

Inside: 2009-2010 School Calendar

# achiever

Dysart Unified School District

July 2009



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# Letter from the Superintendent

The 2008-2009 school year was an exceptional year in Dysart. Our students continued to make gains academically and to impress us with their successes and accomplishments. It was a year when our support personnel, teachers and administrators showed us that even during times of challenge, when things like the budget could distract us, Dysart staff remain focused on what is best for students.

Our students continue to benefit from the support our parents, volunteers and community members provide to our schools on a daily basis. With this strong foundation, we are ready to welcome the 2009-2010 school year and push forward to that next level of excellence. With the completion and implementation last year of our Strategic Plan, our road to excellence is clearly defined. We know great schools contribute to great communities and we will not settle for less.

We anticipate 2009-2010 as being a banner year in Dysart. Our greatest focus remains on each student's academic achievement. We will provide the best education possible for all children by assuring we have the most highly skilled teachers and staff. The district has dedicated a great deal of time and resources to make sure that we have a strong curriculum in place; that we are providing adequate support and resources to our students and staff; that we are assessing students quickly as they enter our schools

to better meet their individual learning needs; and that our Strategic Plan keeps us on track and accountable. Last year we saw for the first time in Dysart's history schools receiving the state label of excelling; we know all our schools can and will earn that recognition for academic accomplishments over the next few years.

A key to the overall success of our students and our district is our ability to build constructive and positive relationships with our community. We hope that you feel welcome in our schools and that you will take advantage of opportunities to become involved, to learn more about your school district and to be a part of the many things that are taking place. To learn more about the successes of last year and about this great District, please visit our website at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org).

Together we will continue to foster the Dysart culture where students are **EXCEEDING STANDARDS AND FUTURE READY**. Have a great school year!



Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

# Letter from the Governing Board President

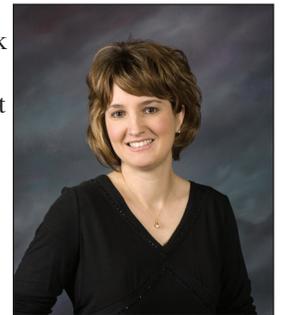
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our students, parents, teachers and staff to what will undoubtedly be another exceptional year in Dysart! It is exciting to begin the 2009-2010 school year with the promise of quality instruction and the countless opportunities that it brings. As Governing Board President, my primary focus has always been, and will continue to be, increasing academic achievement and raising test scores. The tremendous growth in student achievement and the progress each of our schools has made is great evidence that Dysart is preparing students for a successful future. This year will be filled with more opportunities for students

to demonstrate high achievement as they master grade level standards. My goal at the beginning of each year is to ensure that each Dysart student has the opportunity to excel academically and leave our district future ready.

Dysart continues to demonstrate academic growth and is being recognized for excellent programs and academic success. Dysart has become an award-winning district and one that is focused solely on student achievement. To illustrate, Dysart was the recipient of the NCA Model District Award in May 2009 for outstanding school improvement and exceptional district management. Dysart was the only Arizona school district to receive this award. In addition to Dysart's dedication to high academic achievement, Dysart is equally as devoted to its sincere commitment to the community at large. In that

endeavor, Dysart continues to work with our community to implement its strategic plan, a roadmap for excellence.

As we begin another school year, I would encourage each student to set goals high and work to achieve beyond the past. It is with great pride that I welcome you to another year in the Dysart Unified School District. With continued dedication to student achievement and academic success, all goals are within reach.



Christine A.K. Pritchard  
Board President

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## MEET the Governing Board



April Allen  
Member



William Lipscomb  
Member



Bonnie Schroeder  
Clerk



Jennifer Tanner  
Member

# Dysart receives NCA Model District Award

The Dysart Unified School District has received the Model District Award from the North Central Association (NCA) Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Dysart received the award in recognition of outstanding progress by an Arizona school district.

NCA awards the Model District Award in recognition for long-term contributions to quality school improvement. NCA documents school district progress through yearly validation and by conducting an external review of each school. The Dysart School District is the only Arizona school district to receive the Model District Award.

