

# CHAPARRAL



Dear Chaparral Families,

Welcome to another edition of the Firebird Flash! We're finishing up week 7.5, but who's counting! Tonight we have a home football game against DMHS and next week we celebrate homecoming! And don't forget - this weekend is a three-day weekend with no school on Monday for district recess. I hope you and your students are able to relax and refresh a bit before heading into the home stretch of the 1st quarter. As usual, you'll find some information and updates below, along with some important dates at the bottom.

## **Celebrations**

We have a few celebrations to announce to the Chaparral community this week. First, we recognized several students for academic excellence! Two students were named National Merit Semifinalists, and an additional six students were named National Merit Commended Students. This is based on their PSAT scores from October 2021. We officially congratulated all of these students on Firebird Word this Wednesday. Congratulations to all of them for their success! Current juniors are also eligible to be recognized if they have registered for the October 25<sup>th</sup> PSAT. Second, I want to congratulate CHAPTs on reaching its \$100,000 fundraising goal! The amount of support that our students and teachers receive from the Chaparral community is overwhelming. I'm looking forward to seeing the variety of programs, equipment, and materials that will be supported directly by the donations of our generous community. Thank you to everyone who is able to support what happens at Chaparral with either time, talents, or resources - it is very much appreciated!

## **Continuous Improvement Plan**


We are working to finalize the goals and strategies that make up Chaparral's yearly Continuous Improvement Plan. These strategies are mostly implemented by teachers, but the goal is to improve the academic and social well-being of all students at Chaparral. This year we will focus on math, English, and science on the academic side, as measured by ACT Aspire and ACT scores. Our other main focus is improving campus culture and climate - both for students and staff. Please do what you can at home to reinforce Chaparral's core values of **Compassion, Honesty, Agility, and Perseverance!**

## **AP Exams**

Yes, it's already time to think about AP testing! Payment and registration are underway - please see the attached letter which was sent out on Monday and contact Ms. Keri Board if you have any questions.

## **Moment of Silence and Other New Laws**

You may be aware that several education-related laws are set to begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. One of the new laws requires public schools to observe a moment of silence at least one minute long. Teachers or other school staff "may not suggest the nature of any reflection in which a student may engage," and "students may not interfere with other students' participation." Parents are encouraged to discuss with their students how best to use this time while not being disruptive to others. We began the school year by having a 15-second moment of silence and increased it to 30 seconds this week in order to get students used to the process. At Chaparral, this moment of silence occurs at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> period during Firebird Word. There are a few other education-related



laws that mostly pertain to parental rights, school finance, and school choice. I've attached an PDF outlining the new legislation that I found on the AZ Department of Education Website.

### **Athletics update**

Fall sports continue to have successful seasons as we approach the midway point. Chaparral Badminton is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state with a record of 9-1 after losing a tough match yesterday against number one ranked Prescott. The Boys Golf Team is currently ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the state and have 6 matches left. They placed 14<sup>th</sup> in their tournament in Texas out of 50 teams last week. They will continue playing in challenging tournaments by attending the Honda Classic in Florida next month. Girls golf is currently ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the state and won the Prescott Invitational. Swim and Dive had a successful Senior Night by beating Pinnacle last night 120-60 and 119-59. Both teams are 4-0 on the season! Chaparral Volleyball is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in a very tough 5A Northeast Valley Conference and will continue to improve when they travel to Desert Mountain on Tuesday. The Cross Country Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Peaks Invite in Flagstaff in the first meet of the season and placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 39 scoring teams at the Ojo Rojo Invite this past Saturday. The top 7 runners had a lifetime 5K best time. Football is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 6A Northeast Valley Conference with a record of 2-1 and host Desert Mountain tonight. Pom and Cheer are working hard supporting our teams and learning choreography as they prepare for competition. And many thanks to our marching band for supporting our athletes and getting the student body energized for Friday home games.

### **Homecoming**

The homecoming football game vs Mesa Mountain View is Friday, September 30. In addition to the normal homecoming festivities we will also be celebrating Chaparral's 50th Anniversary! During halftime we will recognize several notable alumni and former teachers and administrators. We hope you will join us to celebrate Chaparral's long tradition of excellence and the impact these people have had on our school and community!

As a reminder, we have a clear bag policy for adults and a no bag policy for students. All tickets must be purchased online through GoFan. QR codes area available to scan with your smart phone at the game if you cannot find the correct website.


Tickets for the dance are on sale in the bookstore. No tickets will be sold at the entrance. Students with fees or fines on their account will not be able to buy a ticket until their accounts are clear.

### **College Fair**

SUSD will be hosting a college fair at Desert Mountain High School on October 22nd from 1-3pm, with more than 60 colleges in attendance. Please see the attached flier for more information.

### **Attendance**

This should be obvious, but it is so important that students are at school every day, participating in their education as active learners. All the data we have shows a high correlation between grades and absenteeism. To that end, we have started meeting with students with excessive absences. You're probably aware of the "Miss 10, Take it Again" policy, which basically says that if a student has been marked absent for 10 periods of a single class (excused or not), the student could be denied credit in the class simply based on attendance. Students in



that situation meet with admin to review an "Attendance Contract" and parents will be contacted. Other attendance alerts are sent automatically from the school district to ParentVue accounts if the parent has completed the annual verification process. As a reminder, students arriving 10 minutes or more late to class are marked absent.

That's all for this edition of the Firebird Flash! If you would like to read any of the previous editions, you can find them on the school website by clicking on "Our School" at the top of the screen and looking for the "Principal's Newsletter" link on the right side. The page is also linked [here](#).

Have a great [3-day] weekend!

**Dates:**

Monday, September 26:	No School - District Recess
Wednesday, September 28:	Early Release for Teacher PD
Friday, September 30:	Homecoming Game vs. Mesa Mtn. View @ 7pm
Tuesday, October 4:	Site Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 5:	No School - District Recess
October 10-14:	No School - Fall Break
October 14-15:	Birdcage Classic (Volleyball)
Saturday, October 22:	College Fair @ DMHS (must register to attend)
Tuesday, October 25:	PSAT - Late Start for Non-Testers
October 27-29:	Theater Production of Dracula