The start of the new school year is quickly approaching. Classes begin on August 8 for most schools in the Dysart Unified School District. Our newest campuses, Sunset Hills and Rancho Gabriela elementary schools, will open on August 22.

New students are encouraged to register for school as soon as possible. With more than 3,000 new students excepted for the 2005-2006 school year, early registrations help district administrators hire teachers, plan for the use of classroom space and verify bus routes. More information on how to register for school is on page two of this edition of Dysart Achiever.

This year, Dysart will open two new elementary schools – Sunset Hills and Rancho Gabriela. In addition, through the support of district taxpayers, new campuses for Surprise Elementary and Dysart High School will open. Renovations also took place on several campuses over the summer to provide additional space for all-day kindergarten and growing student populations. The district continues to meet the challenges of growth by hiring the best educators available, building new schools and renovating existing campuses. This year, we expect more than 18,000 total students.

Over the summer, teachers and administrators have been hard at work preparing for the 2005-2006 school year. Training sessions were held nearly every week. For example, kindergarten teachers attended an academy on implementing the new full-day program, teacher-leaders participated in sessions to develop and explore the Arizona Academic Standards, diversity workshops were presented, and seminars on the district’s Continuous Improvement Process were held. It’s been a busy summer.

The Dysart Unified School District encourages every student to attend school on the first day, and every day after that. There are only 180 school days in the year – every one of those days is important for academic development. Plus, schools receive funding for the entire school year based on student attendance for the first 100 days. So, for each day a student misses during the first 100, the school loses one percent of funding. That lost class time can add up to academic trouble, and lost funding for schools.

Additional information on the Dysart Unified School District is available from each school, the district office at 623-876-7000, on-line at www.dysart.org or on Cox Cable Channel 99.
ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN INTRODUCED

Approved by the voters of the Dysart Unified School District in November 2004, full-day classes will be offered for all kindergarten students beginning this year. The introduction of full-day classes for our youngest students makes Dysart a leader in the Valley and demonstrates a commitment to building a strong foundation for students. There is no direct cost to families.

All-day kindergarten will continue Dysart’s standards-based program that is developmentally and individually appropriate in addressing four areas of development: Cognitive, Social, Emotional and Physical.

The extra time for the all-day program will allow teachers to deliver curriculum aligned with the Arizona Academic Standards. With more time, teachers will be able to challenge students, provide for differentiated instruction or spend extra time on difficult concepts.

It might sound like a lot, but Dysart teachers and administrators have spent more than a year to create a developmentally appropriate program that is designed to increase achievement for the rest of a student’s academic career. With class size ratio of 23:1, kindergarten students will be set on a path of academic success.

What will this extra time be used for? Nap time isn’t on the agenda, but there will be a mix of academic, special areas and activities designed to engage students while providing instruction in the Arizona Academic Standards. Within a flexible framework, weekly instruction will include:

**Language and Literacy**
- Vocabulary, Oral Language Development, Interactive Writing, Guided Reading, Phonics, Read Alouds and Independent Writing/Publishing.

**Mathematics**
- Calendar, Vocabulary Building, Shared Math, Interactive Math, Guided Math and Centers Aligned to Strands (Number Sense, Geometry, Probability).

**Special Areas**
- Art, Music and Physical Education. Special area classes will be balanced, developmentally appropriate and standards based.

**Lunch, Snacks and Recess**
- Students will have lunch with other children in grades kindergarten through three. Kindergarten students use playgrounds specially designed for young students. There will also be time for snacks during the day.

**Exploration Stations**
- Science Experiments, Social Studies Projects/Activities and other standards-based centers and activities to support instruction.
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Dysart Unified School District offers a variety of programs for students before and after school. Many of these programs are operated through the district’s community education department – School Link. In addition, schools offer clubs and athletics for interested students. Limited after-school transportation services are available. For more information on before or after school programs, contact your campus or School Link at 623.876.7056.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The school food service program is an essential part of the total educational program. Based on the premise that well nourished students are better prepared to receive the instruction of the school day, the Nutrition Services Department plays a vital role in each school’s educational team.

Lunch and breakfast are available at all schools. Besides the hot menu choices, salad bars and other food bar choices are available during the week. For information on the other food bar choices, you or your child may contact the school cafeteria.

