

CHAPARRAL



Dear Firebird Families

This is a bittersweet edition of the Firebird Flash. As much as I would like to wish everyone a happy, blessed, and relaxing holiday season and winter break, I can't help but think of our families that are either struggling or that have recently lost a loved one. We are lucky that our community, although large, is still close-knit and truly has the ability to come together in times of need. This has been very apparent over the last two weeks as we have struggled with the passing of a student. Chaparral counselors and staff were available to any student who needed support. Several families reached out to ask how they could help, CHAPT's stepped in, Black Rock held a "Give Back Day" supporting the student's family, and students on campus wore pink and blue on Tuesday in memory of their classmate. All are great examples of how the Chaparral community showed its compassion, and I cannot thank you enough. For those of you who have been asking, I am told there will be a private ceremony for close friends and family, and they are working to see if there's a way to hold a separate celebration of life that would be open to a larger group. We will keep you posted on any developments.

With that in mind, I'd like to sincerely extend my best wishes for a good winter break. We will see all of you in 2024. Please read below for the usual updates, and if you have any questions or comments, please leave them in the "comments" section. Only I will be able to see what you post.

Semester Grades

It's been a long time since SUSD has sent out printed grade reports, and that's not changing. Please make sure you have access to the ParentVue app in order to view school related information, including attendance and grades. Also keep in mind that grade information can be found in three different areas:

- Grade Book shows you detailed real-time information about scores on individual assignments, in addition to an overall grade in each course
- Report Card shows you the grades that have been posted for a particular grading period (mid-quarter, quarter, semester)
- Course History shows you grades that have been posted to the transcript (including grades from previous years)


If you have any questions about how to access certain information, feel free to call 480-484-HELP, which is the district IT help line.

Signing Day

You may remember that several athletes committed to play sports at the next level during our fall signing day in November. On Wednesday we were excited to celebrate two additional athletes on the national signing day for football. Those players are Keegan Shank (Colorado State) and Plas Johnson (Arizona State)! Congratulations to these amazing student athletes!

Free Math Tutoring

Did you know that the University of Arizona offers free online math tutoring? Check out the information below, and if your student tries it, please let me know how it goes.



In affiliation with the University of Arizona, the AmeriCorps STEM Program offers free online math tutoring and support to all AZ students in grades K-12.

- To learn more about this opportunity, please visit: <https://crr.math.arizona.edu/zoom-tutors>
- For assistance with this program, parents can reach out to mhosten@math.arizona.edu or call 520.621.6866.

Engineering and CS classes

Scottsdale Community College is set to offer Intro to Engineering and Intro to Computer Science courses to high school students this spring. Classes start at 5pm, and they are designed to give students an idea of what those types of careers might be like. The classes are taught by former engineers and computer scientists.

ECE102 - 15834: Engineering Analysis Tools and Techniques
Tuesdays 5pm-7:20pm

CSC 110 - 16825: Introduction to Computer Science
Tues/Thurs 5pm-6:55pm

Anyone with questions can contact Professor Dueck at patricia.dueck@scottsdalecc.edu

Seals


Did you know that graduating seniors in Arizona could be eligible to obtain various "Seals" on their diploma? In SUSD, we are proud to offer the Seal of Biliteracy, the Seal of Arts, and the Seal of Personal Finance to students who meet certain criteria. You can find out more from the [district website](#) and your guidance counselor!

AP Capstone

In case you didn't know, Chaparral offers College Board's AP Capstone program. Students who take both AP Seminar and AP Research, in addition to earning scores of 3 or higher on those and 4 other AP exams, receive the AP Capstone Diploma. This diploma allows students to stand out when applying to college and "develop key academic skills they'll use in other classes, college, and beyond." Please reach out to your guidance counselor for more information!

Course Selection

January is important month! Not only is it the beginning of the second semester, but it's also the month when 9th-11th grade students begin making their course selections. Guidance counselors will be meeting with all students by grade level to explain the process and assist students in making the best choices, so if you have any questions please make sure you are asking! Student course selections are what drive the master schedule (the courses we decide to offer), so it's very important that all students submit their course selections online in a timely manner.



Seniors

If you're the parent of a senior student, this is probably happening way too fast =) Graduation is only five months away, and there's a lot to get ready for! The main thing for now is that you have placed your order for cap, gown, and any other graduation items (announcements, etc.) with Jostens. They have great customer service, so please reach out to them if you have questions. The next item on the list will be to verify how you would like your student's name to appear on the diploma. Typically this is limited to making middle name adjustments (eliminating it, using just an initial, etc.). We will send out a google form soon after winter break to get your input. Finally, most graduation-type stuff happens after Spring Break. Mrs. Hardy (assistant principal over 12th grade) will visit all students in their English or Gov/Econ classes to give them the rundown on awards night, senior breakfast, prom, graduation, and Project Grad. Yay seniors! Let's finish strong!

Tax Credit Funding

Thank you again to all of you who have made donations to Chaparral's tax credit fund. At the October and November Site Council meetings, members approved expenditures from the undesignated fund for the following items:

OCTOBER:

\$700.00 - CHAP Greens Planting Garden
\$2410 - Thespian Field Trip to Les Miserables FT
\$3569 - Mock Trial Coach

NOVEMBER:

\$7480 - NOLA Choir Music Tour
\$14,088 - Art Club California Field Trip
\$650.00 x 3 - Science Olympiad Regional Events
\$3000 - Model UN Events Conference

CHAPTs

It's never too late to get involved with Chaparral's Association of Teachers and Parents! They are always doing wonderful things for our students and staff. If you're wondering how to join or get involved, just visit chapters.org for more information.

Enrollment

We know that families have a lot of choice when it comes to K-12 schooling, and we appreciate you choosing Chaparral High School and SUSD! If you are satisfied with your experience, please share that with friends or family who may be considering private or charter schools. We believe Chaparral provides an excellent education and experience for students, and we would love the opportunity to share that with additional families. We offer monthly tours and are happy to speak with any prospective students. Thank you, and don't forget to follow, like, and share posts from Chaparral's social media pages using "chaparralhighschoolsusd".

That's all for now - mark your calendars with the dates below, and we hope to see you on campus sometime in semester two!

Upcoming Dates

January 8	First day back from break!
January 15	No School - District Recess
January 17	8th Grade Parent Night
January 18-20	Winter Musical - Urinetown!
January 24	Early Release for teacher professional development
January 29	Future Firebird Night
February 5	Spring Sports Tryouts Begin
February 7	Early Release for teacher professional development
February 19	No School - District Recess