

THE LATEST FROM

LAVEEN

A publication by the Laveen School District



Laveen
SCHOOL DISTRICT



STUDENT WORK FEATURED AT DISTRICT'S
INAUGURAL CELEBRATION OF ART

Summer 2023

Message from the Superintendent

As we look to the future of the Laveen community and Laveen School District, our years ahead are full of the hope that comes with growth. Our theme this year, “Growing Together,” reflects the importance of taking care of one another and helping each other to realize our maximum potential.

The District recently completed a demographic study of Laveen and, in the next ten years, our population is projected to increase from approximately 58,000 in 2023 to 81,000 in 2032. This means a corresponding increase of approximately 3,700 students in Grades K-8.



Dr. Jeff Sprout

The District’s goal is to be the best educational option for our community. This means:

- 1. providing high performing schools for ALL students, resulting in high student achievement;
- 2. providing Signature Programs at every school in addition to teaching Arizona State Standards;
- 3. giving parents the option to enroll at the school of their choice;
- 4. attracting and retaining outstanding staff members;
- 5. continuing to have the highest level of fiscal responsibility;
- 6. partnering with the citizens of Laveen to advocate for the best interests of our community.

We look forward to the decade ahead WITH YOU and thanks again for your partnership and support of the Laveen School District.

Tony Berastegui Appointed to Laveen Governing Board

Tony Berastegui has been appointed to the Laveen Governing Board by the Office of the Maricopa County School Superintendent.

Berastegui is a Laveen parent and has served the Laveen community in a variety of roles including Laveen Community Council Director, Cub Scout

Cubmaster, Vineyard Commons Homeowners Association President, soccer coach, Vista del Sur site council representative, and more.



He fills the seat vacated by Dr. Ryan Senters. His term expires in December 2024.



Important Dates

Meet Your Teacher Night

August 3
5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.
at all Laveen Schools

First Day of School

August 7

**School and district offices
are open during the summer.
Enroll your child today.**

Chef in the Garden Brings Soul Food to Cheatham

Cheatham's partnership with Blue Watermelon Project brought a sampling of soul food and hands-on gardening for students through their monthly Chef in the Garden program.

Local chef Pam Coleman, of Mrs. C's Home-Style, made her delicious black-eyed peas recipe for the students to try. She taught them about the bean's rich history - how it came to America and how it has become a food that is celebrated in the African-American culture. Students then enjoyed a bowl of Coleman's flavorful peas accompanied by her famous cornbread.

With help from Blue Watermelon members, students harvested ingredients such as garlic from the campus gardens to be used in the recipe.

Blue Watermelon's Lou Rodarte taught students about the plant itself. He explained that it is often used as a cover crop that keeps the soil cool while also producing nitrogen in the soil. Then he showed them how to plant and grow the bean in Cheatham's campus gardens.

Chef in the Garden is a program by the Blue Watermelon Project and is provided through a grant by The Steele Foundation. Through the program, local chefs visit classrooms on a regular basis and introduce them to new fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, and herbs. Students receive a lesson on the history of the select food, learn how to grow it, and sample a recipe. The goal is to increase students' access to fresh foods and expose them to a diverse array of healthy food.



Superintendent Honored by State Association

Laveen superintendent Dr. Jeff Sprout has been named Distinguished Administrator for the Superintendents Division by the Arizona School Administrators professional association.

He was nominated by administrators from other school districts and was recognized at the group's summer conference and awards luncheon.

Business Office Honored for Excellence

Laveen has received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 2022 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

This is the ninth consecutive year that Laveen has received the award for its commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting.





Rogers Ranch Students Compete in Space Design Event

Twelve Rogers Ranch students visited the Biosphere in Oracle for the Southwest Space Settlement Design Competition. Rogers Ranch was the only middle school competing at the event against high school students from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Students worked in teams to complete an aerospace engineering project. Their project was to design a vehicle to enable long-term surface exploration of Mars for the purpose of identifying candidate sites for a future settlement on the Martian surface. NASA scientists were on hand to assist students with questions or offer clarification. Teachers and other adults were not permitted to assist the students.

It was exhilarating to watch the students take what they were learning in 8th Grade science to solve problems on Mars. After the presentations, the scientists gave feedback to each team.

District Launches New Parent Communications Tool



The Laveen School District is transitioning to a new communications tool for the 2023-24 school year. ParentSquare is a robust communications platform that combines tools such as email, text, classroom updates, sign-ups, scheduling, and updates into one easy-to-use platform.

