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19, 2011</td>
<td>March 7, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2011</td>
<td>March 21, 2012</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Governing Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month with exceptions of July 2011 and January 2012 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 623-876-7002.

District Administration

Gail Plentick, Ed. D., Superintendent
Cyndi Miller, Ph. D., Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services
Quinn Kellis, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
Jim Dean, Executive Director of Employee & Community Relations
Scott Thompson, Executive Director of Business Services

Back to school/meet your teacher

K-8 Schools
- Ashton Ranch
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Shadow Ridge
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Marley Park
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Canyon Ridge
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Desert Moon
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Dysart Elementary
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- El Mirage
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Kingwood
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Lake
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Marley Park
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Mountain View
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Parkview
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Rancho Gabriela
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Riverview
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sonoran Heights
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sunnyslope
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- West Point
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Western Heights
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Western Peaks
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Willow Canyon
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

High Schools
- Dysart High School
  - Grade 9-12: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Shadow Ridge
  - Grade 9-12: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Valley Vista
  - Grade 9-12: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Other Programs
- Preschool
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sundown Mountain
  - Grade K-6: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
K-8 registration information
To begin the enrollment process for kindergarten through eighth grade, please pick up a registration packet from any of Dysart’s K-8 school offices. Dysart’s website, www.dysart.org, includes need-to-know information such as school boundaries, transportation, immunizations and special education services. Parents who do not have access to the Web can go into any school office and use a designated computer kiosk. 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 legal guardian must be present to enroll a child
• 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
  • Child’s immunization records
  • Proof of residency i.e. – lease or purchase agreement or utility bill
  • Parent or guardian’s government issued photo identification
  • Official withdrawal paperwork from previous school (if enrolling during the school year)

To ensure your child receives the appropriate services, it is highly recommended that parents provide the following:

• Current individualized education plan (IEP)
• Existing 504 plan
• Academic records
• Information from previous school

If your child has significant health concerns and parents need to check in medications, you may need to complete additional paperwork. The school nurse can assist you with any questions or concerns.

Should your email, address or phone number change after you have completed your enrollment, please notify your school’s office immediately so you don’t miss out on important information sent throughout the year.

Children age 4 to 18 are eligible to receive immunizations through the Dysart Unified School District in partnership with Maricopa County. Immunizations required for school admission are provided at no cost to all children in the community. For more information, please visit www.dysart.org or call the district’s immunization clinic at 623.876.7944.

High school registration
Dysart High School
Beginning July 28, continuing Dysart High School students can have their school ID picture taken and pick up school schedules during walk through registration located in the DHS cafeteria. Walk-through registration will be held on July 26-27 for seniors, juniors and sophomores from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Freshman can register on July 28 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For questions regarding registration please call (623) 876-7500. For additional information about Dysart High School, please visit www.dysart.org/DHS.

Shadow Ridge
Camp Stallion runs July 26, 27, and 28 for freshmen only. Registration for freshmen and students new to Shadow Ridge will be held July 27 from 9 a.m. till noon and July 28 from 4 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Continuing student registration - Students already attending Shadow Ridge will not need to attend registration. Instead, enrollment packets that were included in the summer mailer should be returned to the school starting Monday, July 25 and ending Wednesday August 3. The office will be open during the hours of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for parents to drop off this important information.

Stallion Roundup will be held Friday, August 5 from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. This is a campus orientation for our freshmen students and an opportunity to meet teachers and become familiar with location of classes and meet peers.

Open House will be held Thursday, August 18 beginning at 6 p.m. For more information please visit www.dysart.org/srsrf/ or call (623) 523-5100.

