

CHAPARRAL



This is the time of year when I, like many, find myself easily overwhelmed by all the activities going on in my life. It's difficult to juggle school, family, and activities. We're all looking forward to that second week of winter break when we can take a deep breath and relax. At times like these, it's important to stop, reflect on the good things going on around us, and check on those people we care about. I hope you find the time to do that over winter break.

Lately I've seen and heard about various student groups performing community service, organizing donations, and helping those in need. StuGo organized the Toy Drive, the Reading is Fundamental club organized a visit to a family shelter for reading and literacy help, and the International Club organized the Walk for Ukraine fundraiser, just to name a few events. I am grateful for the example parents and staff have set for their students, and especially grateful for the teachers who take extra time after school to enable and support these opportunities.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all of our families for choosing Chaparral. We know there are many options, and we're happy that you are here. As usual, please take a few minutes to review the info and reminders below.

School Letter Grades

The Arizona Department of Education recently released school letter grades based on student data from the 2021-2022 school year. Each public school in Arizona received its letter grade, and Chaparral was given an A. AND we had the second highest overall grade for all traditional high schools! This is a testament to the hard work that our teachers and students do every day. Over the next few weeks/months, we will be analyzing the data to determine areas of potential improvement. Right now, our main academic focus will be ACT scores for 9th and 11th graders who will be taking the ACT Aspire and ACT this spring.


Site Council Funding Approvals

We are so blessed to be part of a community that supports students and teachers financially in many ways. One of those ways is through tax credit donations for extracurricular activities. As you know, Arizona tax payers can direct a certain amount of money to a particular student/program (like for a field trip) or to the school's general tax credit fund. Our Site Council meets regularly to review requests to use the "general" tax credit fund, so I have listed the approvals to date below. Thank you so much to anyone who has donated in the past or who is considering donating. This money is directed to great things for students!

- After School Study Group (Tuesdays)
- Math Tutoring
- Gardening Club
- Orchestra/Choir Trip to New York City
- Band Trip to Disneyworld
- Theater Club Field Trips
- Art Club Trip to Disneyland

If you are interested in allocating a portion of your state tax liability to Chaparral's general tax credit fund, you can use [this link](#). Eligible tax payers can file for a credit of up to \$400 (married or filing jointly) on their annual tax return. [This link](#) also has additional information, but please also consider speaking with your tax preparer.

Athletics



A big congratulations goes out to our fall sports teams for their performances this year, and kudos to both the boys and girls swim/dive teams who won the state championship! We are all geared up for our winter sports, which kicked off November 28th: boys/girls soccer, boys/girls basketball, and wrestling. We also had a great turnout for our signing day celebration, during which nine students were recognized for committing to play sports at the next level. We're already looking forward to the spring signing day when additional students will be recognized. Please come out and support our student athletes!

Attendance Contracts

Administrators are meeting with the last round of students who have been placed on attendance contracts. If your student was placed on a Loss of Credit/Attendance Contract, decisions will be communicated after finals. Students wishing to submit an appeal letter for the committee to review before they make their decision should have turned the letter into the attendance office or Mrs. Bird by today, but we'll take them a day or two late if needed.

Recent Assembly - Students

We had communicated last week that students attended an assembly geared toward encouraging kindness and appropriate use of cell phones and social media accounts. It was well received by both students and teachers, along with several parents. Previously, I pointed out to parents that the documentary Childhood 2.0 is [available for free on Youtube](#), which would help generate some good discussion at home.

Recent Learning - Staff

Yesterday, representatives from Millennium Health visited our faculty meeting to discuss fentanyl. The statistics surrounding its availability and prevalence in fake pills is extremely concerning, and I encourage parents to learn as much as possible about it. The main take-aways are the following:

- Fake pills are out there and they're easy to get
- Young people usually get fake pills, tobacco vapes, wax pens, etc. using social media apps like SnapChat and Instagram (among others)
- More than half of "fake pills" advertised as xanax, oxy, adderall, etc. contain fentanyl
- Fentanyl is deadly, even in extremely small doses (think a few grains of salt)

Just so you know, our nurse and our school resource officer have Narcan (naloxone) that can be used in the case of a suspected opioid overdose on campus. Anecdotally, I can tell you that we have not found fake pills on campus in the last several years, but that doesn't mean they don't exist or that students aren't accessing them off campus.


If you want to read more about the danger of fake pills and fentanyl, one great resource is songforcharlie.org.

Final Exams

For those of you new to high school or SUSD, we use a modified schedule at the end of each semester for final exams. December 14-16 are early release days for finals - students will have two periods each day, during which the final exam will be administered. We have a policy of no early final exams, so if you have travel plans your student will likely have to make up the exam after our return from winter break. Please check ParentVue for a current look at grades and reach out to teachers if you have any concerns. We have several opportunities for extra help when students need it.

Drop-Off Lanes





As you know, one of the exciting things at Chaparral is morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. The best advice I can give you is to arrive earlier in the morning and to possibly wait a little while in the afternoon. One thing I need to encourage, though, is not using the staff lot (auditorium lot) or student parking lanes to drop off your student. This causes backups with our student parkers not being able to get into their spots, which makes them late for class. For those of you dropping off on the east side, enter through the main loop entrance (the first entrance south of Gold Dust). After you drop off, proceed to the E building before turning left to find the exit. Parents trying to exit just before the D building cause a backup further behind, and again creates backups with students who cannot get into their spots. Finally, pull forward as far as you can before dropping off. I'm attaching a crude drawing to point out the recommended path.

Traffic Safety

This is just a reminder to practice defensive driving around campus and to be on the lookout for pedestrians. We have many students who walk to school or park nearby and walk. We have been lucky that no serious accidents have occurred lately involving students and would like to keep it that way! Likewise, please remind your students to always pay attention to their surroundings and the traffic signals. Please take heed of the following common sense rules:

- Do not stop to drop off in the center lane of Gold Dust
- Do not stop to drop off in a traffic lane on Gold Dust
- Do not stop to drop off in a way that blocks roads, turn lanes, or entrances to school


Thank you!

Course Selection

In January, students in grades 9-11 will begin the course request process. Guidance counselors will lead them through most of it, and the process is completed online. We will be using all of that data to decide which classes (and how many) to offer next year and to make staffing decisions. Student schedules will not be available until late in the summer. Please talk with your students about their 4-year plan, which electives are available, etc.,

Dates:

December 6:	Band Concert
December 8:	NotMyKid Anxiety/Stress Webinar (see attachment)
December 7-10:	Hoophall West Basketball Tournament
December 12:	Choir Concert
December 14-16:	Early Release for Final Exams
Monday, January 2:	No School
January 11:	8th Grade Parent Night
January 14:	STEM Robotics Expo





January 16:	No School
January 25:	Early Release for Teacher Professional Development
February 8:	Early Release for Teacher Professional Development
February 15:	Future Firebird Night
February 20:	No School

