Power in the Preparation...
Excellence in the Journey...
Success for a Lifetime...
The Dysart Unified School District is pleased to provide the community with the Dysart Annual Report, which provides information on the efforts and outcomes of the district during a one-year period, beginning with the fall of 2011 to the fall of 2012. The Dysart District is a public school of choice for more than 25,500 students and their families. The district is dedicated to providing a world class education for all students.

The Dysart Unified School District is an award-winning educational system that is recognized for its innovation and dedication. The success experienced by the Dysart Unified School District is due to the high caliber of teachers, staff, and administrators who work with our supportive families and community volunteers to serve all of our students. WE ARE DYSART and we know power in preparation means excellence in the journey and success for a lifetime.

As a district, we have a laser-like focus on making certain our students grow academically and graduate career and college ready. Establishing a positive school environment that is also safe and secure is critical to achieving our goal. In order to support student success, it is essential that we efficiently manage all of our district resources. Over the last few years in Arizona, state budget reductions including the suspension and/or elimination of educational funding, have meant cuts of over a billion dollars to schools. The Dysart Unified School District continues to work collaboratively with our employees and all stakeholder groups and community partners to find ways to provide the necessary resources to educate our students.

This Dysart Annual Report is one of many ways we hope to effectively communicate information about specific efforts and accomplishments of the Dysart Unified School District. As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, we continue to look forward to meeting our District’s vision and mission. Thank you for your continued support!

Gail Pletnick, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to see the superintendent’s Welcome Back video for the 2012-2013 school year!
Governing Board

Governing Board Meeting Schedule
The Governing Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month with exceptions of July 2012, November 2012, January 2013, and February 2013 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 623-876-7000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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Vision
Power in the preparation…Excellence in the journey…
Success for a lifetime…

Mission
The mission of Dysart Unified School District is to create a safe, diversified and engaging learning environment where every student attains academic excellence and is empowered to achieve life-long success.

Through relevant and challenging curriculum, expanded learning opportunities and collaborative partnerships, our students will be:

• effective communicators
• critical and creative thinkers
• informed problem solvers and decision makers
• responsible leaders
• productive citizens
Dysart Growth Continues
Dysart Unified School District has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade. This graph (right) illustrates the district’s rising enrollment since 2000.

The Dysart Community
The Dysart Unified School District is comprised of 140 square miles in the northwest valley. The district encompasses the cities of Surprise, El Mirage and unincorporated sections of Maricopa County. Prior to 2000, the Dysart Unified School District was made up of four elementary schools and one high school. Today, Dysart has grown to 20 K-8 schools, 4 high schools, one early childhood center, one alternative program, and one online learning program, iSchool.

Dysart Students
At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, Dysart had 24,573 enrolled students, increased from 7,238 students in the 2001-2002 school year. Within the student population, 38 different native languages are spoken.

Student Ethnicity
• White – 51%
• Hispanic – 36%
• Black – 8%
• Asian – 3%
• Native American – 1%
• Islander – 1%

Dysart Staff
The Dysart Unified School District proudly employs more than 2,948 staff members. As of the end of the 2011-2012 school year, the district team was comprised of:
• 1,448 certified personnel
• 994 support staff
• 75 administrators
• 24 school security personnel
• 289 guest teachers
• 118 temporary/substitute employees
Dysart Unified School District
District-wide international accreditation through the AdvancED Accreditation Commission

Dysart School District Athletics
All four high schools received the Quality Program Award “Exemplary” level of recognition from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)

Dysart District Business Office
Association of School Business Officials International’s (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

Dysart Transportation Department
Leland E.G. Larson Quality Student Transportation Award

Sunset Hills Elementary School
Named A+ School of Excellence by the Arizona Education Foundation

Lou Hart - Valley Vista Counselor
ACTEAZ Counselor of the Year

Sunshine Darby - Dysart District Technology Coordinator
Making it Happen Award at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference for technology integration in K-12 schools

Connie Ferguson - Riverview Art Teacher
Named Arizona Art Educator of the Year by the Arizona Art Education Association

Peggy Gregory - Dysart District Language Arts Specialist
Medal of Merit Award from the Journalism Education Association for contributions to scholastic journalism

