

Welcome Back | FUSD is looking forward to a successful second semester

After a well deserved winter break, teachers, staff and students are ready to begin the second semester and finish another successful student year.

Please remember that snow and delayed start information can be found at FUSD1.org, the FUSD Facebook page, most local radio stations and if you have your phone number registered with your students school you will receive a phone call the morning of the schedule change.

Coming Soon - The FUSD Mobile App will be available and you will be able to receive push notifications for all district and school announcements.



JANUARY
1/3 - Back to School
1/16 - MLK Day - No School

FEBRUARY
2/14 - Valentines Day
2/20 - Presidents Day - No School

Save the Date

March 6, 2017 - The 4th Annual Flagstaff Community STEM Celebration
April 29, 2017 - The 5th Annual FUSD Festival of Sights and Sounds

FUSD Students Featured

Students From 3 FUSD Schools In a National Video

Choir students from Sechrist Elementary, Knoles Elementary and Flagstaff High School worked hard from the beginning of school in August until October 20th to learn a song celebrating the National Parks Centennial. They practiced at their schools on this difficult 3-part harmony piece of music that was specifically written for a national video featuring all of the National Parks. On October 20th the three schools came together and sang the song as a group. The session was videotaped and the tape has been sent to Washington DC where the part celebrating the Grand Canyon will be spliced with children singing from all over the country representing the other national parks. The video will be completed soon and be part of a national campaign. Joe Rauschenbach, Knoles Elementary Music Teacher, who said he loves to hike and spend time at the Grand Canyon, saw the video as an opportunity to pay tribute to a place he loves. "Our purpose was helping students understand why we were doing this," he said. "We wanted them to see the bigger purpose, for the Grand Canyon and for the National Park Service. This gave us a chance to give back in a meaningful way." Faun Nichols, Sechrist Elementary Music Teacher, said she stressed to the students how special it is to be part of the centennial celebration, and said they will be able to tell their own children someday that they participated in the celebration. "I told them, 'This is a piece of your life you will have forever,'" Nichols said. "I really want each child to think they have made a difference in the world, no matter how small." Thank you to Faun Nichols, Joseph Rauschenbach and Stephanie Galloway for their dedication to this project. As soon as the video is released it will be posted on the FUSD Facebook page.



Thank You

For Your Service



Years of Service

Thank you Paul Kulpinski and Sarah Ells for your years of service on the FUSD Governing Board. Mr. Kulpinski served as a volunteer for 12 years and Mrs. Ells served for over 6 years. Your support and dedication to the students and staff is truly appreciated.



Welcome

FUSD congratulates and welcomes Dr. Carole Gilmore and Ms. Kara Kelty who will be sworn in on January 10th for their first term as elected volunteers on the FUSD Governing Board and Ms. Christine Fredericks who will take her oath for her second term.



Photography



Congratulations to Flagstaff High School students Bryce Patten and Joaquin Soto. Canon and Tempe Camera hosted a statewide photo competition called Arizona Light and these two students did exceptionally well and represented Flagstaff in a big way. Bryce won first place in the Nature category earning \$1,000.00, a new Canon Rebel t6i camera and a Canon ink-jet printer. A package worth \$2,500.00. Joaquin won third place in the Nature category earning \$500.00. Thank you to both students and teacher Joe Cornett for setting and achieving high goals.

Featured Program



Culinary Arts

FUSD has a wide variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses available to middle and high school students. One of the most popular is Culinary Arts. Both Mount Elden and Sinagua Middle Schools have robust programs that give students the basic knowledge of both food preparation and nutrition. Once a student reaches high school they have many opportunities to explore culinary education for fun or as a career path. Coconino, Flagstaff and Summit High School's all have great programs that give the students the ability to explore this career and in some cases compete at a national level for experience and scholarships. In addition, many of our programs serve meals during the holidays to some of our local retirement communities. Through our great community partnerships students who attend culinary courses beyond year 1 have the opportunity to become interns at some of our best local restaurants.



Legendary Teachers

The FUSD Governing Board honored five teachers in recognition of "Legendary Teacher Day". Congratulations to Kathy Baron, Barbara Campbell, Curt Craig, Jan Hayes and Irene Tsosie. Combined, these teachers combined have devoted over 150 years to molding the minds and motivating the hearts of children. FUSD celebrates these and all of the outstanding teachers and staff that have such a tremendous impact on students every day and throughout their lives.

