

SUSD SHOWCASE

Return to Learn

**Summer
Construction
Update**

**Excellence
Recognition Coin**

Scottsdale *Unified*
SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL/WINTER 2020
www.susd.org/Showcase

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

SUSD SHOWCASE

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250
(480) 484-6100

Showcase magazine is an in-house publication of the Scottsdale Unified School District Office of Communications and Marketing. ©2020 All rights are reserved. For advertising opportunities and more information, please call (480) 484-6100, visit www.susd.org/Showcase or email SUSDcommunications@susd.org.

Editor: **Amy Bolton**

Writer: **Nancy Norman**

Advertising: **Ranae Kauffman**

Social Promotion: **Ashley Wallinger**

Photography & Design: **Victor Bobbett**

Website Promotion: **Lainie Triplett**

Stay Connected!

Be sure to follow Scottsdale Unified School District on social media for the latest news, events and career opportunities. Each of our 29 campuses also has its own website and official Facebook and Twitter accounts. For a complete listing of our social media accounts, with links to each, visit www.susd.org/Connect.



On the Cover: National Board Certified fourth grade teacher Abbey Bobbett readies her classroom for what will be a unique school year. Photography by Victor Bobbett, unless otherwise noted. Some photos taken before mask and physical distancing requirements.

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear SUSD Families,

Scottsdale Unified School District is committed to the education of your children with rigorous, relevant and engaging instruction. The current school year has started like no other in history. Eighty-five percent of our families chose the option for Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL)/full return; the other 15% chose Scottsdale Online through the first semester. Navigating school during a pandemic is challenging, and each family has had to wrestle with the best options in a less than optimal situation.



Throughout all of the planning for the 2020 – 2021 school year, our top priority has been, and continues to be, the safety, health and well-being of our students, teachers, staff and school communities. SUSD's "Return to Learn" plan, approved by our Governing Board and available in full at www.susd.org/Reopen, reflected our best thinking at the time, and serves as an important starting place for meeting the educational needs of our students as we begin the school year. However, the landscape is ever-changing and it is important for the district to remain nimble and flexible in response to changing conditions. The Arizona Department of Health Services has provided a set of recommendations to guide districts in determining when it is safe to return to in-person instruction. SUSD is working closely with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to ensure that as we take steps to welcome students back on our campuses that we are doing so in a way that mitigates risk and supports a healthy and safe learning environment.

Our dedicated educational professionals continue to work diligently to find meaningful ways to engage our students, build relationships and find academic success. The partnership with our families is critical and has never been more important. These are trying times, but I am convinced that by working together, we can and will find a way forward that ensures our Scottsdale students receive the education they need and deserve.

Respectfully,

Scott A. Menzel, Ph.D.
Superintendent

www.susd.org/Superintendent

Let's Talk!

We want to hear from you!
Share ideas, comments
and ask anything at:
www.susd.org/LetsTalk

Scottsdale Unified School District Governing Board



Allyson Beckham
 Board President
 Term: 2017-2020
 Coronado Learning Community
abeckham@susd.org



Patty Beckman
 Board Vice President
 Term: 2019-2022
 Arcadia Learning Community
pbeckman@susd.org



Jann-Michael Greenburg
 Board Member
 Term: 2019-2022
 Chaparral Learning Community
jmgreenburg@susd.org



Sandy Kravetz
 Board Member
 Term: 2017-2020
 Desert Mountain Learning Community
skravetz@susd.org



Barbara Perleberg
 Board Member
 Term: 2017-2020
 Saguaro Learning Community
bperleberg@susd.org

Upcoming Governing Board Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, Regular Governing Board meetings are held at 5 p.m. in the Board Room at Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Ave., Scottsdale. Study Sessions and Special meetings are held at 5 p.m. at the Mohave District Annex (MDA), 8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale. Meeting agendas, minutes and related documents are available at www.susd.org/Board. Regular and Special meetings are open to the public, except during Executive Session. Members of the public are welcome to speak at Regular Board meetings which are also broadcast live and archived on the official Scottsdale Unified School District YouTube channel. For additional information, please call (480) 484-6238.

Study Sessions / Special Meetings	Regular Board Meetings
July 7, 2020	July 2020 - No Meeting
*August 4, 2020	August 18, 2020
September 1, 2020	September 15, 2020
September 29, 2020	October 20, 2020
*November 3, 2020	November 17, 2020
December 1, 2020	December 15, 2020
January 5, 2021	January 19, 2021
February 2, 2021	February 16, 2021
March 2, 2021	March 16, 2021
April 6, 2021	April 20, 2021
May 4, 2021	May 18, 2021
June 8, 2021	June 22, 2021 (3 p.m.) Approval of 2021-2022 FY Budget

*August 4 and November 3 meetings will be held at Coronado High School

Meeting schedule subject to change. Please visit www.susd.org/Board for the most current information.

YouTube Watch online anytime!



RETURN TO LEARN

2020-2021 School Year

The big question on everybody's minds is what will it be like when schools reopen and when will that be? Families around the country are discussing how best to accommodate their students' education needs in the safest manner possible with the options presented.

From the District point-of-view, the planning to manage the needs of 23,000 students and their families attending 29 campuses and a District staff of nearly 3,000 people has been a monumental task.



- Our Return to Learn plan has the information you need for back to school. Download a copy at <https://bit.ly/RTLPlan>.
- Since this situation is constantly evolving, visit www.susd.org/Reopen often for the latest updates.
- Read answers to the most frequently asked questions about the start of the school year at www.susd.org/FAQ.

Working on the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic began in late January and has not stopped for a single day since that time. Scottsdale Unified's dedicated leadership, employees and teachers have been working tirelessly to provide the safest, most supportive and reassuring environment for students, families and colleagues.

