

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Duarte Unified School District



Volume 1, Issue 1

October / November 2019

DUSD Pioneers 4-Year Degree-Bearing Early College Pathway DUSD es pionero del camino universitario temprano de 4 años



Students in the trailblazing Early College pathway offered only at Duarte High School.

Los estudiantes en el camino pionero de Early College se ofrecen solo en Duarte High School.

(please see page 5)

SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year!

Our focus for this year will continue to be shaped by our commitment to the reform efforts as outlined in our Competitive Advantage Plan (CAP). We will also take the opportunity to look at new strategic actions to further support the work we do for our scholars and community. We should take pride in our accomplishments but also remain steadfast in our efforts to take DUSD to the next level of educational excellence.

Successes we should take great pride in fulfilling already are:

- Partnering with DUEA and CSEA to develop a balanced general fund budget
- Debating the new Culinary Arts Complex at Duarte High School
- Expanding the Early College, 4-Year Degree-Bearing Program
- Completing the K-8 transition at the four academy sites
- Increasing academic achievement as measured by SBAC
- Earning a high ranking on the California Dashboard-College and Career Indicator for Duarte High School
- Establishing Duarte Unified as a Destination District as evidenced by the decrease in students requesting permits to exit
- Expanding Elective Offerings available for Grade 7-8 students at Duarte High School
- Increasing arts offerings in Music, Dance, and Visual Arts Instruction at all K-8 sites
- Continuing to grow our partnerships with CSArts, Citrus College, City of Hope and more

While maintaining the implementation of the initiatives already in place, this year we will continue to intensively focus on addressing the teaching and learning of our scholars. We also plan to build organizational capacity by enhancing staff support and development in the areas of professional learning communities and teamwork.

To achieve this mission, our students need your guidance, support, and care. My hope is through our ongoing commitment to the CAP, our community will continue to come together and support the renaissance taking place in DUSD as we rise as a destination district.



Dr. Gordon Amerson
Superintendent

¡Bienvenido al año escolar 2019-20!

Nuestro enfoque para este año continuará siendo moldeado por nuestro compromiso con los esfuerzos de reforma como se describe en nuestro Plan de Ventajas Competitivas (CAP). También aprovecharemos la oportunidad para observar nuevas acciones estratégicas para apoyar aún más el trabajo que hacemos para nuestros académicos y la comunidad. Deberíamos estar orgullosos de nuestros logros, pero también permanecer firmes en nuestros esfuerzos para llevar a DUSD al siguiente nivel de excelencia educativa.

Los éxitos de los que deberíamos estar orgullosos de cumplir son:

- Asociarse con DUEA y CSEA para desarrollar un presupuesto equilibrado de fondos generales
- Presentando el nuevo Complejo de Artes Culinarias en la preparatoria Duarte
- Ampliación de la universidad temprana, programa de orientación de 4 años
- Completar la transición de K-8 en las cuatro academias
- Aumento del rendimiento académico medido por SBAC
- Obteniendo una alta clasificación en el tablero de California – Indicador de universidad y carrera para la preparatoria Duarte
- Establecer el distrito de Duarte como Distrito de Destino como lo demuestra la disminución de estudiantes que solicitan permisos para salir
- La expansión de clases electivas disponibles para los estudiantes de grado 7-8 en la preparatoria Duarte
- Aumento de las ofertas de arte en Música, Danza e Instrucción de Artes Visuales en todas las escuelas K-8
- Continuar creciendo nuestras alianzas con CSArts, Citrus College, City of Hope y más

Mientras mantenemos la implementación de las iniciativas ya implementadas, este año continuaremos enfocándonos intensamente en abordar la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de nuestros académicos. También planeamos desarrollar la capacidad organizacional al mejorar el apoyo y el desarrollo del personal en las áreas de comunidades de aprendizaje profesional y trabajo en equipo.

Para lograr esta misión, nuestros estudiantes necesitan su orientación, apoyo y atención. Mi esperanza es que a través de nuestro compromiso continuo con el CAP nuestra comunidad continuará uniéndose y apoyando el renacimiento que tiene lugar en DUSD a medida que crezcamos como un distrito de destino.

Please Drive Carefully — Children are Back in School!