Dr. Don Enz, Arizona State Director of accreditation, in a letter to Dysart Superintendent Dr. Gail Pletnick, stated, "Maintaining significant progress and at the same time dealing with exceptional growth is very difficult. Dysart has done this very well." Enz continued, "With new staff and new classrooms,



Dysart Superintendent Dr. Gail Pletnick (center) receives the NCA Model School District Award.

the Dysart School District has made exceptional progress in initiating school improvement in every school in the face of extraordinary growth."

Dr. Gail Pletnick officially received the award on behalf of the Dysart School District at a luncheon on June 15, in Tucson. ■

## Shadow Ridge prepares to open with new programs

The Dysart Unified School District's newest high school, Shadow Ridge High School, is making final preparations to open its doors for the first time for the start of 2009-2010 school year.

Shadow Ridge will open with a comprehensive high school program including rigorous academic courses and two signature programs: Engineering and Architectural Design. Students interested in Engineering will be able to enroll in courses that explore careers in technology, industry and engineering. Architectural Design courses will focus on industry software, technical illustrations, designing homes, buildings and landscape. Shadow Ridge High School is also preparing to offer extra-curricular activities including band and athletics.

Student clubs will be also be formed to round out students' high school experiences.

Sundown Mountain, an alternative program, will be housed in one building at Shadow Ridge High School. Sundown Mountain is a model alternative school program known for its excellence in academic opportunities and positive educational results. Sundown Mountain provides high school students with a high quality, educational alternative which honors diversity, respect and excellence. This program offers students the flexibility of a later start and end time and allows students online learning opportunities. The Sundown Mountain program has been located adjacent to the El Mirage Elementary School campus for the past several years.

For questions regarding the opening of Shadow Ridge High School, please visit the Dysart website at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) or contact Shadow Ridge Principal, Mike Hawkins, at 623.523.5102. For information about the Sundown Mountain program, contact Bobbie Lockhart, at 623.876.7261. ■



### JUST THE FACTS about Shadow Ridge

- ◇ Location: 10909 N. Perryville Road, Waddell, AZ 85355
- ◇ School Colors: Burgundy, Gold and Black
- ◇ Mascot: Stallions
- ◇ Athletics: 4A II Skyline Region
- ◇ Principal: Michael Hawkins
- ◇ Projected 2009-2010 Enrollment - Approximately 700 (freshmen and sophomores only)

# Dysart Strategic Plan rolling along

The Dysart District continues to work to successfully complete objectives set within the Dysart Strategic Plan, adopted by the Governing Board in December, 2008. The Strategic Plan is a community-based initiative which establishes a roadmap of continuing success for the district for the next three to five years.

As objectives are accomplished, new objectives will be established to continue down the path of excellence. Below is a compilation of Strategic Plan objectives accomplished to date. For detailed information about the Dysart Strategic Plan, including objectives, measures of success, resources, timelines and status, please visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org).

## Exceeding Standards Future Ready

- Assess adequate class size and student/teacher ratio target utilizing a Superintendent's Work Team
- Evaluate guest teacher lists quarterly to insure accuracy of contact information
- Design program evaluation for counseling program
- Plan development of informational sessions for parents and students on careers and academics opportunities
- Evaluate district guidelines for K-8 special areas including art, physical education, music and library media to determine adequacy of offerings, staffing and minimum per year instructional minutes

## Modeling Success

- Assess governance models for Board governance
- Design and implement website location dedicated to distributing comprehensive information related to district action teams including, but not limited to, information on becoming involved in action teams, membership of action teams, and action team meeting schedule
- Evaluate the Human Resources Department practices and service (in progress)

## Dysart Work Culture

- Design a plan to implement collaboration into the culture of the district and at each site
- Design a program evaluation process to assess the impact of professional development on student achievement
- Evaluate the district's communication plan
- Evaluate the district's formal complaint policy

## Healthy Students, Safe Schools

- Assess and revise current definition of bullying
- Assess the current bullying program at each site
- Evaluate the utilization of the Safe Schools Hotline
- Assess, revise and consistently apply professional standards of dress for staff
- Assess, revise and consistently apply dress code policy for students. ■

# 2009-2010

## Optional Elementary 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. Please check with your K-8 school and your child's teacher for an optional supply list before purchasing any supplies. If you have any questions please contact your K-8 school.





