A Guide on How to Access the Innovative Programs and Signature Initiatives Offered by the Duarte Unified School District

How to Apply for an Interdistrict Permit

Step 1: Request to Leave Your District of Residence
- Obtain an interdistrict permit application from your district of residence.
- Complete the application form. Indicate the specific reason(s) for requesting the permit and attach any documentation that supports the reason(s) for the request.
- Submit the application form and supporting documents to the appropriate person or department at your district of residence.

Step 2: Request to Attend Duarte USD
- If the request is approved by the district of residence, complete a Duarte USD Admissions Form available to download at www.duarteusd.org from the Admissions & Permits tab on the homepage.
- Submit the Admissions Form with the approved Interdistrict Permit from the district of residence to the Duarte USD Coordinator of Student Services either by email to nothman@duarteusd.org or in person to the District Office.

Step 3: Appealing a Denial
- If a request to leave your district of residence or to attend a school in Duarte USD is denied, an appeal of that denial can be filed, first with the district that issued the denial, then with the county office of education that has jurisdiction over the denying district of residence.
- Appeals must be filed within 30 calendar days from the date of the denial.
SPECIALIZED PROGRAM OFFERINGS

At Duarte Unified School District

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, THE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM) ACADEMY at Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8+). The Royal Oaks STEAM Academy provides project-based learning through interdisciplinary activities, integrating the arts and sciences throughout the instructional program utilizing a hands-on curriculum in alignment with what students will experience in college and the workforce. Students in Grades K-5 delve into STEAM through Project Lead the Way, and students in Grades 6-8 complete three Project Lead the Way courses. Also, in partnership with the renowned City of Hope Medical Research Center, students conduct authentic biomedical research in laboratory settings and learn alongside real scientists utilizing a custom STEAM curriculum that received the Excellence in Educational Pathways Award. Additionally, arts programming is embedded within all students’ instructional day through a customized arts integration curriculum and specialty Visual & Performing Arts courses that include instrumental music, choir, visual arts and a dance/movement program taught by industry professionals.

SPANISH-ENGLISH DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM at Beardslee Academy (TK-8+). The Dual Immersion Program at Beardslee Academy follows a 90:10 model where instruction begins in Kindergarten with 90% in Spanish and 10% in English, shifting 10% each subsequent year until instruction is delivered 50% in Spanish and 50% in English by the fourth grade. Research shows the program has been proven to promote bilingualism and biliteracy, academic achievement, and multicultural competence. Students enter the Dual Language Immersion program in Kindergarten. Launched in 2017-18 and Grades K-1, a new grade level will be added each successive year, resulting in a robust K-8 program that prepares all students to succeed in higher level language courses in high school and college.

ARTFUL LEARNING* at Andres Duarte Arts Academy (TK-8+). Artful Learning® is an arts-based TK-8 transformative learning model inspired by the vision of the great American composer, Leonard Bernstein. It is a framework grounded in the artistic process that embeds the arts in the learning process and serves as the method of response for students to convey understanding across the curriculum. State Standards form the core of every unit of study brought to life through arts-infused, inquiry-based learning. Extensive research-proven professional development and learning empowers educators to utilize this methodology over a three-year implementation process.

MINDFUL LEARNING* at Andres Duarte Arts Academy (TK-8+). This program engages students in regular mindfulness practice to increase awareness of one’s internal and external experiences and promotes reflection, self-regulation and caring for others—the factors studies have identified as important to learning and to developing supportive relationships. The program utilizes the MindUP™ curriculum that is grounded in Neuroscience, Positive Psychology, Mindful Awareness and Social & Emotional Learning which includes daily yoga practice and calisthenics.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PRIMARY & MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM at Maxwell IB Academy & World School (K-8+). IB provides a continuum of education, consisting of up to four programs united by their philosophy and approach to learning and teaching. It is designed to provide students with an inquiry-based environment, where they can develop into compassionate, internationally-mind individuals who create, collaborate, communicate and think critically for success. Already an authorized IB Primary Years Program (PYP), all students in Grades K-5 are taught 6 units of inquiry throughout the academic year. Maxwell IB Academy is also pursuing authorization for the Middle Years Program (MYP) and will implement the requirements now affording all students a rigorous curriculum that encourages student curiosity from Kindergarten through Grade 8.

4-YEAR EARLY COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT at Duarte High School (9-12). The 4-Year Early College Program Dual Enrollment is a one-of-a-kind partnership with Citrus College that blends high school and college in a rigorous and supportive cohort program. Students simultaneously earn a high school diploma and complete approximately 30-60 college units depending on the pathway they choose, including earning an Associate of Arts degree.

CAREER ACADEMIES & INTERNSHIPS at Duarte High School (9-12) integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge, providing students with pathways to postsecondary education and careers. Available Career Academies that provide certifications in the pathways through Precision Exams include:

• NAF Culinary Arts Business Entrepreneurship Dual Academy
• Design, Visual, and Media Arts Pathway
• Production and Managerial Arts Pathway
• Healthcare/Biotechnology Pathway

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) at Valley View Elementary (TK-6). GATE is designed to address the learning styles of students who have been identified as gifted and talented. The program goals are to meet the students’ intellectual needs, motivate them to reach their highest potential, increase the application of critical thinking skills, and promote positive social-emotional skills. The learning opportunities are guided by students’ interests and include engineering and coding using Blockly and Thryvl to work on Passion Projects.

DUARTE USD & CSARTS-SGV COLLEGE-PREPARATORY & JOINT PRE-PROFESSIONAL ARTS CONSERVATORY PROGRAM. Duarte USD has partnered with Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) to bring exclusive arts programming to our district through a public charter school, California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV). CSArts-SGV provides an unparalleled rigorous college-preparatory academic program and pre-professional arts conservatory training. Unlike an afterschool program, students admitted to the joint CSArts-SGV/DUSD 7-8 program receive 350 minutes and students in Grades 9-12 receive 560 minutes of arts-based training per week embedded within their instructional day taught by certified academic teachers and industry professionals.

Students in Grades 7-8 participate in a joint program between CSArts-SGV and Duarte USD in which our district and CSArts-SGV collaborate to provide students’ arts and academic instruction. Students have a customized schedule shared between both a Duarte USD and CSArts-SGV campus with transportation provided by the district. Once admitted to the program, all seventh and eighth grade students continue in the CSArts-SGV program through twelfth grade.

This one-of-a-kind partnership between Duarte USD and CSArts-SGV provides a six-year, backwards mapped arts and academic curriculum that will allow students to achieve their goal of postsecondary study in their chosen field of art. Students enrolled in this program specialize in four schools of art: Dance, Fine & Media Arts, Music and Theater. Each school of art provides the real-world skills students will need to establish and maintain a professional career in these fields. In addition, students are provided access to master artist programs, which bring A-level talent to our campuses.

The partnership also provides students in Grades TK-8 at all Duarte USD schools a customized integrated arts curriculum and specialty VAPA classes taught by industry professionals, beginning with a comprehensive dance/movement program offered during the school day for all students in addition to their conservatory training.

• Four of the district’s traditional elementary schools underwent a transition to K-8 Academies that will be complete by the start of the 2018-19 academic year.