



# *achiever*

Dysart Unified School District



## Letter from the superintendent

It is exciting to welcome all our students, families, staff, volunteers and interested community members to the start of the 2008-09 school year. This school year will be marked by increased academic achievement, expanded opportunities, community connections, and an increased capacity for students to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Students will be engaged in rigorous academic work supported by relevant learning opportunities that help them gain a deeper understanding of the world in which they live. Students will apply problem-based learning strategies to create solutions to economic, civic, cultural and worldwide issues. The arts will be celebrated and students' understanding of the importance of strong and productive relationships will be enhanced. Student achievement

will be increased, and the Dysart Unified School District will declare the 2008-2009 school year a year of great success in meeting the educational needs of all students.

To ensure that success, the Dysart School District will continue to reach out to the entire community, seeking input and sharing information regarding the strategic plan initiative and the district's direction for the future. Throughout the summer, Planning Implementation Partner teams (PIP teams), consisting of

**Congratulations Dr. Pletnick for receiving the prestigious 2007-08 Circle of Excellence Award from the NCA Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.**

parents, students, teachers, support staff employees, and community members met to take the next steps in the Strategic Plan process. Each PIP team worked collaboratively to identify priorities based on a review of the data collected last spring which included the strategic plan survey information. Throughout the months of August and September, PIP team members will share their work with the community in various forums held throughout the school district. These sessions will give all stakeholders an opportunity to share in the information process and provide input as the strategic plan process moves forward. We are thankful for all of the input and involvement from our district community as we continue to plot the future course of the district to ensure excellence in

educating students for the 21st century.

This school year our district will continue to grow and provide opportunities for new students and families. The Dysart community will add two new elementary schools for the 2008-09 school year with the opening of K-8 schools in the Asante and Las Brisas neighborhoods. These new school communities have worked together throughout the summer to ensure a successful opening and establish new traditions for those schools. Additionally, construction on the district's fourth high school in the Cortessa area continues. The opening of that new school is scheduled for the beginning of the 2009-10 school year.

The 2008-09 school year will provide opportunities for our students, staff, parents, and community members to help us move forward in our quest to increase excellence within all aspects of our educational system. I look forward to working together with all members of our Dysart community for the benefit of our students. Through a true partnership with all community, we will build a culture centered upon trust, the ability to constructively work together, and one which provides effective communication and improved morale to all district constituents. Together, we will build bridges to provide students the ability to be successful both in their school years and in meeting their dreams and goals for their future.

Have a great school year!

**Gail Pletnick, Ed. D.**

## 2008-09 optional K-8 student supply list

*Arizona law requires that public schools provide the supplies required for academic success. All materials required for a student's education will be provided by the Dysart Unified School District. This supply list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply at your discretion. Teachers may recommend additional student supplies during the year as supplemental supports for your child. If you have questions regarding the optional supply list, please contact your local school.*

### Kindergarten

1 box 8 color washable markers  
1 box 24 crayons  
1 box freezer zip bags  
1 box snack size zip bags  
2 composition books  
10 glue sticks  
2 handheld erasers  
1 large box of facial tissues  
1 pencil box  
12 pencils (No. 2)  
3 pocket folders (solid colors)

### First Grade

1 box 8 color washable markers  
1 box 24 crayons  
2 composition books  
10 glue sticks  
2 handheld erasers  
1 large box of facial tissue  
1 package 3x5 index cards  
1 pencil box  
12 pencils (No. 2)  
5 pocket folders (solid colors)  
1 spiral notebook

### Second Grade

1 box 8 color washable markers  
1 box 24 crayons  
2 composition books  
10 glue sticks  
2 handheld erasers  
1 large box of facial tissues  
1 package 3x5 index cards  
1 pencil box  
12 pencils (No. 2)  
5 pocket folders (solid colors)  
1 spiral notebook

### Third Grade

1 box 8 color washable markers  
1 box 24 crayons  
2 composition books  
5 glue sticks  
2 handheld erasers  
1 highlighter  
1 large box of facial tissues  
1 package 3x5 index cards  
1 pencil box  
12 pencils (No. 2)  
2 red pens  
1 ruler (inches/centimeters)  
1 spiral notebook

### Fourth Grade

1 box 24 crayons  
2 composition books  
5 glue sticks  
2 handheld erasers  
2 highlighters (different colors)  
1 large box facial tissues  
1 package 3x5 index cards  
5 pads temporary adhesive notes  
1 pencil box  
12 pencils (No. 2)  
1 ruler (inches/centimeters)  
1 set colored pencils  
1 three-subject spiral notebook

