

Achiever

Dysart Schools • Summer 2024



DREAM BIG



IN THE 2024-2025
SCHOOL YEAR

It's time to get ready to go **BACK TO SCHOOL!** Whether you are looking to enroll for the new year or get information on transportation, school meals, Meet the Teacher nights, and more, we've got you covered!

School starts
August 1, 2024!



AN "A" RATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
by the Arizona Department of Education



DysartSchools™



“A” RATED DYSART SCHOOLS IS A LOCAL FAVORITE

ACADEMICS

Dysart’s top-rated schools are fully accredited and ready to serve the community with the very best academic options and innovative programs in the area! Students get a well-rounded education and have many opportunities to go above and beyond through honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment classes, or by earning specialized diplomas or seals such as International Baccalaureate or Financial Literacy. Career and Technical Education (CTE) program options are available at every high school, with exploratory programs at our middle schools. NEW this year is our EMT/EMS program in partnership with the City of Surprise.

Top Honors Include:

- ▶ “A” rated school district
- ▶ Voted West Valley’s Favorite School District
- ▶ 92% A or B rated schools by state
- ▶ 11 Schools Named A+ Schools of Excellence
- ▶ 94.97% Graduation Rate
- ▶ Flinn Scholars two years in a row
- ▶ 4 National Merit Finalists
- ▶ SkillsUSA Models of Excellence - Willow Canyon High School
- ▶ Purple Star School - Luke Elementary School
- ▶ #6-ranked K-8 school in AZ - Freedom Traditional Academy



ATHLETICS

Strong athletic programs, award-winning coaches and successful athletes abound in Dysart Schools! We offer many choices to our community, starting in middle school, with Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Cross Country. High School offers 18 sport options for both boys and girls, as well as competitive athletic classes. A NEW offering this year is Girls Flag Football at all four high schools. With championship teams, Dysart athletics are highly successful.

Notable athletic achievements for 2023-2024:

- ▶ 10 State Championships
- ▶ 145 Students Made All-Region 1st or 2nd Teams
- ▶ 27 Players of the Year
- ▶ 8 Coaches of the Year
- ▶ 2 AZ Republic Top 50 Softball Players at Willow Canyon High School

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 art 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.

This year, Dysart students earned the most Arizona State Seals of Arts Proficiency in the entire state, at 228. Multiple students won honors in the Congressional Art Contest, and schools earned numerous top ratings for their bands and choirs at regional and state festivals, solo and ensemble festivals, marching, and choral competitions. Five students won the New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibit, and we had a third place winner in the Oceanside Sound Off Choir Competition.



FREEDOM TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

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 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 for 2024-2025!
FreedomTraditional.org • 623-523-8650

**RANKED
6TH IN AZ**



TM



READY TO ENROLL FOR
THE 2024-2025 YEAR?
[DYSART.ORG/ENROLL](https://dysart.org/enroll)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

PRESCHOOL

Dysart offers three preschool programs for children ages 2-5.

- ▶ 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 Countryside, Freedom Traditional Academy, Marley Park, and Mountain View. Visit [Dysart.org/GrowingMinds](https://dysart.org/GrowingMinds) for details.
- ▶ Developmental Preschool provides special education services to students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in an inclusive setting.
- ▶ Peer Role Model Preschool is a program for typically developing children (who are 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 2024) to serve an important role in the classroom alongside students with developmental disabilities. Tuition is charged at non-Title I schools.

Is your Preschooler's Development on Track?

If you are the parent or guardian 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](https://dysart.org/ChildFind) or call 623-876-7022 and select option #2.

FREE, FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

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.

SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATES



Student safety and security is our top priority, and Dysart is focused on continually improving and strengthening our safety protocols. New this year:

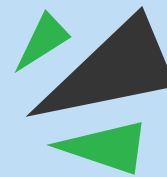
- ▶ Launched School Safety Officer (SSO) program to provide law enforcement coverage at all schools
- ▶ Classroom window coverings installed
- ▶ Camera system expansion and upgrades
- ▶ Public safety access box standardization and replacement
- ▶ Upgraded site radios, licenses and frequency ranges
- ▶ Installed new lockdown systems at high schools and two other campuses, and alarm panel upgrades

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. Each campus has a Threat Assessment Team to investigate potential threats to individuals or the campus, and reports to law enforcement as needed. Schools schedule planned practice drills and staff training as well as conduct safety audits throughout the year, and specific safety protocols are in place for each type of emergency response such as evacuation, lockdown, modified lockdown, and shelter in place. School Safety Committees on each campus discuss and plan facility safety, bullying, discipline, and emergency response procedures regularly, and schools have a single point of entry for visitors and require sign-ins through the front office. As a district, we accept reports for safety concerns online at Dysart.org/safereport, or through our Safe Schools hotline at 623-876-7009.

