Dysart Schools • Summer 2023

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**School Begins August 3!** 



Together
LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR

Need to enroll? Visit Dysart.org/Enroll
Already enrolled? Find important back to school details inside





# Our schools are among the TOP-RATED in Arizona!

### **Academics**

Dysart's top-rated schools are fully accredited and ready to serve the community with the very best academic options and innovative programs. Many of our schools offer unique programs, and our high school students have Career and Technical Education, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment options so they can get a strong start in college or career.

#### **Top Honors Include:**

Voted West Valley's Favorite School District
92% A or B rated schools by state
11 Schools Named A+ Schools of Excellence
92% Graduation Rate
Flinn Scholar - Fatem Kadhem, Valley Vista High School
Cambridge Top in Country Award, History - Alexandra Silea, Willow Canyon High School
Model School - El Mirage Elementary School
#8-ranked K-8 school in AZ - Freedom Traditional Academy

### **Arts**

An expansive arts program provides Dysart students with a well-rounded education thanks to voter-approved override funding. Our K-8 students receive general music and visual arts instruction. Band becomes an option starting in 5th grade, and in high school, visual arts, dance, theater and multiple instrumental and vocal music courses are available. Last school year, Dysart schools earned numerous "superior" ratings for their bands and choirs at regional and state festivals, solo and ensemble festivals, marching, and choral competitions. Additionally, our schools earned multiple superior ratings in theatre at their State IA and One Act competitions. This year Willow Canyon theater was even named a Gold Honor Troupe. Dysart K-12 art students have the opportunity to participate in many art contests throughout the year, earning several awards, including a Valley Vista student who won the Congressional Art Competition. This year Dysart Schools had 139 students earn the Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency.

# **Athletics**

Strong athletic programs, award-winning coaches, and successful athletes are getting noticed in Dysart Schools! We offer many choices to our community, starting in middle school, with Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball. High school options expand to add Badminton, Cross Country, Golf, Spiritline, Swim & Dive, Tennis, Track & Field, and Wrestling, as well as competitive athletic classes. With championship teams, Dysart athletics are highly successful.

#### **Notable Athletic Achievements for 2022-2023:**

- ▶ 14 State Championships:
- ▶ 6A Girls Basketball Valley Vista High School (VVHS)
- Div 1/2 Coed Cheer Stunt and Crowd Response Willow Canyon High School (WCHS)
- Division I Track, 100 and 200 meter Blaise Nelson, VVHS
- ▶ 126 lb Wrestler, Girls Division Brianna Reyes, VVHS
- ▶ 150 lb Wrestler, Division I Ammon Passey, Shadow Ridge High School (SRHS)
- ▶ 215 lb Wrestler, Division I Abel Garza, *SRHS*
- ► Heavyweight Wrestler, Division III Julian Laborin, *Dysart High School (DHS)*
- ▶ Unified Badminton, Basketball and Track & Field Gold Division WCHS
- ▶ Unified Soccer, Gold Division VVHS
- ▶ Unified Basketball, CoEd Silver Division SRHS
- ▶ USA Spirit National Champions, CoEd Crowdleader SRHS
- WCHS Softball Ranked #8 by USA Today, and player Marissa McCann on watch list for HSSA Softball Player of the Year
- Nominee for 2023 National NSCA High School Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year - Clay Bewley, WCHS
- > 7 Valley Junior High Athletic Conference Championships



# FREEDOM TRADITIONAL RANKED #8 IN ARIZONA!

With the highest test scores of any other school in Surprise and El Mirage, Freedom Traditional is the place to be for those looking for a traditional school option. Freedom Traditional Academy is a premier K-8 school of choice committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience with the support of an engaged and involved family community.

#### Why choose Freedom?

- Spalding Reading and Saxon-like Math offered
- Focus on civic values and patriotism
- Spanish offered at all grade levels
- Tuition-free K-8 with accelerated options
- Arts, athletics, extracurriculars
- Free full-day kindergarten

Now Enrolling! FreedomTraditional.org 623-523-8650



# **Dysart offers three preschool programs for children ages 2-5**

**Peer Role Model Preschool** is a program for typically developing children (who are 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 2023) to serve an important role in the classroom alongside students with developmental disabilities. Tuition is charged at non-Title I schools.

**Growing Minds Preschool** is a tuition-based program operated by the Community Education department. Growing Minds has a main site as well as satellite sites at Freedom Traditional Academy, Marley Park, and Mountain View (NEW!). Visit **Dysart.org/GrowingMinds** for details.

**Developmental Preschool** provides special education services to students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in an inclusive setting.



