

= Dougherty Valley High School =

Dougherty Valley High School ( commonly Dougherty , Dougherty Valley , Dougherty Valley High , DVHS , or DV High ) is a public high school located in the Windemere development of San Ramon , California , United States . Dougherty is one of four high schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District ( SRVUSD ) , along with California High School , San Ramon Valley High School , and Monte Vista High School . Constructed by Shapell Industries of California and Windemere Ranch Partners BLC , Dougherty was the first developer @-@ built school in the SRVUSD . The school opened its doors in 2007 .

Dougherty 's nickname is the wildcats , and its school colors are navy , Columbia blue , and silver . Dougherty is known for its state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art campus , which features a performing arts center and aquatics center in a joint @-@ use agreement with the city . Dougherty is the top school in the district based on Academic Performance Index and is developing as an athletic force . The school is also home to over 120 various clubs .

= = History = =

= = = Conception ( 1988 ? 2006 ) = = =

Dougherty Valley High School was built by Shapell Industries of California and Windemere Ranch Partners BLC , which were also the two main developers of the Dougherty Valley area in general . Shapell was obligated through a December 1988 agreement with the SRVUSD to " contribute its fair share of the cost of additional high school space needed to serve students generated by the project , " with the project mentioned being the construction of 11 @,@ 000 houses in the area . Dougherty is the first developer @-@ built high school in the SRVUSD , in contrast with the typical method of a developer and the state funding the school district for construction of any necessary schools . The district and developers began further negotiations regarding the school 's construction in 2001 .

The school 's name was chosen from more than 150 suggestions submitted to an online survey , although the name , school colors , and mascot had to be approved by the Board of Education . The school logo was designed in 2006 by Jennifer Wong , at the time a senior at Monte Vista High School , after winning a student logo design contest with 12 other entries . Wong received \$ 500 for her design and was honored alongside the contest 's runners @-@ up at a school board meeting . Denise Hibbard , who had been an assistant principal at California High School for six years , was chosen as Dougherty 's first principal .

= = = Construction ( 2005 ? 2007 ) = = =

An official groundbreaking at the school was held on September 23 , 2005 , with school board members Nancy Petsuch , Greg Marvel , and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson in attendance . The construction of the school was divided into two phases . The first phase , which involved site grading , utilities , and paving , commenced in May 2005 and was completed by January 2006 ; the second phase , which involved constructing buildings , landscaping and creation of ball fields , commenced in February 2006 and was completed by August 2007 . In a December 2006 meeting , the City Council of the City of San Ramon approved the construction of a performing arts center and aquatics center for joint @-@ use between the city and the SRVUSD . Total construction took 16 months , five months less than predicted .

The construction of the school cost approximately \$ 128 million , and the total cost , including inspections and management , was about \$ 150 million . The costs of the performing arts center , to which the city contributed \$ 4 million , and the aquatics center , to which the city contributed \$ 9 @.@ 2 million , were expected to exceed revenues by \$ 400 @,@ 000 each . According to City Councilmember Scott Perkins , " Other cities have stand @-@ alone [ aquatic ] facilities that cost \$ 35 million . Were getting 90 percent of that use for a quarter of the price . " In addition , the city

approved the \$ 4 million construction of an independent study school on Dougherty 's campus , to replace the area 's older independent study school built in the 1970s . The expenses of construction were shared between Windemere BLC , Shapell , the school district , and the City of San Ramon .

= = = Inauguration and beyond ( 2007 ? present ) = = =

The SRVUSD opened both Dougherty and Live Oak Elementary School on August 25 , 2007 . Dougherty began its inaugural school year on August 27 , 2007 , becoming the first high school in 34 years to open in the SRVUSD . History teacher James Corcoran noted that working at the first year school was an opportunity to develop its community , saying " You oftentimes will go into a school as a teacher , or even a principal , and it 's ' This is the way we do it around here . ' It 's hard to change that once it 's been set . " Elaine O 'Hanlon , founding president of the Dougherty Parent @-@ Teacher Association , said that parent volunteering would be encouraged at the new school .

In 2009 , the SRVUSD was affected by a major statewide school budget crisis . 236 layoff notices were sent to teachers within the district , more than half of whom worked at Dougherty . All permanent teachers were rehired with the help of a \$ 144 per @-@ parcel tax measure passed in May 2009 , expected to raise \$ 6 @.@ 7 million yearly . During the 2009 flu pandemic in the United States , one tenth grade student at Dougherty was known to have been infected with the Influenza A / H1N1 virus ; however , closure of the school did not occur , as it was found to be unnecessary and inconvenient . According to Principal Hibbard , " We just have to make sure we educate parents " , and the school administration reacted to the outbreak by sending out an email to parents with advice from the Center for Disease Control .

In the summer of 2011 , SunPower began construction and installation of solar panels in the school parking lot . The school district used federal funds from low @-@ interest qualified school construction bond as part of government stimulus from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the project . When completed , the panels will reportedly provide the school with between two @-@ thirds to 80 percent of its energy needs .

= = Enrollment = =

In the 2008 @-@ 2009 year , 1 @,@ 001 students were enrolled in Dougherty . Admission is based primarily on the location of students ' residency , although birth date documentation and immunization records are also required from new students . The school opened in 2007 with 570 students , fitting the initial prediction of between 450 and 600 students . 95 of these students had transferred to Dougherty from another school in the district , and the majority of the freshmen came from Windemere Ranch Middle School . The school started with only ninth grade freshmen and tenth grade sophomores in 2007 , and in each successive school year another grade was added until the standard ninth to twelfth grade range was reached in 2009 .