### Fifth - Eighth Grade

1 box 24 or more crayons  
2 composition books  
1 five-subject spiral notebook  
2 glue sticks  
1 handheld pencil sharpener  
4 highlighters (2 colors)  
1 large box of facial tissues  
1 package blue/black pens  
1 package red pens  
2 packages 3x5 index cards  
5 pads temporary adhesive notes  
1 pencil box or pouch  
12 pencils (No. 2, non-mechanical)  
1 protractor  
1 ruler (inches/centimeters)  
1 set colored pencils  
2 spiral notebooks



## Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade registration

To begin the enrollment process for kindergarten through eighth grade, please pick up a registration packet from any of Dysart's K-8 school offices. Then visit the district's Web site, found at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org), and click on the "New to Dysart" button. The site includes need-to-know information such as school boundaries, transportation, immunizations and special education services. Parents who do not have access to the Web can go into any Dysart school office and use a designated computer kiosk.

To ensure a smooth and complete transition into our schools, please note the following:

- Children must be five years old prior to Sept. 1 to enroll in kindergarten.
- A parent or guardian must be present to enroll a child.

- The registration packet must be completed and submitted. Please double-check that all forms have been completely filled out and signed in all appropriate places.

The following documents are required for registration:

- Child's original birth certificate
- Child's immunization records
- Proof of residency (i.e.: lease or purchase agreement or utility bill)
- Parent or guardian's government-issued photo identification
- Official withdrawal paperwork from previous school (if enrolling during the school year)

To ensure your child is appropriately placed, it is highly recommended you provide the following:

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

If your child has significant health concerns and you need to check in medications, you may need

to complete additional paperwork. The school nurse can assist you with any questions or concerns on this topic.

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

Children age 4 to 18 are eligible to receive immunizations through the Dysart Unified School District, in partnership with Maricopa County. Immunizations required for school admission are provided at no cost to all children in the community. For more information log on to [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) or call the district's immunization clinic at (623) 876-7944.

click your  
way to  
district  
information



[www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org)  
your online source  
for everything  
Dysart

### Dysart welcomes new K-8 principals

Six Dysart schools are excited to welcome new principals for the 2008-09 school year. Each new principal is excited to begin their journey with the goals of academic excellence, student safety and community outreach as the driving force to their success.

Jayson Black, Desert Moon  
Emily Dean, Sonoran Heights  
Cindy Shepard-Mady, Marley Park  
Fran Sperling, Thompson Ranch  
Kevin West, Canyon Ridge  
Andrea Willingham, Riverview

## High school registration

### Dysart High School

Beginning July 29, Dysart High School students can pay fees, get a school ID card, and pick up their school schedule during walk-through registration located in the DHS cafeteria. The schedule is as follows, with registration sessions beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at noon:

- Tuesday, July 29 – Seniors
- Wednesday, July 30 – Juniors
- Thursday, July 31 – Sophomores
- Friday, Aug. 1 – Freshmen

A special afternoon registration session, open to all students, will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Siblings registering for Dysart High School are welcome to come on the same day.

Fees are due at registration, payable by cash or check. Credit and debit cards are not accepted.

For questions regarding registration, please call the school at (623) 876-7500. For more information about Dysart High, please go online to [www.dysart.org/dysarthigh](http://www.dysart.org/dysarthigh).

### Valley Vista High School

Mark your calendars. Valley Vista will hold walk-through registration for the 2008-2009 school year the week of July 28.

Registration packets will be mailed by mid-July and will contain all necessary information to complete the registration process such as assigned registration dates and times and important paperwork students and parents are required to complete on an annual basis. When the packet is received, please take a moment to review all included materials.

Students new to Valley Vista should contact the school office at (623) 523-8800 to obtain registration information.

During registration students will be able to take identification card pictures, pay class fees, obtain physical education uniforms and buy spirit shirts.

For more information, please call the school office at (623) 523-8800. Registration information will be updated regularly on the Valley Vista school Web site at [www.dysart.org/valleyvista](http://www.dysart.org/valleyvista).

### Willow Canyon High School

Willow Canyon High School will hold registration July 23 through 29 from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Student registration materials will be sent via

U.S. mail during the week of June 9. Please take a moment to review all the included materials and note your specified registration time. The packet will include important paperwork students and parents are required to complete on an annual basis as well as a tentative class schedule, fee amounts and additional school and district related materials.

To expedite the process, please come prepared with all required documents completely filled out. In addition, please bring any additional required items such as payments for student parking, class and athletic fees, an updated shot record (if applicable), and proof of residency if you moved since last school year. Payments can only be made by cash or check. Student yearbook and identification badge photos will be taken at the time of registration so please dress according to the school's dress code.