The District's Incident Command Team (ICT), established to respond to major District emergencies, has been leading the efforts to respond to and recover from the effects of the coronavirus. To supplement its efforts and expand the perspectives included in decision-making, the ICT formed three subcommittees in June. Members of these subcommittees included students, parents, classified staff, certified staff and teachers, as well as building and district administrators. These subcommittees focused on three main areas of concern:

- **Teaching & Learning, chaired by Dr. Kimberly Guerin, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services**
- **Logistics & Operations, chaired by Dennis Roehler, Director, Facilities**
- **Social & Emotional Support, chaired by Shannon Cronn, Director, Support Services**

Each subcommittee met for approximately four weeks, reviewing ever-evolving public health guidance and walking through how that guidance will be applied to daily operations of our school district. The subcommittees' recommendations were **presented to the Governing Board on July 7**. View a copy of this presentation at www.susd.org/Reopen. At that time, three options for continuing learning were presented for consideration. The Governing Board conferred with the community and comments were received from parents, employees and the public using 'Let's Talk' – a new application introduced to the District by Dr. Scott Menzel, who became superintendent on July 1, following the retirement of Dr. John Kriekard. The Governing Board held another **meeting on July 9**. Based on community feedback, the learning options for the 2020-2021 school year were narrowed to two. District leaders recommended eliminating from consideration a hybrid model of learning that would have combined on-campus instruction with distance learning. Dr. Menzel reported widespread concern among parents, teachers, counselors and principals with the complexities involved in making that proposal workable for families and staff at the same time as implementing a full return.

Also at the recommendation of Superintendent Menzel, the Board decided to delay the return of students to Scottsdale Unified campuses until at least Sept. 8, the day after Labor Day, if conditions permit a return to in-person learning at that time. This timeline may yet be extended by the Governing Board, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey or other state and local government agencies that oversee school district operations and public health with the issuance of updated guidance or mandates.

As part of the planning to ensure students have what they need to experience uninterrupted learning in the coming school year, the Governing Board approved funding this past spring to provide every Scottsdale Unified student with their own individual technology device. The funds for this plan became available when District enrollment during

the 2019-2020 school year far exceeded budgeted figures, leading to a nearly \$3 million revenue surplus. With each student having been issued their own device in the days leading up to the start of the new school year on Aug. 10, there is more certainty that a student's learning will be able to continue should there be a need in the future to suddenly return to remote learning due to illness in a family, at a school or districtwide.

While planning for the reopening of campuses remains a continuous effort as conditions, guidance and information about COVID-19 evolves, one thing is for certain: the 3,000 people working at Scottsdale Unified School District are fully dedicated to providing a robust and rewarding learning experience for students – no matter where or how they receive instruction.

Scottsdale Unified SCHOOL DISTRICT

RETURN TO LEARN

2020-2021 School Year

OUR PLAN FOR WELCOMING STUDENTS AND STAFF BACK TO SCHOOL

Two Models...

Enhanced Distance Learning (K-12) Start Date: 8/10/2020

1:1 COMPUTER TO STUDENT

- 100% Remote Learning
- Home school-assigned classroom teacher
- SUSD Curriculum
- Enhanced platform provides a "learning hub," where all resources are streamlined and accessible

Transition to Full Return On-Site (Pre-K-12) Start Date: 8/10/2020

- Full-time, full-day, in-school learning with SUSD teachers and curriculum
- Full return is offered at all schools. Pre-K programs offered at select sites
- Focus on social emotional learning
- Increased health and safety protocols for all students, staff and families

Full Online (K-12) Start Date: 8/10/2020

AVAILABLE FOR BOTH MODELS

- Full-time online instruction
- Certified SUSD teachers
- Discussion-based assessments
- Blended, synchronous & asynchronous learning
- Social & emotional support

Full Online Learning is an extension of Arizona Online Instruction with 10 years experience, online access to SUSD teachers, level of rigor and engagement.

Students will commit to a one-semester commitment to participate in full-time, synchronous instruction. Certified teachers supervise, assess learning, and provide feedback. Instruction has discussion-based (DBA), activities, and projects. A blend of asynchronous and synchronous learning, depending on class and teacher.

Revised: July 23, 2020

Mohave District Annex
8500 E Jackrabbit Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480.484.6100 | www.susd.org

SUSD RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

Article by Amy Bolton and Nancy Norman
Graphic Design by Victor Bobbett
Web Pages by Lainie Triplett
Social Media by Amy Bolton and Ashley Wallinger

Desert Mountain ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Nicole Suarez: Filmmaker
Lives in California
Desert Mountain High School Graduate
By Nicole Suarez and Amy Bolton

One look at NicoleSuarez.com and you'll swear that you've landed on a beautiful Instagram story. The colorful masks and adorable pooch are where we pick up the heartwarming story of Nicole Suarez, a very talented Scottsdale Unified alumna. Nicole graduated from Desert Mountain High School (DMHS) in 2010. In the 10 years since then, she attended the University of Arizona, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts of Design and Technology, with an emphasis in Costume Design, and she got her start in filmmaking! She began to work as a producer with director Peter Kenneth Jones on a feature-length documentary. Let's hear from Nicole in her own words ...

“The film, titled *Henri Dauman: Looking Up*, is about LIFE photographer and Holocaust survivor Henri Dauman. The film was released digitally on Amazon and iTunes in March 2020. The film is a look at the life and career of the photographer. While most people don't know his name, they certainly recognize his work – some of the 20th century's most recognized photographs. It just so happens that Henri is also my grandfather. As his granddaughter, I had an intimate knowledge of his life, which was integral to shaping the film.



