



OSBORN REPORTER

An Osborn Education

Osborn School District #8 · www.OsbornSchools.org · Summer 2011

School Starts August 10

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT

Osborn Middle School's A+ Honors Mathematics Program increases academic opportunities for students by accelerating their mathematics coursework. The program has grown from serving 50 students in 2006 to more than 150 this year: *One out of four* middle school students are in the Honors Mathematics Program, 137 of whom passed the Algebra or Geometry Qualifying Test, earning high school credit for math. Strong preparation by Osborn's elementary school teachers has many students ready to enter Algebra I (a ninth grade course) in seventh grade. As a result, the program expanded to include a tenth grade Geometry course for those students as eighth graders.

Accelerated completion of Algebra I offers students greater access to upper level mathematics courses in high school, which has been correlated with increased college graduation rates and greater opportunities for scholarships. Students are offered two paths: Algebra I as an eighth grader (one year accelerated) or Algebra I as a seventh grader (two years accelerated).

This fall, *37% of Osborn eighth grade students will go to high school having already completed one or two of the four required mathematics courses*, giving them greater access to upper level mathematics electives. Four outstanding teachers: Shannon Green, Sarah Saiz, Kelly Doherty, and Eva Gomez, deliver the five sections of high school mathematics and three sections of Honors Pre-Algebra which comprise the Honors Mathematics program.



7th & 8th Grade OMS students taking the high school tests

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Two major changes will affect Osborn Schools next year:

1. Montecito Community School is Closed

After discussion and input from community and staff during two public hearings, the Governing Board voted to close Montecito School. This decision, while painful, addressed declining enrollment and declining dollars that created a budget deficit of \$712,000. The decision had nothing to do with the caliber of the staff or programs at Montecito—it was strictly financial. This change will require minimal disruption to other district schools because Montecito students will simply be transferred to Longview School.

Montecito teaching staff will be teaching at Longview and other district schools. Even with budget cuts, the district will maintain the current level of special area programs including Art, Music and Physical Education. We believe *An Osborn Education* must include these special areas taught by specialists in each field.

The District will maintain a presence at Montecito and assure that the community investment will be properly maintained at all times. We will consider possible leasing of the facility.

We have wonderful programs and facilities in the district—we simply need more children. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to consider enrolling in Osborn. This Reporter is filled with lots of reasons why that would be a wise choice.

2. Two-Hour Early Dismissal Every Wednesday

The state is releasing new Math and Language Arts Standards for the 2011-12 school year. Mastering these standards and working with fellow teachers to incorporate them into daily lessons is a vital part of improving student achievement. As a result, the Governing Board has agreed to replace the current 45-minute Tuesday early dismissals with a *two-hour early dismissal every Wednesday afternoon for all students* to allow for staff development and team planning for teachers. This longer released period weekly is consistent with and often shorter than early dismissals of surrounding districts. After-school program options will be available for students who need it during the weekly early dismissal time.

Despite these changes and the resulting adjustments that will be required, we look forward to a successful year.

Wilma Basnett, PhD

SOLANO SCHOOL

A+ WRITING PROGRAM

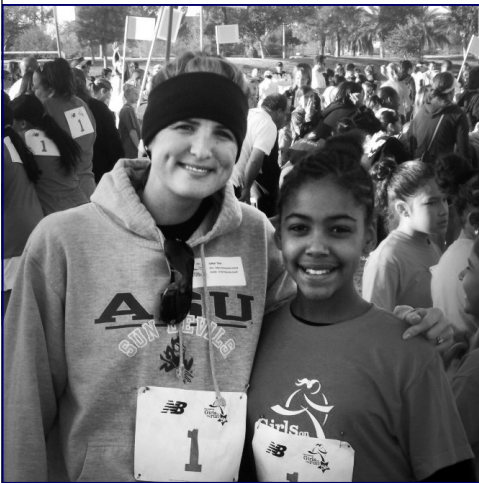
Each month every Solano student writes a selection based on a writing prompt for their grade level. Teachers focus on a six trait writing rubric as they teach their students the process. The traits are: Ideas & Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. At the end of each month each teacher selects one student's writing piece which best demonstrates the traits covered in class. The selected student participates in the monthly Writers' Showcase; a special event at which the principal and other selected students

read and discuss their work. The selected writing pieces are uploaded each month and are published on the school website. The monthly writing pieces of all students are posted on a writing wall in the classroom each month and are also collected into a portfolio which is shared with the parents on Young Authors' Night during the month of May. Since the implementation of this focus on writing, Solano has seen an improvement in our writing scores when compared to state-wide AIMS scores.

