

Dysart Achiever

Dysart Unified School District No. 89

**School
Starts
August 21**



Three new schools, preschool open as enrollment approaches 20,000

When school opens on August 21, many students and teachers in the Dysart Unified School District will greet the year with new buildings to accommodate the increasing number of students in our district – one of Arizona's fastest-growing districts.

Here are the district's new schools:

- Valley Vista High School, 15550 N. Parkview Place
- Sonoran Heights Elementary School, 11405 N. Greer Ranch Parkway
- Western Peaks Elementary School, 18063 W. Surprise Farms Loop South

In addition, a third new elementary school, Parkview, will begin instruction this year within the new Valley Vista High School facilities and will move into its own school adjacent to the high school in 2007. A new preschool will open adjacent to Western Peaks Elementary.

New students are encouraged to register for school as soon as possible. With new schools opening and thousands of new students coming to our district for the first time, early registration will help make the opening of school on August 21 as smooth as possible for students and teachers. For more information on how to register for school, please see Page 2.

We encourage every student to be in school on the first day and every day after that. With just 180 school days each year, every day of instruction is important to help each child progress toward graduation. Student attendance also is important because of the way Arizona provides funding to our district. Each day a student does not attend school during the first 100 school days means less funding for the district next year, less money to buy classroom supplies and pay teacher salaries. So please have your child in school every possible day.

It has been a busy summer for our teachers and administrators, who have been hard at work preparing for the 2006-2007 school year. Kindergarten teachers are ready for our second year of full-day kindergarten after a successful first year. Our principals and assistant principals have attended presentations on the district's Continuous Improvement Process to make our schools the best they can be. Many of our teachers have attended sessions to develop and explore the Arizona Academic Standards.

You can learn more about our district and each school by visiting the district Web site at www.dysart.org, calling the district office at 623.876.7000 or by tuning to Cox Cable channel 99.

Superintendent & Governing Board

ON OUR WAY TO BECOMING A PREMIER DISTRICT



Mark Maksimowicz, Ed.D.

Few things are as exciting as the start of a new school year. Parents see their children take another step on their march toward high school graduation and successful lives, and teachers meet the new students whose lives they will help mold over the next 10 months.

The Dysart staff and Governing Board welcome you back for another great year on our drive toward becoming a premier school district. Along with the opening of four new schools, including our first preschool, we welcome back our returning students and parents along with about 3,000 new students. Our returning staff, along with new teachers and principals, are key in our continuing effort to be a district that is "Growing Smart" by focusing on what is best for the children of our community.

We are in the third year of a five-year effort to make Dysart a premier school district in Arizona. Along with tremendous growth, we have made important strides in the classroom to give our children the best possible education. After just one year of full-day kindergarten, our youngest students are better prepared to learn to read than ever before. Our students' performance on the AIMS test, administered by the state, has continued to improve faster than the state norms. We pledge to continue making improvements to help our students learn better each year. In November, we are asking voters for their approval of a bond issue to fund construction of even more schools to accommodate our growth.

If you are among the thousands of parents who are new to our district, here is what you can expect from the professional educators of the Dysart Unified School District:

- Students will be actively engaged in standards-based learning activities aligned with state academic content standards.
- We will work with all students in grades three through high school to help them demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics on the AIMS test. We will work with high school students to help them achieve the necessary passing score on AIMS.
- Schools will provide a balanced curriculum in other content areas including the arts, health and physical education, and career and technical education. Extracurricular programs, athletics and community service opportunities will also be available.
- You can become more involved with our schools. We will continue to expand on our successful volunteer program and recruit more parents to help in our schools. Parents, students and community members will have more opportunities to serve on school site teams, making important decisions for your campus.

We are prepared for a successful, enriching academic year for all of our students. But we need your help – parents are important partners, and we value your support, input and assistance as we continue to transform Dysart into a highly performing, premier school system.

DYSART GOVERNING BOARD

Diana Bass



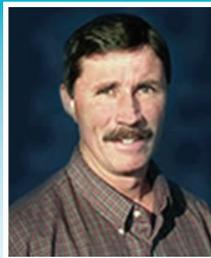
Bill Lipscomb



Charles Otterman



Mike Planeta



Laura Ramirez



Governing Board meetings for the Dysart Unified School District are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Dysart Education Center located at 15802 N. Parkview Place, just west of the Surprise Stadium. For specific dates, view the Governing Board calendar on-line at http://www.dysart.org/governing_board/governing_board.html.

