

INSIDE: Learn more about academic pathways in the Dysart Unified School District

ANNUAL REPORT

Dysart Unified School District • December 2015



Success for a lifetime...

#WeAreDysart

Message from the Dysart District Superintendent

Our district is committed to preparing students for life in this new century. The world of opportunities for our students continues to grow. Entrepreneurship and technology continue to revamp and reshape the ways in which students will grow as leaders in the economy. With a careful approach to the rapid changes of today and tomorrow, Dysart is a proud leader in teaching pathways that ensure successful outcomes for our community, our state, and our nation.



This annual report is a summary of the last year and the opportunities for the year ahead. Currently, the Dysart District is the public school district of choice for more than 24,000 students and their families. We remain dedicated to graduating students who are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of college or career. In the 21st Century, graduates need to be armed with a strong academic foundation, as well as critical workforce skills, which include critical thinking, technology literacy, self-direction, and other relevant competencies.

We know the district must continue to offer high quality educational programs to produce the educational outcomes that drive economic development, a competitive workforce, and enhance our wonderful community. We are grateful to the community for their investment in educational outcomes. Looking ahead, with the passage of the 2015 override measure, our community has provided funding needed for critical programs and classroom resources.

Dysart Unified School District is thankful to the voters in our community for their support and commitment to the students of this district. We are pleased that voters understood the need for override funding that will

allow the district to recruit and retain highly qualified staff to ensure manageable class sizes; provide students with the supports they need in math and reading; provide, once again, a free full day kindergarten program; continue the fine arts, physical education and athletic programs; and support programs that prepare students for that 21st

Century world of life and work. The work will begin immediately to ensure these programs and resources are in place for the 2016-2017 school year.

This Dysart annual report is one of many ways the district communicates information about specific efforts and accomplishments of the Dysart Unified School District. It is our responsibility to keep our community members informed about the district you support. "We are Dysart" and together, as a community, we will prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

*Gail Pletnick, Ed.D. Superintendent
2015-2016 Arizona Superintendent of the Year*

“We are grateful to the community for their investment in educational outcomes.”



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ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN IS BACK!



All Day Kindergarten will return for the 2016-2017 school year! Stay tuned for more information.
www.dysart.org/kindergarten

Innovative resources in a 21st Century district

Learning in the new century means working across different skills and knowledge levels to create and cultivate innovation. Students and parents have access to dynamic resources that enable greater data-driven student outcomes. Using these resources are preparing our students in new ways for new opportunities.

Makerspace

Dysart schools are using Makerspaces so students and teachers can transform knowledge and ideas into reality through powerful, effective, and engaging learning experiences. Successful Makerspaces will:

- promote learning through innovation, experimentation and engineering.
- be cross-disciplinary, with elements of art, science and craftsmanship.
- offer tools and materials that encourage students to create rather than consume.
- foster an environment for collaboration.

By using mathematical, science, and artistic insights, students will be able to build objects and bring lessons to life through dynamic learning.

Parent Portal

Parents can now access student information through the Parent Portal. With the click of a button, parents have access to student assessments, attendance, calendars, grades, transportation information, and more via the Infinite Campus Mobile App. Learn more or sign up online at www.dysart.org/parentportal.

iPAL

iPAL is a dynamic suite of home-grown applications that provide online curriculum and resources,



es, student achievement data, and a professional development platform for teachers in Dysart.

Through the integration of these three applications, educators can assess and evaluate the instructional strengths and areas of growth of each student, view aligned instructional resources to support the instruction and intervention of each student, and locate professional learning opportunities that develop the content and delivery skills to better meet the needs of each student to ensure they are college and career ready.

The iPlan component contains lesson plans, electronic resources, learning materials, teaching materials and many other resources that allow Dysart teachers to create customized and personalized lesson plans.

iPlan is navigated by grade level for kindergarten through 6th grade and by content area for middle school and high school. iPlan includes

features that provide easy access to curriculum and resources. Parents can access iPlan to gain a better understanding of college and career skills that students will learn and use in each grade level and content area.

