

#### Principal's Message:

Dear Ironwood Elementary Community,

I joined the Marana Unified School District in 2010 as a 6th grade teacher and I've been at Ironwood as an administrator since 2013. I feel confident saying that our students, parents, teachers, support staff, and community members are the best in Arizona (and in my opinion, the world)! It no longer surprises me when I hear person after person tell me that they have heard our school is special and I count my blessings being able to spend each day at Ironwood.

I consider it an honor to be your principal and I take this charge with great seriousness; fully understanding the responsibility of caring for and supporting your children.

I have a strong commitment to our nation's public schools, having come from parents who have taught for more than 90 years combined! Personally, I believe there is no better place for our children than the Marana Unified School District. At Ironwood, it doesn't take long for people to realize that this is a special place of warmth, kindness, and community.

You will find our school to be a place where we focus on the 'whole child', with our purpose of making sure that every student is SAFE, LOVED, and ENGAGED ACADEMICALLY. While we're proud of our challenging academics, we also feel strongly about character education, the fine arts, citizenship, and community building.

My plan is to preserve the great traditions that belong to our school while continuing to build relationships, make memories, and prepare our young people to be honest and intelligent citizens of this great country.

When I'm not with our amazing students and staff, I'm enjoying my time with my wonderful wife Jennie and our beautiful kids, Mason, Avery, and Camden.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you at such a fantastic school!

Aaron Johnson

Principal, Ironwood Elementary School

# **School Highlights- Points of Pride**

# • Each year, students earn over 1,500 Coyote Cash and about 1,400 HOWL tickets as a campus community!

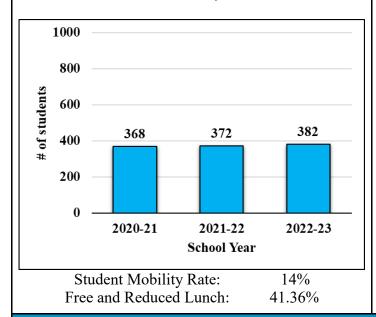
- At Ironwood, we follow the HOWL code which stands for:
  - Have Respect and Be Kind
  - Obey the First Time
  - Work it Out Peacefully
  - Live and Act Responsibly
- Students earn Coyote Cash on a daily basis for doing things like turning in work, staying on task, and having good behavior. HOWL tickets are given when students go above and beyond in demonstrating behavior that connects to our HOWL code.
- Ironwood serves a large population of students with exceptional needs through our Intellectual Disability and ABLE programs!
  - At Ironwood we pride ourselves as an inclusive school community where all children are welcome, loved, and nurtured. We have invested tens of thousands of dollars to create a campus that is accessible to students with disabilities.
- Ironwood has a long-standing tradition of welcoming generations of families as students, parents, and staff!
  - Students who return to teach and help
  - Grandparents and parents who return to volunteer
  - Retired teachers who substitute and volunteer

## **Ironwood Elementary School Student Programs**

Academic Offerings: Ironwood offers a wide **Elementary Specialist Programming: 100%** of variety of academic learning for students. Ironwood Elementary School students participate in Visual and/or Performing Arts and Physical • Gifted Education in Marana (GEM) services Education weekly! • Elementary Counseling • Co-taught classes for Math and ELA to • Library/Media Center support students with special needs • Elementary Music • Exceptional Student Services Programming • Elementary PE • English Learner Programming **Our Students** 

Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds that enhance our diverse community. They care about each other and our school. Our students achieve their academic goals, as well as their social/emotional (PBIS) goals. We are so grateful to be able to serve such a diverse and caring student body.

Student Enrollment: Last year, 382 students attended Ironwood Elementary School.