Photo courtesy of Nicole Suarez

ALUMNISPOTLIGHT

The courses offered at DMHS set me on the path I am on today. It started my freshman year of high school when I took Theatre I. It was there that I discovered costume design and fell in love with designing for a character. To sharpen my technical skills, I enrolled in Art I sophomore year, and subsequently took Fashion I my junior year, and Fashion II & III my senior year, all whilst designing every play and musical offered at DMHS!

My involvement in theatre and fashion classes really helped to jump-start my career. Both Ms. Marilyn Mumaw, the Theatre teacher, and Ms. Anne Wilkins, the Fashion teacher, are who I attribute my passion for costume design. Without them, I would have never developed illustration and drawing skills, and the practical experience of designing based off of a script. Their high level of teaching and standards set me apart in college.

While in college, I took advantage of the summers to seek experience at a higher level. I wasn't sure if I could have a career in costume design, so after freshman year I interned at Steve Madden in New York City. Fortunately, after my sophomore year of college, I landed my first job as a PA (production assistant) in the costume department on Darren Aronofsky's feature film, *Noah*. After that experience, I was hooked, I felt destined to work on movies and television shows in the costume department. Post-college, I landed in Los Angeles and worked to join the local costume unions, Motion Picture Costumers (Local 705) and Costume Designers Guild (Local 892), and have been working in costume departments ever since!

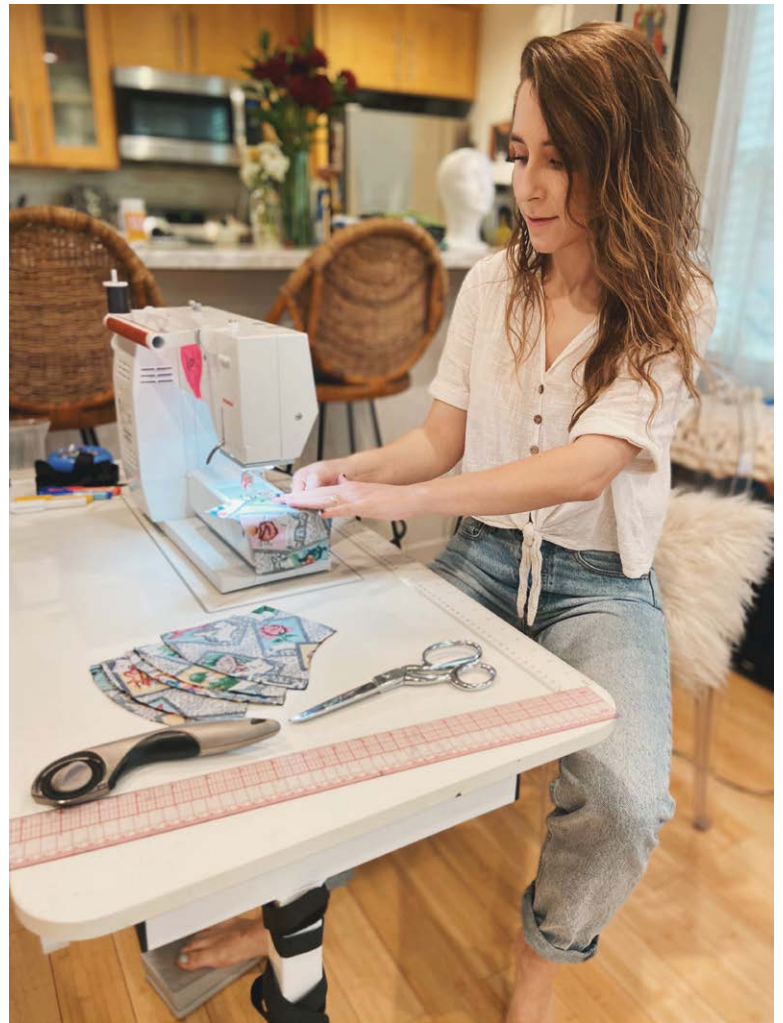


Photo courtesy of Nicole Suarez



Photo courtesy of Nicole Suarez

I am so grateful for my high school experiences to guide me on my path. I am still using the skills I learned in my DMHS art classes. If I didn't have these programs, or the high-quality instructors that came with them, I would not at all be where I am today. I am a living example of someone who has thrived under the high quality of such an art education, and was able to become accomplished in my field in a short amount of years since graduating from Desert Mountain. ”

Nicole's success is a wonderful example of combining talent, education and experience. She currently resides in California, where she has combined her passion, knowledge and experience to design and produce beautifully handcrafted face coverings.



To keep up with the very latest on Nicole's film and costume design career, connect with her at **NicoleSuarez.com/Contact** and follow her on Instagram @NicoleSuarez.

Chaparral ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Danielle Lerner: Anchor/Reporter, KNXV-TV
Lives in Arizona
Chaparral High School Graduate
By Danielle Lerner and Amy Bolton

You may recognize our next featured Scottsdale Unified School District alumna from the evening news on local ABC affiliate KNXV, Channel 15. Did you know that the Valley's Danielle Lerner is a 2002 Chaparral High School graduate? We recently caught up with this busy wife, mom, journalist and all-around Arizona success story. Read more about Danielle's journey as she reflects on life and her upcoming 20-year high school reunion.

“When I graduated from Chaparral, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I entered college as a communications major because I figured it was broad enough to cover a host of potential career fields.

Plus, I'd always enjoyed several aspects of communication, including writing, delivering speeches and presenting to audiences. My mom suggested that I try an internship at one of our local news stations the summer before my senior year of college. After one summer, I was hooked.”

Knowing that Danielle's success in television news media might help inspire the next generation of professionals, I asked her what advice she would give to her teenage self. This is truly where her personality ~shines~! Danielle's advice could not be more prophetic during a time of upheaval for so many. She provides the great perspective from someone who walked the very same hallways as our students do today.