Fifth grade teacher Mary Andersen, has been selected to attend a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute. *Voices Across Time: Teaching American History Through Music*. She plans to write curriculum to teach American History through song to her students who are learning English.

Master Teacher Jill Crossley has been selected to attend a different summer institute through the NEH. She will look at the influence of land and culture exploring the history of Appalachia as a case study. She will in turn write a curriculum unit for Arizona based on the Appalachia case study.

EXTRA CURRICULAR EXCELLENCE



Girls on the Run participant Yalissa Williams with running buddy JaNae Teer

Six Osborn teachers were honored by the AZ Department of Education as "2010 Outstanding 21st Century Community Learning Centers After School Teachers": Kindergarten Teacher Alicia Pierson at Encanto teaches *Cooking with Math* in which students learn about volume and fractions while creating delicious snacks; Ballet Instructor Camden Lloyd at Clarendon teaches the district's A+ *Ballet Program* to 108 third through eighth grade boys and girls; Substitute Teacher Erin Johnston teaches *Tap Dance* to students at Longview, Sixth Grade Teacher Danielle McKay teaches the *Yearbook Club* in which Montecito students learn a new computer

program, photograph students, design the layout, and produce the school's yearbook; Literacy/Math Intervention Teacher Pat Beck teaches *Culinary Arts* to Osborn Middle School students; First Grade Teacher Hilary Rooze teaches a program called *Girls on the Run* to Solano students who learn about nutrition and fitness while training to run a 5 km race.

While Osborn's after school classes have academic and enrichment components to assist students with school-day skills, they are also fun and engaging. They are supported through special partnerships, grants, and tax credit donations.

PERFORMANCE PAY PROGRAM BEGINS AT OSBORN

Reform and accountability are the focus of national and state efforts to improve education. Osborn is at the forefront through a grant-funded partnership with Arizona State University. Osborn is the first school district in Arizona to implement the Teacher-Student Advancement Program (TAP) district-wide. TAP has a track record of improving quality of instruction and level of student achievement. Teachers are held accountable for meeting TAP teaching, knowledge and responsibility standards as well as academic growth of their students. Each teacher is

evaluated multiple times yearly by trained and certified evaluators, including master and mentor teachers, the principal and district office administrators. In addition, teachers participate in rigorous professional development. Teachers will receive Performance Pay based on their roles and responsibilities, performance in the classroom, and student achievement. This is a rigorous undertaking, but one that will help Osborn School District reach our goal of increasing student achievement.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

Your Governing Board is pleased to report to you that the Osborn District achieved steady and consistent student achievement in all areas of the curriculum. In fact, documented indicators show that Osborn students outscore those in neighboring districts as well as charter schools located within our boundaries. Unfortunately our enrollment has continued to decline. This fact, by law, directly impacts the District's ability to maintain a level budget from year to year and, thus, its full complement of special programs and facilities. Accordingly, the Board, after numerous hearings, testimony and research was obligated to vote to close Montecito Community School last month. This was a very painful process and decision but we look forward to an improved economy and, indeed, there are visible signs in the District of a significant increase in permanent residents. As we approach a new school year, please know that your Governing Board is fully committed to insuring an "Osborn Education" to each child enrolled here. This is not just a slogan, it is a promise of student excellence.