Learn more at Dysart.org/Safety.



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 is posted prior to the start of school.

Is My Child Eligible for Busing?

- ▶ Elementary Schools - Elementary school students who are residents within a school attendance area and who live more than one radius mile from school. Please note this is not applicable to Freedom Traditional Academy, since it is an open enrollment school.
- ▶ Middle Schools - Middle school students who are residents within the middle school boundaries and who live more than one and one-quarter radius miles from the school.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Special Education - Students with disabilities who require transportation, as indicated in their respective individual education plan.

THERE'S A PLACE

FOR EVERYONE IN DYSART

School starts August 1! Find school information and important start of school dates below. 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! [Dysart.org/SchoolFinder](https://dysart.org/SchoolFinder)

KEY DATE: JULY 30

Meet the Teacher Night
Time: 5pm
Who: Elementary & Middle

**KEY DATE: JULY 31**

Freshman Orientation
Time: 7:15am - 12:15pm
Who: High School Freshman

**KEY DATE: AUGUST 6**

Open House
Time: 5:30pm - 7pm
Who: High School



MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Ashton Ranch Middle School**

dysart.org/AshtonRanch
Follow us on Social @ARMSMustangs
Principal: Lisa Parachini
Grade Level: 5th Through 8th Grade

**Dysart Middle School**

dysart.org/DysartMiddle
Follow us on Social @DysartEagles
Principal: Monika Krienitz
Grade Level: 5th Through 8th Grade

**Cimarron Springs Middle School**

dysart.org/CimarronSprings
Follow us on Social @CSMSStallions
Principal: Ginger Richards
Grade Level: 6th Through 8th Grade

**Sonoran Heights Middle School**

dysart.org/SonoranHeights
Follow us on Social @SHMSHawks
Principal: Amber Luna
Grade Level: 5th Through 8th Grade

HIGH SCHOOLS

**Dysart High School**

dysart.org/DHS
Follow us on Social @DysartDemons
Principal: Jack Chang
Grade Level: 9th through 12th Grade

**Valley Vista High School**

dysart.org/VVHS
Follow us on Social @ValleyVistaHS
Principal: Andrew Frazier
Grade Level: 9th through 12th Grade

**Shadow Ridge High School**

dysart.org/SRHS
Follow us on Social @ShadowRidgeHS
Principal: Cedricia Hester
Grade Level: 9th through 12th Grade

**Willow Canyon High School**

dysart.org/WCHS
Follow us on Social @WillowCanyonHS
Principal: Thom Luedemann
Grade Level: 9th through 12th Grade

**Sundown Mountain**

dysart.org/sundown
Principal: Anat Mussi
Grade Level: 9th through 12th Grade



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Asante Preparatory Academy
dysart.org/Asante
Follow us on Social @APARangers
Principal: Emily Dean
Grade Level: Preschool Through 5th Grade



Mountain View School
dysart.org/MountainView
Follow us on Social @MtnViewLions
Principal: Debby Cruz
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Canyon Ridge School
dysart.org/CanyonRidge
Follow us on Social @CRSCougars
Principal: Jill Hoppe
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Rancho Gabriela Elementary School
dysart.org/RanchoGabriela
Follow us on Social @RGESRattlers
Principal: Charleen Mattingly
Grade Level: Preschool Through 4th Grade



Countryside Elementary School
dysart.org/Countryside
Follow us on Social @CSDESCoyotes
Principal: Chantell McNeese
Grade Level: Preschool Through 4th Grade



Riverview School
dysart.org/Riverview
Follow us on Social @RVSBarracudas
Principal: Norma Chavez
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