Governing Board meeting dates for the remainder of 2006 are as follows:

August 9, 2006	October 25, 2006
August 23, 2006	November 8, 2006
September 13, 2006	December 13, 2006
September 27, 2006	

Dysart

Unified School District

Dysart Unified School District No.89 2006-2007 SCHOOL CALENDAR

JULY '06						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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SEPTEMBER '06 20/29						
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OCTOBER '06 17/46						
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NOVEMBER '06 19/65						
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DECEMBER '06 16/81						
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31						

JANUARY '07 17/98						
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FEBRUARY '07 19/117						
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MARCH '07 17/134						
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APRIL '07 20/154						
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MAY '07 22/176						
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JUNE '07 4/180						
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First Day of Classes August 21
 Labor Day September 4
 Fall Break October 9-13
 Columbus Day October 9 (part of Fall Break)
 40th Day October 23

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf. November 2-3 (1/2 days K-8)
 K-8 Report Cards Issued November 3
 Veterans Day November 10
 Thanksgiving Recess November 23-24

HS Final Exams Dec. 21-22 (1/2 days HS)
 Early Release Dec. 22 (1/2 day all grades)
 Winter Break December 25-January 5

School Resumes January 8
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 15
 K-8 Report Cards Issued January 26
 100th Day February 2
 President's Day February 19

Spring Break March 12-16

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf. April 5-6 (1/2 days K-8)
 K-8 Report Cards Issued April 6
 No School/Staff Development April 27

Memorial Day May 28
 HS Final Exams June 5-6 (1/2 days HS)
 Last Day of School June 6
 Graduation Day June 6 & 7

K-8 Quarters End/Days

October 27	44
January 19	46
March 30	44
June 6	46
Total Days	180

HS Semesters End/Days

December 22	81
June 6	99
Total Days	180



First and Last days of School Year
 No School

Registration Information

REGISTRATION

When registering any student for the first time, the following documents are required and/or helpful:

- Original copy of birth certificate.
- Proof of residence (i.e., water bill, lease or purchase agreement).
- Withdrawal papers from last school attended.
- Name and address of last school attended.
- If applicable, custody or guardianship papers and/or any other court documents.
- School ID number from last school attended (if available).
- Copy of final report card from last school attended (helpful).
- Proof of immunization (shot records). Children who require immunizations can receive them free of charge from the Dysart Unified School District; call 623.876.7944 for details. Required student immunizations include: DTAP/DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis), IPV/OPV (Polio), MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella), Hepatitis B, and Varicella (Chicken Pox vaccine or history of disease).

The child's legal guardian is expected to register the child. Parents and guardians are asked to bring photo identification when registering a student.

Students can be registered at the school they will attend. Students who will attend one of Dysart's new elementary schools can register at a "sister" campus while construction is completed. Students who will attend Sonoran Heights Elementary will register at Rancho Gabriela Elementary. Students scheduled to attend Western Peaks Elementary will register at Sunset Hills Elementary. Children attending Parkview Elementary, which will begin the year on the campus of Valley Vista High School, will register at Dysart Elementary. Valley Vista High, serving students in grades 9 and 10, will register students on the Dysart High campus.

For information on boundaries for Dysart's 19 schools, visit www.dysart.org or contact the district office at 623.876.7000.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

Arizona law requires that children reaching the age of eight must attend school. A student must remain in school until completion of the tenth grade. While state law does not require kindergarten, Dysart offers an all-day kindergarten program funded by local taxpayers that is aligned with the Arizona Academic Standards and supports preparation of students for a successful school experience.

Children must be five years old to enroll in kindergarten. Students who apply for admission to grades two through twelve on the basis of prior schooling outside of the Dysart Unified School District will be initially placed at the grade level they have reached elsewhere. For more information on registration or entrance age requirements, please contact the District Office at 623.876.7000.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN A SUCCESS

Kindergarten students will attend a full day of classes this year, and the results from last school year suggest those extra hours in school will mean more academic success for our younger students.

Approved by voters in 2004 and implemented for the first time in 2005, full-day kindergarten classes demonstrate the district's commitment to building a strong foundation for our students. There is no direct cost to families.

Full-day kindergarten continues the district's standards-based program that is appropriate for addressing four areas of development: cognitive, social, emotional and physical.

The extra time available in the full-day program allows teachers to deliver curriculum aligned with the Arizona Academic Standards. With more time, teachers are able to challenge students, provide more individualized instruction and spend more time on concepts the children find difficult.