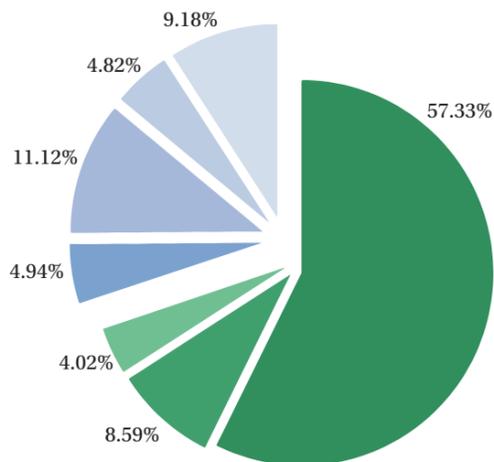
myFuture

This virtual college and career center is designed to help parents and students seek pertinent information regarding high school, college, and careers. It is a resource to guide in the exploration of all aspects of high school success and postsecondary planning. Each bookshelf is composed of applicable information regarding topics that may include high school graduation, college requirements, resume and job-interviewing tips, and much more. The help desk is available for any questions you may have. Learn more at www.dysart.org/myfuture.

Breakdown of Dysart District expenditures by function

Projected Auditor General Spending Report for 2014-2015

- Classroom - 57.33%
- Student Support - 8.59%
- Instruction Support - 4.02%
- Food Service - 4.94%
- Plant Operations - 11.12%
- Transportation - 4.82%
- Administration - 9.18%



AzMERIT parent information

In the spring of 2015, Arizona students took a new statewide test in math and English language arts called AzMERIT. The test was designed to be a tool for parents, teachers, and students to see how students are progressing in their educational endeavors. This test is one of many student performance measures. For more information on the AzMERIT test, please visit www.dysart.org/azmeritparentguide.

Dysart Strategic Plan goals 2014-2017

The district goal for strategic planning is to identify a clear and articulated path of excellence for educating students for the new century.

- Goal A: All Dysart students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy by mastering New Century Learner skills as defined by the Dysart's Profile of a Graduate.
- Goal B: Implement the "We are Dysart" culture defined by common beliefs, high expectations, collaboration and shared leadership resulting in improved student success as defined by the strategic plan academic goals.
- Goal C: Through consistent processes, students and staff will be safe and secure.
- Goal D: Provide resources to support the Strategic Plan

More information of the Strategic Plan, goals, and timelines are available at www.dysart.org/strategicplan.

Meet the Governing Board



Bonnie Schroeder
President



Jennifer Tanner
Clerk



Dr. Spencer Bailey
Member



Suzanne Kellis
Member



Traci Sawyer-Sinkbell
Member

Governing Board Meeting Schedule

The Dysart Unified School District's Governing Board welcomes the public to its meetings.

January 6, 2016	March 2, 2016	May 18, 2016
January 20, 2016	April 6, 2016	June 1, 2016
February 3, 2016	April 20, 2016	June 15, 2016
February 17, 2016	May 4, 2016	

Public meeting notices are available online 24 hours prior to the meeting.

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

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www.youtube.com/DysartUSD

Academic pathways to success in Dysart



Dysart Arts Academy

The Dysart Arts Academy provides an arts-enriched learning environment for 6-8th grade students, merging creative and academic content to enhance student achievement.

Location:
West Point Elementary



The Cambridge Academy

The Cambridge Academy is an advanced academic program where motivated 6-8th grade students pursue rigorous curriculum through an internationally recognized program.

Location:
Marley Park and Countryside



Global International Academy

The Global International Academy is an interdisciplinary program where students learn world languages by connecting with fellow students around the world online.

Location:
Luke Elementary



STEM Concept School

Students gather and apply knowledge from multiple disciplines with particular emphasis on science, math, and engineering through collaboration, team building, and technology.

Location:
Canyon Ridge School



Cambridge International

This program encourages student-centered learning and hands-on application of skills through high expectations. By passing the exams, students are eligible for the Grand Canyon Diploma.

Location:
Willow Canyon & Dysart High



Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment opportunities are available to students in district high schools. Students have the ability to take courses where they may receive credit in high school as well as earning college credit.

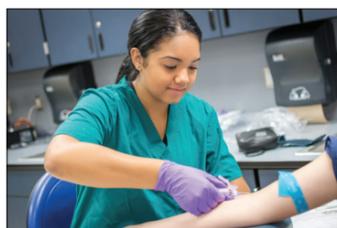
Location:
All district high schools



AP & Honors Classes

Advanced Placement and Honors classes demand more challenging engagement by students in building upon and extending the standard requirements of study in preparation for college-level coursework.

