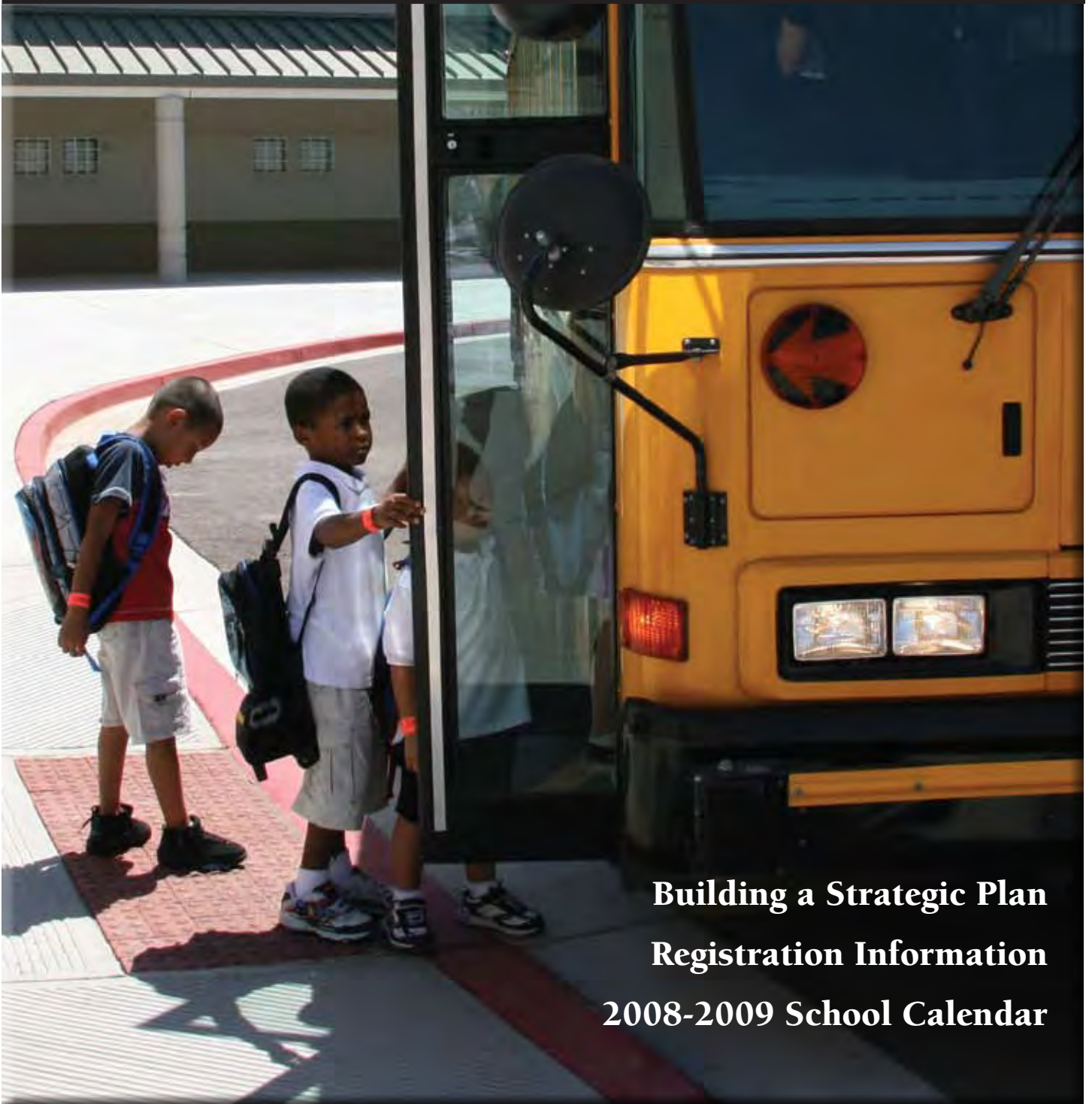


Achiever

DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 89



**Building a Strategic Plan
Registration Information
2008-2009 School Calendar**

Letter from the Superintendent



Building A Strategic Plan Through Community Involvement

Throughout this school year, the Dysart School District has worked to reach out to the entire Dysart community to receive feedback and data regarding our strategic planning process and the future direction of the district. Recently, we were excited to receive data that was collected from all of our stakeholders through focus group meetings as well as from electronic survey data collected this spring. The District is now one step closer to developing our district strategic plan.