El Mirage Elementary School
dysart.org/ElMirage
Follow us on Social @ELMESTigers
Principal: Rick Haney
Grade Level: Preschool Through 4th Grade



Sunset Hills Elementary School
dysart.org/SunsetHills
Follow us on Social @SHESBobcats
Principal: Josephine Tokhi
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Freedom Traditional Academy
dysart.org/Freedom
Follow us on Social @FTAFirebirds
Principal: Connie Wolford
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Surprise Elementary School
dysart.org/Surprise
Follow us on Social @SUPESCubs
Principal: Jo Ann Wick
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Kingswood Elementary School
dysart.org/Kingswood
Follow us on Social @KGWESKnights
Principal: Cara Miller
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Thompson Ranch Elementary School
dysart.org/ThompsonRanch
Follow us on Social @TRESJaguars
Principal: Scott Kerr
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Luke Elementary School
dysart.org/Luke
Follow us on Social @LukeJets
Principal: Kara Sehr
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



West Point Elementary School
dysart.org/WestPoint
Follow us on Social @WPTESWildcats
Principal: Amy Mikos
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Marley Park Elementary School
dysart.org/MarleyPark
Follow us on Social @MPESMavericks
Principal: Jessica Felix
Grade Level: Preschool Through 8th Grade



Western Peaks Elementary School
dysart.org/WesternPeaks
Follow us on Social @WPESFalcons
Principal: Stacie Brown
Grade Level: Preschool Through 5th Grade

Join Dysart Schools on ParentSquare!

All Dysart schools will be using ParentSquare this year to connect with parents and share what's happening in our schools and district. This program will replace our current system for school and district messages, and upgrade and add many additional features to help keep you informed and engaged with us. The Parent Portal will continue to be your resource for grades, and Schoology for specific classroom resources and assignments.

Easily Activate Your Account Today!

1. On July 23, all parents/guardians will receive a welcome email from their child's school(s) inviting you to activate your account. When you receive this email, please follow the included instructions to set everything up the way you would like. If you don't receive this email, please update your contact information in the Parent Portal and contact your school front office to have them resend the invitation. You can also visit www.ParentSquare.com, or download the app, and register for an account using the primary email address listed in your Parent Portal account.

Note: The first time you log in, you will need to confirm your phone and/or email address, and if you have students at multiple schools, choose to Merge Accounts if you want to be able to view everything under one account.

2. Download the App to Receive Push Notifications (Optional)

Scan to Download
the App on the
Google Play Store



Scan to Download
the App on the
Apple App Store



3. **Set Your Notification Preferences**

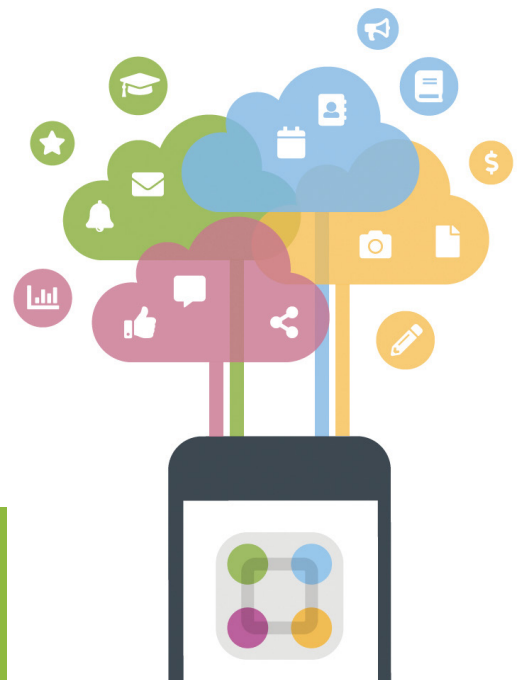
With ParentSquare you can set your preferences for how frequently, and where (email, text, app push notification) you receive notifications. You can choose once per day in a digest (combines all messages into one), instantly, or turn them off. Please note that due to the urgent nature of emergency alerts and notices, those will override your preferences.

How to Change Notification Preferences in the App

Click on the menu in the top left corner, select "Account" and then "Notifications". Use the arrow on the right side of the school name to open the options if it is collapsed. DO NOT turn off School Alerts, as this is how we will send some of our timely and critical alerts to you that you won't want to miss!