In 2007 , Dougherty had 277 female students , representing approximately 48 @.@ 6 % of the total student population , and 293 male students , representing approximately 51 @.@ 4 % of the total student population . Nestled in the culturally integrated Windemere development , Dougherty consists of students from many different backgrounds and is the most diverse in the district . Because of its diversity , San Ramon parks and community services division manager John Skeel said in 2007 that " We know that with the new high school ( Dougherty Valley High School ) and all the new schools , it 's important to stay on top of race issues . With the mixture of middle- and low-income housing in newer neighborhoods , that could be an issue as well . " Dougherty 's 2007 enrollment included a large population of Asian students , accounting for 41 @.@ 2 % of the student body . 32 @.@ 5 % of the school identified themselves as White , 6 @.@ 5 % as Filipino , 6 @.@ 1 % as African American , 4 @.@ 9 % as Hispanic or Latino , 0 @.@ 7 % as Pacific Islander , 0 @.@ 2 % as American Indian or Alaska Native , and 7 @.@ 9 % with more than one ethnicity or no response .

= = Academics = =

Greatschools.com awarded the school a perfect ten out of ten score , based on a comparison between the school 's standardized test scores and those statewide ; it is one of the few schools in California to be distinguished as such . In 2009 , Dougherty had an Academic Performance Index rank of 905 out of a possible 1000 , growing from the 2008 base score of 891 . The school was the highest ranked high school in the SRVUSD , the 27th highest high school in the state , and the 744th highest school in the country by API score . In 2011 , Dougherty Valley improved by 12 points the previous year with an API score of 921 , making them the 3rd highest high school in Contra Costa County as well as the 1st highest high school in SRVUSD . Dougherty Valley also further improved with an API score of 937 in 2012 .

In 2013 , the school was awarded a gold medal , and ranked amongst the top 500 schools in the country by U.S. News .

= = School facilities = =

Dougherty occupies approximately 54 acres ( 220 @, @ 000 m2 ) of land and can accommodate up to 2 @, @ 200 students . Space has been left open to potentially expand the campus in the future , which would allow for 200 more students to attend . Considered to be state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art , the campus received the award for Best of California in the K @-@ 12 category for Northern California from California Construction magazine . There are 11 major buildings on campus , including four two @-@ story classroom buildings , a career tech facility , a library , a commons building , an administration building , and two gymnasiums . The school has 80 classrooms . For athletic purposes , the school has a 2 @, @ 800 @-@ seat stadium with lights , a press box , and a track . Also at Dougherty are two baseball fields , two softball fields and eight tennis courts . The campus is also home to the area 's 11 @, @ 222 square feet ( 1 @, @ 042 @. @ 6 m2 ) Venture Independent Study School .

Dougherty also shares a performance arts center and aquatics center with the city of San Ramon under a joint @-@ use agreement . The performing arts center includes a 600 @-@ seat proscenium theater , a 3 @, @ 500 @-@ square @-@ foot ( 330 m2 ) rehearsal room , a box office , lobby , dressing rooms , rooms for vocal and instrumental music , and city offices . In addition to school productions and concerts , alternative rock band Gin Blossoms , stand @-@ up comedian Caroline Rhea , and others have put on shows at the performing arts center . The purpose of the performing arts center in relation to the school is twofold : students are able " to work with some of the professional artists in mentoring and master class programs " , and , according to Principal Hibbard , it allows for " larger presentations that can serve all our schools in the area " . The aquatics center features a 50 @-@ meter Olympic @-@ size swimming pool and locker rooms .

= = Extracurricular activities = =

= = = Athletics = = =

The Dougherty Valley Athletic Department offers several sports , including cross country , football , golf , tennis , water polo , volleyball , cheerleading , basketball , soccer , wrestling , baseball , lacrosse , softball , swimming , diving , badminton , and track and field . Most of the sports have separate men 's and women 's teams , and golf and tennis for men occur in a later season than for women . Current coaches include former Major League Baseball player Darren Lewis for the varsity baseball team .

The school was part of the East Bay Athletic League ( EBAL ) for its first year , but has since moved to the Diablo Foothill Athletic League ( DFAL ) . Dougherty 's main rival is considered to be Dublin High School , due to the close proximity of the two schools and past controversy between the schools ' respective coaches .

= = = Wildcat Tribune = = =

The Wildcat Tribune was Dougherty 's official student newspaper before being dissolved by the school 's administration in 2009 . Published online and in print , the Tribune featured sections on news , editorials , opinions , features , entertainment , and sports . The first attempt to create a newspaper club occurred in the inaugural school year , although it fell through because the teacher supporting the club was unable to receive approval from the school 's administration . The newspaper club was founded by five students during the 08 @-@ 09 school year . The newspaper had several positions , including editor in chief , front page editor , editors for each section of the paper , and webmaster .

The Wildcat Tribune was the first print publication to interview Chesley Sullenberger after the pilot 's emergency water landing of US Airways Flight 1549 , in a February 2009 special edition of the Tribune with an article titled " Heroism & Humility on the Hudson " . Sullenberger and his wife , both residents of San Ramon , decided with CBS to grant his first interview to a student journalist , and Dougherty is attended by one of their daughters . Sullenberger met with the principal and Jega Sanmugam prior to the interview , and all preparation was done in secrecy . Sanmugam conducted the interview at Sullenberger 's home hours before Katie Couric interviewed Sullenberger for 60 Minutes . An additional interview with Couric , about her career and the state of journalism , was also published in the Tribune . Alex Clemens , a representative of the Sullenberger family , said " The Sullenberger family is grateful to CBS for actively demonstrating acommitment to student journalism . "

The Wildcat Tribune was reinstated in 2011 and continues to issue publications every month .