The first step of strategic planning included working with Progress Education, an independent educational consulting firm, to compile an in-depth review of the data collected. The information from the data review allows us to analyze district gaps that we need to address and strengths upon which to build. Stakeholder and focus group meetings were held with eight different constituent groups ranging from teachers to administrators, students to civic leaders, and parents to retired citizens. Additionally, through the electronic survey process, the district received information from 4,074 stakeholders, who completed the electronic survey.

Progress Education's initial review of the data indicates that Dysart stakeholders recognize the positive steps the district has made to improve curriculum and support investing in faculty development and promoting high standards. The information collected also indicates that stakeholders value data-driven decision making and the utilization of multiple assessments as measures of student performance. This is exciting news for the district since the district's academic efforts have resulted in an increase in our student achievement data as evidenced through this year's Arizona Learns Achievement Profiles. Conversely, the report indicates that we should focus on improving meaningful parent involvement in our schools, building strong teacher morale and working together to establish a climate of trust among all stakeholders.

We are looking forward to utilizing the information to move into the next phase of our strategic planning process. Step two of our process includes putting together action teams that represent all members of the Dysart community. This plan will begin to plot the future course that will benefit our students and help them to be successful within their journey into the 21st century.

I look forward to working together with our entire school community to continue increasing academic rigor and building a culture of trust, collaboration, and effective communication. Together, we will create an environment where students are prepared for success both during their school years and their endeavors in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Pletnick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.
Superintendent

**School starts Aug. 11. Summer office hours for all schools are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The Dysart Education Center's lobby hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
with individual district office departments open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

High School Registration Begins



Dysart High School

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

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

A special afternoon registration session, open to all students, will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 1:30 until 4:00 p.m. Siblings registering for Dysart High School are welcome to come on the same day.

Fees are due at registration, payable by cash or check. Credit and debit cards are not accepted. For questions regarding registration, please call the school at (623) 876 -7500. For additional information about Dysart High School, please visit www.dysart.org/dysarthigh.



Valley Vista High School

Mark

your calendars. Valley Vista

will hold walk-through registration for the 2008-2009 school year the week of July 28. Registration packets will be mailed by mid-July, and will contain all necessary information about the registration process. The packet will include assigned registration dates and times, along with important paperwork students and parents are required to complete on an annual basis. When the packet is received, please take a moment to review all included materials. During registration students will be able to take identification card pictures, pay class fees, obtain physical education uniforms and buy spirit shirt.

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

Willow Canyon High School



Willow Canyon High School will hold registration July 23 through 29 from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Student registration materials will be sent via U.S. mail during the week of June 9.

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

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

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

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

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

Please note, this year we are implementing a new mail in registration process. More information can be found on the school's website.



K-8 Registration Information

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

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

- Children must be five years old prior to Sept. 1 to enroll in kindergarten.
- A parent or guardian must be present to enroll a child.
- The registration packet must be completed and submitted. Please double-check that all forms have been completely filled out and signed in all appropriate places.

Documents required for registration are:

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

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

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

If your child has significant health concerns and you need to check in medications, you may need to complete additional paperwork. The school nurse can assist you with any questions or concerns on this topic.

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

Dysart

Unified School District

Dysart Unified School District No.89

2008-2009 CALENDAR

JULY '08						
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		

AUGUST '08						
15 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

OCTOBER '08						
21/57 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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NOVEMBER '08						
17/74 of 180						
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DECEMBER '08						
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JANUARY '09						
19/108 of 180						
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FEBRUARY '09						
19/127 of 180						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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MARCH '09						
17/144 of 180						
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APRIL '09						
21/165 of 180						
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MAY '09						
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31						

JUNE '09						
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28	29	30				

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

 First and Last days of School Year
 No School

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

Governing Board Approved March 26, 2008



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

School	Normal Day		Monday Release	Early Release	Testing Days		
	Start	End			First Start	Second Start	
High Schools							
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	
K-8 Schools							
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 Dysart Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM			
6 El Mirage Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM			
7 Kingswood Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM			
8 Luke Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM			
9 Marley Park Elementary	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM			
10 Mountain View School	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM			
11 Parkview Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM			
12 Rancho Gabriela Elementary	8:15 AM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	12:15 PM			
13 School #19	9:00 AM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:00 PM			
14 *School #20	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			

* The start time for School No. 20 will be considered at the May 14, 2008 governing board meeting.

This publication went to print prior to the ammended times being brought before the board.