Laveen families can download the app or log in to the dashboard. From there, they will see secure messages from their child's teacher, classroom updates, classroom photo galleries, and school event calendars. They can sign up for conferences and volunteer opportunities.

ParentSquare is secure and is iKeepSafe certified in FERPA, COPPA, and student privacy. ParentSquare is a Student Privacy Pledge 2020 Signatory.

Laveen families can learn more at www.LaveenSchools.org/ParentSquare.

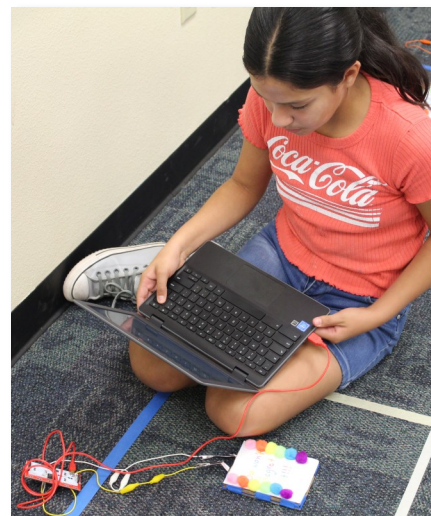
Desert Meadows Hosts Summer Coding Camp, Developing Coding Cafe

Desert Meadows completed a three-week Summer Coding Camp as the school works to strengthen its computer coding signature program.

Twenty-five students in Grades 4-8 participated in the camp where they learned how to build and program Edison Robots, use Makey Makey to have everyday objects control a computer, and use Minecraft EDU to develop and use coding concepts.

Desert Meadows is the recipient of a \$20,000 donation from Vulcan Materials that will transform the school's library into a Coding Cafe for the 2023-2024 school year. The remodeled space will include room for classroom instruction, robotics, and computer console areas for the class's Apple and gaming computers. The space will feature 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.



Enroll your child in a Laveen school.

Laveen schools are now enrolling for the 2023-24 school year.

Register online at
www.LaveenSchools.org/registration

Home to the highest performing
schools in Laveen.

Open attendance boundaries
Signature programs
1:1 student to device ratio
New, digital curriculum
A+ Schools of Excellence
Free Full Day Kindergarten
Academic Preschool

Computer Coding • Global Studies • Mindfulness • College & Career • Sustainability
STEM • Performing Arts • Dual Language Immersion • Accelerated Pace
Laveen School District | 5001 W. Dobbins | 602-237-9100 | www.LaveenSchools.org



Student Artwork Celebrated at District-Wide Art Show

The Laveen Education Center's boardroom was turned into a pop-up art gallery during the district's inaugural Celebration of Art on April 27.

Over 300 pieces of student artwork from across all Laveen schools and grade levels were featured at the event.

The show featured a variety of mediums ranging from watercolor paintings to digital art to handmade paper projects and clay sculptures.

Curated pieces channeled the styles of famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Klee, Piet Mondrian, Claude Monet, and Romero Britto.

Showcased pieces were selected by each school's art teacher. The event was organized by the district's communications team.



Laveen's Academic Preschool

Desert Meadows | Estrella Foothills | Paseo Pointe | Vista del Sur

Laveen offers a full-day academic preschool program at four schools.

Serving Children Ages 3—5
Full Day Academic Program
Taught by Certified Teachers
Tuition Based
Before / After School
Programs Available

Paseo Pointe offers a dual language immersion program.
 Desert Meadows, Estrella Foothills, and Vista del Sur provide general education instruction.



creating bright futures

www.LaveenSchools.org/preschool



Estrella Foothills Global Academy Hosts First World Fair

Estrella Foothills Global Academy held a World Fair for families and the community.

Modeled after the very first World Fair, which was originally created to be an exposition for people to showcase their inventions, EFGA's World Fair showcased the research each grade level conducted as it applied to their assigned continent. Students presented artifacts and information from the following categories: agriculture, technology, world issues, food and beverages, arts and craftsmanship, and important people.

Special area classes also participated with band performances, P.E. classes showcasing games from different cultures, and Mandarin and Spanish classes performing skits. Student artwork was also featured throughout the school.

Visitors began their journey at the Port of Entry in the school's courtyard where they received their passport. From there, they visited each continent designated within the school's hallways.

Estrella Foothills Global Academy is an International Baccalaureate World School offering the Middle Years Programme.



Laveen 8th Graders Travel Nation, World

Eighth grade students from most of Laveen's schools had the opportunity to take an out-of-state field trip this spring.

