



Annual Report

GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

20
22





INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

TOGETHER WE PUT STUDENTS FIRST

Our students are at the center of everything we do. We achieve this through maintaining a strong commitment to academic excellence, providing highly-qualified certified teachers in every classroom, offering a well-rounded variety of extra-curricular activities, and creating an extensive range of programs to meet the unique needs of students and families. Our GPS Family works every day to continually improve the student experience on every campus, and we are committed to working alongside our parents and families to support every student to learn, grow, and thrive.

COMMITTED TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our goal is to support our students to excel academically while nurturing a love of learning. GPS students consistently outperform the national average in state testing and score among the highest in the state. Our secondary schools focus on college and career readiness and students achieve many prestigious state and national awards, going on to succeed at universities and colleges across the country, as well as achieving success in many industries.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE WITHIN GPS

For over 100 years Gilbert Public Schools has been delivering a well-rounded high-quality K-12 educational experience for over 33,000 students at our 39 schools across Gilbert, Chandler, and Mesa, Arizona. At our core are our elementary schools, junior highs, and high schools, all delivering academic excellence with a wide range of opportunities and programs, high-quality certified teachers, and an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, clubs, high-performing athletics, strong arts, music, and performing arts programs. Meeting the educational needs of our students and families is important to us and we are delighted to offer a wide range of academic programs that our students and families can choose from including International Baccalaureate, Accelerated Middle School, Traditional Academies, Dual-Language Spanish Academy K-6, Accelerated Classrooms K-6, Performance Academy, Gifted, Talented and Creative, Classical Academy.





GPS FAMILY-LEADERSHIP

OUR SUPERINTENDENT

It is my privilege to serve as the Superintendent of this wonderful school district. As one of the largest school districts in the State of Arizona, we offer students and families a 100+ year tradition of academic excellence, A+ Schools of Excellence, an extensive array of accelerated courses and dual credit opportunities, along with a state-ranked career technical education (CTE) program. Additionally, our high-performing classrooms and programs are supported by nationally recognized performing arts, visual arts, and outstanding athletic programs.

I am very proud to lead this district forward with a focus on connecting, creating, and caring applied to everything we do to support our students to truly thrive. My wife and I are proud to say our two children are graduates of Gilbert Public Schools. Simply put, our Governing Board, our parents, our students, and our staff are second to none.

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

Our Governing Board leads our district by performing legislative, executive, and appraisal responsibilities including adopting general policies, placing policies into operation, and determining the efficiency of school operations and educational programs offered by the district.

Governing Board President -Mrs. Lori Wood
Governing Board Clerk - Mrs. Sheila Uggetti
Governing Board Member - Mrs. Jill Humpherys
Governing Board Member - Mr. Bill Parker
Governing Board Member - Dr. J Charles Santa Cruz





CONTINUING TO GROW

ACCELERATED K-6 CLASSROOMS

K-6 Accelerated classroom learning experiences are now offered at five of our elementary schools, across the district, to meet the needs of our students and families. A unique opportunity for students with strong academic abilities and a love of learning to be challenged in a supported learning environment. Accelerated includes highly-qualified Gilbert Public Schools teachers in every classroom, a well-established GPS curriculum, and enriched project-based learning experiences that support students to thrive. All five schools also offer conventional classrooms, making them the perfect destination for our families, where families can find a learning experience that meets the needs of their children.

PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

For the 2022/23 school year our Performance Academy is growing! Designed for 4th - 8th grade athletes and performing arts students, the program helps students excel academically in a school environment in the mornings and access training and programs in the afternoons, taking their achievements to the next level. Students access academic excellence at Mesquite Elementary and South Valley Junior High in the morning, and attend training or performing arts facility in the afternoons. Performance Academy students have the option to be part of the Legacy Sports USA Sports Enrichment Program at Bell Bank Park.

GILBERT ACCELERATED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Starting in the 2022/23 school year students can choose Gilbert Accelerated Middle School for 7th and 8th grade. Students are immersed in honors and accelerated curriculum with access to the resources of a comprehensive high school, while in a supportive cohort of other 7th and 8th-grade students. The learning experience is both academically rigorous and well-rounded, based on the application of knowledge and reflection, project-based learning, critical thinking, cross-curricular portfolio building, and student-centered learning approaches. Students gain access to the instructional expertise of high school/college-level faculty and are encouraged and supported to develop strong leadership and study skills, preparing them for a successful future.