How to Change Notification Preferences on ParentSquare.com

In the top right corner, click on your name, select "My Account" in the dropdown. Then select "Notification Settings" in the list of links on the left side bar. DO NOT turn off School Alerts, as this is how we will send some of our timely and critical alerts to you that you won't want to miss!



What's New?



A news feed and calendar that combines all information relevant to you



Optional Mobile App with push notification option



Embedded forms, sign-ups, permission slips and more



Direct messaging between teachers and parents



A digest option to combine all daily notifications (excluding emergencies)



Receive messages and posts in your preferred language (133+ language options) - change your language preference in the Parent Portal



Ability to narrow the viewed information for a specific class or group



StudentSquare for 5-12 grade students to communicate with their teachers, coaches, etc.

PARENT TOOLS OVERVIEW

Dysart provides parents with several tools to help you stay informed about your student's academic progress and classroom assignments, communicate with us, and make purchases throughout the school year. We have eliminated the use of many third party apps to try to keep things a little more simple for you, as you have shared with us in your feedback. Keep this quick reference of our systems handy so you'll know where to go when you need something!

Update Your Contact Info and NEW Language Preferences!

To make sure that we can keep you informed in emergency situations, please ensure that your contact information (email, phone number) is current in the Parent Portal. You are also able to adjust your language preferences within the Parent Portal to ensure you are getting ParentSquare communications in the language you prefer. There are over 130 language options to choose from.





BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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 and 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. Only one application is required per family, and may be completed at SchoolCafe.com starting July 17, 2024. All families who are approved for reduced meals will continue to receive free meals through the 2024-2025 school year.

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.

Meal Prices	Regular Price	Reduced Price	Adult Price
Elementary Breakfast	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.00
Elementary Lunch	\$2.75	\$0.40	\$4.00
High School Breakfast	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.00
High School Lunch	\$3.00	\$0.40	\$4.00

Schools with FREE Breakfast and Lunch for All Students **NEW!**

Dysart Schools is applying for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which is funded by the Arizona Department of Education through the USDA. If approved, schools that qualify will be able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students on the campus, regardless of income. Dysart will notify families at schools that qualify and are approved for this program as soon as information is available.

GET INVOLVED IN DYSART SCHOOLS

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



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers help to enrich children's learning opportunities, provide individual attention to children who need one-on-one 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. Prior teaching experience is not necessary. Members of the community 18 years of age or older who want to make a difference in the lives of children and support educators are encouraged to apply. Volunteers are welcome in all of our schools.

► [Dysart.org/Volunteer](https://dysart.org/Volunteer)



DONATE THROUGH THE EDUCATION TAX CREDIT

Our community can support Dysart schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. Arizona Law 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. 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.

► [Dysart.org/TaxCredit](https://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.

► [Dysart.org/Committee](https://dysart.org/Committee)

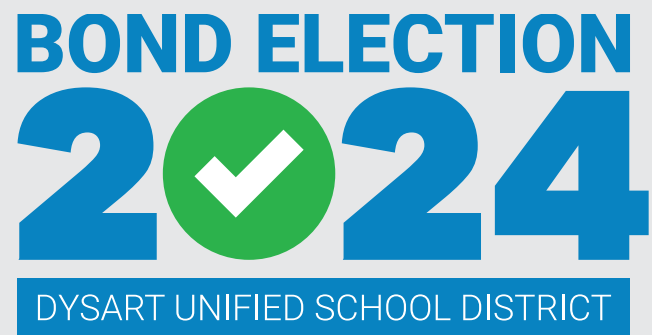


REGISTER TO VOTE

Make sure you're registered to vote by October 7, and return your mail-in ballot or vote in person on Tuesday, November 5. Visit servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration to register to vote. Dysart has a Bond election on the ballot in November.

► [Dysart.org/Bond2024](https://dysart.org/Bond2024)

The Dysart Unified School District Governing Board called for a November 5, 2024 bond election at the March 14, 2024 board meeting. The estimated bond program would be \$127 million to fund safety and security improvements, school bus replacements, land for a new high school in the Northwest Asante area, facility renovations at each site, and construction of a new elementary school in the Northwest Asante area.