Valley Vista
Walk through registration for the 2011-2012 school year will take place July 25-28. Senior registration will be on Monday, July 25; Juniors Tuesday, July 26; Sophomores Wednesday, July 27; and Freshman Thursday, July 28. Registration will take place all 4 days beginning at 8:00 a.m. Registration packets will be in the mail by mid-July and will contain all necessary information regarding the registration process. The packet will have assigned registration dates and times, along with important paperwork that is required for students and parents to complete on an annual basis. During registration ID pictures will be taken and physical education uniforms will be available. Yearbook pictures will be taken after school starts. For questions please contact the school office at (623) 523-8800 or visit the website at www.dysart.org/valleyvista.

Willow Canyon
Willow Canyon High School’s Back-to-School Walk Thru will take place Tuesday, July 26th from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 27 from 8:00 - 12:00 p.m., and Thursday, July 28th from 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. All students are required to attend Back-to-School Walk Thru to obtain their student ID. Please check the WCHS website for a more detailed breakdown. Please come prepared with all of the completed required documents. Please check for additional required items such as payment for student parking, athletics (cash/check only) updated shot record (if applicable).

Students who do not attend the summer registration process will not be permitted into class on the first day of school. For questions, please contact the school office at (623) 523-8000. For more information regarding registration, including possible updates, please visit the Willow Canyon website at www.dysart.org/willowcanyon.

Dysart preschool announces screening dates for 2011-2012
Do you have concerns about your preschooler’s development? The Dysart Early Childhood Education Center offers free screenings for in-district children, age 2 years 10 months to 5 year old non-kindergarten children with possible special needs or handicaps. A parent needs to be present with the child that is to be screened, and siblings are not allowed, unless they are being screened as well. 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 and services 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, conducted at the Dysart Early Childhood Center, address vision, hearing, motor, speech and language, self-help, cognitive and social skills. The time to complete a screen is approximately one hour. Parents must be present with their child during the screening process. For more information or to schedule a special needs screening appointment, please contact the Dysart School District at (623) 876-7022. For information regarding screening children ages birth to 3 years old, please call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at (602) 532-9960. The Dysart Early Childhood Center is located at 17999 W. Surprise Farms Loop South in Surprise.

Screening dates for the 2011-2012 school year are:

- August 1
- August 15
- August 29
- September 12
- September 26
- October 3
- October 17
- October 31
- November 14
- November 28
- December 12
- January 9
- January 23
- February 13
- February 27
- March 19
- April 9
- April 23
- May 7
- May 21

Optional Elementary Student Supply List
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 United 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.

Cambridge Academy at Marley Park
The Dysart Unified School District will be offering The Cambridge Academy, an advanced academic program for middle school students, at Marley Park Elementary School beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. The Cambridge Program at Marley Park will enable qualified 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to prepare for success in advanced academic pursuits while obtaining a comprehensive education.

An internationally recognized program sponsored by Cambridge University in England, the academy offers a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares students to take a series of comprehensive examinations at the end of their 8th grade year. The examinations are scored by Cambridge University, and the students receive feedback about their performance as compared to students from across the world. Students who do well on these examinations may then apply for admission to Cambridge. Cambridge offers both a standard course and a more rigorous accelerated course for advanced students.

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Volunteers in the Dysart Unified School District generously gave 69,247 hours of their time in schools over the course of the 2010-2011 school year. Dysart teachers, students, office staff and administration are thankful for the benefits that the 1,164 volunteers provide in the classroom and school offices. Whether volunteering in one of Dysart’s 20 K-8 schools, four high schools or in a preschool classroom, Dysart volunteers make a difference for the benefits that the 1,164 volunteers provide in the district’s sports programs.

Community members interested in making a difference in the lives of children are encouraged to become a Dysart Unified School District volunteer. Volunteer opportunities are endless, all benefiting Dysart students. Volunteer opportunities are not limited by time commitment. A volunteer may choose to provide support any time during the school day.

If you would like to share a few hours a week or every other week, please consider the Dysart Unified School District for a wonderful opportunity to be of assistance to its students. For more information about becoming a Dysart volunteer, please call 623.876.7000 or visit www.dysart.org/volunteer.