



FUSD Newsletter

FHS Students Honor Veterans in a Lasting Way

For the past two years groups of Flagstaff High School students participated in a project lead by Cactus Shadows High School in Phoenix called the Veterans Heritage Project (VHP). This year 10 students (mostly seniors) worked for 10 months to complete their part of this “very stressful but fun and rewarding” project according to the students. Each year the Veterans Heritage Project selects a branch of the service to focus on and the students interview and write about a veteran from their home town. The interviews are compiled and put into a book that is kept in the Library of Congress. The purpose of this project is to show appreciation and help bring more attention to local veterans and their experiences. FHS teacher Shelly Stearns is very clear with the students that “this is not an English essay, the students must be very careful how this material is gathered and presented”. The students learned the art of interviewing, and report that they have learned a lot about respect, trust and the importance of telling someone else’s story. Ms. Stearns’ students showed a great sense of maturity and respect when telling these stories of appreciation and individual sacrifice.

Quotes from the students:

Kayla Bond – “VHP has given me not only the opportunity to learn about the real super heroes of the time but also a chance to grow as an individual. A picture is worth a thousand words, but a Vet’s words paint a picture that leaves you speechless.”

Kassie Sands- “Interviewing my veteran has opened my eyes. Listening to his life adventures not only shows his bravery, but shows how much our Veterans sacrificed for our country. The interview has convinced me that the Army saying ‘There’s strong, then there’s Army strong’ is an understatement.”

Amber Laughing – “Connecting with the veterans was such an amazing experience because of all the emotions and experiences that can change your perspective and respect for our country’s servicemen and women. Talking with someone who was a medic was so inspiring and reminds me of why I eventually want to commission into the Army.”

Delilah Coleman – “If anything, I am grateful to VHP for bringing another support system into my life. The Korean War and honored Tuskegee Airman and his wife that I interviewed have been with me every step of the way from writing to encouragement, they’ve been the backbone of this process, as it should be.”

Justin McElfresh – “I interviewed

a U.S. Marine who served in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart for being wounded in the arm and leg. One thing he told me that stuck with me was ‘Don’t be afraid to do what you want to do, even if you have to bend you’ll stay straight and good things will come out of it’ VHP has given me a sense of appreciation and humility for those who sacrificed almost everything.”

Lauren Slim – “The veterans spoke of their experiences and they opened up so well to students! It was great to see the excitement in the students’ faces as they finished their essays.”

Grace Frame – “I interviewed my grandfather and it was interesting to learn about what he had to go through. I gained more respect for him and everyone who is and was in the military.”

Dana Clashin – “Reaching out to veterans and uncovering a potentially untold story is an incredible opportunity. VHP allows me to show appreciation, respect and admiration for America’s Veterans.”



Upcoming Events

March	
Spring Break No School	16— 20
April	
Flagstaff Community Stem Celebration	1
FUSD Festival of Sights and Sounds	18

Please remember to look for school specific flyers through the Peachjar button on your schools homepage.

The FUSD calendar and bus routes can be found on our website at www.fusd1.org.



The Advanced Placement Academy Adds Flexibility

The Advanced Placement (AP) Academy at Flagstaff High School is a challenging program that offers college level courses, exam opportunities where students can earn college credit, and allows them to stand out in the admission process, gain valuable preparation for succeeding in universities, and learn from College Board approved instructors. The Academy will be instituting changes beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The purpose of these changes are to expand the flexibility of the program and increase accessibility. The AP Academy believes in producing well rounded students who have the opportunity to explore many areas of interest at a higher level. The teachers believe in providing increased access and opportunity to college preparatory classes for all students. Students will be able to tailor their courses to their individual interests and academic strengths by choosing areas of specialization or taking higher level courses in all core areas (English, Math, Science and Social Studies).

The most notable change is the elimination of the application pro-

cess. As has always been the case all FUSD High School students can take any Pre-AP and AP courses offered. The changes will be seen in the “Three Levels of Distinction” and will be reflected in three different distinctions on their diplomas. In addition to completing all high school graduation requirements the three AP Diplomas will be:

AP Academy Diploma with area specialization – This diploma will reflect four years at Pre-AP/AP level in one core subject (English, Math, Science or Social Studies). The student must maintain a minimum grade of B throughout the four years of high school. In addition, the student must take two AP-level courses (with a B or above outside their specialization in the final two years (11th/12th). In order to have this distinction, the student must graduate with a minimum of 3.2 un-weighted GPA.

AP Academy Honors Diploma with area specialization – This diploma will reflect four years at Pre-AP/AP level in one core subject with the addition of three additional AP-level courses beyond the one core subject

and AP Human Geography. The student must earn at least a B in all of the Pre-AP/AP courses required for this diploma and earn a minimum of 3.4 un-weighted GPA.