Chaparral High School softball photo, courtesy of Danielle Lerner

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“ I loved the entire process, from start to finish, including how much work goes into crafting a story and a newscast. I just celebrated 12 years in the business and feel so grateful I get to do what I love in the place where I grew up.

How much time do we have? ;-) There are SO MANY things I would tell my teenage self. In all honesty, high school was a bit of a tough time for me. My parents had recently gotten divorced and re-married, we moved from California to Arizona and I started Chaparral not knowing a single person. I've never been great with change. Then add all the awkwardness and emotions that already come with those teenage years and it can feel pretty rough. Time healed most, as they say. I got involved in campus clubs and loved playing softball all four years. That helped tremendously, but if I could go back I would tell myself to embrace change and lean in to every opportunity. Try new things. Get involved. Pursue activities that interest you, regardless of your fears or insecurities. You only get one go at this time of your life, so make it count in a big way.

To any teens who are struggling, I would say, “You are not alone. It gets better. Share your feelings and seek support.” In hindsight, I now know a majority of the issues that devastated me as a teenager held little to no lasting impact on my life. However, at the time, the feelings of anger, anxiety, sadness, humiliation or depression could be overwhelming. It does get better. I promise. But in the meantime, find someone you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and feelings with. Whether that is a trusted adult at home, school, your place of worship, or someone anonymous through a community resource like Teen Lifeline, please reach out. I think you'll be surprised by how many people would love nothing more than to support you and help you through whatever you may be struggling with.”

Since graduating from Chaparral in 2002, Danielle married and now has two children. Among her biggest accomplishments since high school, Danielle lists her professional achievement of earning a coveted spot as a news anchor in Phoenix and, personally, on becoming a mother.

“ I hustled like crazy to make it happen, even as people told me it wouldn't. The news industry is incredibly competitive so the odds were definitely not in my favor. I spent a lot of time



*Danielle Lerner, News Anchor, KNXV-TV,
photo courtesy of Danielle Lerner*

reaching out to news directors here in the Valley, asking for feedback, looking for ways to improve, making connections. I worked hard to get better and prove why I belonged in one of the top 15 markets in the country. My current position at ABC 15 is the culmination of years of hard work. When it comes to my personal achievement, it is being a mom. I thought I knew what motherhood entailed, but you have no idea until you're actually in it! As a family, we've had our struggles, including physical complications after delivering my older daughter, Addison. I suffered from pretty severe postpartum anxiety and depression with our second, Harper. But I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. Being a mom has transformed me entirely, helping me dig deep and discover who I am and who I want to be for them. I look at my girls daily, feeling so blessed that I get to be their mom. It's overwhelming and daunting, but filled with more joy than I ever could have imagined.

My years at Chaparral shaped me in more ways than I'm sure I'll ever know. I'd say starting high school forced me to learn to adapt and be open to new experiences. A lifelong lesson it taught me was to adjust quickly and embrace change. As our station's education reporter, I spend a lot of my time diving into issues surrounding K-12 education. Even though things have changed quite a bit since I graduated, the fact that I went to high school here gives me a unique perspective and a deeper connection to my work. I'm proud to be a Chaparral grad and grateful for the opportunity to help keep our communities safe and well-informed.”




Lerner family photo, courtesy of Danielle Lerner



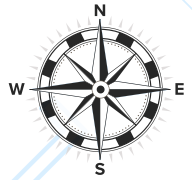
To keep up with the very latest on Danielle Lerner, tune into ABC 15 and connect with her on Facebook @DanielleLernerTV and follow her on Twitter @DanielleLerner.

Summer Break Upgrades

By Nancy Norman

CLIENT	PROJECT SCOPE	ALV
 Scottsdale Unified SCHOOL DISTRICT	MARQUEE SIGNAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>
	FRONT LOBBY	<input type="checkbox"/>
	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	SECURITY UPGRADES	<input type="checkbox"/>