**2022-2023 Student Demographics**: The Ironwood Elementary School student body is diverse.

Race/Ethnicity	% of IE students
White	51.1%
Hispanic	40.6%
Multi-Racial	5%
American Indian	1.3%
Black	<1%
Asian	<1%
Students with Special Needs: 25.65% Students Identified as Gifted: 15.45%	

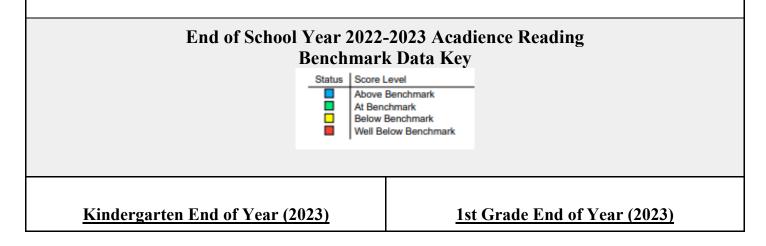
#### **Our Staff**

The staff at Ironwood consistently finds success in building relationships, establishing trust and creating communities of learning with students, families and with each other. Staff work together to support students both in the classroom and throughout campus. Every adult on campus is involved in professional learning that directly connects to their daily work. Teachers and support staff align everything we do with our purpose of Safe, Loved, and Engaged.

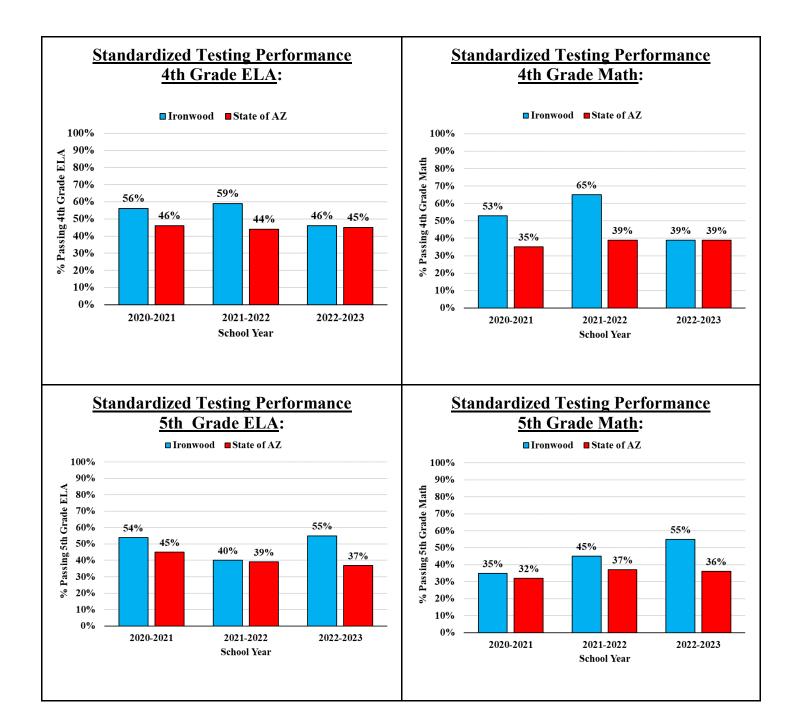
**Ironwood Elementary School Staff Profile:** We **Staff Demographics and Experience:** We have have **50** staff members who work at our school: an experienced and diverse staff supporting our students at Ironwood Elementary School. • 19 Support Staff 29 Certified Staff Average Years of Experience: 9 Staff Members with an Advanced Degree: 13 • 100% Appropriately Certified • • 2 Administrative Staff % of IE staff **Race/Ethnicity** 100% White 76% 80% Hispanic 18% 60% % of Turnover Asian 4% 40% 25.42% Other 2% 18.33% 16.94% 20% 0% Gender % of IE staff 2021-2022 2020-2021 2022-2023 School Year Female 86% Ironwood Elementary teachers participated in Male 14% **1281.50** hours of professional learning this past school year!