FUSD STEM Emphasis Helps Student Success

Chess, robotics, maker-space projects, engineering challenges, and gardening projects are just a few of the ways that FUSD students and teachers put Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at the forefront of education. In the classroom teachers use technology to teach, giving students the opportunity to have hands on experience with technology that they may not have at home. Through coding curriculum beginning in kindergarten at most FUSD schools, students are very comfortable with new technologies and ideas. Science has gone beyond the classroom with gardening projects and "scientist in the classroom" opportunities in which the students get real world and hands on science lessons. Field trips at all of our schools and "Expeditionary Education" as a full time philosophy at Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School, Alpine Leadership Academy at Mount Elden Middle School and the continuation of these programs coming soon to Flagstaff High School, students have the ability to explore the world around them and take advantage of the unique environmental offerings of the Northern Arizona environment. In addition to art and music offerings at FUSD schools there is also opportunities after school through a wide variety of clubs and activities that include; model trains, oceanography, STEM clubs, and of course chess and robotics.



Sports

Sinagua Middle School Cross Country



The Sinagua Middle School Cross Country teams have a lot to be proud of. Both the boy's and girl's teams finished their season strong. The Northern Arizona Regional Meet was a very challenging contest in which they were competing against over 200 runners and battling the heat. The girls team finished 15th in state and the boys team earned the title of State Champions and brought home the 1st place trophy running in a field of 26 teams. Congratulations to Sinagua Middle School.

Motivating Reluctant Readers

The Middle School Years



By Renee Henry, NAU

A student's motivation to read can often decline as they enter the middle and high-school years. This decline occurs at the same time as interest in content declines and fewer choices in reading materials are provided. Several motivational elements work together to contribute to a student's interest in reading as they age. These include intrinsic motivation (internal determination), extrinsic motivation (peer, teacher, and parent approval), and self-efficacy (belief in one's ability to be successful). Unfortunately, some students that CAN read choose not to, unless it is required. As a result, their reading exposure is limited. This can result in diminished reading proficiency.

Teachers and parents can influence a student's reading motivation through certain practices. Encouraging free-choice, shared reading, and time to freely discuss what's being read, all contribute to fostering a motivation to read. A strong motivation to read leads to increased reading activity, which then leads to better readers. If students can choose what they read, they will engage more deeply with the text and with the act of reading.

The practice of reading more frequently leads to improved reading fluency. Reading fluency is the ability to read quickly and accurately with appropriate pausing, phrasing, and expression. In the middle school years, it is critical for students to continue to work on fluency skills. Students are expected to read and comprehend content area texts in language arts, science, and social studies. Without continued practice, reinforcement, and explicit instruction, some students will fall behind. Teachers and parents can address these concerns in a variety of ways. This includes making time for reading aloud; which is a great way to model fluent reading.

Reading is fun; even for older students. The joy and excitement of reading can extend beyond elementary school. It is important for teachers and parents to continue to present reading as a fun, informative, and enjoyable activity, especially as students enter middle and high school. With the right approach, students can avoid viewing reading as a chore. We can all emphasize the joy of reading and not just focus on the grade, the test, or the report. Let's find out what students are excited about and then discover and learn together...through reading!

ENCOURAGING READING MOTIVATION

*Let the student choose what they WANT to read.

*Ask, "What are you interested in reading about?"

*Go to the library together to select books on favorite topics.

*Provide various types of texts: magazines, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comic books, and short stories.

*Allow time to discuss what students are reading.

*Let students read for the enjoyment of reading.

*Provide time in class and at home for free-choice reading.

DEVELOPING READING FLUENCY

*Read aloud to your student! (No matter how old they are!)

*Model fluency by responding to punctuation, varying expression and volume, and using appropriate pacing.

*Take turns reading the text. Have the student follow along while you read.

*Make a recording of the student reading; so they can hear what needs to be improved.

Beyond the Classroom

FHS Economics Students Visit the Flagstaff Economic Summit

FUSD students attended a community wide economic conference and came away with real world applications to the curriculum they have been studying. According to FHS Government and Economics teacher Randy Hopson, "NAU's School of Business has for years, graciously provided a table for FHS and CHS students to attend the Northern Arizona Regional Economic Conference. Students have always come away with a much deeper appreciation for the content that we are sharing with them. From walking to the van, the drive back to school and in class, students are asking questions and practicing what good economists do: they analyze the data presented, ask questions and make predictions... just like the real world! These yearly conferences are the best tool we have at teaching real-world applications of Economics."