As part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, the schools can offer meals free or at reduced price. Free and reduced-price meal applications are available in the school office, cafeteria, or the Nutrition Services Department. Only one application is required per family. Every district family is encouraged to complete and return an application.

For this coming school year, the regular cost of lunch is $1.50 and a regular breakfast will cost 75 cents daily. Parents are always welcome to dine with their child – please be sure to call in advance and check in at the school office.

On a related note, due to Maricopa County Health Department regulations, no home-made treats or snacks can be shared or sold on campus. Bake sales, classroom parties or other activities involving food must include commercially prepared items.

For questions about Dysart’s Food Service program, call 623.876.7075.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

It is the mission of the Dysart Unified School District’s Transportation Department to transport students to and from school in a safe, efficient, dependable, professional and courteous manner, while providing the highest quality of support for educational programs by delivering the best possible transportation services.

Bus transportation is not mandated by the legislature, but a privilege offered by the Dysart Unified School District. Transportation service will be offered to: Special Education students requiring special busing; kindergarten students who live over one-half mile from school; first through eighth grade students who live over one mile from school; and ninth through twelfth grade students who live over one-and-one-half miles from school.

Please contact the district Transportation Department at 623.876.7032 if you have questions regarding eligibility of your student for busing. Information regarding bus routes and times are available in each school office and on-line at www.dysart.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A general listing of optional supplies for elementary school students is available from each Dysart campus. All supplies which are required, however, will be provided by the Dysart Unified School District. While we may sometimes request community help for some supplies or special materials, the Arizona Constitution requires that a public education be “as nearly free as possible.” If you have questions about supply requests or optional materials, please contact your school principal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

It is the philosophy of the Special Education Department that all children can learn. All children have the right to a free appropriate public education, regardless of disability, that helps them maximize their potential.

As defined by federal law, special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Arizona Revised Statutes defines a “child with a disability” as a child who is at least three but less than twenty-two years of age, who has been evaluated and found to have a disability and who, because of the disability, needs special education and related services.

Special education is provided through a continuum of services which include instruction in the general education classroom with supplementary aids and services, services integrated into the general education classroom, specialized instruction in a resource or pull-out setting, instruction in a specialized classroom, instruction in a special school, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals or institutions.

Dysart Unified School District offers free monthly screenings for in-district 2.5 to 5 year old non-kindergarten children with possible special needs or handicaps. The parent needs to be present with the child who is to be screened. Screenings are done at the Dysart Early Childhood Education Center, 11405 North Dysart Road. For more information, or to make a screening appointment, call 623.876.7118 or e-mail bredburn@dysart.org. To screen a child ages birth to 2.5, call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at 602.532.9960.
## Addresses

### Dysart Unified School District No. 89
11405 N Dysart Rd
El Mirage, AZ 85335
623.876.7000

1. **El Mirage Elementary** - 623.876.7200
   12308 W Thunderbird Rd
   El Mirage, AZ 85335

   7300 N Dysart Rd
   Glendale, AZ 85307

3. **Surprise Elementary** - 623.876.7400
   12907 W Greenway Rd
   El Mirage, AZ 85335

4. **Dysart Elementary** - 623.876.7100
   12950 W Varney Rd
   El Mirage, AZ 85335

5. **Kingswood Elementary** - 623.876.7600
   15150 W Mondell Rd
   Surprise, AZ 85374

6. **West Point Elementary** - 623.876.7700
   13700 W Greenway Rd
   Surprise, AZ 85374

7. **Countryside Elementary** - 623.876.7800
   15034 N Parkview Place
   Surprise, AZ 85374

8. **Ashton Ranch Elementary** - 623.523.8300
   14898 W Acoma Dr
   Surprise, AZ 85374

9. **Cimarron Springs Elementary** - 623.523.8600
   17032 W Surprise Farms Loop S
   Surprise, AZ 85374

10. **Marley Park Elementary** - 623.523.8200
    15042 W Sweetwater Rd
    Surprise, AZ 85374

11. **Thompson Ranch Elementary** - 623.523.8400
    11800 W Thompson Ranch Rd
    El Mirage, AZ 85335

12. **Sunset Hills Elementary** - 623.523.8700
    17825 W Sierra Montana Loop
    Surprise, AZ 85379

13. **Rancho Gabriela Elementary** - 623.523.8500
    15272 W Gabriela Dr
    Surprise, AZ 85374

1. **Dysart High School** - 623.876.7500
   11425 N Dysart Rd
   El Mirage, AZ 85335

2. **Willow Canyon High School** - 623.523.8000
   17901 W Lundburg St
   Surprise, AZ 85374

3. **Sundown Mountain** - 623.876.7926
   12308 W Thunderbird Rd
   El Mirage, AZ 85335

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### Map

Office of Planning & Support, 2005

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**NOTE:** Starting August 15, every Monday is an Early Release Day for students. New elementary schools will begin Early Release Days on August 29.