Dean Wolcott

LONGVIEW SCHOOL

LONGVIEW IS A CANDIDATE SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Principal Leslie Beauchamp is pleased to announce that a school which already has a student body representing six Longview School received candidate status from the International Baccalaureate Organization. Longview in pursuing authorization as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School to host the Primary Years Programme, the elementary curriculum for the IB program. Longview staff is now teaching the program, making Longview the only Phoenix school to offer the IB program at the elementary level. Schools like Longview share a commitment to high quality, challenging international education. The curriculum will provide an international flavor to

Students will also receive Spanish instruction in addition to their art, music, PE, and technology classes. The International Baccalaureate is similar to Advanced Placement in that students may receive college credit for high school work; however, the baccalaureate diploma is recognized world-wide in more than 150 countries. Building continuity for Longview students to continue at North High School's IB program, Longview's program not only creates a strong foundation, it increases their chance of earning the IB diploma.

MONTECITO SCHOOL

A FOND FAREWELL

Students and staff bid a fond farewell to retiring Principal Maria O'Malley singing Gloria Estefan's *Reach*. Mrs. O'Malley has enjoyed her four years as principal and shared several special moments. She chose this time to retire since Montecito students will attend Longview school next year. She plans to assist in her husband's business. She has worked in Osborn schools since 1990, most recently teaching Dual Language Kindergarten at Encanto prior to becoming Montecito's principal. While Montecito has excellent achievement and beautiful facilities, the School Board voted to close Montecito due to low enrollment and budget cuts. Montecito teachers will either move to Longview or are planning to transfer to other Osborn Schools. None are being let go.



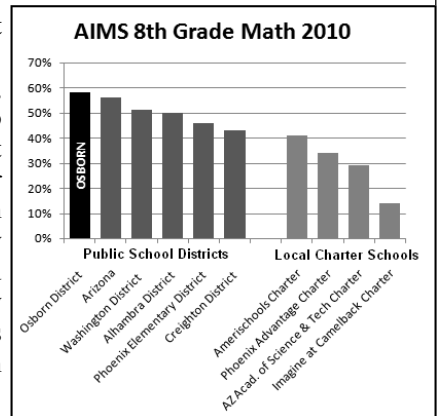
ACHIEVEMENT

"TRADITIONAL" PUBLIC SCHOOLS VS CHARTER SCHOOLS

There has been a strong push in Arizona to grow charter schools as an alternative to "traditional" public schools like Osborn. Recent research indicates:

- A comprehensive study of charters in 15 states (70% of US charter students) showed that "only 17% of charter schools have growth in math scores that exceeds that of their traditional public school equivalent."
- Osborn has four schools labeled by Arizona as "Performing Plus" and two labeled "Performing" (all meet state standards). By the same measure, three of the charters in our

district are labeled "Underperforming,"-- that is they fail to meet state standards. Choosing a high quality school is challenging, and there are many aspects of a school to consider, from the quality of teaching, student achievement, academics, extracurricular programs, location, and childcare. Osborn Schools not only have high achievement; they offer a wide variety of quality academic and extracurricular programs for students, highly qualified teachers, & after school care. Parents make a wise decision when they choose an "Osborn Education" for their children.



CLARENDON SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE GRAND CANYON FIELDTRIP

Thanks to the generosity of the John C Lincoln Health Foundation, sixth grade students took an educational fieldtrip to the Grand Canyon. Teachers Kristi Wilhelms, Carlos Ardon, Megan Corona, and Katie Hughes organized the fieldtrip so that students used Grand Canyon National Park as an outdoor classroom to develop awareness and skills related to understanding the world. The fieldtrip provided opportunities for students to

restore, preserve, and protect the environment. Students went to the Canyon in two groups in April and May participating in either the *Discovery Pack* or the *Life on the Edge* program. Both programs are curriculum-based, and address specific Arizona academic standards. There are several interdependent ecosystems in the Grand Canyon, which can be observed from afar standing near the edge and up-close. Students also

each other with the lessons in preparation for the trip.



learned about geology and the history of the earth. Teacher Kristi Wilhelms says, "I am so excited every year when we watch these students look over the edge and soak in the grandeur of this landmark. It really is life altering for them!"

Students were selected based on their academic effort over a three month period. Students worked together in small groups, helping



Above: Sixth Grade students from Carlos Ardon's Dual Language class.