Student reaction to this experience shows the positive result of everyone's efforts to make sure that they attend every year.

Lydia Manone - I am very glad I got the opportunity to attend this conference because I was able to become much more informed on our local economic state. I have never learned much about real world economics other than in a classroom setting and I found it very valuable to be given this information in a way that it would be presented to adults of a much higher education level than I. Overall this opportunity was an amazing experience and helped me better understand the dynamic of our local economy.

Amanda Radtke - The keynote speaker, as well as the panel guests, offered real world applications of what we are learning in class that we could fully understand. The differing viewpoints on our local to international economy from the panel allowed our group to see a professional explain an opinion that we agree with, or that we don't agree with. The varying responses to questions like how the raise in minimum wage will affect Flagstaff's economy to how President-Elect Donald Trump's policies will affect trade across the world allowed us students to stand in the shoes of highly educated economists without all the student debt.

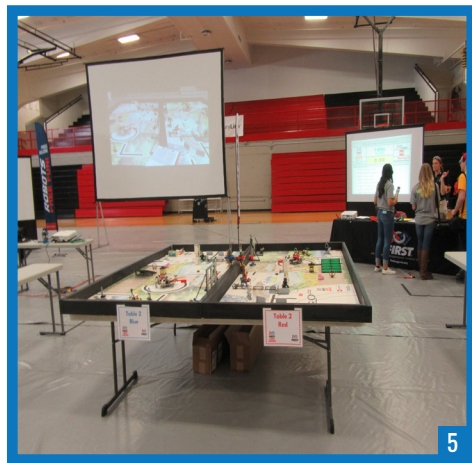
Hannah Frain - The economic conference provided a great opportunity that high school students don't often get: taking what we've learned and applying it to the real world. I thought it was very interesting to be able to compare the different levels of the economy from local to state to even observing at an international level. As a student preparing to enter the job force I found it especially enlightening. I am very thankful I got to attend this conference as it has had a great impact on the way I view the economy.

Kelly Cooper - At the Economic Outlook Conference I had the privilege to hear from highly educated economists about the economic outlook in America and Arizona after the Presidential Election. I learned about the negative effects the climbing minimum wage will have on our local economy in the short run, although I did not hear much about how it will positively affect the economy in the long run. I learned about the rather negative outlook for our country's future international trade with Donald Trump in the White House, with notable conflict already occurring with Germany. I got to hear passionate speeches about how Millennials like myself are destroying the economy by waiting until our thirties to get married, having fewer kids later in life, buying smaller houses later in life, or not investing in the housing market at all. While I respected the educated views of these economists, I feel that they spent most of their focus on the negatives in the short run rather than the possible betterments that certain changes will make in the long run.

George Fauli - I had a great time at the conference. It was a very professional setting, and I felt surrounded by a lot of smart people. Every speaker offered their own unique ideas and insight. It is hard to speculate in both economics and politics, but the platform discussion opened the conversation to opposing and similar views that gave us listeners a sense of clarity when imagining how vacillate our future really is. The keynote speaker helped me understand some fundamental, but super important things to know when it comes to strategic investing.

Brandon Tappan - I thoroughly enjoyed the entire event. I was surprised at the environment, and how even other guests were so professional. The speakers, every one offered different perspectives on the same pressing issues, greatly showing their expertise and giving their opinions on how we can handle what's to come in the future; topics like recession, Federal Reserve Loans, and Donald Trump's Presidency. The Keynote speaker, whose presentation far exceeded any expectation I could have had, was amazing at explaining the importance of strategic investing through lenses of subjects far beyond the scope of economics alone. All in all, if given the option to, I would absolutely go again.





Thank You!

Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number.....	527-6000
Curriculum and Instruction Office.....	527-6021
Human Resources.....	527-6070
Exceptional Student Services.....	527-6160
Food Service.....	527-6090
Bilingual Education.....	527-6107
Transportation.....	527-2300

FUSD Robotics

FUSD Robotics Competes at all Levels

Congratulations to all of the FUSD robotics teams that participated in the FIRST Lego League and Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament last month. The “Puente Earth Shakers”, “Puente Skyscrapers”, “Sechrist Slitherin Serpents”, “Thomas R-2 Determinated”, “DeMiguel LOBOROBOS”, the “Kinsey Cougars” and the “CocoNuts FTC Team” all had an amazing day and their hard work and dedication was very impressive.

Thomas, DeMiguel and the CocoNuts FTC team will all be automatically advancing to the Arizona State Challenge in January.

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