- 180- Student Days
- 185- Continuing Teacher Workdays
- 188- New Teachers Workdays
DRESS WITH CLASS FOR CLASS

The district encourages students to take pride in their attire as it relates to the school setting. Students are to dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of self and others.

- Shirts and tops may not expose bare midriffs, bare shoulders, nor be deeply or narrowly cut in the front, back or the arms. Halter tops, spaghetti straps and strapless tops are not acceptable.
- Clothing that exposes undergarments will not be tolerated for males or females. Clothing must cover the entire buttocks.
- Bare feet are never acceptable. In the interest of student safety, shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, cheer practice, weight lifting, etc.
- Jewelry or ornamentation shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard to self and/or others.
- Hats or other head apparel may not be worn inside school buildings unless for religious, medical or safety purposes.
- Defamatory writing, obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex or alcohol on clothing or jewelry are expressly prohibited.
- Tattoos displaying defamatory writing, obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol must be covered.
- Gang-related attire is prohibited.
- Exceptions for special activities or health considerations may be approved by the administrator. Students who participate or volunteer in extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, chorus, etc., are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors of such activities.

All elementary students in the Dysart Unified School District are expected to dress in proper school attire. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure compliance with the dress code. Students are expected to arrive at school clean and neatly dressed. Extremes of clothing, hairstyles and make-up are not appropriate to the school environment.

All K-8 students must dress in accordance with the following dress code:

**Boys**

A short sleeve polo, oxford or turtleneck shirt without logos. Students may wear shirts in any of the following colors: navy blue, white, burgundy, deep purple, hunter green, light/powder blue and ash gray. Solid navy blue or khaki polyester/cotton twill slacks or shorts. Baggy or oversized pants, shorts or shirts, as well as cargo pants and shorts, are unacceptable.

**Girls**

A short sleeve polo shirt, blouse or turtleneck without logos. Students may wear shirts in any of the following colors: navy blue, white, burgundy, deep purple, hunter green, light blue/powder blue and ash gray. Solid navy blue or khaki polyester/cotton twill slack, shorts, skorts, capris, skirts or jumpers. Baggy or oversized pants, shorts and shirts, as well as cargo pants, shorts or skirts, are unacceptable.

DISTRICT PROVIDES SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

Schools in the Dysart Unified School District conduct quarterly lock-down drills to prepare students and staff members for various emergency situations. Like fire drills, the goal is to make lock-down drills routine exercises which support safe, secure learning environments.

During a lock-down:

- Instruction will stop
- Windows will be covered and all doors locked
- Lights will be turned off
- Students will sit on the floor, away from doors and windows
- A quiet, calm environment will be maintained

A lock-down can be called for a variety of critical situations, from suspicious people to chemical spills. In many cases, events in the neighborhood will cause a campus to lock-down. If you are on campus during a lock-down – whether a drill or actual emergency – please follow the instructions of the staff members and expect to be secured on campus for the duration of the lock-down.

When the news breaks that an emergency is taking place at a school, every parent’s first reaction is to rush to the campus to pick up his or her child. In fact, a horde of parents arriving at school can increase the risk to students. Here are some tips for parents when an emergency occurs on or near a Dysart campus:

- During most critical situations, schools will not answer their telephones. Parents can call the Dysart District Office at 623.876.7000 for information on a campus’ status and basic information during an emergency.
- For critical events requiring an evacuation, local media will be asked to help inform parents of the location for parent-child reunification. During a large-scale emergency, tune to KTAR-AM 620 for the latest information.
- Become familiar with the district’s emergency operations plans. School staff welcome your question regarding our emergency preparations.
- Ensure that your student’s Emergency Card is up-to-date and contains accurate primary and secondary contact numbers.
- To make a confidential report related to campus safety, bullying or other criminal actions, students and community members can leave a message 24/7 at 623.876.7009. Communication is key in ensuring safe schools. This Safe Schools Hotline is just another way to pass along tips or information.
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This year, the Dysart Unified School District will introduce a new Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook to outline conduct expectations and consequences for students. At the same time, this new handbook will outline federal privacy, due process, special education, use of technology and other issues for parents and students.