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Message from Our Board President

I wish to thank the community of Duarte for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the Board of Education since I was first appointed as a governing member in 2013. As much as I have valued this opportunity, life has changed for me, so as of September 2019, I have made the bittersweet decision to resign from the Board to move to Oregon so that I may live with my wife.

I am grateful to have been part of the work my fellow trustees accomplished these past six years. Together with our teachers, classified employees, and support personnel, we have accomplished great things for our children. It has been inspiring to witness the commitment and participation of our parents and community during this period of rapid change in DUSD. Working together, our district will continue to nurture our movement to TK-8 theme-based academies, grow our partnership with California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley, and fortify our flagship Duarte High School as our district continues to rise as a destination for the region. I am confident the Board will remain committed to leading our district and the State of California in assuring that learning and achievement for each and every student is always our primary focus.

People of Duarte, stay engaged in our learning community and look for information from our district as to the process by which my vacant seat will be filled at the upcoming Board meetings. Bless you all and thank you for your support of each child entrusted to our care.



Rev. Douglas Edwards
President

Mensaje del presidente de la mesa directiva

Deseo agradecer a la comunidad de Duarte por la oportunidad de servir como su representante en la mesa directiva desde que fui nombrado miembro gobernante por primera vez en 2013. Por mucho que haya valorado esta oportunidad, la vida ha cambiado para mí, así que, tomé la agri dulce decisión de renunciar a la mesa directiva y mudarme a Oregón para poder vivir con mi esposa a partir de septiembre de 2019.

Estoy agradecido de haber sido parte del trabajo realizado por mis compañeros administradores durante los últimos seis años. Junto con nuestros maestros, empleados clasificados y personal de apoyo, hemos logrado grandes cosas para nuestros niños. Ha sido inspirador presenciar el apoyo y la participación de nuestros padres y la comunidad durante este período de cambio rápido en DUSD. Trabajando juntos, nuestro distrito continuará apoyando y fomentando nuestro movimiento hacia las academias temáticas TK-8, nuestra asociación con la Escuela de Artes de California del Valle de San Gabriel, y nuestra preparatoria Duarte mientras nuestro distrito continúa creciendo como destino para la región. Estoy seguro de que la mesa directiva seguirá comprometida a liderar a nuestro distrito y al Estado de California para garantizar que el aprendizaje y el rendimiento de todos y cada uno de los estudiantes sea siempre nuestro enfoque principal.

Gente de Duarte, manténganse comprometido con nuestra comunidad de aprendizaje y busquen información de nuestro distrito sobre el proceso mediante el cual se ocupará mi vacante en las próximas reuniones de la mesa directiva. Los bendigo a todos y gracias por apoyar a cada niño confiado a nuestro cuidado.

Rev. Douglas Edwards,

President

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Vice President

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Founder/Publisher



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Covering the DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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We are delighted to begin publishing *School News* covering the Duarte Unified School District the months of October, December, February and May.

Superintendent Dr. Amerson begins this issue on page 2 with

his positive message of educational accomplishments and focus on continuing to prepare students for success.

Our next issue is December 4. In the meantime, have a fun Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!



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DUSD Pioneers Only 4-Year Early College Pathway

DUSD es pionero en el único camino universitario temprano de 4 años

By, Luis Haro, Principal of Duarte High School

Students that graduate from Duarte Unified School District are highly sought after by esteemed colleges and universities. Our recent graduates are attending top institutions like UCLA, Harvard, and Berkeley, but instead of entering as Freshman, they are years ahead of their college classmates because of the unprecedented Early College Dual Enrollment Degree-Bearing program offered in our district.

Duarte High School joined forces with Citrus College in 2009 to establish the first Early College program of its kind in the region. In 2017, we pioneered the only program to offer a four-year pathway resulting in an Associate of Science Degree upon high school graduation. We currently have over 150 students enrolled and Early College cohorts in all grade levels, 9-12.

This affords families a cost savings of thousands of dollars in college tuition, and provides an accelerated route for students wanting to get a head start on graduate work or entry into their career of choice.

New this year is the option to take courses and/or obtain an Associate in Science in Administration of Justice for Transfer (AS-T). These classes, also taught by Citrus College Professors, are offered after school at Duarte High School (1 per semester) and are available to any student interested in this field.