BOND COMMITTEE

The Bond Committee was formed after a September 14, 2023, Governing Board directive to the Superintendent to create a committee to review the district's needs and determine whether a recommendation would be made to the Governing Board to call for an election. The committee consisted of 30 members who represented all schools, along with general community members. They began meeting in October 2023, and held six meetings in addition to a district facility tour. Meetings were open to the public and live streamed for the community, with agendas and meeting videos viewable. The vote for a bond election came after a unanimous community committee recommendation to the Governing Board.

WHAT IS A BOND

Bonds are similar to loans that are authorized by voters and funded through property taxes. They are used to purchase capital items and/or make capital improvements, such as buildings, furniture, equipment, technology, textbooks, and buses. The funding can only be used to fund projects that have a useful life longer than five years. Bond funding can NOT be used for day-to-day operating expenses like salaries, utilities, and supplies. Bonds are repaid over a set period of time, similar to a mortgage.

DYSART BOND HISTORY

The Dysart Unified School District had a bond question on the 2006 ballot that was approved by voters. The bond was approved for up to \$192 million, however, the district only ended up selling bonds for \$122 million. Bonds are typically sold and then paid back over a range of time from 1 to 20-years. Dysart consistently monitors for and seeks opportunities to refinance and repay bonds for the benefit of district taxpayers. In the last 10 years, over \$20 million in interest cost savings was created for taxpayers through the refinancing of three prior bond issues with average rates ranging from 4.0% to 5.8% to new rates ranging from 1.6% to 2.8%. In this situation, the district does not get to spend more money or use the savings in other areas, instead, this savings solely benefits taxpayers by lowering the bond tax rate. It does not lengthen the payback period, which goes through 2028.

HOW DYSART HAS FUNDED PROJECTS SINCE PREVIOUS BOND

In Dysart we believe it is our duty to maintain our taxpayer-funded facilities to the best of our ability, and we work very hard to maintain all of our facilities and keep them in good repair utilizing some of our annual funding from the state. For needs beyond those funds, districts must work with the Arizona School Facilities Division (SFD), which gets their funding from the Arizona State general fund appropriations. For school districts that do not have bond funds, this funding is essential, as there would be no other way to fund many of these projects through the regular budget. The SFD has minimum adequacy guidelines that all school districts adhere to for their facilities. Whenever our facilities have a need, our maintenance department works with our SFD liaison to assess and determine if it meets the requirements to be repaired or replaced through their funding. Dysart has worked with the Arizona School Facilities Division closely, and was approved for various facility maintenance and mechanical repairs and replacement projects totaling \$27.9 million over the past two years.

It is also important to note that while the SFD has a legal obligation to pay for the construction of schools, they require a school district, with all schools combined, to exceed the design capacity district-wide by 20% within three years of the current year, for the entire elementary or high school grade range. It does not take into account the varied population density across the district or new home building projects that would impact capacity.

PROPOSED 2024 BOND AREAS OF NEED

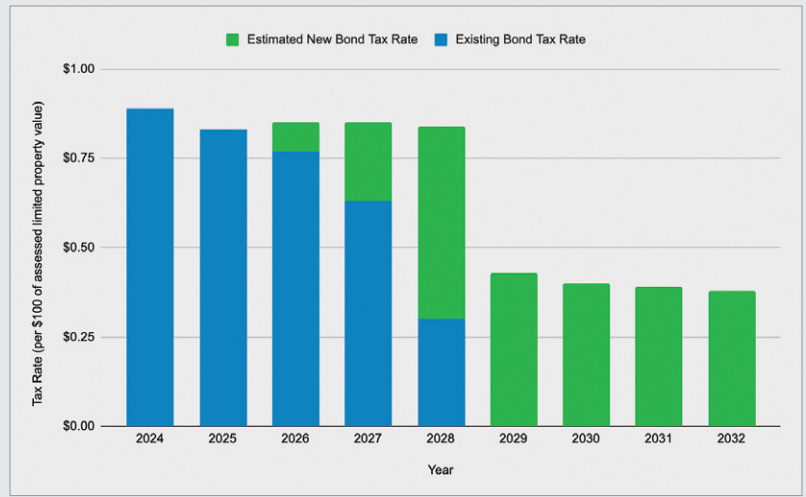
The community committee evaluated the district's needs and identified the following areas that bond funding would support, if approved.

