



The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

APRIL 2024

Paseo Pointe Reads Their Way to the Final Four

Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy made it to the *Read to the Final Four* with their third graders participating in special events at Phoenix Fan Fest and State Farm Stadium.

Read to the Final Four is a literacy challenge in which hundreds of third grade students from across the state read and log their minutes for a chance to win fun prizes and compete for the championship. While Paseo did not win the championship, the school received a \$5,000 check from the Helios Foundation to support literacy in the school.

The final four schools were recognized at a special event before the opening of the NCAA Phoenix Fan Fest at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Two Students Receive “I Can Do It!” Award

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

This year’s winners are Trailside Point 2nd grader Michael Luz, who was nominated by school counselor Sarah Steele, and Laveen School 7th grader Gabriel Ruiz Coronado, who was nominated by teacher Leah Hall.

The council featured the two in their conference video which can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/915838521?share=copy> (timestamps: Michael Luz 2:55, Gabriel Ruiz Coronado 6:26).



Ruiz



Luz



Rogers Ranch STEM Academy is the first school in Arizona to receive the National Certificate for STEM Excellence

Rogers Ranch STEM Academy is the first school in Arizona to receive the National Certificate for STEM Excellence. The Certificate, provided by the National Institute of STEM Education (NISE) recognizes individual school campuses that have integrated STEM best practices and 21st Century learning and professional development. Rogers Ranch STEM Academy has shown a commitment to and growth in both these areas.

“Our mission has always been for Rogers Ranch to reflect what a school STEM school exemplifies on both the inside and outside,” explained Rogers Ranch principal Megan Hamburg who led the school to certification. “This certification reinforces the vision Rogers Ranch teachers and staff have had for our school.”

To receive the certificate, Rogers Ranch completed a three-phase process, comprising 27 indicators, to elevate a culture of STEM teaching and learning across the campus in less than nine months. This included developing a STEM action plan for implementation, embedding STEM strategies into instruction and assessments, and using STEM protocol to guide instructional decisions. Additionally, a team of educators completed the National Certificate for STEM Teaching.

Rogers Ranch was also named an NAU STEM Focus School for the Future in 2022-2023. This program helped Rogers Ranch build the capacity to design and implement effective STEM instruction with the goal of developing a STEM-literate workforce.

“We were able to take the intentional work done through the STEM Focus Schools for the Future process to reflect and refine for this national certification. As a campus we will continue to reflect, grow and refine to be a high achieving academy that reflects what STEM education is,” noted Hamburg.



National Certificate for STEM Excellence



Rogers Ranch, Vista del Sur students participate in Regional Design Day

On Saturday, February 24, students from Rogers Ranch STEM Academy and Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy participated in the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Regional Design Day at Grand Canyon University.

Students either participated in engineering challenges or received feedback on their designs.

The student groups will use the practice and feedback from Saturday to help them prepare for the statewide MESA Day, which will be held at the University of Arizona on May 4th.

Read GCU's [news article](#) to learn more about the regional event.



Classified Staff Members Recognized with Exceptional Service Awards

Fifteen classified staff members were recently honored as recipients of the 2023-24 Exceptional Service Awards, the Laveen Elementary School District's highest recognition for classified staff. These individuals were nominated and selected for displaying the following attributes: strong attendance and dependability, high quality and quantity of work, excel at working harmoniously with others, expert in their job responsibilities, regularly show initiative and creatively solve problems, and provide excellent customer service. Their commitment to our students, staff, and community is greatly appreciated.

This year's Exceptional Service Award recipients are: Gonzalo Sanchez, Bus Driver; Gabriel Cabrera Solis, Groundskeeper; Veronica Soto, District Receptionist; Tehani Smith, EFGA School Registrar; Sarahi Balanzar, MC Cash Computer Technician; Cynthia Brito, Rogers Ranch Health Associate; Sandra Bautista, Laveen School Secretary; David Garcia, Paseo Plant Manager; Jerlyn Dees, Cheatham Instructional Associate; Araceli Jimenez, Desert Meadows Cafeteria Manager; Jesusita Martinez Kids Club Specialist; Stephanie Carreon, Vista Plant Manager; Angel Richmond Trailside Point Guest Teacher Instructional Associate.

Paseo Pointe Archery Team Wins State Championship

Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy's elementary-level archery team won the state championship in the Bullseye competition and is now headed to Nationals in Salt Lake City, Utah. The team also took 2nd Place in the 3D competition and qualified for Nationals.

The middle school-level took 2nd place in Bullseye and were the first team to get a Top 3 for Paseo Pointe, but fell short to qualify for Nationals. The middle school team took 4th place in 3D and qualified for Nationals.

Several students were recognized for their individual accomplishments.

- Jasmyne Holdsclaw was the second-best middle

school girl in the state for Bullseye shooting a 274 out of 300 and she was also the third-best middle school girl for 3D shooting a 267.

- Jeremy Roberts was the number one 4th grader in the state and led the elementary team to 1st Place with a score of 253.
- Jaylene Sanchez was the first archer for Paseo Pointe to ever score a perfect END (shooting all bullseyes with all five arrows) with 50 points.

This was Paseo's best season yet and the school's first State Championship victory.