SITE PLAN

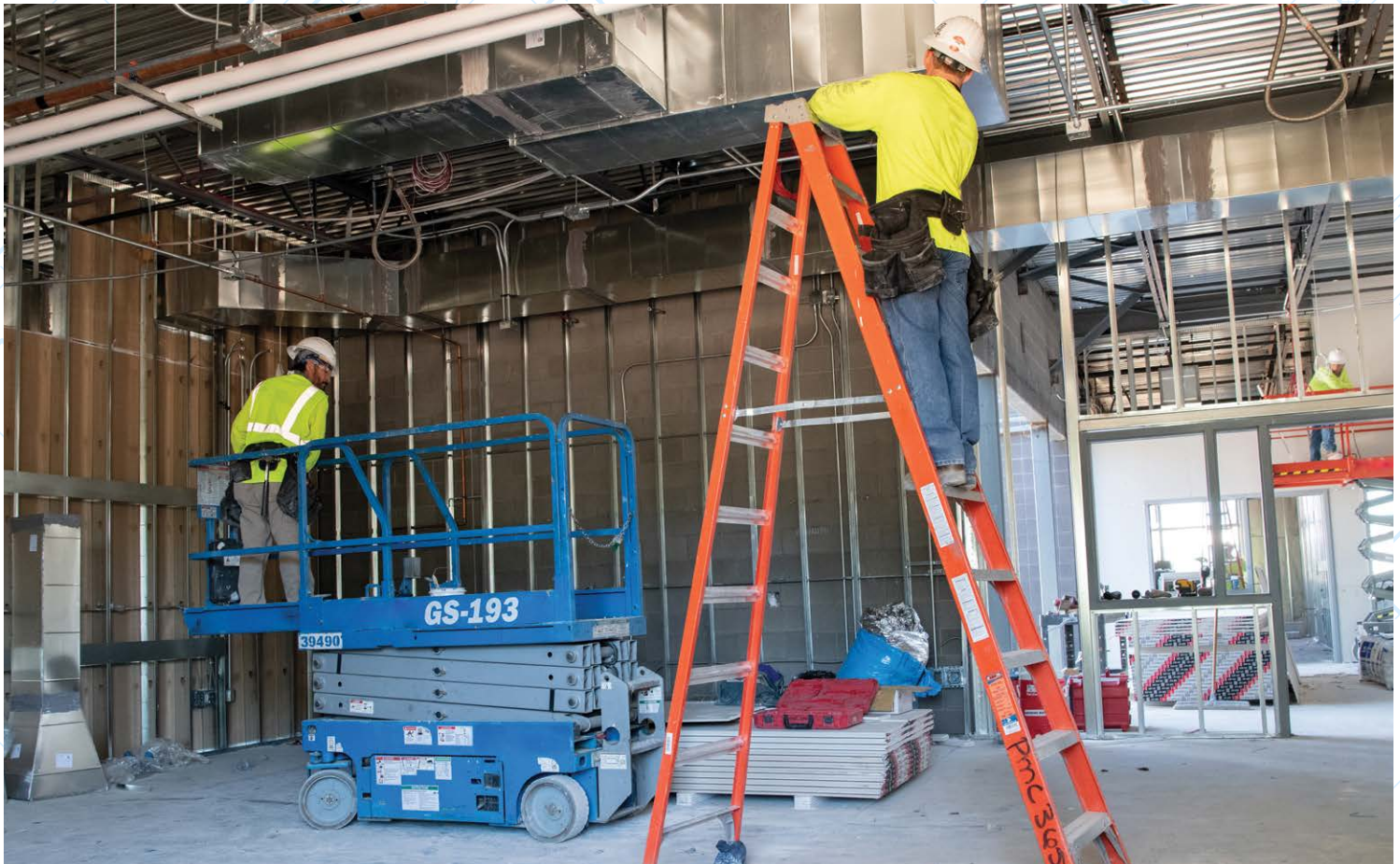


Summers, when students and teachers are away, provide the perfect opportunity for campus improvement projects. This year, Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has undertaken a wide variety of projects that make schools safer, more secure and more enjoyable for students and staff. As this summer comes to a close, so do these bond-funded campus improvement projects.

SUSD Facilities Director Dennis Roehler says these summer projects represent nearly \$16 million of the \$229 million 2016 voter-approved bond program. The projects replace outdated infrastructure that has surpassed its useful life as well as make school campuses safer. The summer project

cost is in addition to the rebuilding projects currently underway at Cherokee and Hohokam Elementary schools, also funded by the same bonds.

Between security upgrades to 17 schools' front offices; new curtains, rigging and lighting for 10 elementary and K - 8 school stages; new roofs and gymnasium floors at two middle schools; state-of-the-art electronic messaging marquees outside 16 SUSD schools; updated playground equipment at two elementary campuses; two renovated school parking lots; some much-needed air conditioning upgrades; and putting the finishing touches on the newly renovated [Navajo Elementary School](#), it's been a busy summer on District campuses.



Construction crews at Cherokee Elementary School

Arcadia

Learning Community

- **Arcadia** – parking lot renovation, upgrades to HVAC mechanical systems, marquee replacement, exterior painting
- **Echo Canyon** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, marquee replacement
- **Ingleside** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, exterior painting
- **Tavan** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, roof replacement, marquee replacement, stage curtains, rigging and lighting

Chaparral

Learning Community

- **Chaparral** – upgrades to HVAC mechanical systems, softball practice field renovation
- **Cherokee** – continuation of new campus construction project
- **Cochise** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement
- **Cocopah** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, gymnasium floor and partial roof replacement, marquee replacement
- **Copper Ridge** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, cafeteria partial roof replacement, marquee replacement
- **Sequoia** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, parking lot renovation with new student drop-off/pick-up lane, playground equipment replacement, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement

Coronado

Learning Community

- **Coronado** – upgrades to HVAC mechanical systems, auxiliary gym floor replacement, door hardware replacement, exterior painting
- **Hohokam** – continuation of new campus construction project
- **Tonalea K-8** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement
- **Yavapai** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, marquee replacement

Saguaro

Learning Community

- **Kiva** – architectural services for 2021 campus rebuild project
- **Mohave** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, marquee replacement
- **Navajo** – completion of renovation project undertaken as a result of an Aug. 2018 fire that forced a relocation for two years, new playground equipment and shade structures, new bus loop, parking lot expansion
- **Pueblo** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades
- **Saguaro** – upgrades to HVAC mechanical systems, Innovation Center construction project

Desert Mountain

Learning Community

- **Anasazi** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement
- **Cheyenne Traditional** – stage curtains, rigging and lighting
- **Desert Canyon ES** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement
- **Desert Canyon MS** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, marquee replacement
- **Desert Mountain** – air conditioning system upgrades, baseball field retaining wall replacement
- **Laguna** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement
- **Mountainside** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, air conditioning upgrades, gymnasium floor and partial roof replacement, cafeteria roof replacement, minor upgrades to classroom building roofs, marquee replacement
- **Redfield** – front office lobby renovation and security upgrades, stage curtains, rigging and lighting, marquee replacement, exterior painting





