

Welcome Back!

FUSD is excited to welcome our new and returning students for another great year filled with opportunities and adventures. Please remember to make sure that your phone number and e-mail address is current with your school office to ensure that you receive all notifications from the school and district regarding events and schedule changes. Please remember that all flyers from the schools and community partners can be found on the website at www.fusd1.org by using the Peachjar icon on the right side of the page. 🍑

A new tool introduced last year is the FUSD Mobile App. This free app can be found at both the iTunes and Android App Stores under Flagstaff USD. On the FUSD Mobile App you can get to the FUSD Website, see the calendar, find contact information, view breakfast and lunch menus, pay My School Bucks fees, and receive emergency notifications and much more.

We are eager to see families, students and staff on August 10th!



Superintendent

Michael Penca



Welcome To The New School Year

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I am honored to serve as Superintendent of the Flagstaff Unified School District and look forward to carrying out our district's mission of Creating Opportunities to Discover your Path to Excellence for all of our students and staff. We have much to be proud of in FUSD—strong academic and extracurricular programs, committed and caring staff, engaged parents and strong community support. It is a great privilege to have the opportunity each day as an educator to positively impact students' lives, and instill the skills and inspiration each student needs to be on a path of success. Our values of innovation, high expectations, diversity of people and programs, relationships and partnerships, and inclusivity of all in safe and nurturing environments make the Flagstaff Unified School District the Premiere Educational Choice for the greater Flagstaff Community.



August

- 8/1 - H.S. Registration (Seniors)
- 8/1 - M.S. Registration (8th Grade)
- 8/2 - H.S. Registration (Juniors)
- 8/2 - M.S. Registration (7th Grade)
- 8/3 - H.S. Registration (Sophomores)

August

- 8/3 - M.S. Registration (6th Grade)
- 8/4 - H.S. Registration (Freshmen)
- 8/7 - M.S. 6th Grade BBQ's
- 8/10 - First Day of School
- 9/4 - Labor Day - No School

Please refer to the FUSD Calendar at www.fusd1.org for dates and times of back to school events and open houses.



Reminder - Bus Safety

School is back in session and the Arizona Department of Public Safety and Flagstaff Unified School District would like to remind you that school buses will be out on the roadway, in force during this 2017 school year. While the school buses are sharing the highways with local traffic, it is important to remember the Arizona laws that pertain to traffic around them. Arizona statutes require drivers



that are approaching or overtaking a school bus from either direction, which has stopped on the highway with alternating flashing lights and displaying a stop sign from the left side, to stop before overtaking the bus and remain stopped until the bus proceeds or no longer displays the stop sign and flashing lights. This pertains to traffic approaching a bus on a non-separated roadway and remember, a two-way left turn lane is not a separation of the

roadway and you must stop for buses if you are approaching from either side of the highway. If you are approaching a bus that has not stopped, but begins to flash alternating lights, prepare to stop. School bus drivers are required to activate alternating lights, a minimum of 100 feet from a stop or when stopped on a highway, for the purpose of boarding and de-boarding children.

Like all vehicles traveling the state's highway systems, school buses become involved in collisions. Everyone involved in this industry works hard to ensure the safe transportation of its students and to reduce the occurrence of these collisions. The Arizona Department of Public Safety and Flagstaff Unified School District asks that all drivers stay alert around school buses. Stop, wait and drive safely.

FUSD STEM

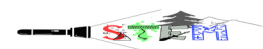


Display at City Hall



We invite the Flagstaff Community to share in our love of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at City Hall.

September 11th will be the 7th anniversary of Flagstaff becoming the "First STEM City in America". To celebrate this event Flagstaff Unified School District will display several STEM projects at City Hall from September 7th to September 20th. Projects from elementary, middle school and high school students will be displayed.



CocoNuts Make Connections in D.C.



This summer, two Coconino High School students representing the CocoNuts Robotics Team went to Washington D.C. for a FIRST conference to learn how to interact and garner support from local, state and national elected officials. In addition to the conference the boys, Prescott Mahon and Zach DeHaven spent two days discovering Washington D.C. and meeting with our Representatives and their staff. The CocoNuts are recognized internationally as a winning team. They have earned an invitation to the international competition every year for the past 8 years. According to the chaperon Cindy Mahon "We are hopeful that these initial meetings will be something we can build on and have more support from our Representatives in the future, especially with Tom OHalloran."



