Special Edition

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Dysart Unified School District

Signature Academies and Programs

Including:
Cambridge
Culinary Arts
Architecture
JROTC
Fire Science
and much more!

Dysart unveils new Arts Academy

School Choice through Signature Academies and Programs

The Dysart School District is dedicated to meeting the needs of its students through multiple and diverse opportunities. While all Dysart schools offer rigorous core curriculum and special area classes designed to increase learning opportunities and student achievement, the Dysart District is excited to offer signature programs or academies at all district high schools and two K-8 schools to assist students in specializing in various curricular endeavors. The signature programs and academies provide parents a choice in the education of their students. Parents have choice in all Dysart schools and can enroll/apply in any school or program, up to capacity, through open enrollment.

K-8 Signature Academies:

The Cambridge Academy at Marley Park - The Cambridge Academy is an advanced academic program for 6th-8th grade students at Marley Park Elementary School.

The Arts Academy at Desert Moon (opening for the 2012-2013 school year) - A new signature academy, the Dysart Arts Academy, will serve students in grades 5-8 beginning in fall 2012 at Desert Moon School.

High School Signature Programs:

Dysart High School:
Automotive Technology
Photo Imaging
Early Childhood Education
JROTC
AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

Shadow Ridge High School:
Architecural Design
Engineering

Valley Vista High School:
Culinary Arts
Fire Science
Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Willow Canyon High School:
Allied Health Program
International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
Medical Occupations

Open Enrollment:

Arizona law allows students to apply for admission to any state public school based on available classroom space. Students wanting to enroll in a signature program or academy should do so through open enrollment. Open enrollment applications are approved on a year-to-year basis with no guarantee of continued enrollment. While most campuses in the Dysart Unified School District will have space for open enrolled students, some campuses may be closed to enrollment at specific grade levels. The districts open enrollment application process will be available online starting in December.

Students currently enrolled at any of the Dysart Schools through the open enrollment program, who want to continue their enrollment next year will be automatically processed and will receive notification of their status the first full week in April. If a student intends to attend a different school within the District, a new open enrollment application must be submitted prior to the February 10th, 2012 deadline. This may be done online at www.dysart.org or at a computer kiosk located in the school lobby. You will receive final notice of your application status in writing by the first full week in April.

If your student is in High School and participates in sports, all high school students are subject to Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) transfer rules. Questions regarding eligibility of a transfer student to participate in sports should be addressed to Mr. Jim Braden, Director of Student Activities and Athletics, at (623) 876-7962. Please note: Transportation is not provided to students attending Dysart Schools through open enrollment. If you have questions, please contact OE@dysart.org or call 623-876-7000.

Future Freshman Nights:

Dysart High School - January 10, 2012
Shadow Ridge High School - January 12, 2012
Willow Canyon High School - January 18, 2012
Valley Vista High School - January 19, 2012

2012-2013 High School Registration Timeline:

December 5-16th, 2011: High school counselors will visit 8th grade classes throughout the district
January 17-20th, 2012: Class registration for current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students
January 23-27th, 2012: Incoming freshmen registration

Dysart announces Arts Academy

A new Signature Academy, the Dysart Arts Academy, will serve students in grades 5-8 beginning in fall 2012. The mission of this "school within a school" at Desert Moon is to provide an arts-enriched learning environment merging creative and academic content to enhance student achievement. Academy students will be required to take language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, the students will be afforded the opportunity to participate in arts elective courses each year. These courses may include band, orchestra, chorus, visual arts: 2-D, 3-D and graphic arts, theater, dance, and ITV / video production.

The goal of the Arts Academy is to teach the core curriculum in and through the arts. The belief is that the arts are conducive to powerful learning, and that increasing the presence of the arts in all subjects will increase motivation, relevance and achievement for students. By creating an arts focus for Dysart, the Academy will establish mutually supportive partnerships with arts organizations and artists across the region. In consultation with community partners including the West Valley Arts Council, Phoenix Symphony, West Valley Symphony, Phoenix Opera, Communiversity, Maricopa Community Colleges, and ASU, a curriculum of rigorous arts coursework will be developed for the Arts Academy. Faculty and students will have opportunities to collaborate with high school arts programs in the district and to share facilities like the Performing Arts Center at Valley Vista High School.