Cherokee Elementary School, construction in progress



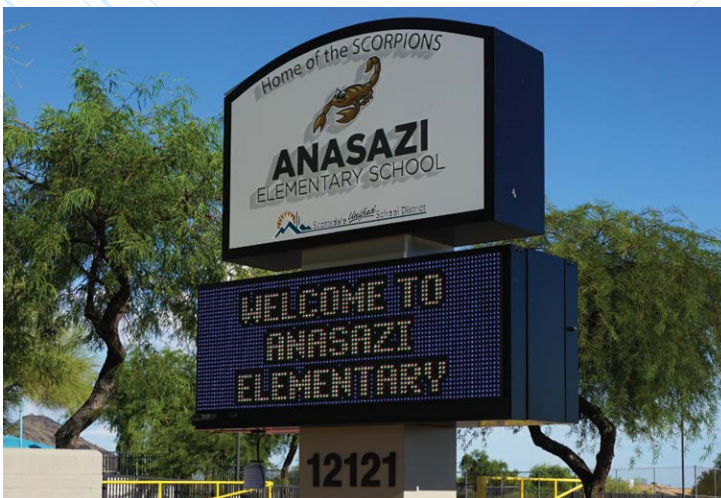
Mohave Middle School front office upgrades



Hohokam Elementary School, construction in progress

“ We continue to be grateful to our community for providing the funding that permits us to offer students and teachers the best learning environments possible. ”

— Dennis Roehler
Director, Facilities



Anasazi Elementary School's new marquee. Photo by Nancy Norman.



Cherokee Elementary School, construction in progress

Draw • Paint • Sculpt • CREATE



SAS offers year-round FINE ART programs designed for young artists of all skill levels, taught by professional working artists.

It's Your Choice...
SAFE! ON CAMPUS OPTIONS
NEW! YOUTH & TEEN ART ONLINE
ON YOUR OWN! TAKE & MAKE ACTIVITY KITS



scottsdaleartschool.org | 480.990.1422

FALL/WINTER 2020

Finally... Home Sweet Home!

By Amy Bolton

It's been two years in the making, but the Navajo Buffalos are finally back home! The school was relocated to the former Oak Academy in August 2018 following a fire that devastated Navajo's normally peaceful Granite Reef campus.

Since that time, the business of learning, laughing and growing hasn't missed a beat. Under the direction of Principal Matt Patzlaff, the Navajo Buffalo spirit has been alive and well, no matter what the address plaque read. Over the past few weeks, teachers and staff have been moving back into the newly refurbished Granite Reef campus. In addition to repairing all of the damage caused by the fire, the Governing Board voted to spend an additional \$5 million to modernize the campus. The front office now has new safety features, and the traffic pattern around the school has been changed to allow for a better experience for parents with less disruption for residential neighbors.



“The Navajo staff is extremely excited to be back home. We now have the type of 21st century campus, featuring an Innovators Lab and multiple Collaboration Labs, which will now allow us to take our STEAM philosophy to the next level. We are thrilled to see how these spaces help fuel students' curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and communication skills.”

— **Matt Patzlaff**, Proud Principal



Mrs. Wilson's fifth grade classroom



Mrs. Youngkin & Mrs. Wiley's Kindergarten classroom

“ We are a resilient community of students, staff and families, and we rallied together as a family, receiving the generous support of the entire SUSD community, and now we are back stronger than ever. We are grateful to be back home, and can't wait to share our newly renovated campus with our students, their families and our Scottsdale community, once it is safe to do so. ”

— **Matt Patzlaff**, Proud Principal

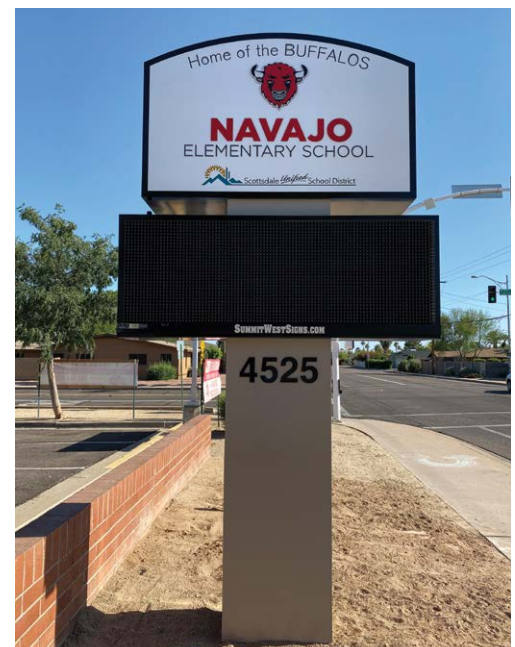
Even the Navajo school mascot has been modernized! A principal-led committee of parents, teachers and staff considered and discussed several mascot concepts. After narrowing the choices down to two, students, teachers and staff voted on their favorite. The winning design concept was submitted by Navajo dad Brian Bemisdarfer. Mr. Bemisdarfer's daughter Brylee is a Navajo third grader and his son Braxton is in fifth grade. He created more than 15 drafts of the final logo to meet the committee's desired outcome. We appreciate all of the time he put into our new and improved Navajo Buffalo. To keep up with what is happening at Navajo, follow Navajo on Facebook at [@NavajoSUSD](https://www.facebook.com/NavajoSUSD) and visit the website at www.susd.org/Navajo.



Mrs. Roffino's fourth grade classroom



STEAM-Collaboration Lab



Navajo Elementary School's new marquee

Excellence Recognition

COIN

By Amy Bolton and Victor Bobbett



The magnificent people working every day Districtwide to deliver services to students make belonging to the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) workforce a familial experience. Having the opportunity to engage with our students and their families energizes us and provides a bounty of rewarding experiences. Our talented and professional workforce of approximately 3,000 people is devoted to delivering a consistently outstanding educational experience for every single SUSD student.