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 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 (or 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 an hour. ■

**Screening Dates/Times:**  
 Aug. 17th, Sept. 21st, Oct. 19th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 14th, Jan. 11th, Feb. 8th, March 8th, Apr. 12th, May 17th, and June 28th. Times for all dates are at 9, 10 or 11 a.m.

Appointments: Please call the Dysart Early Childhood Education Center at 623.876.7350. Ask to book a special needs screening appointment.

To screen a child ages birth to 2.5, call Arizona Early Intervention Project at 602-771-1700 or 1-888-439-5609.

Screening Location:  
 Dysart Early Childhood Education Center, 17999 W Surprise Farms Loop South, Surprise, AZ 85388

# Student Dress Code revisions unveiled

The Dysart School District believes that there is a connection between student dress and academic success. Last Spring, a Strategic Plan committee was formed to review and revise Dysart’s student dress code. The committee, consisting of parents, teachers and administrators presented the dress code revisions to the Governing Board in June. The student dress code can be viewed at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) under the tab, “Parents and Students.” To view the entire work of the Dress Code Committee, please visit [www.dysart.org/committees](http://www.dysart.org/committees). The most prominent revisions to the K-12 student dress code include:

**Shirts/Tops**

- Must not include tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops, and racer back tops. Tank tops are any sleeveless top with a strap of less than three inches.
- Must not have a neckline lower than four inches from the collarbone and must not expose cleavage.
- Must not extend in the armpit lower than six inches from the collarbone.

**Pants/Shorts/Bottoms**

- Must be worn at the waist at all times
- Must be no shorter than four inches above the top of the knee when standing if shorts or skirts. ■

# K-8 Kindergarten through 8th 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.

Dysart's website, [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org), 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 to our schools, please note the following:

- Children must be five years old prior to Sept. 1st 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 receives the appropriate services, it is highly recommended that parents 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 parents need to check in mediations, you may need to complete additional paperwork. The school nurse can assist you with any questions or concerns.

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, please visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) or call the district's immunization clinic at 623.876.7944. ■

## Dysart welcomes new principals

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.



Michael Hawkins  
Shadow Ridge High School



Jean Hunt  
Western Peaks Elementary

# HIGH SCHOOL

## Registration



### Dysart High School

Beginning July 27, continuing Dysart High School students can 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: July 27 – 29 for Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. July 30 for Freshmen from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Seniors wanting to make class schedule changes, will be able to meet with counselors July 28-29 from 7 am – Noon both days. All others looking to make schedule changes will need to wait until start of school.

For questions regarding registration please call (623)876 - 7500. For additional information about Dysart High School, please visit [www.dysart.org/DHS](http://www.dysart.org/DHS).

### Shadow Ridge High School

Shadow Ridge will host its first registration on July 28, from 8:00 – 12:00 and July 29, from 12:00 – 4:00. Registration will be held in the cafeteria. Shadow Ridge will open with freshmen and sophomores during the 2009-2010 school year. Shadow Ridge students will receive registration information in the mail and should be prepared for the registration day with all information completed. For more information please visit [www.dysart.org/srhs/](http://www.dysart.org/srhs/) or call 623-523-5100.

### Valley Vista High School

Mark your calendars. Walk-through registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be held the week of July 27. Freshman will register July 27, Sophomores July 28, Juniors July 29, and Seniors July 30th. Times for all days are 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm. Registration packets will be in the mail by mid-July, and will contain all necessary information regarding the registration process. This packet will have assigned registration dates and times, along with important paperwork that is required for students and parents to complete on an annual basis. When the packet is received, please take a moment to review all of the materials. During registration, pictures for identification cards, physical education uniforms and spirit shirts will be available. Should you have any further questions, please contact the school office at (623) 523-8800. Registration information will be updated on the Valley Vista school website at [www.dysart.org/valleyvista](http://www.dysart.org/valleyvista).