Specific objectives of the program will be to support and challenge each student by becoming an academy that:

- Promotes holistic thinkers who demonstrate interdisciplinary understanding when they integrate knowledge and different modes of thinking from two or more disciplines, as they create products and solve problems.
- Enhances the strength of the community with a vibrant after-school arts extension and guest artists.
- Embeds advancements in technology into its program so that students have all the tools necessary to succeed artistically and academically.
- Provides a highly effective mentoring program that utilizes the diverse talents and networks of faculty, parents, and friends from across the community.
- Engenders a sense of community and traditions among its students.
- Provides students with the experiences needed to successfully enter and thrive at the high school level.
- Continues to innovate with new programs such as new media and creative writing, as well as expanded school day and summer arts and academics.

The Dysart Arts Academy will be open to all students in grades 5-8 both in and out of district. For more information on the Arts Academy, please contact Teresa Heatherly at 623-876-7173.

The Cambridge Program in the Dysart District

Cambridge courses are offered in over 100 countries and recognized by higher education institutions worldwide. The Cambridge program encourages student-centered learning and hands on application of skills. Clearly defined learner outcomes and content ensure high expectations for all. The Cambridge program will be offered at Dysart High School and Willow Canyon High School.

Cambridge students are:

- Confident in working with information and ideas-their own and those of others
- Responsible for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- Innovative and equipped for new and future challenges
- Engaged intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

Students who complete the lower division, 9th-10th grade, Cambridge curriculum are set for success in a dual enrollment, advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway for college and career advancements. By passing the Cambridge Board Examinations students are eligible for the Grand Canyon Diploma, a diploma that allows them early entry into college courses.

Integrated STEM Concept at Canyon Ridge School

Canyon Ridge School is dedicated to the integration of science, mathematics and technology throughout daily instruction and interaction. Canyon Ridge School is an integrated learning community of lifelong learners committed to preparing capable citizens with a strong academic foundation, a positive self-concept and an understanding of the individual's responsibilities within the larger society.

At Canyon Ridge School the educational experience extends beyond the school day and the school walls. Curriculum and instruction are organized around real-world problems. Students gather and apply knowledge from multiple disciplines with particular emphasis on science, math and health supported by transforming uses of technology. Collaboration, team building and partnerships define interactions among all members of the learning community. Problem-based learning, flexibility in grouping and in use of time, research and assessment to drive instructional decisions, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning are hallmarks of experiences at Canyon Ridge School.

Shadow Ridge High School Signature Programs

Architectural Design

If you are interested in designing buildings and homes, landscape layouts, or machinery that will help others, then the Architectural Design program is your choice. Students will learn the latest industry software. Class activities will include designing and testing of design, technical illustration and displaying work. Classes in this program are dual enrollment eligible and lead to a college major.

Courses include: Architectural Design Drafting 1-2, Architectural Design Drafting Advanced 3-4, Virtual Design and Construction Modeling 1-2.

Engineering

Students in this field will explore careers in technology, industry, and engineering. Students will explore entry, semi-professional, and professional levels of careers through hands-on projects in the area of engineering (transportation, electrical, mechanical, civil, power and construction). They will also participate in class activities and projects and hear speakers in the areas of engineering technology and industrial careers.

Courses include: Robotics and Gaming Programming 1-2, Advanced Robotics with Milling and Programming 3-4, Solar Technology with Advanced Programming 5-6, Wind and Thermal Energy Technologies 7-8.

For more information call 623.523.5100
or visit www.dysart.org/shadowridge

Valley Vista High School Signature Programs

Culinary Arts

If you are interested in working with food, cooking a variety of menu items, and amazing patrons with the quality and display of culinary delights, then the Culinary Arts Program is for you. Culinary Arts provides students with the opportunity to learn how to prepare gourmet foods, how to display food to make it pleasing to the eye and develop the skills for state and national competition. Students will plan and present culinary events for both the school and the community. The high school is in partnership with Estrella Mountain Community College to provide dual enrollment credit for the program. This program will assist high school students in meeting Arizona's Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards and create post-secondary opportunities to meet the workforce needs of the culinary industry.

Courses include: Culinary Arts 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and Culinary Arts 5-6 Lab.

Fire Science

The training needed to help others is now available in the Fire Science program. Classroom and field activities in partnership with the City of Surprise Fire Department will provide students with a working knowledge and experience to be successful in the firefighting career field. Courses are eligible for Dual Enrollment credit with Maricopa Community Colleges.

Courses include: Fire Science 1-2, and Fire Control and Suppression 1-2.