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

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

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

Child Find

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) requires that public school agencies ensure 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 – those who are homeless or wards of the state, are attending private schools, or 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 eligible children by helping children ages birth to 3 years develop to their full potential. In Arizona, early intervention services are provided through the Early Intervention Program (AzEIP).
- Preschool special education services for children ages 3 to 5 provide special strategies to help eligible children reach their developmental milestones.
- Special education services for school-aged children in kindergarten through age 21 provide specialized instruction and services to assist children in the educational environment.

For additional information about child find, please contact the following agencies:

Department of Economic Security Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)

(888) 352-4558

www.de.state.az.us/AzEIP

Dysart Unified School District

www.dysart.org

Special Education and Gifted Department

(623) 876-7022

Dysart Early Childhood Education Center

(623) 876-7350

Dysart Early Childhood Development Center

The Dysart Early Childhood Development Center provides all children with the opportunity to learn and socialize within a safe and caring environment that promotes high-quality, integrated, and developmentally-appropriate activities.

Parents are a key part of this program. Our preschool staff strives to create a sense of community by accepting and respecting the values, diversity and opinions of our children and parents.

All preschool programs are based on the inclusive model. Children of all abilities, cultures and preschool ages are placed in the same classroom. All classes will include developing preschoolers and those with special needs. The preschool philosophy at Dysart is, “We can all learn from one another.”

General student placement

Placement is based on program availability. Morning and afternoon placement will be determined by preschool staff based on the number of boys and girls, along with specific student needs. Classes are two-and-a-half hours per day, Tuesday through Friday, either in the morning or afternoon. Students must be four years old by October 31st of the current school year and live in the district. All typical students must be toilet trained, be able to follow teacher directions and be able to speak so they can be understood by adults and other children. Tuition fees may be waived for students whose families qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Disabled student placement

Students 3 to 5 years old who have developmental disabilities may qualify for the program through special education evaluations. There is no tuition charge for qualifying students; state special education funds cover the costs. To have a child over 2½ years screened for special needs, please call (623) 876-7350. If the child is younger than 2½ years, call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at (602) 532-9960.



In-House Transportation

A Success

Last spring, the district's governing board unanimously voted to end the use of a contracted service provider for student transportation, returning the management of this critical service to the district. This change was made possible by voters who approved a bond in 2006, allowing the district to purchase 60 percent of the bus fleet, which was previously being provided by the contractor. With buses costing \$120,000 and the district receiving no growth funding for buses, the passage of the bond was critical to making this change possible.

With the decision made, the district quickly began preparing for the transition. Dysart hired a transportation director and, with the help of the district's human resources department, more than 140 bus drivers.

Under the new director Bob Streeter's leadership, the school year started with the department fully staffed. After the first few days the success of the change was evident, things quickly settled down and the problems of the past were replaced by customer service and a focus on students.

In addition to hiring staff and purchasing buses, the district made a commitment to use technology to help run the fleet more efficiently. Global positioning systems were added to every bus to easily determine the location of a bus at anytime with the click of a mouse.

After all the planning, preparation and technology implementation, it has been Dysart's bus drivers who have made the transition so successful. Our drivers have repeatedly gone above and beyond expectations, showing their commitment to children each and every day.

With the end of school approaching, the Dysart's transportation department is hard at work planning for next year, focusing on ways to improve the experience of the over 9,000 students who ride to school every day and keeping the process efficient.





Guest Teachers Are Key Members Of The Dysart Team

National estimates from the Substitute Teaching Institute at Utah State University indicate that the typical student will spend more than one year's worth of time between kindergarten and 12th grade being taught by a substitute teacher. The same organization estimates that there are approximately 280,000 substitute teachers in the classroom daily across the nation.

At Dysart Unified School District, one of the ways we have chosen to show the importance of these dedicated individuals is to call them "guest teachers" – you won't find any "subs" warming a seat in our classrooms. Each of these Department of Education-certified individuals is a professional that plays a key role in the education of our students. Gone are the days when a substitute came, took roll and showed a film to occupy time. Today's guest teacher comes prepared to assume the role of the regular classroom teacher and make the most of their time with the students. Many of our guest teachers are retired educators that are taking the opportunity to spend some quality time in the classroom, while continuing on with life.

Certification requirements for a State of Arizona Substitute Certificate are a bachelor's degree and a valid current Arizona fingerprint clearance card, making it easy for a wide range of community members to contribute to the education process by becoming a Dysart guest teacher.