If you are the parent of a preschool child or know of a preschool child with suspected developmental delays, residing within the boundaries of the Dysart Unified School District, you're eligible for a free Child Find screening. Suspected delays may be evidenced in the areas of communication, cognition, behavior, physical, auditory, visual and/or sensory development. Free screenings and/or diagnostic evaluations help determine those children eligible for special education services. For details and a complete list of screening dates throughout the year, visit *Dysart.org/ChildFind* or call 623-876-7022 and select option #2.

Dysart offers a FREE, Full-Day Kindergarten Program

Dysart Schools is one of few programs in the area that offers FREE, FULL-DAY Kindergarten in a safe, caring environment. The Dysart Kindergarten program follows Arizona state standards, and offers hands-on, real-life activities in the areas of cognitive, social, and physical development.

Ready to enroll now for the 2023-2024 year?

Visit Dysart.org/Enrol





# **Transportation**

Dysart offers transportation to and from our schools as a service to our community. Check our website for the most up-to-date information and safety precautions, as well as bus routes. Learn more and view a Bus Stop Locator at **Dysart.org/Transportation**. Bus route information will be posted on July 20.

#### Is My Child Eligible for Busing?

**K-4 and K-8 Elementary Schools -** K-8 students who are residents within a school attendance area and who live more than one radius mile from school are eligible. Please note this is not applicable to Freedom Traditional Academy, since it is an open enrollment school.

**Middle Schools -** 5-8th grade students who are residents within the middle school boundaries and who live more than one and one-quarter radius miles from the school are eligible.

**High School -** Ninth through twelfth grade students who are residents within a school attendance area and who live more than one and one-half radius miles from school are eligible.

**Special Education -** Students with disabilities who require transportation, as indicated in their respective individual education programs are eligible.

# Safety

The safety and security of our students is our highest priority, and we've done a lot of work this year to improve and strengthen our safety protocols, including:

- Successful recipients of Safety Grant funds to add additional SROs
- · Safety glass installed in all front offices
- Safety drill and risk management audits at all campuses
- 120+ campus safety checks throughout the year
- · Implemented a locked gate and locked door culture

# Dysart Schools has a long history of prioritizing school safety, and continues regular practices that have been in place such as:

- Strong partnerships with local law enforcement and first responders, including School Resource Officers (SRO) and a district Safety Coordinator
- Threat Assessment Teams on each campus to investigate potential threats to individuals or the campus, including reporting to law enforcement as needed
- Planned practice drills and staff training throughout the year
- School Safety Committees on each campus to discuss and plan facility safety, bullying, discipline, and emergency response procedures
- Specific safety protocols in place for each type of emergency response: evacuation, lockdown, modified lockdown, shelter in place
- Single point of entry for visitors and required sign-in through the front office
- Online Safe Report or Safe Schools hotline at Dysart.org/safereport or 623-876-7009

#### Learn more at Dysart.org/Safety



**School starts August 3! Find school information** and important start of school dates below

#### **K-8 Schools**



#### **Asante Preparatory Academy**

dysart.org/Asante Follow us @APARangers Principal: Emily Dean

**Canyon Ridge School** 

dysart.org/CanyonRidge

Follow us @CRSCougars

FreedomTraditional.org

Follow us @FTAFirebirds

Principal: Connie Wolford

Principal: Jill Hoppe

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Riverview School**

**Mountain View School** 

dysart.org/MountainView

Follow us @MtnViewLions Principal: Debby Cruz

dysart.org/Riverview Follow us @RVSBarracudas Principal: Norma Chavez Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

**Sunset Hills Elementary School** dysart.org/SunsetHills Follow us @SHESBobcats Principal: Josephine Tokhi Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

**Kingswood Elementary School** 

**Freedom Traditional Academy** 

dysart.org/Kingswood Follow us @KGWESKnights Principal: Marilee Timbrooks

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



### dysart.org/Surprise

Follow us @SUPESCubs Principal: Jo Ann Wick

**Surprise Elementary School** 

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Luke Elementary School**

dysart.org/Luke Follow us @LukeJets Principal: Kara Sehr

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm





#### **Thompson Ranch Elementary School**

dysart.org/ThompsonRanch Follow us @TRESJaguars Principal: Scott Kerr

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **West Point Elementary School**

dysart.org/WestPoint Follow us @WPTESWildcats Principal: Amy Mikos

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

## **K-4 Schools**



#### **Countryside Elementary School**

dysart.org/Countryside Follow us @CSDESCoyotes Principal: Chantell McNeese

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **El Mirage Elementary School**

dysart.org/ElMirage Follow us @ELMESTigers Principal: Stephanie Davis

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Rancho Gabriela Elementary School**