CELEBRATING GPS FAMILY

GPS CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

For the first time in the district's history, Gilbert Public Schools is offering a track for educators to become certified teachers. More than 30 participants are part of the program's inaugural cohort, including GPS paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, a social worker, parents and other community members, all of whom come to the program with an existing bachelor's degree.

A+ SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Gilbert Public Schools is proud to celebrate Mesquite Elementary and Superstition Springs Elementary as newly recognized 2022 A+ Schools of Excellence™. In honor of the award from the Arizona Educational Foundation, both schools held a ceremony on the school's lawn to celebrate. GPS is honored to currently have 15 A+ Schools of Excellence.



SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Gilbert Public Schools' Director of Safety & Security, Allen Cain! He was named the 2022 K-12 Campus Safety Director of the Year by Campus Safety magazine, a nationwide publication featuring excellence in K-12 safety and security. Cain was selected for the great honor from a group of accomplished K-12 school safety directors from across the nation.

WORLD-CLASS AP STUDENT

As NeryAnne Jinon begins to make her future plans, the senior at Campo Verde High School has one more accomplishment to add to her resume. She is one of 375 students in the world to earn every point possible on the AP Research Exam. "I spent a lot of time on it. It's nice to see it pay off that much," she said.





CELEBRATING GPS FAMILY

GPS ANNUAL SPELLING BEE

Rows of chairs line the stage inside the auditorium of Campo Verde High School, and hanging right above them a bright yellow banner with black text that reads, "Gilbert Public Schools Spelling Bee." Every year GPS students, staff, and families look forward to this event.

STATE CHAMPIONS

A wild night for the Mesquite Wildcats Boys Basketball team as they fought their way to a win in the 4A semifinal game against Phoenix St. Mary's. The game on Tuesday, February 22 came down to the last second. Senior guard Nate Calmese led his team to victory when he fired off a shot just past halfcourt before the final buzzer. Mesquite, the No. 6 seed, defeated St. Mary's, the No. 2 seed, in a final score of 74-73.



AWARD-WINNING YEARBOOK

The 2020-2021 edition of the Greenfield Junior High Yearbook was recently honored as a Gold Crown Winner by The Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Only four junior high schools in the nation earned that recognition. Ingenium was also selected as a Pacemaker Finalist by the National Student Press Association.

IB CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Patterson Elementary has been selected as a candidate school for the prestigious International Baccalaureate® Primary Years Programme, building upon the incredible work already happening on the school's campus. The programme takes a student-centered approach to education, with the goal of developing students into caring, inquisitive and globally minded learners.





GPS FAMILY- ACHIEVEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Best School District in Gilbert and the East Valley from East Valley Tribune
- 2022 NAMM Foundation Best Communities for Music Education Award
- Cognia Accreditation Century Award: Gilbert High successfully renewed its accreditation with Cognia for a hundred years, since the initial achievement of this distinction
- PLTW Distinguished School - Campo Verde High Biomedical Program
- National FFA Agriscience Fair Finalists Division 6 - Highland High FFA
- National FFA Agriscience Fair Finalists Division 4 - Campo Verde FFA
- Mesquite Elementary and Superstition Springs - 2022 A+ Schools of Excellence™

STUDENT & TEACHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2021 Innovative Teacher of the Year Award from Arizona Health & Physical Education: Coach Meridith Brook, Ashland Ranch Elementary
- Campo Verde students Lillian Gettig and Matias Gonzalez were honored by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView, receiving the Merit Award (Gettig), Ambassador Award (Gonzalez), and The Kroger Co.'s Zero Hero Award (Gonzalez)
- New National Board Certified Teachers: Melisa Wiltbank (Desert Ridge High) and Casey Shaffer (Gilbert High)
- 8 National Merit Semi-Finalists across four schools
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Gold Teacher of Teachers - Ken Johnson, Gilbert High

MARCHING BAND

- Campo Verde High - 2021 3A State Champions
- Desert Ridge High - 2021 2A AZMBA Championship Winners

SPEECH AND DEBATE

- Mesquite High - Student Hunter Fenn finished 1st in the Big Question Debate (qualifying him for nationals), 1st in Prose, and runner-up in Impromptu
- Gilbert High - State champion Gabriel Neff won 1st in Original Spoken Word Poetry