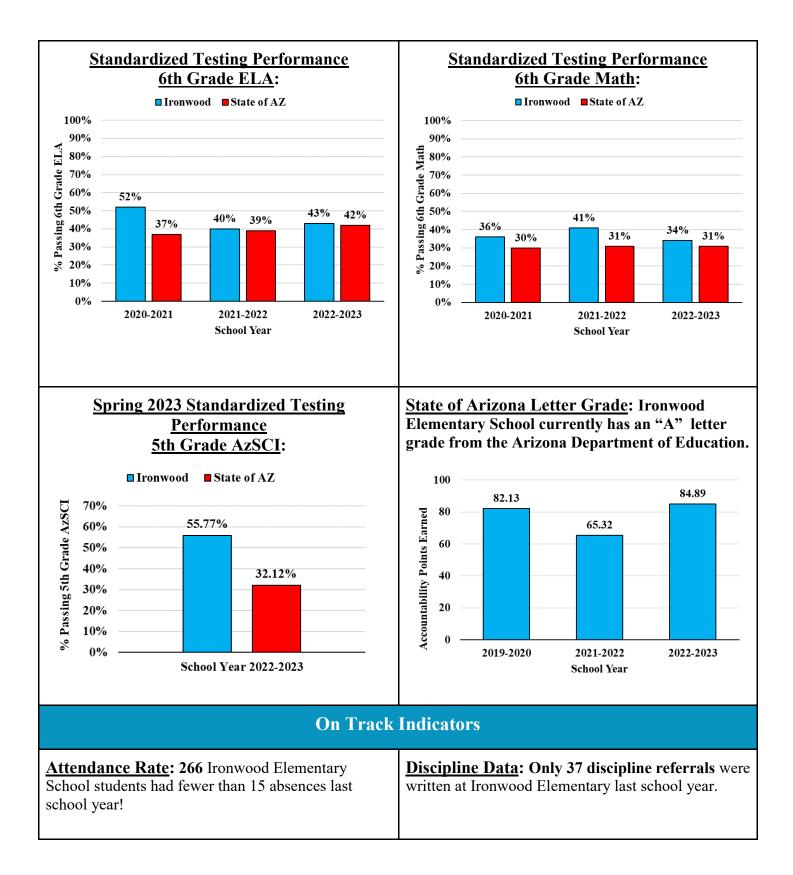
### **Student Academics and Literacy**

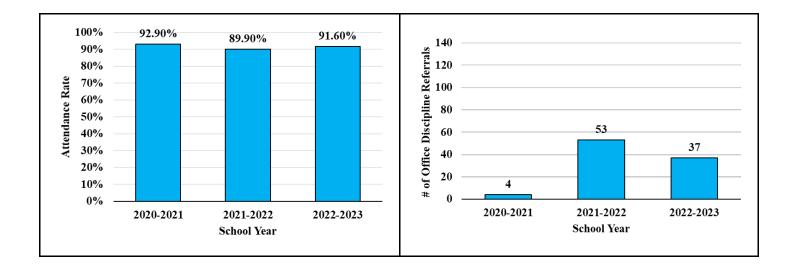
At Ironwood, we use student performance and data to inform our planning. Students are exposed to grade level standards, as well as learning at their individual level of instruction. The State of Arizona has a Move on When Reading statute designed to position students for success as they progress through school, college, and career. As a part of this law, students are required to meet certain reading benchmarks in order to be promoted to the fourth grade. In MUSD, we use Acadience Reading to help teachers identify children at risk for reading difficulties and determine the skills to target for instructional support. We are pleased to report that **ALL of our third grade students met the Move on When Reading requirements** this school year and have been promoted to fourth grade!











## **High Reliability Schools**

We are excited to announce that Ironwood Elementary School is OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED in Level One of the High Reliability Schools Framework established by the Marzano Research Group. The focus of this level is "Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture". We are so proud of our school community for coming together to earn this certification.

This year we are focused on Level Two: "Effective Teaching in Every Classroom". We are excited to share action steps we are taking to make sure every student in our school experiences effective instruction every single day.

#### ACTION STEPS TO SUSTAIN LEVEL ONE

- Dedicated to encouraging and celebrating our amazing staff all year long
- Ironwood Assemblies have "Leveled Up!" Come visit one!
- Collaborative Teams at Ironwood continue to plan, analyze student data, and reflect on how to improve instruction

#### ACTION STEPS TOWARD LEVEL TWO CERTIFICATION

- Instructional Rounds happen twice a year where teachers visit each other for observations and opportunities to learn from one another
- Job-embedded professional development throughout the year allows teachers to learn about the latest best practices, ensuring high quality instruction in every classroom