



## The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

February 2024

### Desert Meadows, Paseo Pointe Named A+ Schools of Excellence

Desert Meadows School and Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy have been named A+ Schools of Excellence® by the Arizona Educational Foundation! The prestigious A+ designation is awarded to schools that showcase excellence in all aspects of their school.

Both schools underwent a rigorous application process and two site visits where they had the opportunity to demonstrate the comprehensive school-wide programs that lead to their achievements.

The AEF awards the A+ School of Excellence® designation to schools that consistently demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, respond success-

fully to the changing environment of education, cultivate learning-centered, safe school environments, and encourage innovative instruction by supporting teachers, The A+ designation is valid for 3.5 years.

With the addition of Desert Meadows and Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy, Laveen now has four current A+ Schools of Excellence.® These schools join Laveen School (2022), and Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy (2020). Trailside Point Performing Arts Academy (2014, 2018), Rogers Ranch STEM Academy (2019), and M.C. Cash School (2014, 2018) have all been recipients of this award previously.

### Governing Board Welcomes New Member

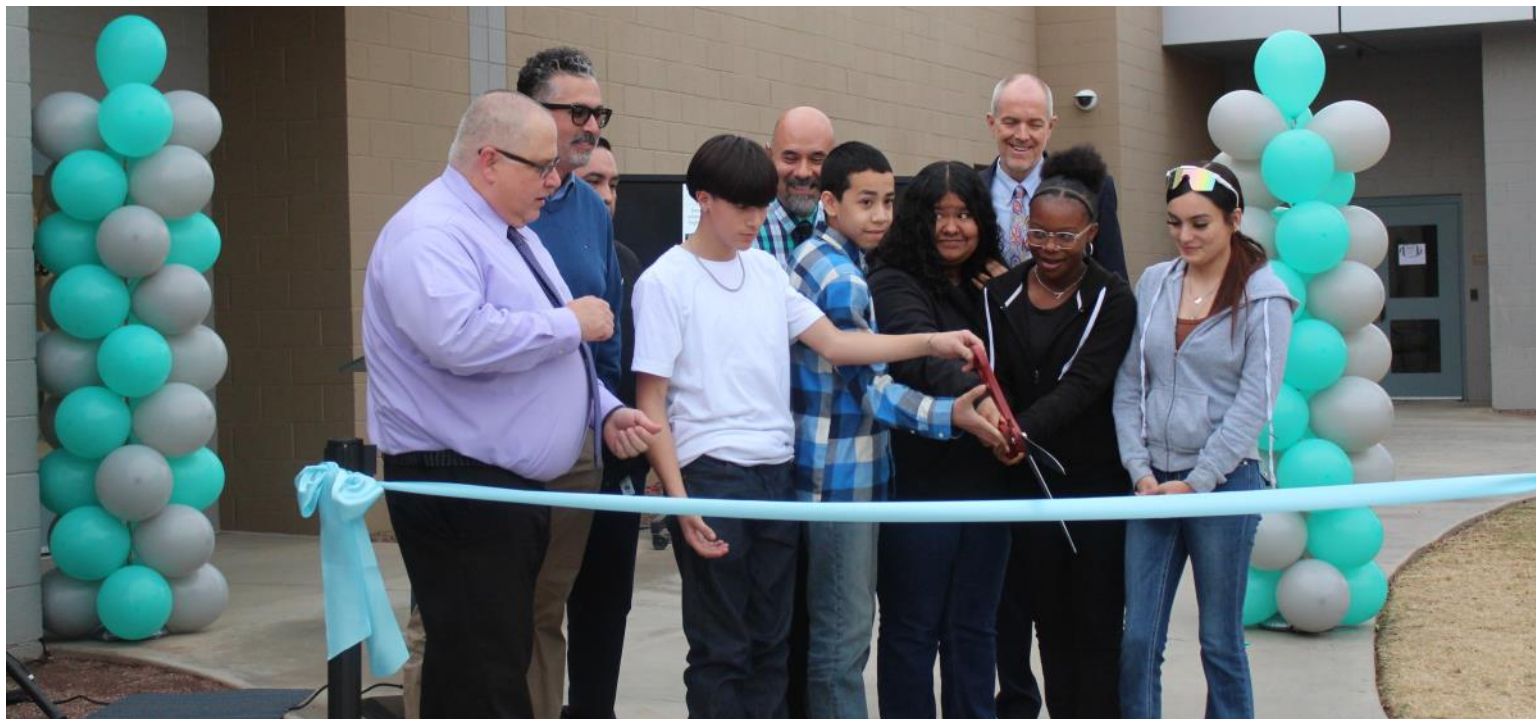
The Laveen District Governing Board welcomed Jennifer Goetzke as its newest member in February. She was appointed to the Board by the Office of the Maricopa County Superintendent to fill the seat that was vacated last year.