Eric Bennett - Shadow Ridge Engineering Teacher
4th Place finish in the Men’s Recurve Division at the Paralympics in London

Kristie Martorelli - Thompson Ranch Reading Interventionist
2012 Arizona Education Foundation (AEF) Teacher of the Year

Dr. David Dumon - Surprise Elementary Principal
Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Distinguished Administrator for the Elementary Division

Melissa Bennet - Canyon Ridge School Teacher
Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for VFW District 3

Amy Price – Sonoran Heights Elementary Teacher
Awarded the John J. Ross Award by the AZ Foundation for Legal Services and Education for contributions to law-related education

Misha Quarles - Thompson Ranch Math Interventionist
2012 Arizona Education Association (AEA) Teacher of Excellence

National Board Certification
Jennifer DiNello, Dysart High School; Rebecca Coda, Thompson Ranch; Katie Hart, Sunset Hills

Christopher Andrade - Valley Vista Senior
$50,000 scholarship to International Art Institute of Phoenix

Ryan Verpooten – Shadow Ridge Sophomore
National SkillsUSA Champion in the category of Architectural Design Drafting and youngest national champion ever for the event.
Dysart District AIMS scores continue to rise

Dysart Unified School District students continue to demonstrate high academic achievement as measured by the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) assessment. Dysart AIMS achievement scores met or exceeded the state averages in every grade and subject. Student test scores in grades 3 – 10 show that Dysart students continue to achieve at high academic levels. The Dysart School District’s 25,000 students continue to outpace the state improvement average in math, reading, writing, and science.

An analysis of the AIMS achievement data from 2012 demonstrates Dysart’s commitment to a sustained effort to raise student achievement. The district continues to focus on using data-informed decision making and district-created technology applications that drive curriculum and resource development and classroom instruction.
The Arizona Department of Education has released its state rating system, A-F Accountability Profiles, for all public schools throughout the state for 2012. Four Dysart schools received a state grade of “A”. 14 Dysart schools received a state grade of “B” and six schools received a state grade of “C”. Additionally, the state has also provided school districts with a grade. The Dysart School District received a grade of “B” from the Arizona Department of Education. Dysart schools continue to demonstrate positive and continued growth in student achievement. To view more information on school achievement profiles, please visit [www.dysart.org/profiles](http://www.dysart.org/profiles) or [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>A-F Accountability Profile</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canyon Ridge School</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain View School</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rancho Gabriela Elementary School</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoran Heights Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashton Ranch Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cimarron Springs Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countryside Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desert Moon School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dysart Elementary School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Elementary School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marley Park Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shadow Ridge High School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Sunset Hills Elementary School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Surprise Elementary School</td>
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<td>Western Peaks Elementary School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Point Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willow Canyon High School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Vista High School</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dysart High School</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Mirage Elementary School</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingswood Elementary School</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parkview Elementary School</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverview Elementary School</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson Ranch Elementary School</td>
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High School Academic Opportunities

International Baccalaureate
International Baccalaureate (IB), offered at Willow Canyon High School, challenges academically talented students to reach high levels of achievement in a broad range of subjects and allows two different participation tracks: IB diploma and IB certificate. The core subjects of the IB program are arranged into six curricula: English, social studies, experimental sciences, foreign language, mathematics and electives. The diploma candidate is required to test in one subject from each curriculum. The certificate track allows students to self-select into areas of their academic strengths, leading to IB subject-area tests in only selected areas.

Cambridge International
Cambridge courses are offered in over 100 countries and recognized by higher education institutions worldwide. The Cambridge program encourages student-centered learning and hands-on application of skills. Clearly defined learner outcomes and content ensure high expectations for all. Cambridge students are confident in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others; responsible for themselves; responsive to and respectful of others; innovative and equipped for new and future challenges; engaged intellectually and socially; and ready to make a difference. Students who complete the lower division, 9th-10th grade, Cambridge curriculum are set for success in a dual enrollment, advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway for college and career advancements. By passing the Cambridge Board Examinations, students are eligible for the Grand Canyon Diploma, a diploma that allows them early entry into college courses. This program is offered at Willow Canyon and Dysart High Schools.

