



The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

September 2022

Find Greatness Here

Laveen School District staff members kicked off the new school year with an all-staff celebration held at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix in late July.

This year's theme is "Find Greatness Here" and staff members were encouraged to find and celebrate the greatness that occurs every day in their classrooms and workplaces.

The annual staff celebration featured several student speakers who spoke to the greatness they see at school. These students are (from left): Casimiro Lopez, Desert Meadows; Evangelyn Downs, Vista del Sur; Tariah Childers, Rogers Ranch; Gustavo Duarte, Rogers Ranch; Michael Medina, M.C. Cash; and Leah Viera, Cheatham.

Superintendent Jeff Sprout took staff on a virtual tour featuring examples of the greatness that occurs each day in Laveen, looking forward to a wonderful school year ahead. The possibilities are endless!





Laveen School named a School of Distinction

Congratulations to Laveen School for being recognized as a School of Distinction by the Association for Middle Level Education.

AMLE Schools of Distinction is both a recognition and continuous improvement program. Schools are celebrated for their commitment to the middle grades best practices while also being guided through a process of self-assessment and strategic vision setting to help foster ongoing growth and success. The program aims to:

1. Recognize and celebrate schools that are committed to implementing the essential attributes and

characteristics of successful middle grades schools.

2. Provide ALL schools that support young adolescents with the resources to support their continuous improvement journeys.
3. Create a network of schools that can learn from and support each other.
4. Highlight for our communities the exceptional work that takes place every day in middle level education.

In addition to principal Dr. Robert Caplinger and assistant principal Reed Brotherton, the following teachers were instrumental in Laveen receiving this award: Logan Wasie, 6th Grade; Alicia Wright-Harp, 7th Grade; Adrian Ruiz, 8th Grade; Andrea Smith, Art; Leah Hall, Special Education; and Laura Erke, Instructional Coach.



Arizona Humanities to partner with M.C. Cash School

M.C. Cash School has partnered with Arizona Humanities to support engaging humanities-based programs that promote youth literacy. The organization has allocated funding, received through the American Rescue Plan, for books, program supplies, author visits, and more.

Desert Meadows opens new Early Childhood Center



A new preschool building at Desert Meadows School was recently constructed and opened for the 2022-23 school year.

The 9,000 square foot Desert Meadows Early Childhood Center features four large preschool classrooms, which house two developmental preschool classes and two general education preschool classes, a separate playground, front lobby area, and conference room. It is also now home to the district's Kids Club offices.

The center was designed by BWS Architects and constructed by Chasse Building Team. A celebration and tour of the new facility for the public is scheduled for early October.

Laveen's preschool and Kids Club programs are licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services. Learn more about these programs at www.LaveenSchools.org/preschool and www.LaveenSchools.org/kids-club.

Information on school safety provided to parents

Over the summer, parents across the district were provided with a training on *How to Talk to Your Kids About School Safety*. Over 200 parents attended crisis expert Jesus Villahermosa's presentation.

Parents are encouraged to view our School Safety webpage, www.LaveenSchools.org/school-safety for more information on the district's safety and security practices as well as ways for parents to support their school's safety measures.

Husband and Wife Law Team recognizes preschool teacher

Laveen preschool teacher Jonathan Clauss was recognized by the Husband and Wife Law Team as their



teacher of the month for August. Attorney Mark Breyer stopped by the school to present Mr. Clauss with a \$250 check. Mr. Clauss's photo will also appear on 22 billboards around the Valley during August and September.