



# SPECIAL 2022-2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Showing A Return On Your Investment

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear DVUSD Community Member,

Thank you for your support of Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) as an #extraordinary place to learn, work, and belong. This publication serves to provide our valued DVUSD community with a view of how our funding is allocated and spent across the District. We believe in fiscal transparency and responsible spending of the funds provided by our taxpayers.

This is more important than ever as DVUSD is at the forefront of explosive business growth and a housing boom in the North Valley. We continue to spearhead initiatives and projects that will help move our District forward during this exciting time.

Visit [dvusd.org/budget411](https://dvusd.org/budget411) for more details about our District's finances. You can also contact Jim Migliorino or Heather Mock in Fiscal Services at (623) 445-4958



Curtis Finch, PhD  
Superintendent

Twitter: [@DrFinchDVUSD](https://twitter.com/DrFinchDVUSD)

## IMPROVEMENTS MADE @ ALL DVUSD SCHOOLS FROM VOTER-APPROVED BONDS

To see the projects at each school, visit [www.dvusd.org/budget411](https://www.dvusd.org/budget411)

INSIDE: ■ #Extraordinary ■ Innovation ■ Winning



## DVUSD Opens New School

Deer Valley Unified School District's newest school Inspiration Mountain opened in August. A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in October at the school, located at 5757 Inspiration Mountain Parkway near 57th Avenue and Happy Valley Road.

The new school serves K-6 students, with the infrastructure in place to expand to a K-8 campus. Beginning in 23-24, 7th grade will be added, with an expansion of 8th grade the following year. Dr. Joann Schwarting, the 2021 DVUSD Principal of the Year, was chosen to serve as Inspiration Mountain's principal.



### This voter-approved, bond-funded project includes:

- Classroom buildings (45 total classrooms at full build-out)
- Multi-purpose building, which includes a gymnasium and cafeteria
- Baseball, Softball, and Soccer fields
- Playground with sunshades
- Additional features: media center and a dedicated maker space
- Site is 615,665 square feet or +/-14.13 acres
- More than 18,000 square feet of covered walkway
- 127 parking spaces
- Total construction investment \$21,235,000



## Innovation Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Aspire, Deer Valley's Online Academy staff and students cut the ribbon last May, officially opening DVUSD's Innovation Center.

This center, funded through a voter-approved bond, will serve as a hub for students and staff to come together to learn, grow, and collaborate in person. One of the visionaries on this project, DVUSD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gayle Galligan, remarked that the building had become severely underutilized after previously serving as both a warehouse and the home of DVUSD Food & Nutrition.

Aspire has grown since it was founded in 2007 to provide full-time classes for K-12 students and part-time high school advanced

placement courses, dual-enrollment, career and technical education internships, clubs, and eSports. It even provides guitar classes online!

Students in kindergarten through 6th grade participate in virtual, real-time, teacher-led instruction; 7th and 8th graders learn through a hybrid of teacher-led education and prepared resources; and 9th through 12th grade students learn through crafted resources, with open lab access to teachers during virtual and in-person office hours.

Learn more about Aspire, Deer Valley's Online Academy at [www.dvUSD.org/Aspire](http://www.dvUSD.org/Aspire)

## Free Books for Kids!

The Deer Valley Unified School District invites your 3 to 5-year-old child to join the **Big Kid Book Club** before enrolling in Kindergarten! Let us help your child cultivate a love for reading.

We will periodically send your child a free book in the mail along with helpful advice for parents of 3 to 5-year olds.

**Sign up now to start receiving your free books today!**

[www.DVUSD.org/BookClub](http://www.DVUSD.org/BookClub)



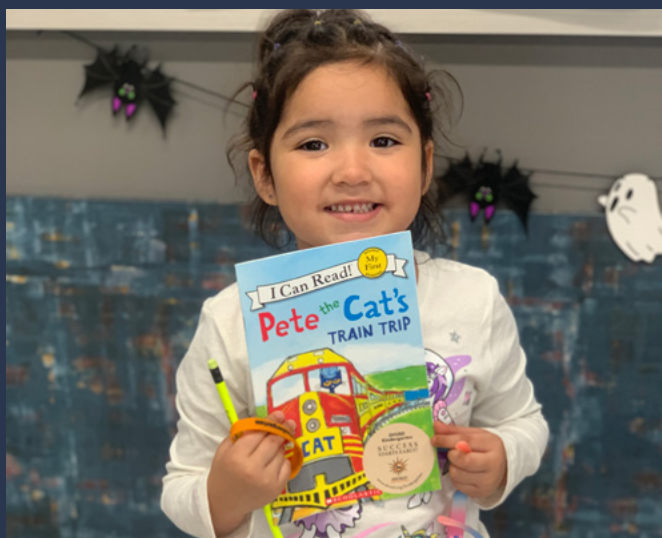
## DVUSD's Kindergarten is an #Extraordinary Place for your Child

Visit DVUSD Spring Kindergarten Preview Nights held at all of DVUSD's K-6 and K-8 schools March 1-2.