Opposite: Students Bethany Lechuga and Uriel Esparza study fossils.

(photos by student Greta Westberg)

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

INCENTIVES FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Los Compadres Mexican Food has partnered with the Osborn School District to encourage students at Encanto, Clarendon, and Osborn Middle School to improve their reading skills. They are offering a free meal to the students demonstrating the greatest growth in reading in each classroom during each trimester. The Valdivia family, who have owned Los Compadres for more than 50 years, attended Encanto and Clarendon and are determined to do something special to make a difference in the schools and to benefit their community.

McKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

If due to loss of housing and/or economic hardship, you must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings, in substandard housing, or doubled up with relatives or friends, then according to the McKinney-Vento Act, you are considered in transition and your children have certain rights to school services and resources. Unaccompanied youth are also eligible for services. For a complete list of homeless children's rights and for more information, please contact your school's Parent Liaison or Osborn's District Liaison. Thank you.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT: ROBERTA FIGUEROA: (602) 707-2566
STATE COORDINATOR: FRANK MIGALI: (602) 542-4963

SPECIAL NOTICE: On September 1, 2011, Osborn School District will destroy special education records on students who have withdrawn, transferred or graduated and have been gone from the district for *four or more years*. Records will be destroyed according to the State of Arizona Records Retention and Disposition Schedule, pursuant to A.R.S. 41-1351. Please call the District Office at 602-707-2014 before the above date if you wish to obtain any information in your student's file.

PARENTS' RIGHTS

As parents of public school children, you have the right to:

- Request and receive information on the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher*
- Receive timely notice from Osborn School District if your child is taught by a teacher who is not "highly qualified" for four of more consecutive weeks.
- Request a transfer to another school in the Osborn School District if your child's school receives a label of Underperforming on Oct. 15. By law, Osborn School District must give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families based on capacity at the requested school. Please note that all Osborn district schools have received labels of Performing Plus or Performing. *Osborn has no Underperforming schools.*
- * Please send a written request for the professional qualifications of your child's teacher by email to: wbasnett@osbornnet.org or mail to:

Superintendent Dr. Wilma Basnett
Osborn School District
1226 West Osborn Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

UNIQUE PROGRAMS IN OSBORN SCHOOLS

International Baccalaureate Candidate School

Longview School

A+ Spanish Dual Language

Clarendon A+ School

Encanto School

Osborn Middle School

Modified Traditional

Solano School

Accelerated Mathematics

Osborn Middle School

Ballet Program

Clarendon A+ School

Encanto School

OSBORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HONEYWELL AEROSPACE CHALLENGE

Science Teacher Mariano Guerra, Math Teacher Stephanie Saclarides and three teams of 7th and 8th grade students attended the Honeywell Aerospace Challenge, a prestigious competition held at ASU West. Teams of students designed, built, and described a lunar base on the Moon with specific requirements and limitations and only \$50 worth of building supplies. The three teams met twice a week after school to work collaboratively to meet project goals and deadlines. Student Teams included: Aaron Aquino Ramos, Matthew Christopher, Samuel Hunter, Malek Islas, Kenan Jakupovic, Kany Keita, Raheem McFadden, Christopher Pirtle, Randy Rivera, Dorian Stafford, Kijana Stafford, Simon Tucker, and Michael Z. The learning focus for the project centered on science process skills and problem solving. The students' main focus was space exploration and expansion of human endeavors. The Aerospace Challenge project was supported through a Teacher Mini-Grant from the Osborn Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) supporting students and teachers at Osborn.