Advanced Placement
Advanced Placement (AP) is a program of college-level courses and examinations governed by the College Entrance Examination Board. Students who attain acceptable scores on the exams may qualify for college credits, advanced placement or exemption from certain courses.

Honors
Honors courses are designed to provide a more challenging, sequential course of study that fosters academic performance leading to successful completion of Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and/or International Baccalaureate Programs. To fulfill this purpose, Honors courses demand a more challenging engagement by students in building upon and extending the standard requirements of study.

Dual Enrollment
Dual Enrollment opportunities are available to students in Dysart High Schools. Students have the ability to take courses in which they may receive credit in the high school as well as earning college credit. Dual enrollment courses are available through Estrella Mountain, Glendale and Rio Salado Community Colleges.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)
The Dysart Unified School District offers Career and Technical Education courses that support study within specific career pathways. These areas of Career and Technical Education studies range from Graphic Arts and Communication to Health Careers to the Culinary Arts to Auto Mechanics to TV and Media Production and beyond. The most important factor that runs through all 14 Career and Technical Education Programs offered is the link that is created between academic rigor and the real world experiences inherent in these career-oriented programs. CTE provides for each student the opportunity to be exposed to industry-standard curricula and reinforcement of their academic skill sets, and prepares students to be successful in post-secondary education and their endeavors into the 21st century. For more information regarding career and technical education, please visit www.dysart.org/cte.

Signature Programs
Dysart’s Signature Programs include:
Dysart High School – Automotive Technology, Digital Photography, JROTC, Legal Services, and the Cambridge Academy.
Shadow Ridge High School – Architectural Design and Engineering
Valley Vista High School – Culinary Arts, Fire Science and Law Enforcement and Public Safety
Willow Canyon High School – Allied Health Programs, International Baccalaureate, TV/Video and Media Productions, and the Cambridge Academy.
**Cambridge Academy**
The Dysart Unified School District offers The Cambridge Academy, an advanced academic program for middle school students, at Marley Park and Countryside Elementary School. The Cambridge Program will seek to enable dedicated 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to prepare for success in future academic pursuits while obtaining a comprehensive view of the world. For more information visit www.dysart.org/cambridge.

**Arts Academy**
The Dysart Arts Academy serves students in grades 6-8 and began in the fall 2012. The mission of this “school within a school” at West Point is to provide an arts-enriched learning environment, merging creative and academic content to enhance student achievement. Academy students will be required to take language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, the students will be afforded the opportunity to participate in arts elective courses each year. These courses may include band, orchestra, chorus, visual arts: 2-D, 3-D and graphic arts, theater, dance, and ITV/video production. For more information visit www.dysart.org/artsacademy.

**Integrated STEM Concept School**
Canyon Ridge School is dedicated to the integration of science, mathematics and technology throughout daily instruction and interaction. Canyon Ridge School is an integrated learning community of lifelong learners committed to preparing capable citizens with a strong academic foundation, a positive self-concept and an understanding of the individual’s responsibilities within the larger society. At Canyon Ridge School, the educational experience extends beyond the school day and the school walls. Curriculum and instruction are organized around real-world problems. Students gather and apply knowledge from multiple disciplines with particular emphasis on science, math and health supported by transforming uses of technology. Collaboration, team building and partnerships define interactions among all members of the learning community. Problem-based learning, flexibility in grouping and in use of time, research and assessment to drive instructional decisions, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning are hallmarks of experiences at Canyon Ridge School.
The Arizona Legislature established a school finance system to provide equal dollars per pupil for school district operations through a balancing of the local funds and State/County funds. This concept is commonly referred to as the “equalization formula.” The Arizona Legislature determines every year the amount per pupil the school districts are allowed to budget. In school year 2012-2013 utilizing this state funding system the Dysart school district was allowed to budget approximately $160 million. The district can only spend up to the budget capacity authorized by the Arizona State Legislature.

Dysart’s tax rate for fiscal year 2013 is $7.39. Property values in the Dysart district boundaries have decreased on average 9% in 2013. This decrease in assessed value is in large part responsible for the tax rate increase of $1.42. In addition, the district has seen a decrease in the amount of state funding it receives (see graph) while also experiencing continued student growth. Despite over $20 million in operating and capital fund cuts, both of these factors have attributed to the rate increase.