Enroll Today!



FUSD Middle Schools Highlighted by



Expect More Arizona

It was hard to work into the daily schedule, but it has been worth it. Six years ago, the team at Sinagua Middle School in Flagstaff Unified School District recognized that not all of their students were making it to high school with the skills that they needed to be successful, so they created a robust monitoring and intervention program to catch students' challenges early. The district's elementary schools were already seeing great success with their intervention programs, so it only made sense to continue the effort as students progressed.

The school made interventions possible by creating "interest pathways" that each student could integrate into their daily schedule. These pathways included everything from German to interior design. Throughout the year, each teacher closely monitored student progress and test scores in order to identify those who may need additional instruction time. When they do, those students use their pathway time to receive guidance in whatever subject needs practice, whether it's math, English language arts, social studies or science. Thanks to this unique approach, students who need additional support get two hours per week of instruction in whichever subject has been identified as a challenge.

At Mount Elden Middle School, also part of Flagstaff Unified School District, educators are taking a different approach. A different bell schedule required a different solution to academic interventions, so faculty offer assistance during lunch and after school. During the regular school day, students who need tutoring are assigned to attend the Math Lab and work to learn what they need to know. For those who need help in any subject, educators are available after school to help with homework, test prep, and more.

In the coming year, they'll even be piloting a block math schedule, in which students attend one class to intervene at the individual's skill level, and the other to provide them the standard middle school math instruction.

Both schools have been successful in implementing these intervention programs and ensuring that students learn the skills they need for application in high school. And both continue to refine and improve their efforts.

To aid in effectiveness, both schools are helping teachers with their own professional development. Students who participate in the interventions are more successful in the next grade and half do not fail another course. In fact, by the second semester of the school year, close to half of students no longer require intervention. It's also helping families to be more supportive and proactive. High school administrators have noted that they don't need to offer as many remedial classes; it makes the work worth it to know that students are able to master the concepts before they move on.

KinderCamp

Congratulations to the 168 KinderCamp students who participated in the "Bridging Ceremonies" at the end of the program to crowds of proud families and teachers. This program funded by FUSD, United Way of Northern Arizona and the Flagstaff Community Foundation helps students transition successfully from preschool to kindergarten. This year the students and teachers worked hard at Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School, Killip Elementary and Thomas Elementary. Also, we would like to thank the special guests that visited this program this year! Please see the pictures to the left.

To the students - Welcome to kindergarten!



Faculty



FHS English Teacher Walter Halaberda Profiled by Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth

After presiding over the final of four Senior Exit Interview sessions, you would expect Walter Halaberda to just collapse into his chair and take a much-deserved break. Instead, Halaberda, an English teacher at Flagstaff High School, was leading an animated discussion in the school's library on how well the students did facing an onslaught of questions from panels of two or three community volunteers during the 30-minute sessions.

For many of the students, this was their first formal mock job interviews, with interviewers providing them tips on how to dress for success, how to create a resume that highlights their accomplishments and their future educational and professional goals and how to present a relaxed but professional demeanor during the interview sessions.

This is exactly the information Halaberda wants the students to gain from the program, which for the first time will award three scholarships for the best interviewees.

"I feel that giving the students this opportunity to meet people from outside their comfort zone from in the community, letting the students know and having them see that 'somebody else cares about me or is interested in my story beyond my immediate circle,' it challenges them," he said.

Halaberda, who teaches English 11 and Dual Enrollment English 11 at the high school, grew up in Rochester, Minn.; Longmont, Colo., and Boca Raton, Fla. He earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University in media production but, he said, he "hated that and so I started substitute teaching at Tallahassee and really loved it. That's when I started applying at several schools to get my master's in secondary English education. NAU accepted me so I packed up my gear and headed west."

He has a post-degree certification from NAU and a master's degree teaching English as a second language and has been teaching at FHS for 17 years.

Halaberda took over the Senior Exit Interview program about four years ago when Kathi Baron retired.

"She started it when I first started teaching here and it made sense to me. It gave kids real-world applications," he said. "It's something I believe in, in terms of giving the kids a real-world experience. Having outsiders, not teachers, not school administrators, giving them advice. It's people who are going to hire them potentially. I can't think of any better way to give these kids those kind of experiences."