GPS FAMILY- ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2021/22

BADMINTON

- Campo Verde – Division II Singles State Champion

SWIM AND DIVE

- Gilbert
 - Boys Division II State Champion in 50 Freestyle
 - Boys Division II State Champion in 100 Freestyle
 - Boys Division II State Champions in 200 Freestyle Relay
- Campo Verde – Girls Division II State Runner-Up
 - Girls Division II State Champion in 100 Breaststroke

CROSS COUNTRY

- Gilbert – Boys Division II Individual State Champion
- Highland – Boys Division I Team State Runners-Up
- Highland – Girls Division I Team State Champions

FOOTBALL

- Highland – 6A State Champions

BASKETBALL

- Mesquite – Boys 4A State Champions
- Gilbert – Boys 5A State Runner-Up

WRESTLING

- Campo Verde
 - Boys Division II State Champion 138 lbs.
 - Boys Division II State Champion 215 lbs.
 - Girls Division II State Champion 165 lbs.

VOLLEYBALL

- Highland – Boys Division I State Runner-Up
- Gilbert – Boys Division II State Runner-Up

TRACK AND FIELD

- Desert Ridge – Girls Division I Discus State Champion
- Highland
 - Girls Division I 400m State Champion
 - Girls Division I 4x400 Relay State Champions
- Campo Verde
 - Girls Division II 400m State Champion
 - Girls Division II Discus State Champion
 - Boys Division II 300m Hurdle State Champion
- Gilbert – Boys Division II State Runner-Up



SAFETY & SECURITY

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

As a school district, we continue to actively promote safety and security on our campuses. Here is an update on the many projects that are complete and in the process of being implemented district-wide to promote the safety and security of our students and employees.

- Student ID Badges - Junior High & High School beginning 2022/23
- Integrated surveillance camera systems - High Schools complete
- Video intercom entrances - All elementary and Junior High campuses beginning 2022/23
- Secured campus entrances - High Schools and Neely Traditional Academy complete
- Tipline - District-wide
- Safety drills - District-wide
- School Resource Officers - Junior High & High School
- Security guards - District-wide
- Reunification procedures - District-wide
- Social Workers - District-wide
- Online Safety & Security Hub for students, parents, and employees with key resources, information, and updates.
- Employee Safety & Security Newsletter
- District Emergency Response Team


Safety & Security Hub - www.gilbertschools.net/alerts





SAFETY & SECURITY


SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

**TIP**
LINE

Confidential Tip Line

Keep Your School Safe!

If you believe or know that someone may be carrying a weapon, drugs, or alcohol on campus, or if you are experiencing a personal issue, send an anonymous tip now to keep you and your school safe! Visit gilbertschools.net/tip to send your tip, download and use the tip line via the GPS app, or use your phone to scan the code on the right. You do not have to provide your name.



See something? Say something!
gilbertschools.net/tip

SCAN ME



Here Comes The Bus





FINANCIAL REPORT

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Gilbert Public Schools understands the importance of maximizing resources that directly impact our classrooms and students. Our approach is designed to increase efficiency, expand classroom resources, and maintain quality educational facilities while delivering a wide range of academic options for our students, families and community in a fiscally responsible manner.

CLASSROOM SPENDING, 75.2%

INSTRUCTION, 61.6%

STUDENT SUPPORT, 9.8%

INSTRUCTION SUPPORT, 3.8%

NON-CLASSROOM SPENDING, 24.8%

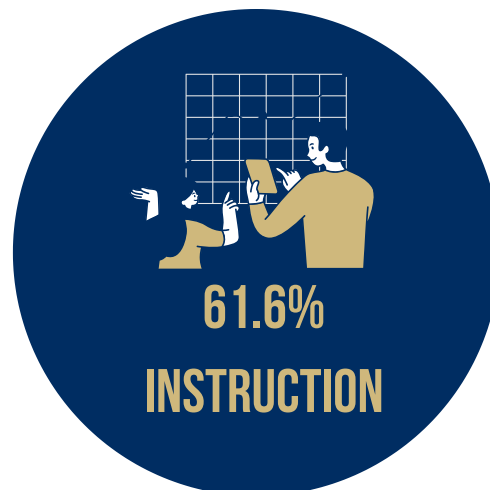
ADMINISTRATION, 8.1%

PLANT OPERATIONS, 9.6%

FOOD SERVICE, 3.3%

TRANSPORTATION, 3.8%

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT- FISCAL YEAR 2021



<https://sdspending.azauditor.gov/District>



www.gilbertschools.net