Registration will take place in the large gym and cafeteria, with the starting entrance at the south end of campus. Please utilize the southeast parking lot (student parking lot), as this will be the closest available parking to the registration entrance.

Students who do not attend the summer registration process will not be permitted into class on the first day of school.

For more information and updated registration information, please visit the Willow Canyon Web site at [www.dysart.org/willowcanyon](http://www.dysart.org/willowcanyon) or call the school at (623) 523-8000.



## Screenings for children with special needs

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004) requires that public school agencies ensure that all children from birth through age 21 with delays or developmental disabilities are identified, located and evaluated to receive the supports and services they

need. This includes all children living within the geographic boundaries of the school district including children who are homeless or wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools or those who are home schooled.

Public schools and the Arizona Early Intervention Program are responsible for “finding” eligible children and providing services needed for them to reach their developmental milestones

or meet their educational needs. Early intervention supports and services assist families of children who are eligible by helping children ages Birth to three years develop to their full potential. In Arizona, early intervention services are provided through the Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). Preschool special education services for children ages 3 to 5 provide special strategies to help eligible children reach their developmental milestones. Special education services for school-aged children in kindergarten through the age of 21 provide specialized instruction and services to assist children in the educational environment.

Do you have concerns about your preschooler’s development? The Dysart Unified School District offers free monthly screenings for district residents from 2.6 to 5 year old non-kindergarten children with possible special needs or handicaps. To have a child screened, please contact the Dysart Early Childhood Center at (623) 876-7350. A parent needs to be present with the child who is to be screened. We ask that siblings not attend the screening, as it is distracting to the children being screened. To screen a child ages birth to 2.5, please call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at (602) 771-1700 or (888) 439-5609.

The screenings address vision, hearing, motor, speech and language, self-help, cognitive, and social skills. The normal time to complete a screen is approximately one hour.

### Screening Location

Dysart Early Childhood Education Center  
17999 W. Surprise Farms Loop South  
Surprise, AZ 85388

### Appointments

Please call the Dysart Early Childhood Education Center at (623) 876-7350. Ask to book a special needs screening appointment. For more information please visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org).

### Screening Dates/Times

Screenings can be scheduled at 9, 10 or 11 a.m. on the following dates.

August 25	September 15
October 20	November 17
December 15	January 12
February 9	March 16
April 13	May 18

## Make a difference in a child’s life... volunteer

Volunteers in the Dysart Unified School District generously gave nearly 65,000 hours of support in schools over the course of the 2007-08 school year. Volunteer coordinator Pat Rumsey said, “I’m thrilled to report our volunteers worked a total of 64,953 hours this school year, 5,804 more hours than the previous school year.” She went on to say, “I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these hours – their support is integral to our students’ and teachers’ successes.”

Community members interested in making a difference in the lives of children are

encouraged to become a Dysart volunteer. Volunteer opportunities range from helping students improve their English proficiency to working with preschool students at the Dysart Early Childhood center, helping coaches prepare students for athletic competitions to assisting as a library aide, and tutoring students with academic work to working in the school office. The opportunities are endless, all benefiting Dysart students.

Volunteer opportunities are not limited by time commitment. According to Rumsey, “You don’t have to give 40 hours a week. Any time, even two to three hours a week or every other week, is welcomed.”

Those interested in becoming a Dysart volunteer must fill out an application, emergency health questionnaire and a confidentiality statement.

All volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation in which they become familiar with volunteer responsibilities within the district. Additionally, for the safety of our

students, non-parent volunteers must be fingerprinted and the district will conduct a background check. Parent volunteers who wish to volunteer outside of their children’s classroom are also required to be fingerprinted.

Volunteers are always needed at all of the district’s 20 elementary schools, 3 high schools, Childhood Development Center and alternative program. For further information about becoming a volunteer go online to [www.dysart.org/getinvolved](http://www.dysart.org/getinvolved). You can also contact Pat Rumsey by email at [pat.rumsey@dysart.org](mailto:pat.rumsey@dysart.org) or by phone at (623) 876-7000.



## Dysart expands community connections, reaches out to parents and community members

### Community bus tours

Have you ever wanted to experience the excitement and excellence of a Dysart K-8 or high school? Coming soon, community bus tours will give Dysart community members the opportunity to be a part of a day in the life of a K-8 and high school.

Beginning this fall, the Dysart Unified School District will offer community bus tours to all district constituents. Each bus tour will begin with participants boarding a school bus and traveling to a K-8 school where they will see students participating in instructional endeavors designed to provide relevant experiences and deepen understanding.

