



Pendergast District will Debut Two Innovative Preparatory Academies for 2015-16

Dual Language Program and Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Arts (STEAM) academies will enrich educational experiences and rigor as students prepare for future success

May 20, 2015(Phoenix, Arizona) – Pendergast Elementary School District serving the communities of Avondale, Glendale and Phoenix is expanding its educational opportunities for students in the West Valley by creating focus programs for students in the areas of Dual Language, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.)

After months of research and requests by parents and community members, the PESD Dual Language Program will be launched for the 2015-16 school year. The benefits of such programs are clear with students able to speak multiple languages in order to prepare for college and career readiness and compete globally. Initially, the district will offer Spanish as an enriched educational experience and the plan is to branch out into Mandarin Chinese and other languages in future years. The students will develop high levels of proficiency in both languages; achieve academic excellence in all subject areas as they acquire an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. Thematic units using technology will be utilized to connect language arts, math, science, and social studies. School sites will include [Desert Horizon](#) and [Sunset Ridge](#) beginning in Kindergarten with a maximum of 50 students at each site. Each year another grade level will be added through the eighth grade with the objective of literacy in both languages by the time students are promoted to high school.

Additionally, the district will launch Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) Academies on the campus of [Desert Mirage School](#) to offer a rigorous, project-based format of learning. Students will be engaged in a challenging and focused curriculum to assist them in working on “best practices” in order to exceed state learning standards. Three specialized academies feature partnerships with local businesses investing in the future and share expertise and skills with students. The Academies will all use the [Project Lead the Way](#) curriculum, which is the nation’s leading provider of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs aligned to standards. They are:

- Architecture and Design for sixth grade students will focus on hands-on experiences in design and modeling, automation and robotics and green architecture.
- The Energy and the Environment Academy will focus on experiences in design and modeling, automation and robotics and the science of technology all designed to keep students excited and engaged in learning.
- The Medical and Health Focus Academy is in partnership with the [Maricopa Integrated Health Systems](#) for 8th grade students will feature focus areas and hands-on experiences in design and modeling, automation and robotics and medical detectives.

All students will utilize industry based advanced software and design tools and increase their skills in the areas of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Dr. Lily DeBlieux, Pendergast Superintendent and Board President Susan Serin are, “Ecstatic with these new program offerings. This will truly show students and families how we believe in their potential and feel that personalized learning opportunities are the key to student success. We are grateful to our partners for being fully invested in these innovative educational experiences and willing to provide not only the funding, but also career speakers, field trips, and real life applications.”

For further information, or to enroll contact Dora Barrio, Chief Academic Officer at dbarrio@pesd92.org or 623-772-2318.