dysart.org/RanchoGabriela Follow us @RGESRattlers Principal: Charleen Clark

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Western Peaks Elementary School**

dysart.org/WesternPeaks Follow us @WPESFalcons Principal: Stacie Brown

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

# Middle Schools



#### **Ashton Ranch Middle School**

dysart.org/AshtonRanch Follow us @ARMSMustangs Principal: Lisa Parachini

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Cimarron Springs Middle School**

dysart.org/CimarronSprings Follow us @CSMSStallions Principal: Ginger Richards

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Dysart Middle School**

dysart.org/DysartMiddle Follow us @DysartEagles Principal: Monika Krienitz

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm



#### **Sonoran Heights Middle School**

dysart.org/SonoranHeights Follow us @SHMSHawks Principal: Dustin Hamman

Meet the Teacher: August 1 at 5pm

# **High Schools**



#### **Dysart High School**

dysart.org/DHS Follow us @DysartDemons Principal: Sunny Resch

Open House: August 15 at 5:30pm Freshman Orientation: August 2 at 7:15am



#### **Shadow Ridge High School**

dvsart.org/SRHS Follow us @ShadowRidgeHS Principal: Cedricia Hester

Open House: August 15 at 5:30pm Freshman Orientation: August 2 at 7:15am



#### **Valley Vista High School**

dysart.org/VVHS Follow us @ValleyVistaHS Principal: Andrew Frazier Open House: August 15 at 5:30pm

Freshman Orientation: August 2 at 7:15am



#### **Willow Canyon High School**

dysart.org/WCHS Follow us @WillowCanyonHS Principal: Adam Schwartz

Open House: August 15 at 5:30pm Freshman Orientation: August 2 at 7:15am WCHS 101: July 26 at 5:30pm



#### **Sundown Mountain**

dysart.org/Sundown Principal: Roberta Lockhart

# **USE OUR SCHOOL FINDER**

TO FIND THE BEST FIT **FOR YOUR CHILD!** 

Not sure which of our schools is right for you and your family?

Use the School Finder to see which schools are closest to you, or search based on interest, programs or offerings to find the best match for your child!

Try it out at **Dysart.org/SchoolFinder** 

# **Are You Ready for the**

# New School Year?

# **Stay up to date with the Parent Portal**

The Parent Portal is a great tool to stay informed 24/7 about your child's academic progress. Grades, attendance, assignments and more are viewable in real time online or via the app, Campus Parent. A single login allows parents with multiple students to access information for all of their children in one place.

Learn more at Dysart.org/ParentPortal

# **Update Your Communication Preferences and Contact Info!**

To make sure that we can keep you informed in emergency situations, please ensure that your contact information is current in the Parent Portal. You are also able to adjust your communication preferences (phone, text, and/or email) within the Parent Portal using the Contact Preferences option to ensure you are getting the various message types in the way that you would like. Remember that if you select more than one type of communication per category, you will receive the message multiple times via each of those avenues.



Dysart Nutrition Services ensures that students at all schools have fresh, wholesome and nutritious breakfast and lunch options to support their education and focus in class. Learn more about Nutrition Services at *Dysart.org/Nutrition*. Menus and nutritional information may be viewed at *Dysart.Nutrislice.com*.

# **How to Manage Meal Accounts**

All families are encouraged to utilize SchoolCafe.com to prepay for meals online, view their balances, or place restrictions on purchases. Online payments may take up to 24 hours to post to student accounts. Cash and checks are also accepted for meal purchases in the cafeteria.

# **Apply for Free & Reduced Meals**

All families should complete a Free and Reduced Lunch Application at SchoolCafe.com to help maintain school funding and make sure that qualified families receive this and other benefits. All families who are approved for reduced meals will continue to receive free meals through the 2023-2024 school year. Only one application is required per family, and may be completed at SchoolCafe.com starting July 17, 2023.

### **Meal Prices**

ELEMENTARY LUNCH	ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST	HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH	HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST
Student Price	Student Price	Student Price	Student Price
\$2.60	\$1.25	\$2.85	\$1.25
Reduced Price	Reduced Price	Reduced Price	Reduced Price
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Adult Price	Adult Price	Adult Price	Adult Price
\$3.50	\$1.75	\$3.50	\$1.75

A la carte and snack items are available for purchase on each campus, and additional meals are available for an added charge. Parents are always welcome to dine with their child, but please be sure to call in advance and check-in at the school office. Adult meals may be purchased for \$1.75 for breakfast or \$3.50 for lunch.



Dysart offers a variety of ways that the community can become involved in our schools and provide valuable support to ensure students excel.