Once applicants are selected and background checks are completed, guest teachers attend a regularly scheduled orientation. Here they get valuable district information, basic skills and tips to help them in the classroom. A question and answer period highlights the orientation. During this time, school principals address "What do I do if...?" questions ranging as well as questions on general policies and procedures.

Once in the spring and again in the fall, guest teachers have the opportunity to attend a guest teacher academy. This three-session training workshop, spread over three weeks, provides advanced-classroom management skills and education strategies to better serve our guest teachers. Guest teachers who participate in this advanced level of training receive a higher level of compensation upon completion of the course.

Using advanced technology, the Guest Teacher is able to log in daily and select assignments that meet their skills, interests, and schedules. Guest Teachers fill in for the teacher that needs to be out of the class; they accept assignments for teachers participating in training conferences and workshops allowing them to enhance their skill and expertise for our students. Guest Teachers also accept long-term assignments for extended absences and fill vacant positions while the search for a regular classroom teacher continues.

Guest teachers play a vital part in the life of the Dysart Unified School District. Many connect with individual schools and serve as volunteers when they are not on assignment. Guest teachers often become active advocates for our students and their future.

For further information on becoming a Dysart guest teacher, please contact the district's human resources department at (623) 523-7912, or visit www.dysart.org/jobs. Additional information on Arizona certification can be found on the Arizona Department of Education website at www.ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/TeachingCerts/.

Notable Achievements In Our Schools

Dysart High School

- College Board Inspiration Award national semifinalist
- Career and Technical Education counselor of the year
- Two Arizona Career and Technical Education fellows

Valley Vista High School

- 91 percent of juniors completed AIMS reading and writing
- CIP goals met
- Added sports, academic and extracurricular activities

Willow Canyon High School

- 100 percent attendance for AIMS reading and writing
- Exceeded CIP goals
- Two diversity camps

Ashton Ranch Elementary School

- Increased parent teacher association involvement
- District sports champions
- Significant growth in Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)

Canyon Ridge School

- NASA high altitude weather balloon project
- Parent teacher organization SMART Board project
- \$3,482.76 donated to Pennies for Peace

Cimarron Springs Elementary School

- Kids at Hope assemblies
- \$1,200 raised through Box Tops for Education
- Fourth annual leadership retreat

Countryside Elementary School

- Donated 900 pounds of food to the food bank
- Leo Club community service
- 12 National Junior Honor Society inductees

Dysart Elementary School

- Character Counts
- Friends of Surprise Library grant
- Made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

El Mirage Elementary School

- Saturday School
- Strong community partnerships
- Friends of Surprise Library grant

Kingswood Elementary School

- Positive Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) results
- Safe, positive and respectful environment
- Successful character program

Luke Elementary School

- Awesome Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) scores
- Sun City West donates dictionaries
- Breaking the Chain writing contest winner

Marley Park Elementary School

- Highly Performing
- Established E3 teams at first and third grades
- Walk to Read program

Mountain View School

- Won DysartVision school video contest
- Unique field trips
 - City of Surprise arts and culture grant



Notable Achievements In Our Schools *(continued)*



Parkview Elementary School

- New mascot “Slithers”
- Peace Week
- Fast Club bridges reading gaps

Rancho Gabriela Elementary School

- Grade-level data goals
- Board-adopted texts and programs implemented
- College readiness focus

Sonoran Heights Elementary School

- Highly Performing
- District baseball champions
- Reigning Valley Central Arizona Shelter Services donation champions

Sunset Hills Elementary School

- Highly Performing
- Striving to increase rigor, relevance, relationships and reflection
- Character Counts

Surprise Elementary School

- Celebrated world cultures
- District boys soccer champions
- Office Max teacher recognition

Thompson Ranch Elementary School

- National Junior Honor Society
- Science fair
- Reading buddies across grade levels

Western Peaks Elementary School

- Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science Outstanding Teacher
- Gary Dickinson Award for Teaching Excellence winner
- A World in Motion program

West Point Elementary School

- Invention convention
- Literacy award winner
- District spelling bee fourth place winner

Sundown Mountain Alternative Education Program

- Offered new clubs and classes
- Russian guests visited
- Arizona Town Hall participants

Dysart Early Childhood Education Center

- National Association of Child Care Professionals accreditation
- In-classroom cooperative therapies model
- Strong enrollment



**School starts
August 11
for all students!**

Dysart
Unified School District
15802 North Parkview Place
Surprise, Arizona 85374

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Sun City, Arizona
Permit No. 145

***** ECRWSS **

Postal Customer