

DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

SPECIAL REPORT

TO THE COMMUNITY
SHOWING A RETURN
ON YOUR INVESTMENT
2020-2021

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear DVUSD Community Member,

This year has been unprecedented in so many ways. However, our commitment to continue providing an extraordinary educational experience for our students has remained unwavering.

As a District, we desire to remain transparent with our community. This award-winning publication serves to offer that transparency by showing you how funds are used within our District.

For more detailed information on any aspect of our District's finances, please visit www.dvUSD.org/budget411 or contact Jim Migliorino, Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal Services at (623) 445-4958 or jim.migliorino@dvUSD.org.



Curtis Finch, PhD
Superintendent
Twitter: @DrFinchDVUSD



DVUSD OPENS **FIRST** SPANISH IMMERSION SCHOOL



Deer Valley Unified School District opened its thirty-ninth school — **Union Park School** — in August in the new Union Park neighborhood near Happy Valley Road and 19th Avenue.

To provide the most innovative learning experiences:

- Each classroom is equipped with an **86-inch interactive smart TV, LED lighting and flexible furniture**
- Learning spaces throughout the campus also include: multiple shade canopies for **outdoor learning opportunities**
- **Specialty rooms** for art, science, band, music and a computer lab
- A 3,000-square-foot **media center** with large windows
- **Safety and security** throughout the 83,000-square-foot school that allows travel from one building to another within a contained area

The certified, highly-qualified staff at Union Park offer a rigorous academic curriculum which includes the first-in-the-district **Spanish Immersion Program** providing an extraordinary language and culture opportunity for students to gain advanced Spanish language proficiency.

"We are excited to offer a program that provides a strong foundation in Spanish, giving students increased opportunities as they continue their academic and professional careers." — **Tricia Graham, Union Park Principal**



NEW Traditional Academy



PG2 Free Books For Kids

PG2

INSIDE

New Modernized School: The Traditional Academy at Bellair

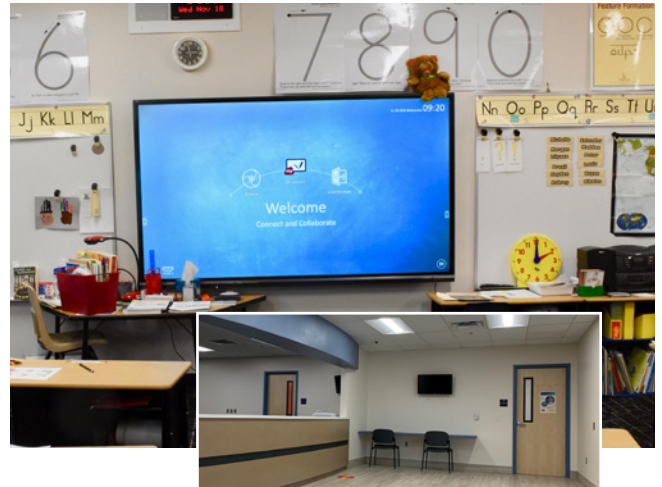
A new team of administrative staff and teachers at The Traditional Academy at Bellair opened the doors to a completely renovated campus this fall. Formerly, Bellair Elementary School, the campus reopened with a new name, look, and philosophy.

Renovations included:

- A new front facade with a **safe, welcoming environment**
- New carpet, tile, paint, and landscaping has **revitalized the campus**
- **Reconfiguration** of the administration building and all classrooms
- Installation of 86-inch interactive smart television for **innovative teaching and learning** in every classroom
- Complete **kitchen and cafeteria remodel** to provide fresh nutritious meals to students
- New student drop-off and pick-up lane at the back of the campus to **enhance safety**

“The modernization of the campus has provided a fresh start for The Traditional Academy at Bellair. We now have **state of the art technology and a beautifully updated environment** to showcase our back to basics philosophy.”

— Vivian Hunt, Principal of The Traditional Academy at Bellair



Improvements Made @ ALL DVUSD Schools

Thanks to voter approval of the 2013 Bond, Deer Valley is able to complete new projects at ALL DVUSD schools each year. **To see which projects took place at your school, visit www.dvUSD.org/budget411.**

Free Books for Kids!

The Deer Valley Unified School District invites your three to five-year-old child to join the Big Kid Book Club before enrolling in kindergarten!

Let us help your child cultivate a love for reading and provide them with the tools necessary to have an extraordinary educational experience. We will periodically send your child a free book in the mail along with helpful advice for parents of 3-5 year olds.

Sign up now to start receiving your free books today!

www.dvUSD.org/BookClub.



Kindergarten Corner

Begin Your Student's #Extraordinary Education at DVUSD

Join us for Kindergarten Preview Night:

Feb. 4, 2021 – 5 - 6:30 p.m.

