

"Investing in Arcadia"

*By Dr. Joel Shawn, Superintendent
Arcadia Unified School District*



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Superintendent*

Several months ago I wrote about the school district's facilities program and the opening of two new buildings, the student services and science buildings at Arcadia High School. In this article I will tell you about an exciting new Dana Gym. On January 11, 2011, the City of Arcadia and the Arcadia Unified School District celebrated the opening of the Dana Gym, a "joint use project" of the city and school district. The January 11th ribbon cutting event culminated five years of work and planning and marks the opening of this remarkable new athletic facility located at the northeast corner of Dana Middle School at 1401 South First Avenue. Working collaboratively, the school district and city were able to develop a proposed project that took advantage of significant state funding. By leveraging these funds which may pay for up to 50% of joint use projects between school districts and cities, we were able to conceptualize a state-of-the-art gymnasium to serve the needs of the school district and the city



Interior of the new Dana Gym

The Dana Gym is a 9000 square foot facility that includes office space and a lobby, air conditioning, state-of-the-art score boards, a modern bleacher system, sufficient space to provide for one full court basketball court - or when divided, six useable backboards for basketball, and is configurable for volleyball. New landscaping and exterior basketball courts were also part of the project. Dana Middle School will use the facility as an integral part of our students' physical education program. The school district will also use it for a variety of district-wide athletic events. The city's use will include programs such as the city's youth playground basketball league (games will be played at the facility on Friday nights and on Saturdays); senior classes that will be offered Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.; adult basketball leagues scheduled to operate on Sundays; volleyball on Tuesday nights (from 8-10 p.m.); badminton on Thursday nights (from 8-10 p.m.); various recreation classes such as Pilates, Zumba, Tai Chi,

Yoga and Hoopnotics operated on Monday through Thursday evenings (around the other programs mentioned); and additional programs such as extended care for day camp, activities for sports camps and additional classes for tots will be offered during the summer months.

It is remarkable that we broke ground on this project in December of 2009 and now a little more than a year later the building is open and in use. During our winter break, I had the opportunity to walk the site and go in the gym as the contractors were putting the finishing touches on the work. I was awestruck by the beauty of the design, its size, and the way natural light is utilized to illuminate the space. Regardless of the time of year, this eco-friendly air conditioned building will provide a comfortable place for our children to be educated and to engage in appropriate recreational activities.

It is no surprise that Arcadia continues to be identified as one of the best places in California to raise kids. The investment in this city's recreation facilities, schools and infrastructure, shows wisdom by you, the community, and those who lead its efforts. The new Dana Gym will pay dividends for many years to come. I encourage you to drive by and take a look at an outstanding example of "What is right for Arcadia".



Dana Gym bleachers

*Warm Regards,
Joel Shawn, Superintendent*