There is no doubt that outstanding achievements happen each day across SUSD. To publicly recognize these achievements, the Superintendent brings forward the most notable stories at the monthly Governing Board Regular meetings, during a

portion of the agenda dubbed "Celebrations." Any Principal may nominate students and employees from their campus to be considered for a Celebration. In addition to being lauded before the Governing Board, Celebration honorees are presented with a signed certificate from the Superintendent and a very special token of appreciation: an Excellence Recognition Coin.

This tradition began in 2019 as a special way for the Superintendent to offer appreciation to students and staff for exemplary contributions and achievements. The coin is intended to recognize students and staff who live our core values and go above and beyond expectations – striving for and achieving excellence.



Left to right: Margaret Rehberg, Sheila Miller, Angela Caruso, Cochise ES (Adapted P.E. Teacher of the Year), Julie Sparks, Desert Canyon ES (Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year), Kimberly Mills, Kyle Bragg, Anasazi ES (Innovation Teacher of the Year), Jennifer Waldron, Michelle Irvin. Photo by Amy Bolton in December 2019 before mask and physical distancing requirements.



The first coins were distributed by SUSD leadership last year to kick off the 2019-2020 school year. The Excellence Recognition Coins proved to be so popular, the District ran out of its initial supply! A second round was ordered, and the design for the 2020-2021 coin was expedited. The process from design to delivery takes approximately four months.

The front of the 2020-2021 coin features an eye-catching, colorful expression of love for our home state of Arizona. In 2021, Scottsdale Unified will celebrate its 125th birthday. The District, formed in 1896, is actually 16 years older than the state of Arizona, which joined the Union on February 14, 1912. The coin proclaims that it is "Awarded for Excellence," resulting in great pride of bearers' achievements. The bold, raised, five-point star symbolizes the unity of SUSD's five learning communities, combining into one mighty, shining star. The star's stunning gold luster reminds its bearer they are a shining example. Both sides feature a braided cord, symbolizing the conjoining of the state and the district, as well as our learning communities, into one "Proud SUSD Family." This year, we focus the back of the coin on the achievements and core activities that bring us together as a large, diverse, unified family – Academics, Arts and Athletics.



Natalie Foster (L) and Kayli Battel (R) received SUSD Excellence Recognition Coins from their principal, Saguaro High School's Ann Achtziger. Photo by Amy Bolton before mask and physical distancing requirements.

National Board Certified Teachers

By Nancy Norman and Susan Leonard

NATIONAL BOARD
Certified Teacher™

Reprinted with permission from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. All rights reserved.



National Board process boils down to a teacher's desire to put their practice up for review to represent standards reflective of accomplished teaching for the betterment of their students. The process is very personal for each candidate! It's about these students, at this time, in this place. That's why teachers and their students get so invested in the process, says Susan Leonard, National Board Certified Ingleside Middle School educator and SUSD's lead trainer of National Board candidate teachers.

Scottsdale Unified ranks among the top school districts in Arizona for its number of National Board Certified Teachers. In addition to having state-certified teachers in all of our classrooms, we are proud to share that 87 of our teachers have taken on the challenge of achieving National Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Read more at www.susd.org/NBCT.

According to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, www.nbpts.org, more than a decade of nationwide research confirms that students taught by National Board-certified teachers learn at a higher rate. Scottsdale Unified is proud to be an Arizona leader with its 87 National Board Certified Teachers.



Back row, L to R: Sarah Wagner-Boustila (Arcadia), Brittany Bouslog (Cocopah), Tammy Kohli (DCES), Katheryn Honeycutt (DCES), Kelly O'Rourke (DCMS), Laura Kamka (Desert Mountain), Tammy Andreas (Cochise), Debbie Voris (Hopi). Front row (L to R): Lori Campos (Cherokee), Lindsey Saylor (Cheyenne). Photo by Amy Bolton in January 2020 before mask and physical distancing requirements.

How One Teacher Prepared for Back to School

By Amy Bolton and Abbey Bobbett

When we think of getting ready to go back to school, we might imagine browsing the school supplies aisles and shopping for new clothes. While this is the annual ritual parents walk through with their students, it's also how teachers get ready to return to the classroom. I recently had the opportunity to speak to one of our National Board Certified Teachers, Abbey Bobbett, who teaches fourth grade at Laguna Elementary.

What surprised me the most was hearing how Mrs. Bobbett spent her summer break: learning. Like many of her dedicated teacher colleagues, she spent a majority of the summer sharpening her skills and learning new things to bring to the classroom to enhance her students' experiences. Laguna is pursuing accreditation as a Discovery Education STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) school, so Mrs. Bobbett and her fellow Laguna teachers are also taking on the additional rigorous professional development that is required of that three-year process. Even as she begins her 18th year of teaching, Mrs. Bobbett still bubbles with enthusiasm for the year ahead.



“ I want to ensure that I am doing everything I can to provide a safe, supportive and healthy learning environment for my students. ”

— **Abbey Bobbett, NBCT**
Fourth grade teacher

When I asked Mrs. Bobbett about how she prepares to return to school, every single thing she shared was about how she can make the year ahead better for students.

From purchasing loads of content and materials from a popular website from which teachers purchase items from other teachers, Mrs. Bobbett explained to me (and eventually to her husband, when the bank statement arrives!) how she plans to use all of these new items to help students learn. First, there's the Cricut® craft-making device to help make engaging decorations for her classroom, then there's children's literature to supplement what she already has on-hand for her students and then, since students should not be sharing supplies, she bought each student a new clipboard. She plans on giving out a few treats, too, to get them excited for the start of the new school year – and that's just the beginning. Mrs. Bobbett participated in various

webinars and courses, both paid and free, throughout the summer on topics such as organizing paper and digital files, in addition to becoming a Google-certified teacher.