The majority visited Washington D.C. where they toured numerous landmarks around the nation's capitol.

Students from Estrella Foothills Global Academy traveled to Costa Rica to further their global experience.

Accomplishments

Three Students Receive “I Can Do It!” Awards

Three Laveen students are the recipients of the Arizona Council for Exceptional Children’s “I Can Do It!” awards.

The awards recognize students who have excelled in academics, art, athletics, community service, employment, self-advocacy, technology, or independent life skills despite their disability. The award acknowledges the determination of a student to succeed and, often, the family support as well.

Recipients are Mabil Mabil, 4th Grade student at Laveen School and nominated by Ms. Turner, Issac Hlebak, 4th Grade student at Trailside Point and nominated by Ms. Walker; and Salma Salceda, 8th Grade student at Laveen School and nominated by Ms. Veney.



*Clockwise from top left:
Mabil Mabil, Salma
Salceda, Issac Hlebak*



Estrella Foothills 4th Grader Places 5th in State Spelling Bee



Estrella Foothills Global Academy 4th Grade student Alrick James took 5th Place in the 2023 Arizona Spelling Bee. James was the youngest student to place in the Top 5 of Arizona spellers.

James advanced to the state-level bee after

taking 1st Place in the Maricopa County Region 3 Spelling Bee in February. He was also the champion in the Laveen School District’s bee.

Community Engagement Coordinator Honored with Heart Award

Dr. Joe Roselle is the recipient of School Connect’s Founder’s Heart Award.

Dr. Roselle was recognized for helping the community identify the core needs of Laveen students, educators, and community, and used School Connect’s CAFE model to solve community-based problems with community-based solutions.



Three Teachers Recognized for National Board Certification

M.C. Cash's Salina Franklin is Laveen's latest teacher to become National Board Certified. Franklin is an exceptional needs specialist. Additionally Lauren DiDonna, also an exceptional needs specialist at M.C. Cash, and Steven Humble, Desert Meadows science teacher, have recently renewed their certification.

This is the highest certificate an educator can achieve in the United States. The process for obtaining National Board Certification is a rigorous and reflective process that requires teachers to showcase the National Board Standards in their practice. It can take three to five years of continual work to achieve certification.



From left: Steve Humble, Salina Franklin, Lauren DiDonna



Desert Meadows SRO named LRE Officer of the Year

Congratulations to Officer George Pizarro, Desert Meadows School Resource Officer, who was named Law Related Education Officer of the Year by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.

The award was instituted to recognize exceptional contributions of Arizona police and probation officers in furthering education and understanding of the role of the law in our democratic society.

Officer Pizarro was nominated by Desert Meadows Principal J.P. Ketcham.

Laveen Teams Place at Statewide Math, Engineering, Science Competition

Several Laveen teams competed in the annual MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) Day competition held at Grand Canyon University.

Two of Rogers Ranch's teams took 1st place in the MESA Attack Vehicle and Sustainable Skyscraper challenges. Vista teams also took 1st Place in the Hack Attack challenge, 2nd Place in the Attack Vehicle challenge, and 3rd Place in the Sustainable Skyscraper challenge.

Thirty-three teams from across the state competed in the event.

In Our Community

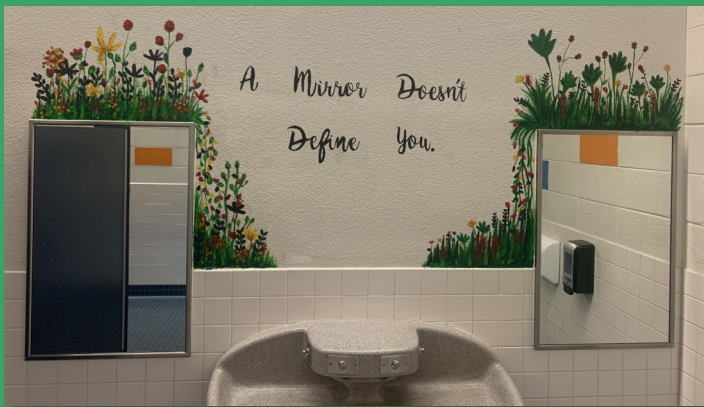


38th Avenue Renamed “Sandomir Way”

It's official! The stretch of 38th Ave, between Wier and Roeser, is now known as Sandomir Way.

The street's name was changed to honor the beloved late principal Lisa Sandomir who served the Maurice C. Cash Elementary School for over 15 years. Sandomir was well known throughout the community and she saw multiple generations of families go through the school she led.