The courses examine the causes of crime and the structure, procedures, and decision-making processes of agencies that deal with crime management. The program, which leads to the AS-T, is designed to provide a theoretical background of the criminal justice system in America (police, courts, and corrections) and familiarize students with academic, career and volunteer opportunities in the field.

If this great opportunity sounds interesting to your child, please email Principal Haro at Lharo@duarteusd.org or call 626-599-5701.



Luis Haro

Escrito por Luis Haro, Director Preparatoria Duarte

Los estudiantes que se gradúan del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte son muy buscados por prestigiosos colegios y universidades. Nuestros recién graduados asisten a instituciones de primer nivel como UCLA, Harvard y Berkeley, pero en lugar de ingresar como estudiantes de primer año, están por delante de sus compañeros universitarios debido al programa sin precedente de inscripción dual de la universidad temprana que se ofrece en nuestro distrito.

La preparatoria Duarte unió fuerzas con Citrus College en el 2009 para establecer el primer programa de universidad temprana de este tipo en la región. En el 2017, fuimos pioneros en el único programa que ofrece un camino de cuatro años que resulta en un título de Asociado en Ciencias al graduarse de la preparatoria. Actualmente tenemos más de 150 estudiantes matriculados y cohortes de la universidad temprana en todos los grados 9 a 12.

Esto les permite a las familias un ahorro de costos de miles de dólares en matrícula universitaria y proporciona una ruta acelerada para los estudiantes que desean obtener una ventaja en el trabajo de posgrado o ingresar a la carrera de su elección.

Nuevo este año es la opción de tomar cursos y/o obtener un Asociado en Ciencias en Administración de Justicia para Transferencia (AS-T). Estas clases, también impartidas por profesores de Citrus College, se ofrecen después de la escuela en la preparatoria Duarte (1 por semestre) y están disponibles para cualquier estudiante interesado en este campo. Los cursos examinan las causas del delito y la estructura, los procedimientos y los procesos de toma de decisiones de las agencias que se ocupan de la gestión del delito. El programa, que conduce al AS-T, está diseñado para proporcionar una base teórica del sistema de justicia penal en los Estados Unidos (policía, tribunales y correcciones) y familiarizar a los estudiantes con oportunidades académicas, profesionales y de voluntariado en el campo.

Si esta gran oportunidad le parece interesante a su hijo/a, envíe un correo electrónico al director Haro al Lharo@duarteusd.org o llame al 626-599-5701.



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Andres Duarte Arts Academy (K-8)

1433 Crestfield Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5100 • duarteusd.org/andresduarte



Scott Moses
Principal

\$16,000 Advancement Grant

Andres Duarte Arts Academy is pleased to announce that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and LA County Arts Ed Collective have awarded our school \$16,000 to implement the Artful Connections program.

Artful Connections is delivered by teaching artists from the Armory Center for the Arts who will support teachers directly in the classroom to provide integrated arts instruction in math and science to students in Grades 2-5.

Our faculty will travel for a day-long training to the Armory's facility in October, and then their instructors will be on campus to co-teach lessons with our classroom teachers in alignment with the California Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.

"The faculty is enthusiastic about participating in the Artful Connections program to further infuse the arts into our school culture," shared Principal Moses.

Andres Duarte will also continue to offer specialty visual arts, instrumental music, choir, dance, and music theory classes.



Student artists displaying their original work of art.

Beardslee Dual Language Immersion Academy (TK-8)

1212 Kellwil Wy., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5200 • duarteusd.org/bes



Jennifer Romero
Principal

Dual Language Program Expands

At Beardslee Academy, we provide a Dual Language Spanish-English Immersion program, which has been expanded to include students in TK-3. Every year, we add additional grades until it becomes school-wide.

"In our global society, having mastery of a second language is a gift we can and should give our students," shared Principal Romero.

Our program educates English learners and native English speakers together. The outcome is mastery of academic content in both English and Spanish through the 90/10 model.

Because we are a K-8 Academy, students will continue to receive dual language instruction in specific subject areas even when they reach

middle school. Benefits of the program include promoting bilingualism and bi-literacy, academic achievement, and multi-cultural competence for all students.