As we captured the images for the cover of this magazine, Mrs. Bobbett visited her classroom for the first time in months. In addition to all of the supplies she purchased, she was wearing a brand-new accessory, a mask. Mrs. Bobbett is one of more than 1,000 dedicated SUSD teachers, each of whom has an identical story of spending their own money on supplies for their students to help make the most of the year ahead. We hear endless stories of how teachers have been back to prepare their classrooms, their plans and their approach to best serve each student's learning needs.

We thank Mrs. Bobbett and each and every one of our teachers for their hard work and dedication to students!

Healthy Meals On-the-Go

Did you know that Scottsdale Unified Nutrition Services division delivers? In addition to serving 11,000 healthy, nutritious and delicious meals to SUSD students each school day, the division also operates a meal service, called Oak Catering. Through the Oak Catering service, local day care sites, private schools and other youth programming sites purchase healthy snacks and packaged meals for delivery. This revenue helps fund Scottsdale Unified's Nutrition Services division. For more information, please visit www.susd.org/Meals or call (480) 484-6234.



Scottsdale *Unified*
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Apply Now

for Free & Reduced
Cost School Meals

www.susd.org/Meals
(480) 484-6234

Has Your Financial Status Recently Changed?

Fill out an online application anytime for free and reduced cost meals for the 2020-2021 school year at www.susd.org/Meals. Applications are accepted throughout the entire school year. Visit www.susd.org/Meals to fill out an application. If you are approved, you may also qualify for other state and federal benefits, since many aid programs use free-and-reduced-lunch eligibility as a qualifier. Call Nutrition Services at (480) 484-6234 for more information.

Leading the Way

Dr. Christopher Thuman
Principal
Scottsdale Online
By Nancy Norman



In order to accommodate an anticipated increase in the number of Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) students engaging in distance learning for the coming school year, two job assignments within Ingleside Middle School's leadership have changed recently.

Ingleside's principal, Dr. Christopher Thuman, has been tapped by the SUSD Governing Board to fill the new position of interim principal of the District's online learning programs, including SUSD's accredited online learning program, Scottsdale Online. The District's virtual K-12 academy is available as an option to all SUSD students and others across the state through open enrollment. With this appointment, Ingleside's assistant principal (AP), Erin Kadera, has taken over as Ingleside's interim principal.

Scottsdale Online has been operating for 10 years as a fully accredited, online high school with classes taught by the same state-certified, SUSD teachers who teach on our campuses. This learning option has provided a viable high school alternative for students statewide who cannot attend a brick-and-mortar school.

Due to the nature of the pandemic, Scottsdale Unified leadership immediately took action to expand Scottsdale

Online to a K-12 school. Parent surveys from June and July indicated that as many as 20% of SUSD students would enroll in the full-time online model offered through Scottsdale Online. "Dr. Thuman is an experienced school administrator who, in this new assignment, will actually be returning to his roots. He helped found Scottsdale Online 10 years ago," says SUSD's Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, Dr. Milissa Sackos. "He is the perfect person for this new position."

Thuman served as Ingleside Middle School's principal since July 2016, starting off his SUSD career teaching biology at Desert Mountain High School. He became executive director of SUSD Community Education and Online Learning in 2008, a post he held until becoming Ingleside's principal.

Kadera returned to Ingleside's AP post last school year, after spending a year as an AP at Saguaro High School. Kadera has been an elementary school teacher, English Immersion Studies program specialist and grants administrator with SUSD, and was first hired in 1996.

Thuman's and Kadera's new assignments were approved at a July 7 special meeting of the Governing Board.

K-12 enrollment in Scottsdale Online now exceeds 3,300 students and is the single largest program offered by SUSD, representing approximately 15% of SUSD's total enrollment.



IN THE **FAST** LANE

Towering above the Valley's busiest freeways over the last few weeks are a series of billboards welcoming students to Scottsdale Unified School District. With the uncertainty brought on by current events, we want families to know that despite all of the challenges thrown our way

in 2020, the Scottsdale Unified School District continues to stand as a pillar in the Valley's public education landscape, offering a stable, high-quality academic experience for students for 125 years – whether on campus or online.



Driving along the 202 eastbound by Tempe Marketplace? Chances are you were driving right by our billboard reminding parents and guardians of young learners that Scottsdale Unified has openings for their child. The billboard is part of the District's annual campaign for back-to-school marketing. *Photo courtesy Lamar Advertising.*



Scottsdale Unified School District welcomes students from across the Valley for enrollment in our free, fully accredited K-12 online learning option, Scottsdale Online. This billboard reminds busy commuting parents in central Phoenix that Scottsdale Unified is an option for their high school student.

SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Now Enrolling

On Campus & Online

480.484.6100 www.susd.org/Enroll



We have options! That is the message this billboard was intended to show. Whether on campus or online, Scottsdale Unified is here to welcome middle school students at their local neighborhood campus, when it is safe to do so, and online.

BE OUR TAX CREDIT HERO

Scottsdale *Unified*
SCHOOL DISTRICT

WWW.SUSD.ORG/DONATE



Students Can Earn College Credit While Taking High School Classes

- Enjoy Transferable Credit among Top Universities
- Save Money and Time
- Reduce Course Duplication
- Develop Early Occupational Skills

**Grants available for those who qualify
(contact us for more information)**

**REGISTER FOR FALL 2020
SEMESTER NOW!**

Sept. 15 - Enrollment Paperwork deadline

Oct. 1 - Payment deadline



"With SCC's Dual Enrollment program, by the time I graduated from high school I had already completed 24 credits – the equivalent of two full-time semesters. This helped create a smooth transition to college and allowed me to focus on courses pertaining to my specific degree, as well as lowering the cost of college tuition."

*~ Brandon DeLeon
Arcadia High School
Class of 2017*

Learn more at 480.423.6450 or www.scottsdalecc.edu/dual



**SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit: www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.