Dysart teachers and administrators spent more than a year to create the developmentally appropriate program that is designed to increase achievement for the rest of the students' academic careers. With an average of 23 students for each teacher, kindergarteners will be set on a path for lifelong academic success. After just the first year, many more kindergarten students are on target to be grade-level readers by third grade than students in the half-day program a year earlier.

Students will experience a mix of academics and activities designed to engage students while providing instruction under the Arizona Academic Standards. Within a flexible framework, weekly instruction includes:

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 kindergarten through third grade. Kindergarten students use playgrounds specifically designed for young students. There also will 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.

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 a reduced price. Free and reduced-price meal applications are available in the school office, cafeteria, or at the Nutrition Services Department. Every district family is encouraged to complete and return an application. Only one application is required per family.

For this coming school year, the regular cost of lunch at elementary schools will be \$1.50 and a regular breakfast will cost 75 cents daily. At the high schools, a regular lunch will cost \$2 and a regular breakfast will cost 75 cents. 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 the Nutrition Services Department at 623.876.7075.

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 children who are 2 years, 9 months old to 5 years old (non-kindergartners) 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, 17999 West Surprise Farms Loop South in Surprise. For more information, or to make a screening appointment, call

623.876.7118 or e-mail rosita.ruiz@dysart.org. To screen a child ages birth to 2 years, 9 months, call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at 602.532.9960.

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 Dysart Transportation Department (Durham School Services) at 623.876.7886 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.

BEFORE & 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. 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 Community Education at 623.876.7056, or check on-line at www.dysart.org.

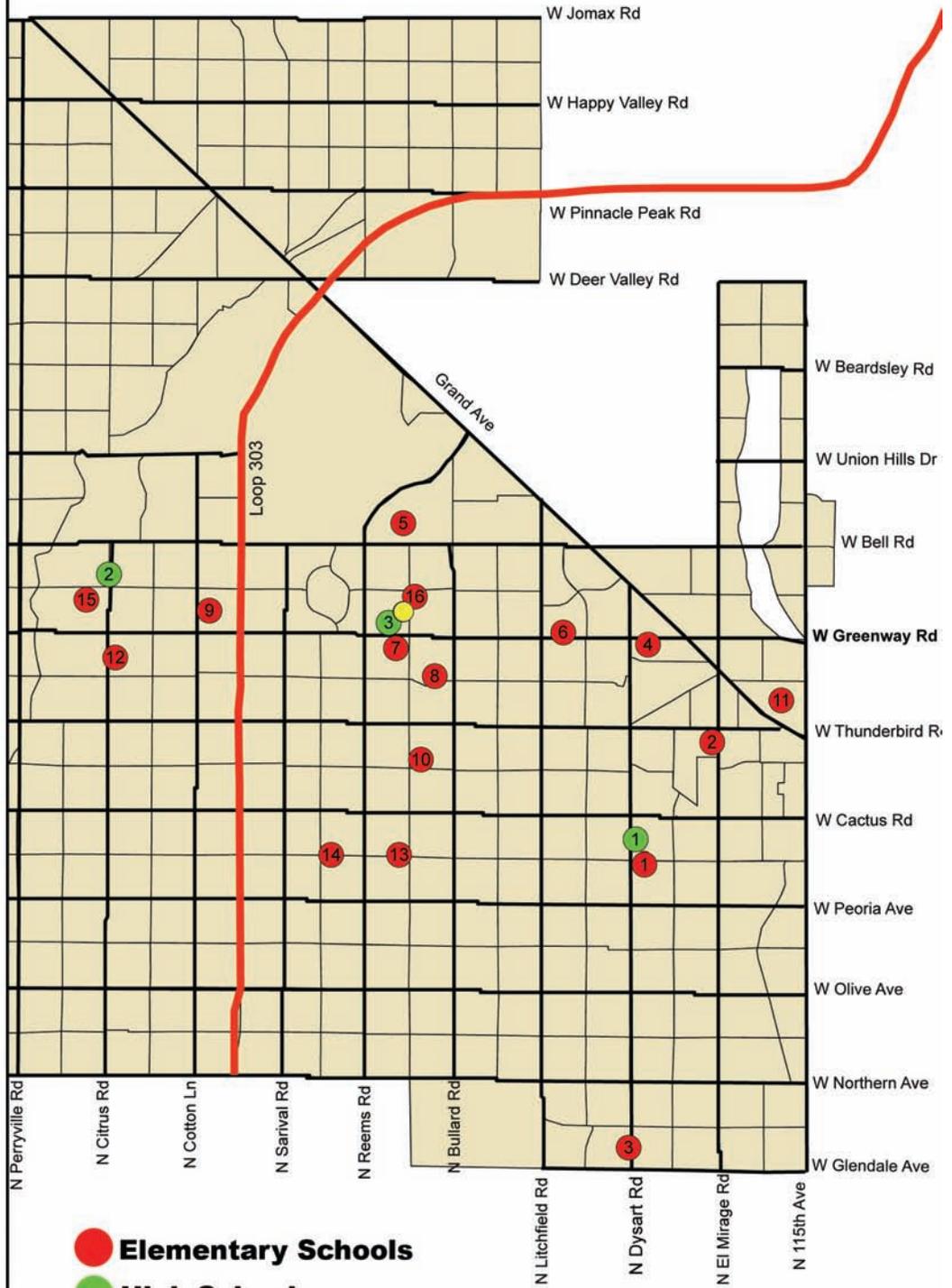
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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.