Third Grade teacher, Cindy Torres shared, "Our students' ability to be biliterate will open doors when they enter the 21st Century workforce. This will help them have a bright future!"



Students in the Third Grade Dual Language Class enjoying books in both English and Spanish in the learning garden.

California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley (7-12)

1401 Highland Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 657/321-4000 • sgv.csarts.net



Join Us for Our Preview Days

You're invited to attend a special Preview Day to discover how our award-winning arts and academic programs, combined with our unique school

culture, empower middle and high school students to develop their talents and reach their full potential for a successful future. At the Preview Days, you'll learn first-hand about California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley's (CSArts-SGV) & Duarte Unified School District's (DUSD) quality academic and arts educational programs, unique school culture, and unparalleled value.



What you'll do at a Preview Day:

- Meet school administrators and learn about our college-preparatory academic program
- Explore our 10 arts conservatories in the schools of dance, fine & media arts, music and theatre
- Learn about the DUSD and CSArts partnership and joint Grade 7-8 program.
- Hear from current students
- Take a self-guided campus tour
- Learn about the admissions process

Save these dates:

Oct. 12, 2019
Dec. 7, 2019
Jan. 11, 2020

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Duarte High School

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Luis Haro
Principal

Home of the Falcons

Duarte High School is an exemplary learning environment, and our students are equipped with 21st Century Skills needed to be successful following graduation in college, career and life.

We are known for our Four-Year Early College/Dual Enrollment program in partnership with Citrus College, our STEM

opportunities and Biotechnology courses in partnership with City of Hope whereby students produce authentic research in laboratory settings. Our unique Career Academies provide certifications in the pathways through Precision Exams.

We foster a positive school culture and student leadership is valued and developed. Our award-winning VAPA Programs, competitive athletic programs and extra-curricular activities promote school spirit, community service, and pride.



Students are excited to get a head start on their college dreams by participating in the Early College Pathway.

“Connecting learners with their passion is the driving force of our school, and we are proud to offer our students a rigorous academic program and engaging learning environment,” shared Principal Haro.

Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

1433 Crestfield Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5123 • duarteusd.org/cdc



Sofia Valdez
Coordinator of
Preschool Services

We Play with Purpose

At Duarte Preschool, our mission is to form a foundation for school readiness and later school success. We currently serve over 180 children on the campuses of Andres Duarte, Beardslee, and Maxwell Academies with a variety of full-day and half-day classes that are free for eligible families as well as fee-based options.

You'll see our children happily at play, but it is purposeful by design as we use a creative curriculum that incorporates research-based approaches like GLAD, STEAM and PBIS. A key component is our focus on parent engagement.

The leading early childhood education advocacy nonprofit group Child360 designated Duarte Preschool as a model Early Education program. We also received the honor of being selected as the site for Senator Anthony Portantino's policy roundtable on early childhood education.



Preschool students with the beautiful new mural at our Child Development Center.

Coordinator Valdez shared, “Our program even encompasses nutrition, mental health, and family partnerships to prepare young children for academic and future life success.”

Maxwell Academy *An International Baccalaureate World School (K-8)*

733 Euclid Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5302 • duarteusd.org/mes



Dr. Kelly Lawson
Principal

Making Global Connections

Since 2014, Maxwell Academy has been authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Primary Years Program for Grades K-6. Now that we also have Grades 7-8, we are delighted to announce we are a candidate school

for the IB Middle Years Program (MYP). This expansion is a welcome opportunity, and it will position our school to offer a specialty, high demand program that is not readily available in this region.

At Maxwell Academy, making global connections is a key component of the curriculum. Students receive Mandarin and Spanish instruction, and we augment our students' learning by having an active international studies program within our district.

"The ultimate goal of instruction at Maxwell is to help our learners become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators who are principled, caring, risk-takers that are balanced and reflective," shared Principal Lawson.



Students make global connections daily at our International Baccalaureate World School.

Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

1400 Mt. Olive Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5900 • duarteusd.org/MIT



Kevin Morris
Principal

Creating Creators

M.I.T. High School provides an alternative setting for students whose needs are better met in a more flexible, personalized, and self-paced program.