Location:
All district high schools



Career & Technical Education

CTE programs prepare students to enter the workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in the job market. Courses typically include competency-based learning.

Location:
All district high schools



AVID Program

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a four-year program for students who are capable of completing the most rigorous curriculum but are falling short of achieving their academic potential.

Location:
Dysart High School



International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate (IB) 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.

Location:
Willow Canyon High School

Learn more about academic pathways in the Dysart Unified School District online at www.dysart.org

Student highlight: Jordan Chamberlain

Jordan Chamberlain is a Swiss CNC Machinist at Rugo Machine Shop Services (RMSS). He creates component metal and plastic parts for the medical, defense, automotive, and aerospace industries. Jordan's unique career path started with his love of engineering.

Jordan's interest was fostered and further developed within the STEM program at Canyon Ridge School and through the Signature Engineering Program at Shadow Ridge High School.

After three years in the engineering program, Jordan was looking to further his education. He became a student at West-MEC during its inaugural year of the Precision Manufacturing Program.

The West-MEC program turned out to be the perfect next step for Jordan as he took the foundational skills he learned in elementary and high school and put them to use in a hands-on environment. The engineering-related educational programs allowed Jordan to be the first employee hired right out of high school at Rugo Machine Shop Services.

While working at RMSS, Jordan will be continuing his education towards a bachelor's degree in engineering. He attributes all of his success to hard-work and taking advantage of all the opportunities provided through his education at the Dysart Unified School District.

The district currently has a partnership with West-MEC and offers several Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses. CTE programs prepare students to enter the workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in the job market. Above all else, CTE students graduate with the skills necessary for successful entry into post-secondary, career and life opportunities.

In addition to CTE benefits, West-MEC Central Programs allow students the ability to earn industry certification, college credit and internship opportunities. West-MEC programs are supported by business and industry, equipping students with relevant skills and working industry knowledge, propelling them in their future careers and higher learning endeavors.



Career & Technical Education in Dysart

A skilled workforce drives the local and national economy. Dysart students are uniquely prepared to achieve and prosper in their careers through authentic, hands-on, career-focused learning opportunities in Career and Technical Education (CTE). CTE programs prepare students to enter the workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in the job market. CTE courses typically include competency-based learning and opportunities to work with employers prior to graduation. Coursework takes place in Dysart area high schools, as well as at the Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) campus locations.

The District offers a variety of programs and internships in animation, architectural drafting, automotive technologies, culinary arts, digital photography, education professions, engineering, entrepreneurship, film & TV, fire science, graphic/web design, journalism, laboratory assisting, law/public safety & security, professional sales & marketing, software development, sports medicine, and rehabilitation.

West-MEC's mission is "preparing students today for tomorrow's careers" by offering exciting programs in aesthetician, automotive collisions technology, automotive technology, aviation maintenance technology, avionics/electronics, climate control technicians, coding, cosmetology, emergency medical technician, fire science, general construction technology, medical assisting, medium/heavy diesel technology, pharmacy technician, precision manufacturing, veterinary sciences, and welding technology.



THE CYBER ACADEMY

Stay tuned for more information on this 21st Century program being offered for the 2016-2017 school year.

2014-2015 Dysart School District achievements

- Dysart was featured in a recent Education Week publication as one of 25 districts in the nation to visit based on its efforts to address 21st Century learning.
- Dysart was honored by ASBO and CAFR for excellence in financial reporting.
- District was named national Campus Champion for operational excellence by SchoolDude.
- DUSD was named a District of Distinction by the editors of District Administration Magazine for its iPAL program.
- Dysart received ENERGY STAR certification by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Dysart Unified School District hosted one of only 12 Future Ready Summits held across the United States by the USDOE in partnership with a vast coalition of organizations including AASA, the Alliance for Excellent Education, and CoSN.
- Dr. Gail Pletnick was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 100 top school leaders to participate in the first-ever National Connected Superintendents Summit at the White House.
- Shadow Ridge and Valley Vista high schools earned the title of 2015 Best High School by U.S. News and World Report.
- Marley Park and Sonoran Heights elementary schools were named AEF A+ Schools of Excellence.
- Marieka Michaud of Thompson Ranch Elementary School was named 2015 Rodel Aspiring Principal.