### Willow Canyon High School

Willow Canyon High School registration will be held July 28 for incoming freshman from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration for grades 10 -12 will be held on July 29 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm and July 30 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Student registration materials will be sent via US mail during the first week of July. Please

take a moment to review all the materials and note your specified time. This packet will include important paperwork that is required for students and parents to complete on an annual basis.

In addition, you will receive a tentative class schedule and additional school/district related materials. Please come prepared with all of the completed required documents to expedite the process. In addition, please check for any additional required items, such as payment for student parking, athletics (cash/checks only), updated shot record (if applicable), and proof of residency if you have moved over the summer vacation.

Student yearbook pictures/ID badge photos will be taken at the time of registration so please keep our school dress code policy in mind. Registration will take place in the large gym and cafeteria, with the starting location at the south end of the campus.

Please utilize the southeast parking lot (student parking), 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. Should you have any further questions, please contact the school office at (623) 523-8000. For more information regarding registration, including possible updates, please visit the Willow Canyon website at [www.dysart.org/willowcanyon](http://www.dysart.org/willowcanyon). ■

## Dysart Unified School District No. 89

### SY 2009-2010 School Start Times

School	Normal Day		Monday Release Dismissal	Early Release Dismissal	Testing Days		
	Start	Dismissal			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
4	Shadow Ridge 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 Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
2	Canyon Ridge School	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
3	Cimarron Springs Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
4	Countryside Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
5	Desert Moon School	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
6	Dysart Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
7	El Mirage Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
8	Kingswood Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
9	Luke Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
10	Marley Park Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
11	Mountain View School	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
12	Parkview Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
13	Rancho Gabriela Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
14	Riverview School	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
15	Sonoran Heights Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
16	Sunset Hills Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
17	Surprise Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		
18	Thompson Ranch Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
19	West Point Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM		
20	Western Peaks Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM		

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

Program	Normal Day		Monday Release Dismissal	Early Release Dismissal
	Start	Dismissal		
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
<b>Preschool Times - Tues - Friday</b>				
	<b>AM</b>		<b>PM</b>	
Preschool, Pal ONLY	9:45 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	3:45 PM



**Dysart Unified School District No. 89  
2009-2010 CALENDAR**

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AUGUST '09						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		July	29	30	31	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					

First Day for Students August 10

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JANUARY '10						
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						

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SEPTEMBER '09						
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			

Labor Day September 7

40th Day October 5

Fall Break October 9, 12

Columbus Day Oct. 12 [part of Fall Break]

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf. Oct. 22-23 [1/2 days K-8]

K-8 Report Cards Issued October 23

Veterans Day November 11

Thanksgiving Recess November 26-27

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FEBRUARY '10						
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						

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OCTOBER '09						
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

High School Final Exams Dec. 17-18 [1/2 days HS]

Early Release Dec. 18 [1/2 days K-8]

Winter Break Dec. 21— Jan. 1

School Resumes January 4

K-8 Report Cards Issued January 8

Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 18

100th Day January 19

Presidents Day February 15

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MARCH '10						
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			

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NOVEMBER '09						
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					

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf. March 11-12 [1/2 days K-8]

K-8 Report Cards Issued March 12

Spring Break March 15 - 19

Spring Holiday March 19

No School/Staff Development April 20

High School Final Exams May 19-20

Last Day for Students May 20 (1/2 day K-8)

Graduation Day May 17-18

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APRIL '10						
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	

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DECEMBER '09						
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		

K-8 Quarters End/Days  
 October 16 47 days  
 December 18 42 days  
 March 5 43 days  
 May 20 48 days

HS Semesters End/Days  
 December 18 89 days  
 May 20 91 days

*14/180 of 180*

MAY '10						
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					

First and Last days of School Year  
 No School

*Students are dismissed early every Monday beginning Aug. 17 to provide time for teacher professional development.*



**K-8 Schools**

- **Ashton Ranch**  
August 7, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Canyon Ridge**  
August 6, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Cimarron Springs**  
August 6, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Countryside**  
August 6, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Desert Moon**  
August 6, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Dysart Elementary**  
August 8, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- **El Mirage Elementary**  
August 7, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Kingswood**  
August 6,

