

CHAPARRAL



Firebird Flash 10-6-2023

Dear Firebird Families,

Happy Friday, and congratulations on making it through the first quarter! Last week finished on a high note with the end of a week-long homecoming celebration, and hopefully this week is ending on a positive note with respect to grades. The second quarter will probably go by quickly - we have four days off in November, and December is a short month due to district recess.

Something that has been on my mind lately is some of the challenging student behaviors we have seen. They basically boil down to (1) a combination of lack of compassion (our first core value) and (2) simply not making good choices. I also think some of our newer/younger students are becoming more comfortable with testing boundaries. My request to parents is that you continue having conversations at home with your students about making good decisions and always striving to reflect our CHAP core values (Compassion, Honesty, Agility, and Perseverance). And remember that we are your partners in raising young adults who are caring, inclusive, and focused on doing whatever it takes to meet the goals they have set.

Lastly, I want to give a huge thank you to all of our parents who have volunteered time at school in any way this quarter. Whether it's team moms, CHAPTs volunteers, band parents, parents who drive their students to and from school from long distances, and parents who have advocated in any way on behalf of their students, we appreciate everything you do. And as I said above, we are your partners. Please never hesitate to reach out the teachers, counselors, and administration whenever there is something you need!


As usual, there are several updates below. If you have questions or feedback, feel free to "comment." Comments are private - only I can see them. I hope everyone enjoys a restful Fall Break!

End of Quarter

Today marks the end of the first quarter. Today's report card grades are not transcript grades, but they are a good measure of progress so far. If your student has any low grades, please feel free to reach out to get information on exactly why your student is struggling and how your student might get some extra help. Today's grade will also serve as an eligibility check for athletes. As a reminder, athletes need to post a 2.0 GPA and have no Fs in order to remain eligible to participate in competitions.

It's been a long time since hard copies of report cards were mailed out, so please make sure you are checking ParentVue or StudentVue for updates. When you log into ParentVue or StudentVue, there are three places you can find grade information:

- Grade Book - this is a "live" look at current grades
- Report Card - this is a snapshot of the letter grade teachers posted at the end of a grading period
- Course History - this shows letter grades from each semester that correspond to what would show on a transcript.



Just make sure you're looking at the correct area to find what you need. And if you have questions, just let us know!

Please note that when 2nd quarter starts, students aren't starting from scratch with grades. The semester grade in December is a running total of all assignments starting with the first day of school in August. So basically the starting grade on October 16 is the same as the ending grade today.

No Early Finals

It's hard to believe we're already thinking about final exams, but one very important thing to keep in mind is that we do not administer early final exams. If vacations have been planned that will require your student to miss one or more final exams, your student will have to schedule a time during the week of January 8 to make it up.

Final exams for high school will be December 20-22, with students taking two final exams each day and having an early release (11:20am - different from early release for teacher in-service). We'll share the schedule when we get closer.

AP Exam Deadline!

Please see the attached flyer regarding AP exams. I know it's a long way off, but preparations are already beginning. We are now accepting payments through Total Registration, and the due date is November 10 - no exceptions. Again, see the attached flyer which has also been sent out to parents from guidance counselors.

Attendance

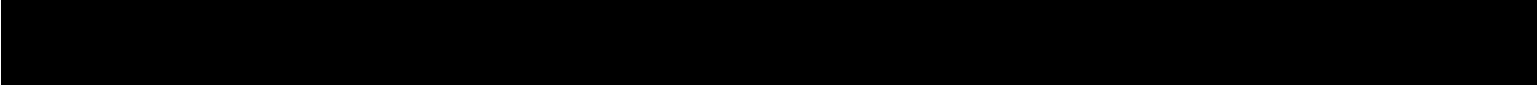
Good attendance is a key indicator of academic success. To that end, we'd like to encourage all of you to make sure your students are at school every day when they are healthy. As a school, we have a goal of obtaining at least a 93% attendance rate. Fortunately, Chaparral is close to that with a 92.89% attendance rate over the last 7 days. In a school of our size, that means we have, on average, over 130 absent students every day. We know we can do better, and we hope you can help! Please try to schedule appointments for after school, and please use the district calendar to plan vacations and family events. Finally, consider not extending the vacations that are built into the calendar - our highest rates of absenteeism are days before and after vacations. Please check here for the latest copy of the district calendar. Thank you!


Athletics

We are more than halfway through the fall sports season, so be on the lookout for information regarding our winter sports. We will have boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, and wrestling. Speaking of wrestling, we are in desperate need of a wrestling coach. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please reach out to our athletic director, Jack Bagley as soon as possible. Thinking ahead to spring, we are also in need of some track coaches. Again, reach out to Jack Bagley or check the district website for the job posting.