Following the K-8 stop, community members will again board the school bus and travel to a district high school. Upon arrival at the high school, participants will observe various high school courses and journey through the halls, experiencing first-hand, today's high school education. As a part of the high school tour, patrons will eat lunch in the high school cafeteria and have a brief question-and-

answer period about school and district information. Finally, community members will board the school bus one last time and return to the bus tour point of origin.

The Dysart Unified School District is excited to provide these community opportunities to showcase the excellent instruction and activities happening within our buildings each day. We understand that community input and partnership is a key component to Dysart's success.

Working together our students will have opportunities to succeed both in their school years and their future endeavors. More information about Dysart's community bus tours will be available in the fall through the district website, [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org), or contact the community relations office at (623) 876-7195.

### Online grade book

This fall, Dysart parents will be able to view their students' grades on-line as well as receive detailed information regarding homework, test scores and student attendance.

Beginning the middle of the first semester, parents will have access to view their students' grades through the district's new on-line report card system. Parents and students will be able to view grades, access assignment information and e-mail teachers directly from the on-line system. The new grade book system provides a secured, password-protected site for parents and students to view their individual grade book information from any Internet location. Additionally,

parents can view students' attendance information and create reports that allow them to receive e-mail notifications when students' grades fall below selected levels, or when their students are absent from school or from individual classes. This tool will provide Dysart parents up-to-date information regarding their students' academic progress at the touch of a button.

Last school year, four elementary schools and one high school piloted the new grade book program with their teachers, students and parents to determine its effectiveness. The results were outstanding as parents and students enjoyed having real-time access to view their individual grade book information. Sonoran Heights parent Jody Harmann said, "I love using this program. It's very user friendly and allows me to see my child's homework grades and monitor their progress each week."

Dysart is excited to bring this on-line parent communication tool to the district community. Working together with all community constituents, the Dysart students will continue to increase their academic excellence. More information regarding the on-line grade reporting system can be found at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) and will be available from each individual school. User names, pass codes and information to access the grade book for each Dysart student will be mailed home in the middle of the first semester.

JULY '08						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST '08						
15 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER '08						
21/36 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER '08						
21/57 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER '08						
17/74 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER '08						
15/89 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Dysart

Unified School District  
Dysart Unified School District No.89  
2008-2009 CALENDAR

First Day for Students	August 11
Labor Day	September 1
40 <sup>th</sup> Day	October 6
Columbus Day	Oct. 13 (part of Fall Break)
Fall Break	October 13-14
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf.	Oct. 23-24 (½ days K-8)
K-8 Report Cards Issued	October 24
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Recess	November 27-28
High School Final Exams	Dec. 18-19 (½ days HS)
Early Release	Dec. 19 (½ day K-8)
Winter Break	Dec. 22 – Jan. 2
School Resumes	January 5
K-8 Report Cards Issued	January 9
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 19
100 <sup>th</sup> Day	January 20
President's Day	February 16
Spring Break	March 9-13
Spring Holiday	March 13
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf.	March 19-20 (½ days K-8)
K-8 Report Cards Issued	March 20
No School/Staff Development	April 20
High School Final Exams	May 20-21 (½ days HS)
Last Day for Students	May 21
<u>K-8 Quarters End/Days</u>	<u>HS Semesters End/Days</u>
October 17 47 days	December 19 89 days
December 19 42 days	May 21 91 days
March 6 43 days	
May 21 48 days	

□ First and Last days of School Year  
■ No School

JANUARY '09						
19/108 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY '09						
19/127 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH '09						
17/144 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL '09						
21/165 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '09						
15/180 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE '09						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Students are dismissed early every Monday beginning August 18 to provide time for teacher professional development.

Governing Board Approved March 26, 2008

**Dysart Unified School District No. 89**  
2008-2009 School Schedule

School	Normal Day		Monday Release	Early Release	Testing Days	
	Start	End			First Start	Second Start
<b>High Schools</b>						
1 Dysart High School	7:15 AM	2:15 PM	1:15 PM	11:00 AM	7:15 AM	10:30 AM
2 Willow Canyon High School	7:15 AM	2:15 PM	1:15 PM	11:00 AM	7:15 AM	10:30 AM
3 Valley Vista High School	7:15 AM	2:15 PM	1:15 PM	11:00 AM	7:15 AM	10:30 AM
<b>K-8 Schools</b>						
1 Ashton Ranch	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
2 Canyon Ridge	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
3 Cimarron Springs	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
4 Countryside	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
5 Desert Moon	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
6 Dysart	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
7 El Mirage	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
8 Kingswood	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
9 Luke	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
10 Marley Park	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
11 Mountain View	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
12 Parkview	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
13 Rancho Gabriela	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
14 Riverview	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
15 Sonoran Heights	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
16 Sunset Hills	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
17 Surprise	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
18 Thompson Ranch	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
19 West Point	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
20 Western Peaks	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		

\* These times include both instructional and non-instructional time.