- Grades K-3, 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.  
Special Ed, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
Grades 4-8, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
- **Luke**  
August 7, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Marley Park**  
August 6, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Mountain View**  
August 7, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Parkview**  
August 6, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Rancho Gabriela**  
August 6, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- **Riverview**  
August 6, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- **Sonoran Heights**  
August 6, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

- **Sunset Hills**  
August 6,  
Grades 4-8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Grades K-3, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Surprise Elementary**  
August 6, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- **Thompson Ranch**  
August 6, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Western Peaks**  
August 6, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- **West Point**  
August 6,  
Grades K-2, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.  
Grades 3-4, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.
  
- August 7,  
Grades 5-6, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.  
Grades 7-8, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

**High Schools**

- **Dysart High School**  
Not available at time of print. Call 623.876.7500 for more information
- **Shadow Ridge High School**  
September 14, 6:00 p.m.
- **Valley Vista High School**  
August 17, 6:30 p.m.
- **Willow Canyon High School**  
September 1, 6:30 p.m.

**Other Programs**

- **Preschool**  
August 10, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- **Sundown Mountain**  
Not available at time of print. Call 623.876.7250 for more information



# Dysart launches sports central

Have you ever wondered how to find the score of the big game on Friday? Do you know when your high school plays their rival? How about finding information about upcoming swim or golf meets? Dysart has made it easy to find the answers to these questions and many more with the launch of a new website feature called, Dysart Sports Central. Dysart Sports Central can be found at [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) by clicking on the sports ticker or by visiting [www.dysart.org/sports/](http://www.dysart.org/sports/).

Those visiting Sports Central will find schedules, game times, locations and results for all varsity sports (junior varsity for Shadow Ridge) for all Dysart high schools. Additionally, parents and community fans can track the results of the Elemiddle sports program each season, including playoff results. Bookmark Dysart Sports Central as one of your favorites and plan to keep up on all DUSD sports updates! ■



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School Newsletters  
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to Dysart?

# Making a difference: Dysart School District volunteers

Volunteers in the Dysart Unified School District generously gave 77,214 hours of their time in schools over the course of the 2008-2009 school year. Dysart's 1,100 volunteers donated a total 12,261 more hours during this school year than last year.

Dysart teachers, students, office staff and administration are thankful for the benefits that the volunteers provide in the classroom and school offices. Whether volunteering in one of Dysart's 20 K-8 schools, three high schools or in a pre-school classroom, Dysart volunteers make a difference for students each day.

The Dysart District is very fortunate to have a community rich in resources. Residents bring knowledge, history and an interest to work with children into their volunteer experience.

Additionally, volunteers provide a large support to the teachers and office staff throughout the district. Through volunteers, ranging from parents to community members, Dysart schools benefit from the

community resources that provide time and support to its schools.

Dysart volunteers provide support throughout the district in many settings. Volunteer experiences can include working with infants and toddlers at the Child Development Center to assisting teachers and students at the Dysart Early Childhood Center.

Additionally, volunteers often listen to and read with elementary students and help with math, English, science, social studies or computer skills.

Volunteers also assist teachers in a variety of ways and can provide assistance as office aides, library assistants or help with the district's sports programs.

Community members interested in making a difference in the lives of children are encouraged to become a Dysart volunteer. The volunteer opportunities are endless, all benefiting Dysart students.

Volunteer opportunities are not limited by time commitment. A volunteer may choose to provide support anytime during



Volunteer John Riley helps a student at Western Peaks Elementary School with his math problems. John recently went over 1,000 hours of volunteering in the district.

the school day.

If you would like to share a few hours a week or every other week, please consider the Dysart School District for a wonderful opportunity to be of assistance to its students.