- ▶ [School safety improvements, including lockdown systems](#)
- ▶ [Secure points of entry for safety, including gates, fencing and key card access](#)
- ▶ [Replace aging air conditioning systems](#)
- ▶ [Roof sealing and repairs](#)
- ▶ [Replacing school buses over 15 years old](#)
- ▶ [Construction of a new elementary school in the Northwest Asante area](#)
- ▶ [Land for a new high school in the Northwest Asante area](#)

TAX RATE PHASE-IN PLAN

The Dysart community is scheduled to pay off the voter-approved 2006 bond in fiscal year 2028. If approved, the proposed 2024 bond would phase in over three years, so there is no expected tax rate increase associated with the proposed bond. After the 2006 bond is phased out, it is estimated that the community would actually see a decrease in their tax rate. The decrease will occur because the new bonds issued are for less than the bonds issued in 2006 and the population has increased dramatically since then, resulting in an increased number of taxable properties.

Note: Tax rates are an estimate and are influenced by a variety of factors including Maricopa County assessed valuation fluctuations.



HOW THE PROPOSED BOND IS ESTIMATED TO IMPACT YOUR TAXES

\$6.26

Per Month

\$75.13

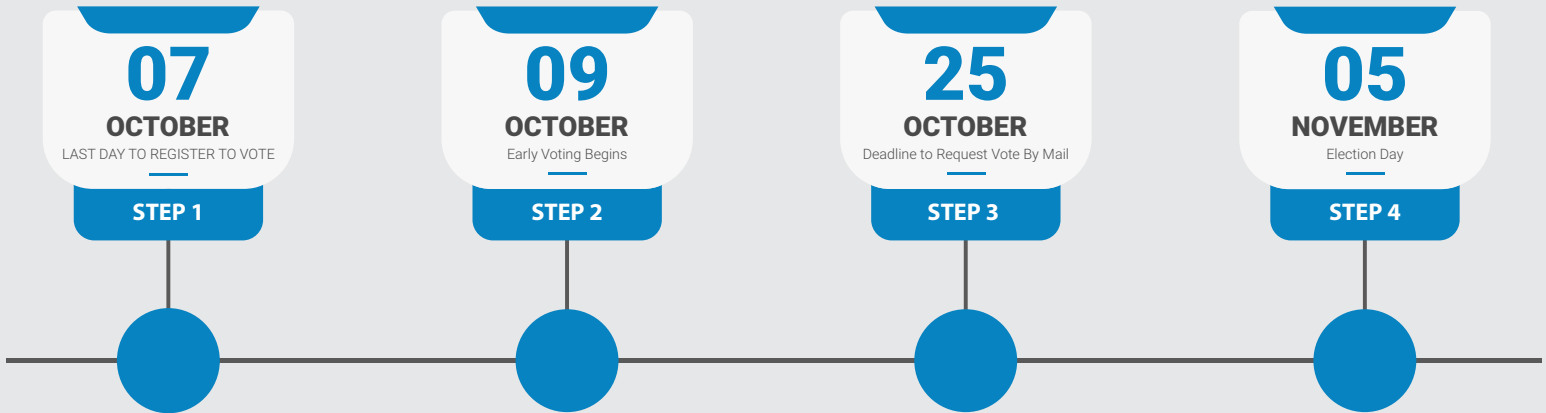
Per Year

\$197,333

Average Assessed Home Value

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

The following are some important dates to remember this election year. To register to vote visit servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration and for polling locations visit elections.maricopa.gov.



DISTRICT BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Dysart Unified School District created a video to provide the community with an overview of how the district receives and spends money. Scan the QR Code (right) to watch the video. For more detailed information on budgets and annual financial reports, please visit the websites below. Dysart Schools prides itself on financial transparency. We have received the ASBO International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting 28 years in a row and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association 19 years in a row.



