



# BESDBUZZ

A COMMUNITY PASSIONATE ABOUT STUDENT SUCCESS WINTER 2024

***BESD SPORTS***  
**WHO RULED**  
**THIS SEASON?**  
**BASKETBALL & SOCCER**

**A NEW ERA**  
**AT BESD**  
**NEW SUPERINTENDENT**  
**ANNOUNCED**



**PLUS**

**FUTURE KINDER**  
**NIGHT & MEDIA**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



# A NEW ERA AT BESD

**DR. CHAD LANESE APPOINTED  
AS NEW BESD SUPERINTENDENT**



Buckeye Elementary School District is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Chad Lanese as the new superintendent, effective January 8, 2024. Dr. Lanese brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the success of students and staff in the BESD community.



Having previously served as the assistant superintendent for five years, Dr. Lanese brings innovative ideas in his new role. Through his tenure as assistant superintendent, Dr. Lanese has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success, staff development and community engagement. His collaborative approach, combined with his passion for education, will undoubtedly contribute to the new direction at the district and continued growth.



**I am dedicated to fostering open communication, teamwork and a positive environment as we strive for excellence together.**

*Dr. Chad Lanese*

Dr. Lanese holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in educational leadership from Arizona State University and a doctoral degree from Northern Arizona University.

Please help the district welcome Dr. Chad Lanese as the new superintendent at Buckeye Elementary School District.

The district is confident that his leadership and passion for education will propel BESD to new heights.



## *Dr. Lanese's* FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

### TRANSPARENCY

From academic performance to fiscal responsibility, this is my team's first priority. It is impossible to effectively collaborate if everyone does not have access to a common vocabulary and relevant, accurate information.

### RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

None of us can do this alone. Parents, teachers and community members working together for collaborative success.

### STAFF SUPPORT

I may be superintendent now, but you will have a hard time convincing me that I have ever had a more important and impactful position than when I was a teacher. Our staff, whether they serve as bus drivers, paraprofessionals, principals, office staff, or any other critical role, provide the heartbeat of this organization. They should be reminded of that at every opportunity.

### INSTRUCTIONAL VISION AND SKILL

Show me an outstanding educational leader, and I can guarantee you that they have demonstrated instructional expertise. I take great pride in my heavy involvement in leading on best practices in the classroom, as does my entire team.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Everyone must spend wisely, and a school district is no different. Further, a community should feel confident that the leadership is acting in good faith in this regard. There are complicated and challenging fiscal opportunities and challenges ahead, and I am confident that, as we address them together, we will have leveraged the transparency and relationship development that I addressed above to earn that trust. In this area, as in all of the others, questions are not just accepted, they are encouraged.

12 NEWS  
FEATURE



# 'WE'VE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD': HERE'S HOW BESD IS IMPROVING TEST SCORES

## PERFECT SCORES ON STATE TESTING

District leaders credit strong parental involvement, unified teaching methods across all schools and an emphasis on teaching students social skills.



**Buckeye ESD is celebrating a big achievement: 27 perfect scores on state standardized math and English tests.**

That number reflects a broader trend in the Buckeye Elementary School District. Gains made across all subjects over the past two years in state testing are four times better than the state average.

"It is exciting, but it isn't shocking. We've been working really hard," said Dayna Bechard, a 5th Grade English Language Arts teacher in the district.

District leaders credit strong parental involvement, unified teaching methods across its eight schools and an emphasis on teaching students social skills that eroded during COVID shutdowns.

"We're teaching those social skills and embedding them just like we would teach math and writing," said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Araceli Montoya.



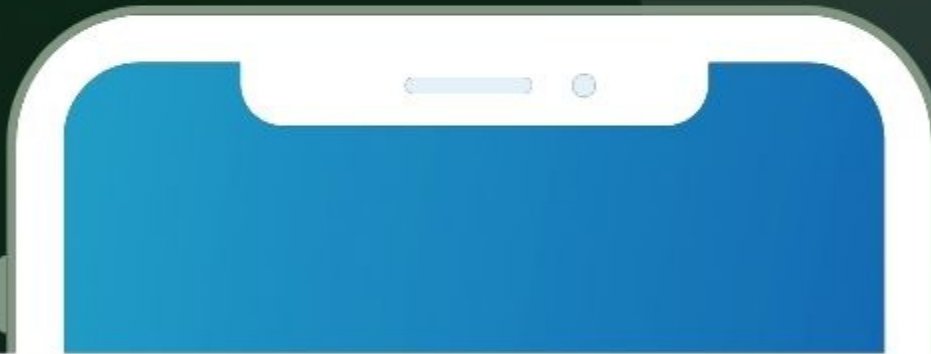
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NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPT. 4TH



# BECOMING LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

**'I want to become that better person and realize that I start with myself'**

## ABC15 FEATURE

The Buckeye Elementary School District is adopting a new philosophy called the "Leader in Me" to help build a school-wide leadership experience for students in the district. While Leader in Me isn't new to Arizona, it is new to the Buckeye Elementary School District, specifically at WestPark and Inca Elementary Schools.

Leader in Me is an education model based on Steve R. Covey's bestselling book,

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

"This is how we learn the seven habits. We see it being modeled, we follow suit, and we do the same behavior, and then we either get a positive or a negative reaction out of what happens. This really is the cycle that we live within," said Dr. Anna Carino, the principal at WestPark Elementary School in Buckeye.

## HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT?

According to Carino, the seven habits help students learn to apply communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and social-emotional skills. The framework also gives students, staff members, and families a common language to help build a strong culture of leadership. Leader in Me is a comprehensive K-12 framework that fosters a culture of trust, Dr. Carino said.

Analeigh Maldonado, a seventh-grader at WestPark, said the process behind Leader in Me builds character and confidence.

"All the habits are different, but all have the same goal and that is focusing on yourself and being able to bring out the better part of you," Maldonado said. "And so I do believe that I can take this on later in life."



**NEW**

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STORY HERE**



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**5:30 - 6:30 P.M.**

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## And the Champions Are ...

### JSM III and Jasinski Score

In the annual championship winter face-off, two BESD teams took the win. This past month, John S. McCain III (girls soccer) and Jasinski (boys basketball) took the lead and were named champions for the season.

Runner ups for both sports were WestPark for girls soccer and Marrioneaux for boys basketball.

Congratulations to all athletes for a competitive season. The second half of the winter sports season commences at the end of January with boys soccer and girls basketball.



## At The Forefront Of Public Education

Buckeye ESD held a presentation with the Arizona Department of Education to share the approach to the district's highly-successful Project Momentum initiative. A model that has been key in academic growth over the last two years.

Project Momentum has served as one of the leading factors in completely overturning schools from failing to high-performing. Through the concentrated approach.

Buckeye ESD is leading the way and showcasing high-quality education in the public sector.





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WINTER 2024



VOTED BEST  
**ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**  
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RATED BY THE STATE  
**HIGH-  
PERFORMING  
DISTRICT**

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