Addresses & Map

Dysart Unified School District No. 89
15802 N Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.876.7000

1. **Dysart Elementary** - 623.876.7100
12950 W Varney Rd
El Mirage, AZ 85335
2. **El Mirage Elementary** - 623.876.7200
12308 W Thunderbird Rd
El Mirage, AZ 85335
3. **Luke Elementary** - 623.876.7300
7300 N Dysart Rd
Glendale, AZ 85307
4. **Surprise Elementary** - 623.876.7400
12907 W Greenway 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 85379
8. **Ashton Ranch Elementary** - 623.523.8300
14898 W Acoma Dr
Surprise, AZ 85379
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 85379
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
14. **Sonoran Heights Elementary** - 623.523.8550
11405 N Greer Ranch Parkway
Surprise, AZ 85374
15. **Western Peaks Elementary** - 623.523.8750
18063 W Surprise Farms Loop South
Surprise, AZ 85374
16. **Parkview Elementary** - 623.523.8650
15800 N Parkview Place
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. **Valley Vista High School** - 623.523.8800
15550 N Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374



- **Elementary Schools**
- **High Schools**
- **Dysart Education Center**

Dress Code & Student Handbook

K-8 UNIFORM GUIDELINES

All students in kindergarten through eighth grade are required to wear uniforms following the guidelines below:

- District uniforms will include collared sleeved polo shirts, skirts, hemmed shorts, capri pants, pants, skirts and jumpers. No sweat pants, jeans, spandex, nylon or velour will be permitted. Material may include cotton, polyester/cotton or similar blends.
- Shirts must be a solid color with no logos. They should be two to four buttoned, collared, knit pullover polo shirts. No other collared shirts are included. Colors for shirts include navy blue, white, burgundy, deep purple, hunter green, light blue/powder blue and ash gray.
- Students may wear navy or khaki uniform bottoms. Bottoms must be solid color with no logos.
- Sweaters and sweatshirts with or without hoods are considered a uniform component that can be worn indoors if worn over uniform shirts. The sweaters or sweatshirts must be one of the uniform colors, a solid color, and not have a logo.

Please note that school-adopted spirit T-shirts may be worn on spirit day on Fridays. Each school will select one spirit T-shirt to represent the school. Clothing that officially represents the school or district is recognized to be part of the uniform and authorized to be worn on designated days.

K-12 DRESS CODE

Students should 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. Attire that detracts from the learning environment is not acceptable.

- Shirts and tops may not expose bare midriffs or bare shoulders, and may not be deeply or narrowly cut in the front, back or under 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. See-through and torn or ripped clothing is not acceptable. Pajamas and slippers are not acceptable.
- In the interest of safety, shoes must be worn at all times; bare feet are never acceptable. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, cheer practice or weight lifting.
- Jewelry or ornamentation may not be worn if it presents a safety hazard to the student or others.
- Hats or other head apparel may not be worn inside school building 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.
- Student dress must reflect the correct length, appropriate coverage and appropriate fit of uniform components. In addition, inappropriate use of colors to promote gang-like activities is prohibited.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Dysart students will bring home a newly revised student handbook for parents to review and sign this year.

The new Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook was developed in partnership with school administrators, teachers and parents. It will be distributed to each student to be brought home so parents can review it, sign the verification form acknowledging that they have read the it, and return the form to the school within 10 days.

Each handbook is divided into two sections: school-specific information and student rights and responsibilities.

