Uptown Chandler is an eclectic area situated at the center of the rapidly growing East Valley. Home to more than 4,700 families, access to high-performing K-12 schools is important to many Uptown Chandler residents. Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) ensure that students at all grade levels have the opportunity receive a quality education. Students living south of Warner Road are served by six CUSD schools and those to the north are generally served by three MPS schools.

To prepare students to work in an increasingly tech-driven economy, CUSD and MPS schools offer challenging curriculum with an early focus on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and math).

CUSD and Intel are also partnering directly to enhance STEM education for Chandler students, especially those in grades K-6. Intel has provided a $140,000 grant to support the introduction of computer science, engineering and biomedical science curriculum at select schools through a national STEM program called Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

CUSD's goal is to create a full pipeline of K-12 STEM curriculum for elementary and junior high students who feed into Chandler High School. Under the Intel grant, three schools have access to PLTW's curriculum including two serving Uptown Chandler: Andersen Elementary and Andersen Junior High. In addition to the grant funding, Intel is encouraging employees to volunteer by engaging in classroom activities and sharing real-life insights.

“We know that kids who develop a passion for STEM at an early age are more likely to pursue careers in STEM fields,” said Frank Narducci, CUSD’s Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction. “The exciting thing about Project Lead The Way is that it motivates kids to engage in critical thinking and creative thinking by showing them how STEM impacts their daily lives.”

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AZSTEM SCHOOL
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Three schools serving the area (Andersen Elementary, Arizona College Prep – Oakland Campus and Sirrine Elementary) are helping to innovate the next generation of STEM education in Arizona by participating in a new statewide initiative. AZ STEM School Community of Practice brings together educators, students, parents, community members and high-tech businesses to learn from one another and transform how STEM impacts schools and Arizona’s future workforce. The program kicked off last year and is sponsored by Arizona STEM leaders including Arizona SciTech, Arizona Science Center, Maricopa Education Service Agency and Intel.

“The quality STEM education being provided to students in Uptown Chandler is critical to our city’s long-term prosperity. Many of these students will become part of our workforce. The skills they are developing now will help Chandler maintain its leading position as the Innovation and Technology Hub of the Southwest.” - Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
STEM education is taken to an even higher level at CUSD’s gifted and college prep schools. Innovative students in grades 5-12 are challenged to compete in the annual Arizona Science and Engineering Fair. At the 2017 fair, a total of 35 awards were presented to students from CUSD schools serving Uptown Chandler. Knox Gifted Academy was named Elementary School Division Champion for the second year in a row, Arizona College Prep – Oakland Campus students excelled in the Junior Division, and two students from Arizona College Prep – Erie Campus won Best of Fair in the Senior Division and proceeded to the 2017 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in Los Angeles, California.

"Chandler Unified School District is proud to educate so many passionate and talented students," said Terry Locke, CUSD’s Director of Community Relations. “These students are coming up with remarkable innovations that will help solve real-world problems.”

Parents in Uptown Chandler can be confident that their child will have access to a quality education from kindergarten through high school graduation. To learn more about school options for Uptown Chandler students, visit CUSD’s website at cusd80.com or MPS’ website at mpsaz.org.

For more information on the City’s Uptown Chandler initiative and how you can help promote this vibrant part of Chandler, visit chandleraz.gov/uptown.