For more information about becoming a Dysart volunteer, please call 623.876.7195 or visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org) and follow the department tab to community relations. ■

## K-3 Read 2 Succeed Program shines

The Dysart Unified School District received the 2008 Spotlight on Success Award from the Arizona Department of Education for its voter-approved override funded K-3 reading program, Read 2 Succeed. The award was given in recognition of the reading program's success, which has transformed reading instruction throughout all Dysart schools in kindergarten through third grade. The Dysart School District created the Read 2 Succeed program through a community approved K-3 tax override. The override initially allowed the district to fund full day kindergarten before the state provided funding for the full day. Upon the state funding for full day kindergarten, Dysart created the K-3 reading program as a part of the override designed to increase K-3 student achievement in reading.

The Dysart Read 2 Succeed program is a model built from the national Reading First initiative, identifying research-based practices aligned to increasing reading fluency and comprehension. The program utilizes effective classroom instruction through consistent professional development opportunities focused upon student engagement and a core academic curriculum. Dysart's expert teaching staff has used the program to increase student achievement as measured by district bench-



marks as well as the AIMS assessment and the national Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy (DIBELS) assessment. The Read 2 Succeed model also provides additional and strategic reading instruction for students with reading interventionists and instructional support for teachers through a reading coach at each school building. The reading coach supports the research-based instruction of reading by providing professional development workshops for the teachers, working collaboratively to plan lessons designed for individualized student needs and through data informed meetings focused upon student achievement.

Read 2 Succeed has been implemented in all Dysart K-8 schools and is facilitated by Adriel Grieshaber, Dysart's Literacy Coordinator. Speaking about the success of the K-3 program, Dysart superintendent, Dr. Gail Pletnick, said, "Our teachers continue to provide instruction aligned to raising student achievement. This award highlights the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students as well as the commitment to raising academic standards." The Read 2 Succeed model is another example of the best practices that Dysart continues to implement that are resulting in the continued increase of student achievement. ■

# Dysart School Directory

## K-8 Schools

Ashton Ranch  
14898 W. Acoma Drive  
Surprise, AZ 85379  
623.523.8300

Canyon Ridge  
17359 W. Surprise Farms Loop N  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.523.8450

Cimarron Springs  
17032 W. Surprise Farms Loop S  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.523.8600

Countryside  
15034 N. Parkview Place  
Surprise, AZ 85379  
623.876.7800

Desert Moon  
23251 N. 166th Drive  
Surprise, AZ 85387  
623.523.8900

Dysart  
12590 W. Varney Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.876.7100

El Mirage  
13500 N. El Mirage Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.876.7200

Kingswood  
15150 W. Mondell Road  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623.876.7600

Luke  
7300 N. Dysart Road  
Glendale, AZ 85307  
623.876.7300

Marley Park  
15042 W. Sweetwater Road  
Surprise, AZ 85379  
623.523.8200

Mountain View  
18302 W. Burton Avenue  
Waddell, AZ 85355  
623.523.7450

Parkview  
16066 N. Parkview Place  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623.523.8650

Rancho Gabriela  
15272 W. Gabriela Drive  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623.523.8500

Riverview  
12701 N. Main Street  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.523.8950

Sonoran Heights  
11405 N. Greer Ranch Parkway  
Surprise, AZ 85379  
623.523.8550

Sunset Hills  
17825 W. Sierra Montana Loop  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.523.8700

Surprise  
12907 W. Greenway Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.876.7400

Thompson Ranch  
11800 W. Thompson Ranch Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.523.8400

West Point  
13700 W. Greenway Road  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623.876.7700

Western Peaks  
18063 W. Surprise Farms Loop S  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.523.8750

## High Schools

Dysart High School  
11425 N. Dysart Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623.876.7500

Shadow Ridge  
10909 N. Perryville Road  
Waddell, AZ 85355  
623.523.5100

Valley Vista  
15550 N. Parkview Place  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623.523.8800

Willow Canyon  
17901 W. Lundberg Street  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.523.8000

## Specialized Programs

Dysart Early Childhood Center  
17999 W. Surprise Farms Loop S  
Surprise, AZ 85388  
623.876.7350

Sundown Mountain  
10909 N. Perryville Road  
Waddell, AZ 85355  
623.876.7250

For more information regarding Dysart schools,  
please visit [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org)

The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the superintendent at (623) 876-7000.

**Dysart**  
Unified School District

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