This may be an in-person or virtual event.

- **Free, full-day** Kindergarten program offered at all K-6 and K-8 DVUSD schools
- 95% of our K-6/K-8 Schools are **A or B - rated**
- “**Specials**” classes **everyday** for kindergarten students (Art, Music, or P.E.)
- Students learn strong **academic, social, and emotional** skills
- **Before & After** School Care Program

Students should be five years old by Aug. 31, 2021. Early entry testing is available for children turning five between September 1 and December 31, 2021.

To learn more, visit www.dvUSD.org/Kinder where you can view updated event details and sign-up for alerts.



*Participants do not need to live within Deer Valley Unified School District boundaries

DVUSD BY THE NUMBERS:



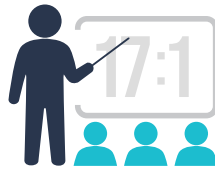
92%

A & B-Rated Schools



24

A-Rated Schools



17:1

Student to Teacher Ratio



9

Schools Collecting Energy with Solar Panels



1:1

DVUSD Student to Computer Ratio



9.8%

Operating budget spent on administration – more efficient than the state average and half as costly as the charter school average



85

Students Per Administrative Position



\$63,257,955

In Scholarship Offerings



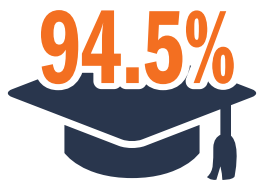
Mandarin Chinese Program at 4 Schools

The Mandarin immersion program provides opportunities for students to succeed in a global economy. The partial immersion program is offered at: **Desert Sage School** and **Gavilan Peak School** Specials offered at: **Diamond Canyon School** AP Classes offered at: **Boulder Creek High School** www.dvusd.org/mandarin



Spanish Immersion Program NOW at 1 School

The DVUSD Spanish Immersion program provides language and cultural opportunities through a fully-articulated Spanish language curriculum beginning in Kindergarten at **Union Park School** www.dvusd.org/unionpark



Graduation Rate



14

DVUSD 2020 Graduates receiving Associate Degree upon HS Graduation

126

DVUSD 2020 Graduates receiving the Seal of Biliteracy (literate in two languages)

Extraordinary Programs

CTE Signature Programs at all 5 High Schools

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs empower students to develop leadership, academic, and technical skills needed for career success. Signature Programs include:

- Architectural Drafting
 - Bioscience
 - Culinary Arts
 - Engineering
 - Hospitality
 - Interior Architectural Design
 - Law Enforcement
 - Nursing
 - ... And more!
- www.dvusd.org/cte



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CTE Program of the Year - Congratulations Barry Goldwater HS!

Barry Goldwater High School's Culinary Arts Program and its fine-dining restaurant, AVENUE 27 was recognized as **Arizona's Outstanding CTE Program of the Year for 2020.**



“This award is a testament to the amazing team we have here at BGHS Culinary Arts and we truly could not do it without all of the amazing people who work behind the scenes to make our program move. A huge thank you goes out to our community. Without our community we would not be able to do the amazing things that we are able to do day in and day out.”

— Chef Ryan Mattheis, BGHS Culinary Arts Teacher

COVID-19 has presented many challenges in Culinary, but AVENUE 27 is still up and running!

You can now enjoy the award-winning AVENUE 27 cuisine with limited take-out service. Visit www.dvUSD.org/Avenue27 and click on Take Out Thursdays for dates of operation.

RECIPE: AVENUE 27 SALSA

Ingredients:

- 6 Roma Tomatoes
- 1 Dried Ancho Chile
- 2-3 Chile de Arbol
- ½ Cup roughly chopped yellow onion
- ¼ Cup roughly chopped cilantro
- 2 Cloves garlic
- 1 Lime
- ½ tsp Cumin
- 1 Cup water
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Cut tops off the Ancho and Arbol chiles and remove as much of the seeds as possible.
2. In a dry skillet on medium heat, toast the ancho and Arbol chiles for approx. 30 seconds a side or until fragrant and slightly darkened.
3. Once chiles are toasted, transfer them to a bowl filled with hot water and let soak for 15 minutes or until softened.
4. Drain water and transfer to blender.
5. Quarter tomatoes and add to the blender, along with onion, garlic, cumin and half of the water.
6. Blend salsa until smooth, and then add in cilantro and juice from lime and blend for a few seconds more to incorporate. Thin with the additional water if needed.
7. Season with salt, pepper, and transfer into a storage container. Refrigerate for 1 hour or up to overnight before serving.

AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATION:

DVUSD Communications & Community Engagement staff honored with 2019 & 2020 ASPRA Awards of Excellence for previous editions of this publication.

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