

Firebird Flash 9-15-2023

CHAPARRAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Firebird Flash! This week you'll find some fun updates and some important dates to keep in mind, so please read to the bottom. The biggest thing on my mind this week is student progress toward goals and grades. It's that time of year to lock some things down before they get away from us, so we encourage you to make that a focus of conversations with your students at home.

And again, if you decide to comment I'm the only one who will see it so feel free to ask questions. We all hope you have a great weekend!

National Merit Semifinalists

We are so excited to announce Chaparral's National Merit Semifinalists for this year! Each year, juniors who take the PSAT can be eligible and qualified for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

This year's exam will be on October 24. The test this year will be online, so students should be ready for anything that day =)

Now on to the names! Please join me in congratulating current seniors **Douglas Driggs, Chloe Greetis, Tyler Higgins, Joseph Kahn, Tate Leventhal, Sania Patel, Darshan Shankar, Morgan Tefft, and Elvia Uzdonas**. Congratulations!!! With this recognition, these students have distinguished themselves in a significant way and have the opportunity to be awarded scholarships and be named finalists later this school year.

The Crucible

Chaparral Theater's first production of the year is *The Crucible*. Performances will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday next week! You can [buy tickets online](#) or buy them at the ticket office on the night of the show. We hope to see you there!

Free and Reduced Lunch

If your student had access to the free or reduced lunch plan last year, those applications expire on Monday. To continue, you will need to visit the district [nutritional services website](#) and reapply.

Attendance Contracts

You might not believe it, but we already have students who have missed 10 or more days of school. That's concerning because we've only had 29 days of school so far.

Students with at least 10 absences (whether excused or unexcused) will be meeting an administrator to review and sign their Attendance Contract. This is basically a notice that they are at risk of losing credit in one or more courses based on excessive absences. Usually all that's needed is a significant and obvious improvement in attendance patterns between when the contract is signed and the end of the semester. If you have questions, please contact your grade level administrator.

Grades and Extra Help

You are probably aware that last Friday was the end of the first marking period. If you haven't already, please log into ParentVue and check your student's grades. This is a good benchmark for performance so far, and if your student is struggling it's a good idea to reach out to the teacher. Your teacher may have reached out already, but in either case we want to encourage open lines of communication.

There are [several help options](#) available at school. The math department has tutoring almost every day before and after school (see attached calendar), and the guidance counseling department hosts a peer tutoring session every Tuesday after school in the library for all subjects. We want to support your student's success, so please give it a try if your student is struggling!

A/C

You have heard from your student that some classrooms have been warm this week. It's true that our A/C system has been riding the struggle bus. Some areas of campus are perfectly fine, and we're addressing individual issues as they pop up. District has had staff on site daily to troubleshoot. Fortunately, we're headed toward cooler temperatures, which should give us some added relief.

Paint

If you have visited campus this week, you've probably noticed extra people and equipment on campus. That's because the exterior paint project is underway! Plans are to repaint almost all of the exterior buildings and doorways

IDs (inc. activity passes)

As expected, daily wearing of student IDs is a bit of a pain point for a number of students. By and large, most students are in the habit of wearing them every day with no reminder, and for that we are very appreciative! Students who arrive at the gate without ID are directed to the front office where their name is recorded and they are given a temporary ID sticker for the day. Students who are repeat violators will have their IDs reprinted and delivered, and have a \$5 fine placed on the account. If a student with an activity pass loses their ID card (the pass is a sticker on the card), the student will have

to pay for another activity pass as well as the new ID card. Thank you in advance for your support of this important school safety measure.

Youth Suicide Prevention Event

On Wednesday, September 27, Chaparral is hosting a suicide prevention event that includes a viewing of the documentary My Ascension. The film will be followed by an important dialogue related to suicide prevention. Interested people should register because space is limited. Please check our school website on Monday or contact Lauren Pilato at lpilato@susd.org with any questions.

Upcoming Dates ([Chaparral Website Calendar](#))

The Crucible	Sept 21-23 @ 7pm in the Auditorium
Hearing & Vision Screening	Sept 21 during school hours
M&O Override Town Hall	Sept 26 @ 6pm in the Auditorium
Early Release	Sept 27 @ 12:20pm
Youth Suicide Prevention Event	Sept 27 from 6:30-9pm
In-State College Night	Sept 28 @ 5:30pm in the D-Building Rooms
Choir Concert	Sept 28 @ 7pm in the Auditorium
Homecoming Game	Sept 29 @ 7pm at the Football Field
Homecoming Dance	Sept 30 @ 7pm at Chaparral High School
Selective College Visit	Oct 2 @ 6:30pm in the Auditorium
PSAT	October 24 during school day (late start for all others)