

## Another Banner Year

The Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) continues to make a difference in the lives of 34,000 students every day. The accolades keep rolling in this time of year and it's not much different than last year. We added several more Nationally Board Certified Teachers and are diligently working on breaking last year's district record of 70 team and individual student State Titles in academics, fine arts and athletics. We added three more A-Plus School of Excellence awards this year, pushing our district over the 50% mark of all DVUSD schools receiving this award – real teachers, real diplomas, real results.

There were several **firsts** in the history of DVSUD this past year: 1) all five high schools had their marching bands make it to the finals with two winning State Titles in two of the four divisions – Barry Goldwater and Mountain Ridge; 2) DVUSD won the Arizona “Forbes Best Midsize Employer” for the fifth year in a row; 3) O'Connor Beach Volleyball won their fourth State Title in a row; 4) all five high school boys volleyball teams made the playoffs; 5) DVUSD became an A rated school district under the new system with a record 27 A schools and 35 of the 42 either A or B rated; and 6) all five high schools received an A rating. To read about many more of the #extraordinary awards DVUSD students and staff received this past year, go to [www.dvusd.org/extraordinary](http://www.dvusd.org/extraordinary).

Another first was cutting \$11 million from the budget because of the loss of our Override election that had been in place for over 30 years. The Override supported 8% of staff salaries, so there will be a salary freeze for DVUSD employees this year. It also supported fine arts, instructional materials, free all-day kindergarten, class-size reduction, etc., so fees will begin to rise, classes combined, programs with lower enrollment will begin phasing out, etc. The deep cuts will continue for the next two years with \$11 million more reduction each year if the new Override measure is not passed this next November. Research says good public schools do three things for communities: 1) lower crime rates; 2) higher property values; and 3) training for future employers.

DVUSD continues to enroll hundreds of students outside our district. If you are interested in Open Enrollment, go to [www.dvusd.org/openenrollment](http://www.dvusd.org/openenrollment). New students who want to enroll can go to [www.dvusd.org/register](http://www.dvusd.org/register). If you want to “enter early” for kindergarten because of academic acceleration, go to [www.dvusd.org/earlyentry](http://www.dvusd.org/earlyentry) for the testing windows.

One variable that has remained a constant in DVSUD is the pursuit of excellence for all students. Recognition by local, state, and national organizations are just reminders of our desire to improve every year. We enjoy awards, but they are not what fuels us to reach our goals. Helping our students achieve their potential is the most important thing we do. To learn more about “The DVUSD Difference” go to [www.dvusd.org/difference](http://www.dvusd.org/difference).

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