The most significant feature of this new handbook is a revised discipline matrix. This chart of consequences, along with definitions, will help to ensure that all conduct infractions are addressed consistently across the district. Educators will spend time at the beginning of the school year to explain these new, higher conduct expectations to students. Of note, students in grades seven and eight will now be held to the same conduct expectations as high school students. And for many infractions, there are more serious consequences – especially for bullying, weapons, drugs and school bus misconduct.

While the district follows a progressive discipline philosophy, serious infractions can result in more serious consequences. Likewise, some incidents may include multiple infractions and additional consequences.

The handbook also establishes the responsibilities of all students:

- Attend school to receive an education.
- Be on time for all classes.
- Come to class with necessary materials.
- Complete all in-class and homework assignments and meet all deadlines.
- Obey school rules and school personnel.
- Cooperate with school staff.
- Respect the person and property of others.
- Respect public property.
- See that school correspondence reaches home.

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook – developed in partnership with school administrators, teachers and parents – will be distributed to each student. Parents and students will need to sign and return the included verification form within 10 days.

Along with the strengthened discipline expectations, the district has established a Safe Schools Hotline for students, parents and community members to report incidents of harassment, bullying or other dangerous activities. The hotline is not a substitute for 9-1-1 but does provide a means to report issues which could impact school safety. The Safe Schools Hotline number is 623.876.7009.

** These times include both instructional and non-instructional time.
Construction Costs Impact New Schools

Increasing construction costs are forcing the Dysart Unified School District to seek alternative sources of facility funding beyond the Arizona School Facilities Board, the agency primarily responsible for allocating funds for new school construction.

High school construction costs have increased by more than $7 million from 2002 when Willow Canyon High School was built. As the district prepares to begin construction this summer on High School 3, located at Parkview Place and Greenway Road in Surprise, today's fiscal resources from the Arizona School Facilities Board are insufficient to build a facility equal to the two-year-old Willow Canyon High School campus. Construction costs have jumped from $110 per square foot to $150 per square foot; state funding provides $120 per square foot. Project-to-project, costs increased nearly 53 percent.

As a result, $3.3 million in auxiliary elements to High School 3 will not be immediately constructed. These facilities include some parking lots, gymnasium features, some athletic fields and field lighting, additional tennis courts, and an all-weather track. The district is seeking community partnerships with the City of Surprise and others to gain support for these facilities. In addition, current funding does not provide for a performing arts center – an addition that may require voter-approved funding to construct. None of the changes impact critical instructional areas.

New elementary schools are being impacted by the increasing costs too. Dysart's new K-8 campuses being completed this summer required changes from schools built in 2004 to remain within budget. Elementary schools had a reduction in the number of outside canopies, elimination of an exterior bathroom, elimination of concrete columns and planters, reduction in the amount of landscaping, elimination of playground shade structures, elimination of some paved parking, and a downgrade of the gym floor. In addition to SFB funds for these facilities, the Dysart Unified School District supplements as much as $250,000 in local funds for new elementary schools.

The total cost for the 241,616 square-foot High School 3 is budgeted at $33.8 million, including funding from the Arizona School Facilities Board, voter-approved bond proceeds and other local funding sources. The campus is expected to open in August 2006 for students in grades 9 and 10. As a result of reallocating bond funding approved as part of the 2002 election, relocation and reconstruction of Luke Elementary School – now the district's oldest campus – will be delayed. However, the district remains committed to replacing the campus.

Take Dysart’s Tech Survey

The Dysart Unified School District is interested in your access to technology, and your views on how technology should be used in schools. The survey is available in both English and Spanish and can be accessed on-line at http://www.dysart.org/survey/. Paper copies of the survey are also available at every Dysart school.

Results of this technology survey will be used to revise the Dysart Unified School District's Technology Plan. For more information, contact the Information Technology Department at 623.876.7071.