DYSART.ORG/BUDGET

DYSART.ORG/BOND2024

DYSART.ORG/BONDCOMMITTEE

ARE YOU READY

FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

TO DO LIST

- ✓ Complete student enrollment application(s) - Still need to enroll? Visit Dysart.org/Enroll
- ✓ Put important dates on your calendar
- ✓ Create a Parent Portal account to check grades, attendance, and update your contact info (See page 9)
- ✓ Verify/update your contact information and language preferences for communication in the Parent Portal
- ✓ Create a ParentSquare account and set your notification preferences for when and how you would like to receive school and teacher communications (See page 8)
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with Schoology so you can see class assignments
- ✓ Add important school numbers to your phone (main line, attendance line, etc.)
- ✓ Apply for Free/Reduced meals or (See page 10)
- ✓ Add meal funds for your student account(s) on SchoolCafe.com
- ✓ Sign up for before/after school care, if needed
- ✓ Walk through a daily plan with your child - schedule, transportation, etc.
- ✓ Prep backpack(s) and needed school supplies
- ✓ Review school safety information with your child(ren) (See page 5)
- ✓ Attend Open House / Meet the Teacher



HOW TO STAY INFORMED

- ✓ Ensure you can log into Parent Portal as official grades are located there.
- ✓ Ensure you can log on to Schoology as students' assignments are located here.
- ✓ Check ParentSquare regularly, and make sure your notification preferences are selected.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the district and school website and parent page - Dysart.org
- ✓ Follow the district (@DysartUSD) and schools on social media for news and event info - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn (school info is on page 6-7)
- ✓ Review Peachjar emails for opportunities and notices throughout the year (you can adjust your preferences for how frequently you receive these)
- ✓ Check out the website calendar at Dysart.org for district events
- ✓ Watch or attend Governing Board meetings - Visit Dysart.org/GoverningBoard for details

AUGUST 2024						
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 2024						
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					

OCTOBER 2024						
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		

NOVEMBER 2024						
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

DECEMBER 2024						
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 Day for Students - Aug. 1

Labor Day - Sept. 2

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct.10-11

(½ days for K-8)

Fall Break - Oct. 14-18

Veterans Day (Observed) - Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Recess - Nov. 25-29

High School/Middle School Final Exams

Dec.19-20

(½ days for high school/middle school)

Early Release - Dec. 20 (½ days K-8)

Winter Break - Dec 23 - Jan 6

School Resumes - Jan. 7

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Jan. 20

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Feb. 6-7

(½ days for K-8)

Presidents Day - Feb.17

Spring Break - March 17 - 21

Spring Holiday - April 18

Graduation Day - May 14 (½ day for HS)

High School/Middle School Final Exams

May 21-22

(½ days for high school)

Last Day for Students - May 22 (½ day for K-8)

K-8 Quarter End/Days

October 4- 46 Days

December 20- 44 Days

March 14- 47 Days

May 22- 43 Days

High School Semesters End/Days

December 20- 90 Days

May 22- 90 Days

Students are dismissed early every Monday beginning Aug 5 to provide time for teacher professional development.

JANUARY 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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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"A" RATED DYSART SCHOOLS EXCELLING

We did it again! "A" rated Dysart Schools has the Top 3 K-8 schools in Surprise again, each ranking in the Top 80 statewide, including #6 Freedom Traditional Academy. No other K-8 schools in Surprise (including charters) scored in the top 100. An impressive 92% of Dysart schools have an "A" or "B" rating! Overall, Dysart has 18 "A" rated schools, many of which out-rank our local counterparts, and all four high schools are in the Top 70 in Arizona, including #22 ranked Shadow Ridge High School.

Dysart schools that received an A-rating include Asante, Canyon Ridge, Cimarron Springs, Dysart High, Freedom Traditional, Kingswood, Luke, Marley Park, Mountain View, Rancho Gabriela, Shadow Ridge, Sonoran Heights, Sunset Hills, Surprise, Valley Vista, Western Peaks, West Point, and Willow Canyon.

We're excited to serve your child for the 2024-2025 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.



JOIN OUR DYSART TEAM TODAY!

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!

High Need Areas Include:

- ▶ Bus Drivers and Aides
- ▶ Childcare and Preschool Aides
- ▶ Paraprofessionals
- ▶ Behavioral Technicians
- ▶ Special Education Teachers
- ▶ Math Teachers
- ▶ Science Teachers
- ▶ Health Services Assistants
- ▶ Crossing Guards
- ▶ Maintenance Workers and Plant Managers

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