While the district has worked to maintain funding for the classroom, the district has made significant reductions in the programs and resources provided to the schools. A large portion of the reductions by the state were in capital funding; this has left the district unable to purchase significant items such as textbooks, technology, and buses.

Transportation by the Numbers

Number of Daily Routes - 111

Total Miles Driven - 1.8 million

Average Daily Miles - 9,481

*2011-2012 Statistics
Couples filing joint taxes may donate up to $400; Individuals up to $200
Credits are not available to businesses or estates.

Mail Your Contributions To: DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATTN: TAX CREDIT PROGRAM
15802 NORTH PARKVIEW PLACE
SURPRISE, AZ  85374

Apply my tax credit to the following school:

- Ashton Ranch
- Canyon Ridge
- Cimarron Springs
- Countryside
- Desert Moon
- Dysart
- El Mirage
- Kingswood
- Luke
- Marley Park
- Mountain View
- Parkview
- Rancho Gabriela
- Riverview
- Sonoran Heights
- Sunset Hills
- Surprise
- Thompson Ranch
- West Point
- Western Peaks

(KPlease Print)

Date ______________ Parent (Guardian)/Contributor Name ________________________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ Zip ____________ Phone Number ____________________________

Total Amount Paid _____________  □ Cash  □ Check # _____________  □ Money Order # _____________

I want to support:

- School May Designate (5500)
- Athletics (5501)
- Fine Arts (5502)
- Enrichment Programs (5505)

STUDENT ATHLETIC & CLUB FEES ONLY

Student Name ____________________________________________________

Activity _________________________________________________________

K-8
- $70/Elemiddle Sports
- $210/Elemiddle Student Cap
- $400/Elemiddle Family Cap
- $1-$10/Extracurricular Activities Club

HIGH SCHOOL
- $140/Athletic PTP Activity
- $280/Athletic PTP Student Cap
- $400/PTP Athletic Family Cap
- $10/Club

ALL DONATIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Credits are not available to businesses or estates.
The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at (623) 876-7000.

**K-8 Schools**

**Ashton Ranch**
14898 W. Acoma Drive
Surprise, AZ 85379
623.523.8300

**Canyon Ridge**
17359 W. Surprise Farms Loop N
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.8450

**Cimarron Springs**
17032 W. Surprise Farms Loop S
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.8600

**Countryside**
15034 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85379
623.876.7800

**Desert Moon**
23251 N. 166th Drive
Surprise, AZ 85387
623.523.8900

**Dysart**
12590 W. Varney Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.876.7100

**El Mirage**
13500 N. El Mirage Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.876.7200

**Kingswood**
15150 W. Mondell Road
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.876.7600

**Luke**
7300 N. Dysart Road
Glendale, AZ 85307
623.876.7300

**Marley Park**
15042 W. Sweetwater Road
Surprise, AZ 85379
623.523.8200

**Mountain View**
18302 W. Burton Avenue
Waddell, AZ 85355
623.876.7450

**Parkview**
16066 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.523.8650

**Rancho Gabriela**
15272 W. Gabriela Drive
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.523.8500

**Riverview**
12701 N. Main Street
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.523.8950

**Sonoran Heights**
11405 N. Greer Ranch Parkway
Surprise, AZ 85379
623.523.8550

**Sunset Hills**
17825 W. Sierra Montana Loop
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.8700

**Surprise**
12907 W. Greenway Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.876.7400

**Thompson Ranch**
11800 W. Thompson Ranch Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.523.8400

**West Point**
13700 W. Greenway Road
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.876.7700

**Western Peaks**
18063 W. Surprise Farms Loop S
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.8750

**High Schools**

**Dysart High School**
11425 N. Dysart Road
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.876.7500

**Shadow Ridge**
10909 N. Perryville Road
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.5100

**Valley Vista**
15550 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.523.8800

**Willow Canyon**
17901 W. Lundberg Street
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.523.8000

**Specialized Programs**

**Dysart Early Childhood Center**
17999 W. Surprise Farms Loop S
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.876.7350

**Sundown Mountain**
10909 N. Perryville Road
Surprise, AZ 85388
623.876.7250

**iSchool**
15550 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.876.7872