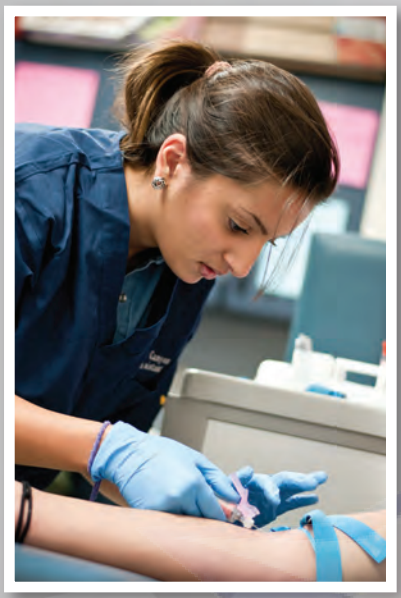
Law Enforcement and Public Safety

If you ever dreamed of being a police officer, now is the time to live that dream through the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Program. This program provides students with the opportunity to learn about and experience the skills needed to be a police officer. The high school is in partnership with the City of Surprise Police Department and the Maricopa County Community College District to provide internship opportunities and dual enrollment credit for the program. This program will provide high school students the knowledge to meet Arizona's Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards and create post-secondary opportunities to meet the workforce needs of the law and public safety industry.

Courses include: Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement 1-2, and Forensics 1-2.

For more information call 623.523.8800
or visit www.dysart.org/valleyvista

Willow Canyon High School Signature Programs



Allied Health Program

If you are interested in working in a lab setting and assisting in the diagnosis of illnesses, then the Lab Technician program is the right choice. The Allied Health program offers internships with professional labs. Additionally, the program will allow high school students to meet Arizona's Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards and create post-secondary opportunities to meet the workforce needs of the healthcare industry, both within our community and throughout the state.

Courses include: Medical Foundations 1-2, Lab Assisting 1-2, and Lab Assisting Honors 3-4.

International Baccalaureate Program (IB)

Willow Canyon is certified to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and coursework. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a demanding pre-university course of study that leads to examinations. It is designed for highly motivated secondary school students aged 16 to 19. IB schools have earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB diploma holders access to the world's leading universities. Students apply for the IB program for their junior and senior years. Once accepted, they are required to study both the humanities and sciences, and must select one subject from each of six groups – English, second language, individuals and society, experimental sciences, mathematics and computer science, and the arts. At least three, and not more than four, are taken at higher level (HL), the others at standard level (SL): HL courses represent a recommended minimum of 240 teaching hours, SL courses cover 150 hours.

Courses can be found on pages 36-40 of the High School Course Selection Guide.

Medical Occupations

The Medical Occupations program provides students the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to work in the medical field. This two-year program provides students the opportunity to experience the medical profession through classroom and clinical experiences. Courses are eligible for dual enrollment through the Maricopa County Community Colleges.

Courses include: Medical Foundations 1-2, Medical Lab Assistant 1-2, Medical Lab Assistant Honors 3-4, Sports Medicine 1-2, Sports Medicine Honors 3-4.

For more information call 623.523.8000 or visit www.dysart.org/willowcanyon

Dysart High School Signature Programs

Automotive Technology

The Automotive Technology program is designed to provide students the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience to diagnose and repair problems involving the brake system, engine, electrical system and suspension system of a vehicle. The capstone course in the program prepares students for the industry standard ASE certification.

Courses include: Automotive Technology 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

Photo Imaging

Photo Imaging provides students interested in areas such as photojournalism, still photography, Portraiture, or digital media an opportunity to gain experience with the latest graphic software, digital cameras and studio equipment. Students will develop individual portfolios, have an opportunity to display their work and take full advantage of this area of visual art.

Courses include: Photo Imaging 1-2, Photo Imaging 3-4 & Photo Imaging 5-6.

Early Childhood Education

If you are interested in Education Careers, this program is designed to provide you the experience and skills in the field of education. The Early Childhood Education program focuses on teaching infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The first class is Child Development which provides an understanding of child growth and development from birth through adolescence. The series continues with Teaching Young Children and then Early Childhood Education. The program offers opportunities to work toward certification and post-secondary credits, as well as leadership development through participation in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America.

Courses include: Child Development 1-2, Early Childhood Education 1-2, and Teaching Young Children 1-2.

JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps)

The JROTC program helps prepare high school students for various responsible leadership jobs of choice in the civilian workforce, private enterprise or military service. The mission of JROTC is "to motivate young people to be better citizens." JROTC consists of both classroom and field experience. As a JROTC cadet, students will earn the privilege of participating in spring camp and summer camp. JROTC is an adventure in learning. Competitive JROTC teams include: Raiders, Color Guard, Rifle, & Drill.

AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

AVID, an international program to increase student performance, 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. AVID students are required to be enrolled in the school's toughest classes such as Advanced Placement, as well as enrolled in the AVID elective throughout their high school career. The AVID elective provides academic instruction and support to prepare students for eligibility and success at a four-year college or university. AVID topics include note-taking, study skills, test taking, time management, college exam preparation, critical reading skills, inquiry and collaboration. The AVID program is only offered to those students who meet specific criteria and who are selected through an application and interview process.

For more information call 623.876.7500 or visit www.dysart.org/dhs

DYSART Unified School District
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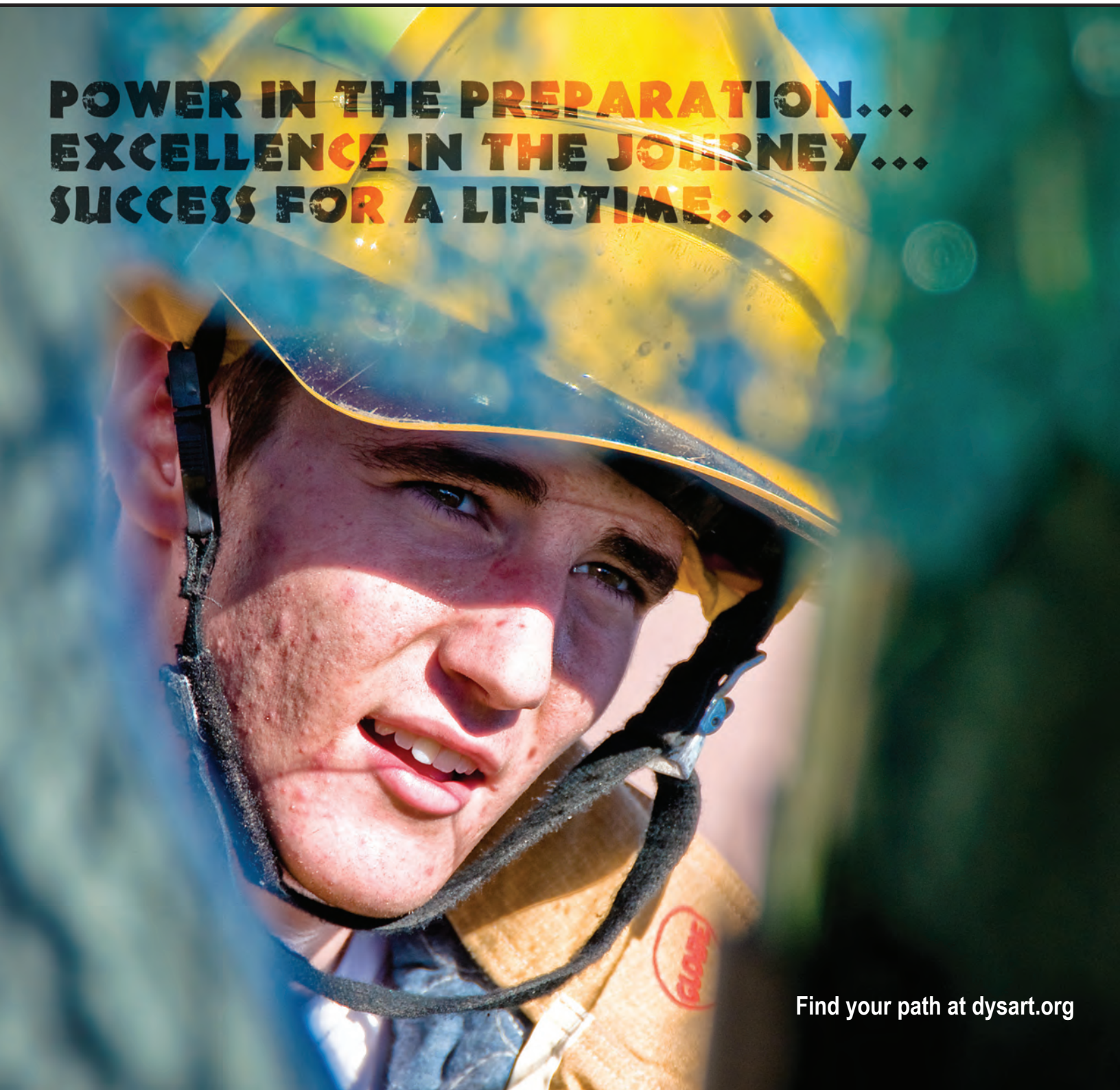
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