PSAT

This is a quick reminder about the PSAT that is being held on campus October 24. This is a late start day for all non-testers (schedule to be shared after fall break). Mrs. Bird is sending out a separate message specific to PSAT, so make sure you read it!





Speaking of National Merit, we had 9 students qualify to be recognized as "commended" students! This is in addition to the 9 students who were already announced as semi-finalists. Congratulations to all of them!

Holocaust Exhibit

We are excited to announce that Chaparral will be hosting a traveling Holocaust exhibit from October 26- November 14 in the auditorium lobby. The exhibit is titled "Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in Bedzin Ghetto." The exhibit will be available to SUSD teachers and students during the day, and there will be a few evening events for the public. Please see the attached flier! A big thank you goes out to our Holocaust and Genocide Studies teacher, Sandy Flayton, along with Robin LaCorte from NAU, for organizing this wonderful opportunity for our schools and community.

Coffee House

Come and enjoy an evening of performance as Chaparral's choir program hosts Coffee House! The shows start at 7pm each night in the auditorium. We have many students lined up to showcase their talents, so please join us! More information is available in the attached flier.

Site Council/Tax Credit

Chaparral's Site Council is a group of staff and parents that meet monthly to discuss many school-related topics. One of their main responsibilities is to approve expenditures of undesignated tax credit money.

At our September meeting, the following expenditures were approved

- Bus expenses for an EVIT field trip
- Expenses for marching band competition and Disneyland parade to keep student costs down
- Expenses related to a bowling field trip for special education students
- Stipend for an assistant robotics coach
- Tutors for math department tutoring
- Tutors for Tuesday after school study group

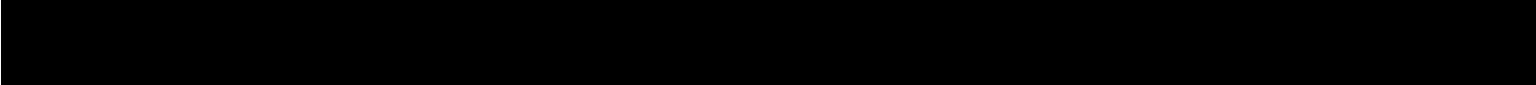
At our October meeting this week, the following were approved:

- Expenses related to the gardening club
- Tickets for theater students and staff to attend Les Miserable
- Stipend for a Mock Trial coach

Thank you for your donations to Chaparral's tax credit accounts - those dollars are always put to good use! If you would like to make a donation, [click here!](#)

Fundraising for Education

There are many ways to financially support Chaparral and public education in Scottsdale. Please let us know if you have any questions!

- Tax Credit - Many of our field trips are approved for tax credit funding. That means you can donate to that specific purpose and receive a credit when you file your 2023 tax return. If your student is not participating in anything that makes use of tax credit funds this year, you can donate to Chaparral's general tax credit fund and Site Council will decide where that money can best be put to use.
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- CHAPTs - We are privileged to have such an involved association of parents and teachers. Every single dollar they raise goes back to Chaparral in the form of classroom supplies, extracurricular activities, campus beautification projects, and many other things. You can donate time or money anytime - just visit chapters.org for more information.
- Charros License Plate - the Scottsdale Charros are a local non-profit that gives huge amounts of money to Scottsdale Schools. Recently the MVD approved a "Supporting Arizona Schools" license plate. This specialized plate costs \$25 per year, but a full \$17 goes back to the Scottsdale Charros. As a result, they have been able to increase their grants to SUSD schools and students.

Social Media

Please be sure to follow [chaparralhighschoolsusd](#) on Instagram and Facebook! Assistant Principal Bird is constantly posting content so that everyone can see the great things that are happening at Chaparral. If you're a supporter of public education, this is also a great tool for sharing with other families who might be considering a change to a public district school. Follow, like, and share! And thanks to Mrs. Bird and all of the other staff and students who take photos and send them in to us!

Did you make it all the way to the end? If so, leave me a comment about something you appreciate about Chaparral or something great that happened with your student this quarter. I'll be sure to share it as appropriate =) Thanks in advance!

Upcoming Dates (Chaparral Website Calendar)

- October 6 Football @ Saguaro at 7pm
- October 9-13 No School - Fall Break
- October 17 College and Career Fair - Cafeteria from 3:30-6:30pm
- October 18 Blood Drive
- October 18-20 Coffee House - Auditorium at 7pm
- October 20 Yearbook Picture Retakes
- October 24 PSAT during school day (late start for all others)
- October 24 GLOW Concert - Amphitheater at 6pm
- October 27 Improv - Black Box at 6pm
- November 1-3 Holocaust Exhibit - Auditorium (see attachment)
- November 7-8 Holocaust Exhibit - Auditorium (see attachment)
- November 10 No School - Veterans Day
- November 22-24 No School - Thanksgiving Break