



Message from the Superintendent

Dear DVUSD Community Member,

Our Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) schools would not be what they are today without the continued support of our Deer Valley community! DVUSD had a banner year of success in 2023-24! Students, staff, our schools, and our programs brought in countless awards – review all of them in this year’s extraordinary achievements publication: dvusd.org/extraordinary.



Your continued support of DVUSD is more important than ever this school year as our governing board has called for a **Maintenance & Override Renewal** and a **\$325 million Bond on your ballots on November 5**. Two-thirds of the bond funds help with the maintenance of district schools and buildings including: roofing, carpeting, A/C units, fencing, constructing new buildings to meet the needs

of our growing school populations, and more. If passed, there will be **no increase to a taxpayer in our community**. The override is a continuation of the same initiative that has **been in place since 1991**. These initiatives help to provide our students with the very best education and opportunities within DVUSD.

The **quality of our schools also benefits our community** as schooling options are one of the most important factors when considering a home purchase. Strong schools **prepare future generations** to be community contributors and having a reputable public school near your home is proven to **boost the overall home value, reduce crime in the area, and strengthen community connection**.

Inside this year’s Special Report you will find highlights of what to expect to see if the bond passes, the bond funded **improvements** that were made district-wide, and highlights of **student and program successes!**

Thank you for supporting Deer Valley Unified School District as an **#extraordinary** place to learn, work, and belong.



Curtis Finch, PhD
Superintendent
X & Instagram: [@DrFinchDVUSD](https://www.instagram.com/DrFinchDVUSD)



Watch an informational video about the upcoming bond & override initiatives at dvusd.org/election

DVUSD Growth Projections

Just drive down any road within the DVUSD boundaries, then drive down that same road again a few weeks later, and you can see for yourself the **incredible growth in the area!** Our area will continue to grow, especially after **the recent announcement of funding for a third TSMC microchip plant** off 43rd Avenue and the 303. TSMC’s first chip plant is expected to open in 2025, the second in 2028, and the third by 2030.



Phoenix has always been a popular destination for new arrivals, but how big will the population boom in our area be over the next several years?

A study commissioned for DVUSD in 2022 by Applied Economics, LLC, shows our neighborhood will likely be very different by 2032:

Potential housing supply additions in the District are estimated at **over 14,000 units**. The amount of activity forecast in the 2-to-5-year period and beyond indicates a substantial escalation in expected production.

- Elementary attendance area enrollment during the first five-year period (2022-27) is forecast to **increase by four percent, or 700 students**, including the addition of 200 out-of-District students. The largest enrollment **increases are expected** in the **Union Park** (560 students), **Sonoran Foothills** (340 students) and **Esperanza** (300 students) attendance areas; five additional attendance areas are expected to increase enrollment by more than **12 percent** in the next five years (2022-2027).
- Significant growth in the **Barry Goldwater** attendance area is anticipated throughout the projection period, resulting in the addition of nearly **1,500 students** (a 62 percent increase) by 2031-32; in addition, more than 200 out-of-District students are expected to be added over the next 10 years.
- Depending on market conditions, total enrollment for DVUSD is forecast to bring in anywhere from **35,500 students to 38,000 students** by the 2031-32 school year.





What Will The DVUSD Bond Fund?

- Safety & Security
- Building Improvements
- New Technology
- Updated Curriculum
- Classroom Materials



Get the facts at [DVUSD.org/bond](https://www.dvUSD.org/bond)

What Will The DVUSD M&O Override Fund?

- FREE Full-Day Kindergarten Program
- Athletic Programs
- Arts Programs
- Student & Family Needs
- 8% of All Employee Salaries



Get the facts at [DVUSD.org/override](https://www.dvUSD.org/override)

Your Bond Dollars at Work

See what bond-funded projects have been completed at your school at [dvUSD.org/election](https://www.dvUSD.org/election)

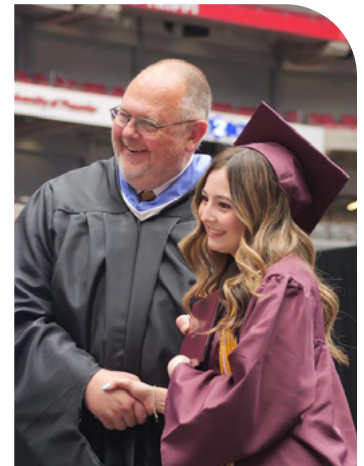
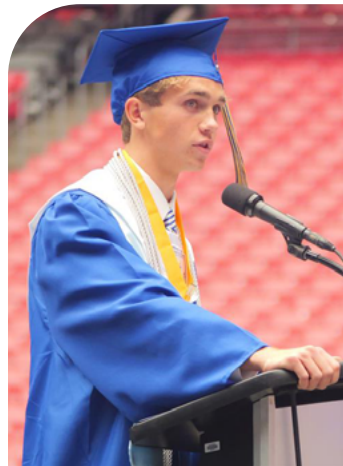
Big Kid Book Club

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-old children. Sign up now to start receiving your free books today www.dvUSD.org/bookclub



The DVUSD Difference

- DVUSD spent **72.4%** of its FY23 budget on **classroom spending**, a category of spending that includes instruction, student support, and instructor support. This is comparable to similar “very large” unified school districts in Arizona, and is a 1.6% year-over-year increase from FY22.
- DVUSD has **23 schools** that have earned the coveted “**A+ School of Excellence**” designation by the **Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF)**, including three of the AEF’s 37 awards in 2024.
- DVUSD’s **4-year graduation rate** ending in June 2024 was **94.6%**—17.1 percentage points higher than the state average.
- DVUSD’s **percentage of students that passed state assessments** in FY 2023 exceeds the state average by 17 points in **math**, 16 points in **English Language Arts (ELA)**, and 20 points in **science**.



“Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world.”

Learning goes beyond the classroom, and learning is not just confined to childhood. A DVUSD education sparks a desire to learn, ask questions, work with others, and understand a changing world our graduates are entering.





“Our mission is to provide extraordinary educational opportunities to every learner.”

Regardless of your child’s special needs, your family’s backstory, or how much your annual household income is, your child is welcome to a DVUSD school. **While some schools cherry-pick who they feel are the best students, all** are welcome to the extraordinary educational opportunities at a DVUSD school.

If your child attends a DVUSD school, DVUSD will *never* ask for cash payments of thousands of dollars per year as a condition of your child’s enrollment. DVUSD is here to benefit the student and the community, not the wealth of a corporation’s founder or franchisee.



Why Register your student in a DVUSD Kindergarten Program?

- **FREE FULL-DAY** Program in a safe and secure learning environment
- Special classes offered every day, including: **Art, Physical Education, and Music**
- Before and After School Care Programs
- Last year, over **94.6%** of our students graduated with more than **\$74.6 million** in scholarships
- 85% of our DVUSD Schools are **A or B rated**
- All teachers are **HIGHLY qualified** and properly **certified**

Visit www.dvUSD.org/kinder to learn more about our #extraordinary Kindergarten Programs.

The DVUSD Difference At A Glance



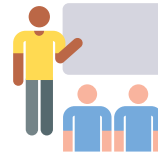
1:1 Computer ratio from Kindergarten through High School



85 Percent of our schools are A or B Rated



2,025 Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes



213 #Extraordinary online classes



16.4:1 Student to teacher ratio



94.6 Percent graduation rate

AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION:



DVUSD GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

Ann Elizabeth Ordway, President
Paul Carver, Jr., Vice President
Kimberly K. Fisher, Member
Jennie Paperman, Member
Stephanie Simacek, Member

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS BY DVUSD ALUM:

Design: **James Dempsey** [jamesdempseydesign.com]
Deer Valley High School, Class of 1988

Photos/Articles: **Kayla Pologa**
Deer Valley High School, Class of 2010

Articles: **Michelle VanValer**
Barry Goldwater High School, Class of 1997

Photos/Articles: **Matthew Sammon**
Parent of Barry Goldwater High School and Union Park School students



Deer Valley Unified School District No. 97
20402 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027-3636

WEB DVUSD.org

f facebook.com/DVUSD

x x.com/DVUSD

@DVUSD



DVUSD Athletes Earn History-Making State Championship Titles

Many DVUSD teams and athletes achieved the highest level of success during the 2023-24 sports season! During the inaugural season of Girls Flag Football, Mountain Ridge High School earned a 6A State Championship runner-up title. The Sandra Day O'Connor Girls and Deer Valley Boys respectively won their schools first-ever basketball state championships. A track athlete representing Barry Goldwater High School, and the Sandra Day O'Connor Girls Beach Volleyball team continued their domination bringing home three-peat state titles.

- 6A Girls Flag Football **State Champion Runner-Up**, Mountain Ridge High School
- 6A Girls Volleyball **State Champion**, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- 6A Girls Basketball **State Champion**, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- 6A Boys Basketball **State Champion Runner-Up**, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- 6A Girls Tennis **State Champion**, Japneet Kaur, and **Runner-Up**, Michelle Bullock, Boulder Creek High School
- 6A Girls Beach Volleyball **State Champion**, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- 6A Boys Baseball, **State Champion Runner-Up**, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- 4A Boys Basketball **State Champion**, Deer Valley High School
- Track 400 meter **Super State** and **4A State Champion**, Josiah Anderson, Barry Goldwater High School

Barry
Goldwater
High School's
Avenue 27
Culinary Arts
Program



Spinach Stuffed Shells

INGREDIENTS

- ½ package jumbo pasta shells or cannelloni pasta
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 Tablespoon salt
- ½ cup parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 Tablespoon oil
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups fresh spinach
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 ¼ cup marinara sauce
- 1 ½ cup ricotta cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Fill pot of water halfway and add salt. Bring to a boil.
3. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain in a colander.
4. In a non-stick pan heat oil on medium heat, add garlic and spinach. Cook for 3-4 minutes. Spinach should be bright green and wilted.
5. In a large bowl, mix egg, ricotta, half the mozzarella, half the parmesan, add cooked spinach, parsley, salt and pepper until well combined. Use a spoon to stuff cooked shells/cannelloni pasta with ricotta-spinach mixture.
6. Pour ¼ cup marinara sauce into baking pan to coat just the bottom. Add stuffed shells/pasta. Pour remaining marinara sauce on top of stuffed shells/cannelloni and top with remaining mozzarella and parmesan cheeses.
7. Bake in preheated oven 20 minutes, until edges are bubbly and shells are slightly set.

Receive an Arizona Tax Credit and help DVUSD Students. Details at www.dvUSD.org/TaxCredit