School-specific information:

Each of the 19 schools in the Dysart Unified School District has several pages designated in the front of the handbook that outline general and useful information that is particular to the school. That information includes:

- School times
- Contact phone numbers
- General procedures
- Cafeteria and nurse information
- Programs before and after school
- Absence and tardy procedures

Student Rights & Responsibilities:

This section of the handbook outlines the behavior that is expected of students in Dysart schools and the district's policy for addressing conduct that violates those expectations. It is important to note that students in the seventh and eighth grades are held to the same standards as high school students.

The discipline matrix is a chart of possible infractions and the discipline associated with each, designed to ensure that discipline is handed out evenly across the district. While the district follows a progressive discipline philosophy, serious infractions can result in more-serious consequences. The district takes offenses involving bullying, weapons, drugs and school bus misconduct very seriously, with more-severe discipline for those behaviors.

The handbook also addresses such issues as federal privacy rights, due process, special education, use of technology and other issues for parents and students. It contains a discipline matrix, which is a chart of consequences, along with infraction definitions, that helps to ensure that all conduct infractions are addressed consistently across the district.

The handbook establishes the responsibilities of all students to:

- 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
- Be sure that all school correspondence reaches home

Growing with our Community

Bond would help overcome rising construction costs

Four years doesn't seem like a long time – it's just the time it takes an incoming freshman to reach high school graduation. But in that short time, the cost of building a high school has increased by more than \$18 million.

That inflation brings challenges for Dysart Unified School District, one of the fastest-growing districts in Arizona where five new schools have opened in just the past two years. Construction costs that were \$120 per square foot just four years ago are now more than \$170 per square foot; state funding provides only \$142 per square foot, leaving the district to find the additional funds.

Without additional funding help, the district's newest schools might not include important items such as athletic fields and field lighting, play structures and energy management systems.

The Arizona School Facilities Board is the agency primarily responsible for allocating funds for new school construction, but the

district has looked beyond the state to pay the costs for new school construction. One source of funds is a bond proposal that will be on the ballot this November for district voters to consider. The bonds, which would not raise the district tax rate, would provide the district funding for new school construction and free up other district funds to pay for such things as classroom supplies and increased teacher salaries. **The last day to register to vote is October 9.**

New school construction will continue to be an important challenge for the Dysart Unified School District, which had just 5,000 students in 2000 but should surpass 20,000 students this year. At this time, the district is the tenth largest Arizona school district. By the time this year's kindergarten students reach high school graduation, more than 40,000 students are expected to attend Dysart schools, more students than all but two districts now serve.

Dysart is Arizona's 10th largest district

The boom in enrollment that has come to Dysart schools in the past five years has allowed the district to become one of the 10 largest in the state of Arizona.

At the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Dysart schools were home to about 18,900 students. And if enrollment projections for the current school year follow recent trends – our enrollment increased by about 3,500 students last school year – Dysart could surpass Cartwright Elementary School District to become the ninth largest district in the state.

And in 10 years, before today's kindergarten students graduate from high school, Dysart schools are expected to have about 40,000 students. Today that would rank third largest in Arizona and almost certainly will place the district in the five or six largest in the state.

To the right is a list of the top 10 districts along with their enrollment, according to ADE.

Arizona School Districts Ranked by Size

1. Mesa USD	74,626
2. Tucson USD	60,557
3. Peoria USD	37,708
4. Deer Valley USD	34,802
5. Paradise Valley USD	34,763
6. Scottsdale USD	26,936
7. Phoenix Union	25,010
8. Washington Elementary	24,852
9. Cartwright Elementary	20,310
10. Dysart USD*	18,900

** Enrollment at end of school year*

Governing Board

Diana Bass
William Lipscomb
Charles Otterman
Mike Planeta
Laura Ramirez

District Administration

Mark Maksimowicz, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Denise Birdwell, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Lynn Montanya
Executive Director of Human Resources/Legal Counsel
Scott Thompson
Executive Director of Business Services
Tom Herrmann,
Public Information Officer

Jenea Bono, Communication Specialist II
Graphic Designer and Photographer



The mission of the Dysart Unified School District is to ensure that our students achieve academic success and make responsible life choices through a bold, distinctive educational system that cultivates their innate gifts, provides multiple opportunities and inspiration for unlimited learning in a safe environment and sustains effective community and family relationships.

Dysart Unified School District No. 89

15802 North Parkview Place
Surprise, Arizona 85374

Non-Profit
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El Mirage, Arizona
Permit No. 89

***** ECRWSS **

Postal Customer