School	Normal Day		Monday Release	Early Release
	Start	End		
Sundown 9-12 Alternative Program	9:30 AM	2:45 PM	1:15 PM	N/A
Sundown 7-8 Alternative Program	9:00 AM	1:30 PM	12:25 PM	N/A

Preschool Times - Tues - Friday				
	AM		PM	
Preschool, Pal ONLY	9:45 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	3:45 PM

## Back to school, meet the teacher

### K-8 Schools

- **Ashton Ranch**  
August 8, 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Canyon Ridge**  
August 7, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Cimarron Springs**  
August 7, 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Countryside**  
August 7, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Desert Moon**  
August 7, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Dysart**  
August 9, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **El Mirage**  
Not available at time of print.  
Call (623) 876-7200 for more information.
- **Kingswood**  
August 7, 6 to 7 p.m.
- **Luke**  
August 21, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Marley Park**  
August 7, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Mountain View**  
August 7, 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Parkview**  
August 7, 6 p.m.
- **Rancho Gabriela**  
August 7, 6 p.m.
- **Riverview**  
August 7, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Sonoran Heights**  
August 7, 4 to 6 p.m.
- **Sunset Hills**  
August 7, 5:30 to 6 p.m. (grades 4 through 8), 6:30 to 7 p.m. (grades K through 3)
- **Surprise**  
August 7, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Thompson Ranch**  
August 7, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Western Peaks**  
August 7, 6 p.m.
- **West Point**  
August 7, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (grades 4 through 6), 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

(grades 7 and 8)  
August 8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
(grades K and 1), 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. (grades 2 and 3)

### High Schools

- **Dysart**  
September 17, 4:30 to 7 p.m.
- **Valley Vista**  
August 25, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Willow Canyon**  
August 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

### Other Programs

- **Early Childhood Education Center**  
August 11, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Sundown Mountain**  
Not available at time of print.  
Call (623) 876-7250 for more information.

## Start of school brings start of high school athletic seasons

As students prepare to return to classes, preparing for all of the new academic adventures that lie in front of them, Dysart Unified School District high school students are also preparing for the kick off of the fall athletic seasons. Athletes have been participating throughout the summer in athletic leagues, weight training sessions, and open gym opportunities to increase their skills and prepare for the upcoming seasons.

The month of August not only brings heat to the valley, but also the beginning of the fall high school seasons. Dysart offers athletes the opportunity to participate in football, volleyball, cross country, swimming, cheerleading, golf and marching band each fall. Coaches and

athletes are gearing up for what will be successful seasons in each sport. For those looking to take in a game or two during the season, each high school's athletic schedule will be posted to their web sites through the on-line event calendar. For more information regarding the beginning date of practice for each sport, please contact your local high school or visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org).

Whether hitting the gridiron, the court, track, the pool or the links, Dysart Unified School District athletes will once again be ready for a great season!



# Transportation moving forward

As the district continues to grow, the transportation department faces more exciting opportunities. Last year the department provided transportation for over 14,000 students. This year Dysart anticipates even more students riding its buses. As a result, the district is implementing upgrades to the routing program – improving accuracy, which will result in more consistent and timely routes. The new routes are expected to be available at the end of July. At that time, parents will be able to go online to find their student’s pick-up and drop-off times and location. You can find the link at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org). Click on the “Parents and Students” button, then click on “Transportation.”

Transportation is also improving several areas of its operation. The focus is customer service and supporting the drivers. This includes the addition of staff, new equipment and improved processes. Recently, 20 new buses were added to the fleet. These new buses will help cover the routes more

efficiently and reduce the number of students riding each bus. All buses are equipped with global positioning systems (GPS) providing detailed information on their location and speed. In addition, the department continues to make improvements to the video systems to help with student management on the bus.

Having completed the first year of operations, Dysart appreciates the support of the community. If you have any transportation questions, please call the district’s transportation customer service line at (623) 876-7030. Questions regarding routes can be answered at the end of July, but remember parents should check online first. We look forward to another year of providing safe transportation to our students.



**Dysart**  
Unified School District

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