Volunteer

Volunteers help to enrich children's learning opportunities, provide individual attention to children who need one-onone assistance, promote a school-home-community partnership for quality education, provide staff members with
more time to work with students, and assist staff members and support personnel with non-instructional tasks.

Learn more at dysart.org/Volunteer

# Donate through the AZ Education Tax Credit

Our community can support Dysart schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. Arizona Law (ARS 43-1089.01) allows married couples filing jointly a tax credit of up to \$400 and individual taxpayers a tax credit of up to \$200 when they contribute to extra-curricular activities in public schools. This tax credit is available to all who reside in Arizona and have a tax liability at least equal to that of their donation. You do not have to be a parent of a child in a Dysart school to benefit from this program.

Donors may choose one of four categories and a school to support, and 100% of your donation goes directly where you designate it. Donations may be submitted through tax day each year. **Learn more at dysart.org/TaxCredit** 

Join a Committee

Dysart Schools has district-level committees that seek involvement from members of the public. Anyone interested can complete a Committee Interest Form to get involved with one or more available committees. Learn more at dysart.org/Committee

# Join our Team!

Dysart is the largest employer in both the cities of Surprise and El Mirage with over 2,700 employees. Dysart Schools offer highly competitive salaries, full benefits and an inviting school-year calendar with holidays and weekends off for most positions.

With a wide-variety of positions ranging from groundskeeper, to mechanic, to office staff, and teachers, we're always looking for great people to join our Dysart team!

Check out our current openings at Dysart.org/Careers and apply today!

Current High Need Areas:
Bus Drivers and Aides
Childcare and Preschool Aides
Paraprofessionals
Behavioral Technicians
Speech and Language Pathologists
Special Education Teachers
Math Teachers
Science Teachers
ASL Teachers
Health Services Assistants
Crossing Guards
Maintenance Workers & Plant Managers





AUGUST 2023

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**NOVEMBER 2023** 

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DECEMBER 2023

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## First Day for Students - Aug. 3 Labor Day - Sept.4

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 5-6 (1/2 days for K-8)

<u>Fall Break - Oct. 9-13</u> Veterans Day (Observed) - Nov. 10 Thanksgiving Recess - Nov. 20-24

High School/ Middle School Final Exams

Dec. 21-22

(½ days for high school/middle school)

Early Release - Dec. 22 (½ days K-8)

Winter Break - Dec. 25-Jan.8 School Resumes - Jan. 9 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Jan.15

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Feb. 8-9 (½ days for K-8)

Presidents Day - Feb.19
Spring Break - March 18-22
Spring Holiday - Apr 26
Graduation Day - May 15 (½ day for HS)

High School/ Middle School Final Exams -May 22-23 (½ days for high school/middle school) Early Release- May 22 (½ day for K-8)

Last Day for Students - May 23 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  day for K-8)

#### K-8 Quarter End/Days

October 6 - 46 Days December 22 - 44 Days March 8 - 43 Days May 23 - 47 Days

#### **High School Semesters End/Days**

December 22 - 90 Days May 23 - 90 Days

Students are dismissed early every Monday beginning Aug 7 to provide time for teacher professional development.

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2023-2024 Calendar

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Governing Board Approved April 28, 2021 Revised Governing Board Approved Nov. 10, 2021 Revised Governing Board Approved January 26, 2023



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\*\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*

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Dysart is proud to offer the highest performing schools to our community. We now boast three K-8 schools ranked in the top 100 and two top 50 high schools (Willow Canyon High School and Shadow Ridge High School) in the entire state of Arizona! With 22 "A" or "B" rated schools, many of our schools out-rank the local counterparts, including charters. We're also home to the #8 ranked school in the entire state of Arizona, Freedom Traditional Academy.

#### Wonder how other local elementary schools compare?

#8. Freedom Traditional Academy

#55. Sunset Hills Elementary School

#67. Canyon Ridge School

#125. Marley Park Elementary School

#192. Sonoran Heights Middle School

#193. Western Peaks Elementary School

#296. El Mirage Elementary School

#318. Rancho Gabriela Elementary School

#328. Luke Elementary School

#340. Legacy Traditional School - West Surprise

#380. Arizona Charter Academy

#455. Legacy Traditional School - Surprise

#469. Imagine Rosefield

#492. Paradise Honors Elementary School

#826. Heritage Elementary School

#861. Calibre Academy Surprise

# **Enroll Today!**

We're excited to serve your child for the 2023-2024 school year! Dysart Schools offer something for everyone and open enrollment is always available for those that would like to attend a school outside of their attendance boundaries.

New student registration applications may be completed online at

**Dysart.org/Enroll**