Halaberda said he has already heard from students who have gone through the program.

"When they come back they say they really get the value of these kind of programs, where it helps them not just get to jobs, or prepare to get jobs, but they find themselves nominated for scholarships and they have to do an interview to get that scholarship."



Discover Your Path

Summit High School Culinary

Summit High School (SHS) is grateful for support from community partners including; Flagstaff Unified School District Foundation and St. Mary's Food Bank. Students learn healthy eating habits through experiential learning opportunities.

In this program students assume the role of head chef, sous-chef, head sanitation, and assistant sanitation. Students were required to demonstrate knife skills, follow a specified menu, and work within a group setting in the kitchen setting. Students learn about food safety, cross-contamination, and the flow of food. Students acquire knowledge regarding potentially hazardous foods and the appropriate refrigeration, heating, and storage of foods, especially high risk food products such as meats, eggs, and poultry products and are taught to demonstrate safe handling practices during the production of identified menu items. Students in this program earn a Coconino County Food Handlers Certification. By passing this certification, students gain further employment opportunities within the restaurant industry.

Additionally, students had the opportunity to learn about macronutrients, micronutrients, and potentially toxic substances and the roles they play in the body, especially in judging the quality of one's diet.

Summit High School is grateful for the community support allowing them to offer CTE programs, such as culinary! This program allows students to develop life skills related to healthy eating habits, as well as aiding with the development of the skills necessary to enter the workforce. Thank you; Coconino County, NAU, St. Mary's Food Bank, and the FUSD Foundation.

Grand Canyon Youth

Expanding Their Expertise to Kinsey Inquiry and Discover School



Nearly 20 years into their mission of helping youth explore the rivers and canyons of the southwest, Grand Canyon Youth (GCY) is expanding their scope to the Verde Valley. Although the Flagstaff based non-profit is known for multi-day wilderness river trips, expanding programming onto the Clarkdale section of the Verde allows GCY to run day-trips with local elementary students. Partnering with Verde River Institute (VRI), GCY increases availability of river experiences to Flagstaff youth. The VRI aims to connect people and resources to promote a healthy, flowing Verde River, and has been instrumental in developing this program.

Teachers and administrators from the Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School worked with GCY and VRI to make these programs a success. "The community partnership between Kinsey, GCY, and VRI exemplifies our place-based magnet. Our students experience science, archaeology, and contemporary issues while participating in a river excursion that they will remember forever" said Joe Caslin, Kinsey 5th grade teacher.

Over two weeks nearly 60 Kinsey 5th grade students took to the river for this long-awaited program. GCY Executive Director, Emma Wharton, was ecstatic to see the success of the Verde program, remarking, "Watching kids light up while paddling their own boats was incredible! I think this program is a perfect capstone for the students learning about the value of watersheds. We're looking forward to running this program for years to come".

Working their way down the 2 mile section of the Verde - from TAPCO to the take-out near Tuzigoot National Monument - students learned about local flora and fauna, historical flood cycles, and the Verde's journey from mining resource to the protected area it is today. VRI Executive Director, Doug Von Gausig, was eager to expose more young people to the story of the Verde. He commented, "Working with Kinsey School and the staff at Grand Canyon Youth to bring the Verde River into the lives of these great kids was really exciting and gratifying! Turning kids onto nature, rivers, and outdoor recreation is incredibly important to the future of our natural environment. Grand Canyon Youth does a wonderful job of introducing young people to rivers. The Verde River Institute is honored to be a part of this unique program".

With the success of the Kinsey Verde River program this year, all partners are looking towards the future. Kinsey staff are excited to take students on the river again next year. GCY is hoping to offer this program to more students and groups throughout the area. The VRI is excited to tell their story to a wider, and younger, audience. All groups can agree that getting youth into natural places is important and the Verde River is an incredible area to explore.





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 is Flagstaff

FUSD is proud to be active in the Flagstaff community. Participation in the Annual 4th of July Parade, serving cookies and lemonade at Movies on the Square, celebrating Flagstaff as the “First STEM City in America” by facilitating the annual Flagstaff Community STEM Celebration” and working throughout the year with amazing community partners and supporters of the well rounded and rigorous educational opportunities given to all students in FUSD. Thank you Flagstaff for supporting our students as they **“Discover Their Path”**.

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