- Lisa Hudson, fourth grade teacher at Western Peaks Elementary School, received a Silver Apple Award from 3TV.
- Teachers in the Dysart Unified School District earned the prestigious title of National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) including: Jessica Haug, Sonoran Heights; Cathy Mundstock, Surprise Elementary; Leonard Ornstein, Willow Canyon; Natalie Sawyer, Rancho Gabriela; and Sarah Wehlage, Dysart Elementary School.
- Karen Angelopoulos, RN, MSN, attained National Certified School Nurse certification.

Tax credit donations support Dysart District after-school activities

You can support Dysart Unified School District schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. Pick an extra-curricular activity and school to support and 100% of your donation goes to the activity and school of your choice.

Arizona Law (ARS 43-1089.01) allows married couples filing jointly a tax credit of up to \$400 and individual taxpayers a tax credit of up to \$200 when they contribute to extra-curricular activities in public schools. This tax credit is available to all who reside in Arizona and have a tax liability at least equal to that of their donation. You do not have to be a parent of a child in a Dysart school to benefit from this law. Corporations are not eligible. Contributions are donated directly to the schools. Your donations are used directly to support student activities of the Dysart school of your choice.

A tax credit is a full refund of your money provided you have a tax liability equaling or exceeding your donation. For example, if you have a



\$900 Arizona State tax liability and you make a \$400 donation to a public school, \$400 is subtracted from your tax liability. You would owe only \$500. A husband and wife who file separate returns for a taxable year for which they could have filed jointly may each claim only one-half of the \$400 tax credit that would have been allowed for the joint return. The credit allowed is in lieu of any deduction pursuant to Section 170 of the

Internal Revenue Code for charitable contributions, which would also be taken for Arizona tax purposes. You cannot take the charitable contribution deduction on your state income tax return and take the tax credit as well. The deadline to make a donation is April 15 of each year.

To claim the tax credit, taxpayers must contribute to an extra-curricular activity for which the school district requires a fee or funds to operate the program. Extra-curricular activities are optional, noncredit educational activities that are offered before, during or after school hours. Examples include field trips, enrichment activities, athletic and music programs, and after school clubs. These programs depend on fees from students. The Dysart Unified School District Governing Board has approved a fee schedule, which designates the appropriate extra-curricular programs.

For more information on tax credit donations, please visit www.dysart.org/taxcredit.



Program highlight: The Great Race

The Dysart High School Automotive Technology Program and the Sun City West Automotive Restoration Club have formed a partnership where two generations of car enthusiasts work together to build the final product. Together, they are restoring a 1967 Mercury Cougar. In eight months, the car will travel 2,000 miles from California to Illinois as part of the Great Race.

The Great Race is an antique, vintage, and collector car road rally on public highways. It is not a test of top speed. It is a test of a driver/navigator team's ability to follow precise course instructions and work together on a cross-country trip.

For the students, having volunteers with years of experience working on cars has given them valuable knowledge that they might not have otherwise gotten.

Most of these students want to pursue automotive technology as a career, and this type of real-world project, with real life experts from the restoration club, can only help them in their future.

About the Dysart District

Location / Population

The Dysart Unified School District encompasses 140 square miles, serving part of El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Youngtown and Maricopa County in the Northwest Valley. Dysart educates more than 24,000 students.

Campus Facilities

The Dysart Unified School District has 19 elementary schools, four comprehensive high schools, and one alternative program campus. Since 2000, 15 elementary schools and three high schools have been built with state and local support.

Open Enrollment

The Dysart Unified School District is accepting open enrollment applications. Students wishing to attend a new school for the 2016-2017 school year, must apply for open enrollment. Open enrollment applications are available online at www.dysart.org/oe.

Mentorship

The Dysart Unified School District offers a great working environment and strong traditions that provide unique experiences in the workplace. We look for dedicated support staff, teachers, and administrators that are committed to student learning and excellence in education.

The Dysart Unified School District is focused on raising the relevance and rigor of education. Ensuring students are equipped with the skills necessary to meet the challenges and opportunities in a 21st century global society are at the heart of the mission and vision. The goal is to graduate all students ready for college, career and a productive life in this new century. Dysart is dedicated to providing students more than the educational basics from preschool through graduation. To accomplish this, the district works collaboratively with all stakeholders and actively involves parents and community members as partners.