Our 180 Accelerated Degree program affords students a diploma and industry certifications upon graduation in several emerging Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways. A fifth-year senior graduation program is also available that is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Our partnership with Creating Creators has brought The Cinema Project to M.I.T. Our students learn the craft of film production from industry professionals including actor Goya Robles, and they conduct press interviews at red carpet events like the South East European Film Festival.



Students working the red carpet at the SEEfest Film Festival with Superintendent Amerson and Principal Morris.

These opportunities are leading to jobs and internships with prominent Hollywood studios.

"Innovation is the name of the game here, and having the support of partners offering real industry experience is a real game-changer for our students' futures," shared Principal Morris.

Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

2499 Royal Oaks Dr., Bradbury, CA 91008 • 626/599-5400 • duarteusd.org/roe



Dr. Esther Tamanaha
Principal

California PBIS Coalition Awards

Gaining momentum across the Nation is a research-based approach called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This framework for creating learning spaces that promote positive behavior and inclusivity for all students was first adopted by Royal Oaks STEAM Academy four years ago. We are thrilled to announce we have received the Silver Medal from the California PBIS Coalition for demonstrating fidelity in implementing the core features.

Our teachers, proctors, librarians, custodians, food services staff, and support staff all become PBIS trained. To reinforce clear goals, we have adopted the acronym SOAR - Solve Problems Wisely, Respect Others and Themselves, Maintain a Positive Attitude, and Make Responsible Choices.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition. Our PBIS Team leaders, staff and students are to be commended for taking bold measures to make sure our school offers the best learning environment for our students to achieve and succeed,” shared Principal Tamanaha.



Our students SOAR with PBIS.

Valley View Academy of Technology & Creative Learning (TK-6)

237 Melcanyon Rd., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5500 • duarteusd.org/vve



Margaret Rasmussen
Principal

A View Inside Our Academy

Valley View Academy has embraced a thematic approach to instruction that focuses on technology and creative learning. Our transformation to a cutting-edge academy is evident from the wide selection of flexible student seating, one-to-one devices, weekly coding sessions, arts integration, and ample creative writing.

Students have the freedom of choice in problem-solving and take ownership of their learning. Our programs stimulate students' STEM skills and help them access the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Two favorites are Mystery Science and Project Lead the Way.

“As a former science teacher, I find both to be exciting hands-on applications that provoke students' thinking and help them connect with the NGSS,” shared Principal Rasmussen.

On our campus it's not uncommon to see student-designed robots commanded from iPads maneuvering through obstacle courses to rid an area of “toxic” waste. It's no wonder Valley View has been named to the Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll.



Students are empowered to think critically and creatively.

5 Simple Steps to a Healthy Family Media Diet



Many parents struggle with exactly how much screen time is OK for their kids. Is a half-hour show OK but a full-length movie “bad”? How much gaming should you allow when your kid also uses his computer for homework? Does Wikipedia count as “reading”? And when does a passion for say, video games, become problematic? The truth is, there is no magic formula. And just as every family differs in what they eat, when they eat, and what they like, a healthy media diet is different for every family. The key is making sure that the things that are important to your family are fairly balanced over the long term.

A healthy media diet balances activities (games, social media, TV), time (15 minutes? Three hours?), and choices (YouTube, Minecraft, Star Wars) with offline activities (sports, face-to-face conversations, daydreaming). At some point, kids will be able to manage their own media diets. In the meantime, these tips can help set them up for success. (Learn more about the screen time habits of families with kids under 8 in Common Sense Media’s most recent research.)

Find balance. Instead of counting daily screen-time minutes, aim for a balance throughout the week. Get your

kids to help plan a week that includes stuff they have to do and stuff they like to do, such as schoolwork, activities, chores, reading, family time, and TV or gaming. Decide on limits and behavior using our Family Media Agreement.

Walk the walk. Put your devices away while driving, at mealtimes (learn about our Device-Free Dinner initiative), and during important conversations. Kids will learn habits from you.

Talk about it. Ask questions about kids’ favorite games, shows, and characters. Discuss ideas and issues they read about or learn about through a TV show or a game. This is an opportunity for bonding, learning, and sharing your values.

Create tech-free zones. Set rules that fit your family, such as “no devices during dinner,” “no social media during homework,” or “all screens off before bedtime.”

Check ratings. Choose age-appropriate, high-quality media and tech for your kids.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

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