AP Academy Distinguished Scholar Diploma – To receive this diploma the student must complete eight AP-level courses in high school, which must include one AP course in each of the 4 core subject areas in their final two years and AP Human Geography. Students must also complete the Senior Capstone Project and maintain an un-weighted GPA of 3.4.

For further information please see the Flagstaff High School Website at www.fusd1.org/FHS.

AP courses in all core subjects are also available at Coconino High School.



CTE Rotations—A Great Opportunity

Coconino High School (CHS) students enjoy exploration of interesting technologies in their Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. CHS has a freshman year program where students can rotate through seven different CTE courses, spending approximately five weeks in each course. This opportunity allows them to explore a variety of courses and perhaps find one they want to continue through

the rest of their high school career. Some of these courses also receive support from the Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology (CAVIAT). The seven courses in the rotation are Engineering Sciences, Computer Technology, Automotive Technology, Interior Design, Modern Wood Working, Welding Technologies, and Digital Media. Flagstaff High School has a similar program though some of the courses vary.



News Briefs

Grant Awards to Two Wonderful Programs

Congratulations to Camp Colton who received a grant through Flagstaff's Peace Surplus from the Columbia/Grassroots Outdoor Alliance. The \$5000 will be used for equipment loans to campers and many other needs.



Another grant awarded this month was \$2500 to the "World Famous" CocoNuts from APS that will be used to help develop new technology for their award winning robots



SMS Mustang Radio

Have you heard Mustang Radio yet? Sinagua Middle School students are running their own radio station on FM 88.3. This class of 63 students meets every Thursday and they work on news and copy writing, announcing, programming and engineering. The goal of the teacher Stan Koplowitz is to "not only teach students how a radio station operates but to improve their writing and speech skills". Congratulations to the Mustangs!

Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number – 527-6000
Curriculum and Instruction Office – 527-6021
Human Resources – 527-6070
Food Service – 527-6090
Bilingual Education – 527-6107
Student Support Services – 527-6160
Transportation – 527-2300
Family Resource Center – 774-1103



Harlem Globetrotters

Last month the students at Sechrist Elementary School had a great "big" surprise. Harlem Globetrotter Zeus McClurkin held an assembly for them about the ABC's of anti-bullying. He used the story of the Harlem Globetrotter team and his own personal story to tell the students about the harm of bullying and the rewards of perseverance. It was a half hour of fun and learning. There is a certain awe from the students when a 6'8" basketball player comes to talk to them.



April Showcases

April will be a month of great pride for FUSD as we showcase our students and teachers at two great events.

April 1st will be the FUSD facilitated **2nd Annual Flagstaff Community STEM Celebration** at the NAU Skydome from 5:30—7:30 pm.

April 18th FUSD will showcase our art and music at the **4th Annual FUSD Festival of Sights and Sounds** at the Flagstaff Mall from 10 am—3 pm.

These are great opportunities to see all that FUSD students, teachers, programs are accomplishing every day in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), art, and music.



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Excellence For All By All

Please visit our Facebook page (Flagstaff Unified School District/Facebook) for all of the latest events and good news.



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Statement of Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Motto and Goals



Vision Statement:

Excellence for All by All

Mission Statement:

The mission of FUSD is to provide the best comprehensive educational opportunities for all in a safe, collaborative environment of high standards and expectations.

Core Beliefs:

We believe in the power of expectation; in the impact of high standards; in the value of diversity; and in the six pillars of character.

Motto:

Education at the Top of Arizona

Goals:

- Maintain and Improve Comprehensive Student Opportunities and Services
- Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified, Motivated, and Excelling Staff
- Improve Student Preparedness and Mastery
- Research and Create Desirable and Relevant Educational Opportunities and Services
- Increase Public Engagement and Support for FUSD
- Develop Diversified Partnerships and Revenue Opportunities

Communication Reminders

Communication is vital to FUSD's success. We would like to remind you about the communication tools that FUSD uses to make sure that our families are well informed in a timely manner.

Snow Day and Delayed Start notifications – FUSD posts weather-related notifications on both Facebook and the district website around 5 am. Every family should receive a phone call from the district office by 6:15 am. These notifications will only occur if there is a change to our regular schedule for that day. If you are not receiving these phone calls, please make sure that your school's office has your current phone number. If you register on the website (the "register" button is on the top of the homepage) you will also receive an e-mail or text alert, depending on how you choose to receive the information. These alerts will let you know when a particular page on the website, such as the snow preparedness page, has been updated.

Facebook – is a method of communication that FUSD has been using for not only good news but for mass communication and messages from the Superintendent. This is a tool that helps us get information to the community very quickly. We encourage our families and staff to like our Facebook page to receive notifications.

What is new for next year will be emergency notifications through e-mail and text. We realize that not everyone is home during the day and may not receive the recorded phone calls in a timely manner, if you do not have your cell phone registered to receive the calls. We will be using the same system to send out e-mails and text messages to our families in case of emergency situations or notifications that need to be communicated quickly. Please make sure that your school has your current e-mail and/or cell phone number.