At the preview nights, meet DVUSD staff, tour classrooms, learn how to register your child for Kindergarten, and have your questions answered. For more information and a complete list of event dates and times, please visit: [www.dvUSD.org/kinderevents](http://www.dvUSD.org/kinderevents)

**DVUSD Kindergarten offers a variety of #extraordinary Learning opportunities.**

- Free, Full-Day Kindergarten Program, with specials classes (Art, Music, or P.E.) every day & more!
- Visit [www.dvUSD.org/kinder](http://www.dvUSD.org/kinder) to learn more about our #extraordinary Kindergarten Program.



## DVUSD By the Numbers:



**\$34,000 electricity cost savings** using LED field lights at all five DVUSD High Schools

**100% of schools received Energy Star Rated for Efficiency** (achieved through bond-funded projects, including HVAC replacements)

**16:1**

Student to Teacher Ratio



45 CTE (Career and Technical Education) State Champion Students

Homeowners in DVUSD boundaries will see a **reduction in total tax paid**, even with a **5.3% increased property valuation** in the district.



**\$461,614 REDUCTION** in water costs

(due to installation of artificial turf fields in our high school stadiums)

**92% A & B RATED SCHOOLS**

**9.6% SALARY INCREASE** on average for DVUSD teachers, and other professional staff during the 21-22 school year

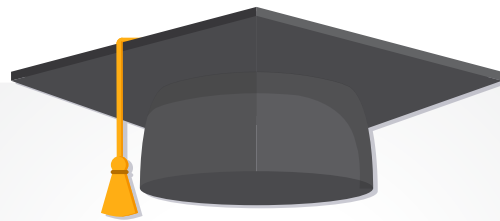
**6% SALARY INCREASE** on average for classified DVUSD staff



**36.9 MILLION PAGES**

of school curriculum printed through DVUSD Print Services

**AT NO COST TO OUR SCHOOLS**



- \$88,646,541 Total Scholarship Offers to DVUSD Seniors
- 112 Graduates Earned the Seal of Biliteracy (literate in two languages) in 2022
- 19 Graduates Earned Associates Degrees at High School Graduation in 2022



For more details about our District's finances, visit [www.dvUSD.org/budget411](http://www.dvUSD.org/budget411)



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## BGHS's Avenue 27 Culinary Students Win State and National Awards

During the 2021-2022 school year the Barry Goldwater High School (BGHS) Culinary team claimed the ProStart Competition State Championship title and went on to place 19th nationally at the National ProStart Invitational together. While competing individually, students earned first and second place at state competitions and ranked 6th and 12th nationally.

This program and the student-run Avenue 27 restaurant is largely made possible by community Bond dollars.

Bond Dollars have allowed DVUSD to build the facility that is home to Avenue 27, DVUSD's student-run restaurant. The restaurant creates a space where high school students are trained in all aspects of managing and running a restaurant all while gaining a true work-based learning experience in the restaurant.

These funds also support students in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Careers Through Culinary Arts (C-Cap) and ProStart competitions.

Barry Goldwater High School's Avenue 27 has churned out successful culinary professionals who have moved on to work in the kitchens of Casino Arizona, the Biltmore, DC Ranch, Fox Restaurant Concepts, and the Elements at Sanctuary on Camelback.

Avenue 27 is currently open to the public on select Fridays. For more information or to make reservations, visit [dvusd.org/avenue27](http://dvusd.org/avenue27) or email [avenue27@dvusd.org](mailto:avenue27@dvusd.org).

Receive an Arizona Tax Credit and help DVUSD Students. Details at [www.dvusd.org/TaxCredit](http://www.dvusd.org/TaxCredit)

## Molasses Cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup molasses

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. In a shallow bowl, place 1/2 cup sugar; set aside.
2. With an electric mixer, beat butter and remaining cup of sugar until combined. Beat in egg and then molasses until combined. Reduce speed to low; gradually mix in dry ingredients, just until a dough forms.
3. Pinch off and roll dough into balls, each equal to 1 tablespoon. Roll balls in reserved sugar to coat.
4. Arrange balls on baking sheets, about 3 inches apart. Bake, one sheet at a time, until edges of cookies are just firm, 10 to 15 minutes (cookies can be baked two sheets at a time, but they will not crackle uniformly). Cool 1 minute on baking sheets; transfer to racks to cool completely.



### AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION:



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Ann Elizabeth Ordway, Vice-President  
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Jennie Paperman, Member

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS BY DVUSD ALUM:

Design: James Dempsey [ [jdempsey.com](http://jdempsey.com) ]  
*Deer Valley High School, Class of 1988*  
Photos/Articles: Kayla Pologa  
*Deer Valley High School, Class of 2010*  
Articles: Lauren Kudray  
*Mountain Ridge High School, Class of 2017*