BAND & CHOIR



Thanks to Band Director Theresa Hulihan and Choir Director Catherine Dolan, Osborn Middle School hosted the Spring Band and Choir Night. The program featured Bands from Clarendon, Solano, and Osborn Middle School with nearly 240 students performing. Parents had the opportunity to hear two award winning bands. The OMS Symphonic Band and Clarendon Advanced Bands both competed in the Arizona Music Educators Association (AZMEA) Pageant of Bands in May. The OMS Symphonic Band received one of the highest ratings: "Excellent" and Clarendon's Advanced Band was awarded the highest possible rating: "Superior" meaning that there were virtually no flaws in any area. the OMS Symphonic Band played with soloists Angel Garces, Jair Andrade, Dionne Brown, Elvira Garcia, Taylor Segay, Luis Cantu, Brayan Montero, and Daniela Perez; finally, the AZMEA Award-winning Clarendon Advanced Band and OMS Symphonic Band closed with the *Star Spangled Banner* (sung by soloist Debbie K.). The evening proved to be a fantastic evening of musical talent.

Osborn School District #8
1226 W. Osborn Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Superintendent
Wilma J. Basnett, Ph.D.

Governing Board
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Dean Wolcott

Clerk
Kelly Parker

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2011-2012 CALENDAR

Wednesday	August 10, 2011	First Day School- FULL DAY
Monday	September 5, 2011	Labor Day
Thursday, Friday	October 6-7	Parent/Teacher Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL
Monday-Friday	October 10-14, 2011	Fall Break
Friday	November 4, 2011	End of First Trimester
Friday	November 11, 2011	Veteran's Day Holiday
Thursday-Friday	November 24-25, 2011	Thanksgiving Recess
Monday-Friday	Dec. 26-Jan. 6, 2012	Winter Break
Monday	January 9, 2012	School Resumes
Monday	January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday	January 24, 2012	100th Day
Monday	February 20, 2012	President's Day
Friday	February 24, 2012	End of Second Trimester
Thursday-Friday	March 1-2, 2012	Parent/Teacher Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL
Monday-Friday	March 12-16, 2012	Spring Break
Friday	April 6, 2012	Board Declared Holiday
Tuesday-Thursday	April 17, 18, 19 2012	AIMS Testing
Tuesday-Wednesday	April 24,25, 2012	AIMS Testing
Thursday	May 24, 2012	Last Day School, Early Dismissal Students

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(602) 707-2000

www.OsbornSchools.org

Published by Osborn School District No. 8
The Governing Board meets on the
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the
Administrative Offices at
1226 W. Osborn Road.
All parents and patrons are invited to attend.

CLARENDON SCHOOL (4-6)

A+ School of Excellence

A+ Dual Language & Ballet Programs

Performing Plus School

1225 W. Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85013
Sandra Meko, Principal (602) 707-2200

ENCANTO SCHOOL (K-3)

A+ Dual Language & Ballet Programs

Performing School

1420 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ. 85013
Michael Robert, Principal (602) 707-2300

LONGVIEW SCHOOL (K-6)

A+ Behavior Program

Performing Plus School

1209 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85014
Leslie Beauchamp, Principal (602) 707-2700

OSBORN MIDDLE SCHOOL (7&8)

A+ Math & Dual Language Programs

Performing Plus School

1102 W. Highland, Phoenix, AZ 85013
Marty Makar, Principal (602) 707-2400
Carol Hayes, Assistant Principal

SOLANO SCHOOL (K-6)

A+ Writing Program

Performing Plus School

1526 W. Missouri, Phoenix, AZ 85015
Karen Epps, Principal (602) 707-2600

A+ School of Excellence™ and A+ Exemplary Program™ awards
presented by the Arizona Educational Foundation™

2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Start Times

Grades K - 68:00 a.m. Grades 7 - 8 8:45 a.m.

Dismissal Times

	Regular	Wednesdays & Early Dismissal
Grades K-2	2:15 p.m.	12:15 p.m.
Grades 3-6	3:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Grades 7-8	3:55 p.m.	1:45 p.m.

Trimesters

1st Trimester	Aug.10 - Nov.4	57 Days
2nd Trimester	Nov.7 - Feb.24	65 Days
3rd Trimester	Feb.27 - May 24	58 Days

Total = 180 Days

**OPEN
ENROLLMENT**

STUDENTS DO NOT NEED TO LIVE IN THE DISTRICT TO ENROLL

PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL SÍRVASE DE LLAMAR A NOEMI CORTES (602) 707-2016