Goetzke has lived in Laveen for 17 years and is a Laveen School District parent. She is an active volunteer at her daughter's school and is a coach for the Girls on the Run club.

Goetzke serves as the Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer for the Arizona Department of Economic Security.



*Goetzke (center), with husband Garrett (left), is sworn in by County Schools Superintendent Steve Watson.*



## Desert Meadows School Celebrates Opening of Coding Café

Desert Meadows School celebrated the official opening of its Coding Café in January.

The school transformed part of the library into a technology-based hub that will further the goals of the school's computer coding signature program. The remodel was made possible through a \$20,000 grant by local manufacturer, Vulcan Materials.

The new space includes room for instruction, robotics activities, and computer console areas for the class's Apple and gaming computers. The space also fea-

tures high-tech lighting and areas for students to collaborate in teams. Coding classes in Grades K-8 will take place in the new café as will the robotics and e-sports activities.

Families of technology students attended the celebration where students gave demonstrations of equipment such as drones, 3D printers, and robots.

Desert Meadows adopted Computer Coding as its signature program with all students being exposed to creative coding and computational thinking at varying levels.







### Laveen School eSports Team Wins at Regionals

Laveen Elementary School's eSports Rocket League team recently won the Western Region Middle School eSports Championship. This Laveen team beat other middle school esports teams from Arizona, California, Colorado, and New Mexico.

The Laveen Rocket League Team is coached by Laveen STEM teacher, Luke Smith and the team members include: Alexander Diaz De Leon, Jacob Garcia, Jose Perez-Leal, Nicholas Bellus Cardenas and Kasen Robinson.



### Paseo Pointe, Rogers Ranch Celebrate Winter Sports Championships

Laveen's winter sports program concluded earlier this month with two championship games.

Rogers Ranch STEM Academy took home the soccer trophy and Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy won in volleyball.

It was a great season for all participants. Congratulations to these two winning teams!





### School Cafeterias Welcome Chef Kent

The Life Time Foundation's Chef Kent has been visiting Laveen schools to train child nutrition staff on preparing ramen bowls with chicken and oven-fried rice.

Laveen's Child Nutrition Department has partnered with the Life Time Foundation to support its mission to ensure all of our students receive nutritious meals to support academic excellence in a positive environment. Chef

Kent periodically provides culinary training to staff to implement more speed-scratch cooking, work to reduce the amount of highly processed foods on our menus, and phase out foods that contain "ingredients of concern."

Governing Board Clerk Michele Anderson joined in the lesson and was charged with preparing fresh ginger for the first culinary lesson.



### Laveen Students Compete at Regional Bee

Congratulations to Alrick James (left), Estrella Foothills 5th grader who took first place in the Laveen District Spelling Bee. Rogers Ranch 8th Grader Kaelan Williams was the runner-up.

Both boys went on to compete at the Maricopa County Region 3 Spelling Bee. James took 1st Place again at this Bee and will now compete at the Arizona State Bee in March.

### Communications Efforts Earn Award

The Laveen School District has received the Copper Medallion award from the Arizona School Public Relations Association for its public relations and communications efforts.



The Copper Medallion is awarded to comprehensive, well-planned district-wide public relations programs. The district received the award for the Mission: Kindergarten project.

Laveen is one of only two school districts in Arizona to receive this year's award and the only district in the under 10,000 student category. This is the second Copper Medallion the district has received.

Laveen also received Awards of Excellence for the "I Love Laveen Schools" social media campaign and a writing proposal for the naming of Sandomir Way.





## Laveen Schools Represented in Community Parade

Laveen schools took part in the annual Laveen parade with creative floats. Vista del Sur took the 1st Place trophy for its float that featured a time capsule and showed students entering the capsule and leaving as successful adults. Kids Club took 2nd Place with their LEGO-themed float that featured "Building Blocks of the Future."