The school will now have a Sandomir Way address.



Vista Student Paints Uplifting Murals in School Bathrooms

Bathrooms at Vista del Sur now feature uplifting messages in the form of murals - thanks to the leadership of one of its students.

Keely Lotz spearheaded the project to install messages of kindness and anti-bullying. Lotz developed the idea after losing a close friend to suicide.

For this work, she was selected as an Uvalde Foundation for Kids Arizona Student Ambassador. Ambassadors represent the Foundation's mission to end violence.

The project was featured on 12 News.



Community Members Assemble Swag Bags for Laveen staff

In preparation of Staff Appreciation Week, volunteers from Laveen Elementary School and the City of Phoenix's Youth and Education Office joined city councilwomen Yassamin Ansari and Kesha Hodge Washington, and Laveen Governing Board Clerk Michele Anderson and board member Linda Abegg to pack 1,000 swag bags for all Laveen employees.

Bags included reusable cups, snacks, Starbucks refreshers, and more.



Donate to the Laveen School District
and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit
on your taxes when you file.

Reduce Your Taxes by supporting Laveen's schools

Tax credit contributions may only be used
to support character education and
fee-based extracurricular activities.

www.laveenschools.org/tax-credit

For every dollar you donate, the amount you
owe in state taxes will be that much less.
Couples filing jointly may donate up to
\$400. Individuals may contribute up to \$200.
Allowable per ARS § 43-1089.01

Tax credit contributions may only be used to support character education and
fee-based extracurricular activities such as after-school tutoring and clubs,
academic enrichment, field trips, fine art programs, and athletics.

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Child Find is a comprehensive developmental screening assessment process which identifies children, 3 to 21 years of age who have disabilities that may hinder their learning. If you live in the Laveen Elementary School District boundaries and are parents or guardians of a student enrolled in private school within the district, home-schooled, or if you know of a child who might be in need of services for a disabling condition such as speech, learning disability, etc., please call the Special Education Department at 602-237-9100 ext. 3058. Free special education services are available to eligible students. For more information, visit the Child Find website at <http://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/az-find/> or call Child Find at (602) 364-4015.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

Are you currently experiencing temporary living arrangements due to eviction, job loss, or a traumatic event? Laveen Elementary School District offers services to families through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The act requires that children and families who are in a temporary living situation be offered services and supports. Services provided may include enrollment assistance, nutrition services, clothing or school supplies, community referrals, and in some cases transportation. If you are living in any of the following temporary circumstances: with another family or friend due to financial hardship, living in a shelter, transitional housing, in a hotel/motel, or an unaccompanied youth waiting for foster care, you may fit the criteria for assistance under this act. Please call 602-237-9100, ext. 3051 to inquire further about qualifying for this program.



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The Latest from Laveen is published by the Laveen Communications Department.
Kristen Landry • 602-237-9100 • klandry@laveeneld.org

Enroll your child in a Laveen school

Parents wishing to register their incoming child(ren) should visit the school of their choice to complete the registration process.

You may register online or complete a packet available on our website, www.LaveenSchools.org, or in our schools' front offices.

Vista del Sur is an accelerated school and students must take an assessment prior to enrolling. Paseo Pointe is a dual language immersion (DLI) school. Incoming students in Grades PK-6, for 2023-24, must enroll in the DLI program (DLI will expand a grade level each year).

Laveen schools also accept open enrollment of non-resident (out-of-district) students on a space available basis.

Bus transportation is only provided to those students who live within designated transportation zones.

Bring the following documents to complete your child's registration:

- Child's original birth certificate
- Child's immunization record
- Proof of Residence, such as utility receipt or lease agreement (refer to Arizona Residency Guidelines)
- Legal papers, if applicable, for custody
- Withdrawal form/report card from previous school
- Photo identification for parent/guardian

Visit us online at www.LaveenSchools.org

M.C. Cash School
5000 S. Sandomir Way
Phoenix, AZ 85041
602-237-9120

Estrella Foothills Global Academy
5400 W. Carver
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-304-2050

Rogers Ranch School
6735 S. 47th Avenue
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-304-2030

Cheatham Elementary
4725 W. South Mountain
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-7040

Laveen Elementary
4141 W. McNeil
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-9110

Trailside Point Performing Arts Academy
7275 W. Vineyard
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-605-8540

Desert Meadows School
6855 W. Meadows Loop East
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-304-2020

Paseo Pointe School
8800 S. 55th Avenue
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-304-2040

Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy
3908 W. South Mountain
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-3046

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