

# HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2935 South Recker Road, Gilbert, Arizona 85295

(480) 279-7000 • [www.husd.org](http://www.husd.org)

November 15, 2023 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

## 5.3 Approve Personnel Action Items

[REDACTED] ?

[REDACTED]

Have we tried to identify why so many Para's are leaving? Is it normal for this high turnover rate?

The reasons people are leaving are going back to school, not enough pay, wanting to stay home, moving, etc.

Do the following staff members have the qualifications to be Para's?

Yes

[REDACTED]

## 5.4 Voucher 1032-Scholastic

-May I please get a copy of this magazine?

M7381640	7	10/11/2023	202401247	1032	SCHOLASTIC, INC.	\$767.80	226027	scholastic classroom magazines 23-24 scholastic news, science spin, find out
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A copy will be made available at the District Office for review.

-FAITHFUL FRIENDS PUBLISHING, LLC-Is there a website for this? I couldn't find one.

CORTINA ELEMENTARY	10/18/2023	202402215	1034	FAITHFUL FRIENDS PUBLISHING, LLC	\$120.00	CHILDRENS AUTHOR VISIT
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The local author's website is [Cynthia Anne Travel Photography](#)

## Voucher 1035-Pull as separate voucher

How will this be used? This is based on the Next Generation Science Standards which I have brought up before and it is not within Arizona standards. NGSS is a push for a sort of "common core" in science. NGSS includes a belief in anthropogenic climate change and evolution. It was developed, in part, by the National Science Teachers Association. NSTA is deep rooted in DEI (race and sex) which can be found on their website.

This book is to be an optional resource for teachers to help prepare students for the type of assessments they will see on standardized tests. A single copy of the book is to be purchased for the school.

1LXK-36M	10/18/2023	2.02E+08	1035	AMAZON	\$39.17	Uncovering Student Ideas in Earth and Environmental Science: 32 New Formative Assessment Probes
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The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the NSTA (National Science Teaching Association) website. The left screenshot displays three article cards: 'Equity | NSTA', 'Equity for All | NSTA', and 'Gender Equity in Science Education | NSTA'. The right screenshot displays two article cards: 'Teacher Responsiveness as a Core Feature of Justice- and Equity ...' and 'Addressing Student Diversity and Equity | NSTA'. Each article card includes a title, a URL, a small image, and a brief description of the article's content. The website header includes the NSTA logo, 'Bookstore', and 'Log In' links.

## Voucher 1040-Pull as separate voucher

How will the following be used? Will a counselor be involved? If so, are the counselors licensed by the Board of Behavioral Health to be providing such services? School counselors only have certification from the Department of Education, not an actual license as a Behavioral Health provider. Or will this be used by a teacher who for sure doesn't have the certification or the BH license?

19X6-JNC3-4T6K	10/30/2023	202402437	1040	AMAZON BUSINESS	\$38.75	Emotional Rollercoaster   Anger Management Board Game Kids & Families   Therapy Learning Resources   Anger Contr Card Game   Emotion Board Games Games for Kids Ages 4-8 Social Emotional
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This resource will be used by both gifted and talented teachers and the counselor to support an effective learning environment. Some gifted students often struggle with managing big emotions. Teachers and the counselor may use this resource to support students, as needed, in gaining the skills to cope and work through those big emotions in a safe, risk-free environment so they can refocus on academic learning. No specific certification/training is required to use this resource. Before using this resource with a student, parents are notified and can opt out.

## 5.6 Student Travel-PWR Science Camp-Pull as separate

I'm concerned that while the assignment itself is aimed at fostering critical thinking and understanding of the impact of human population and consumption on Earth's systems, it may lead to unnecessary conversations about climate change and other ideologies. Also, how do we ensure that the curriculum aligns with Arizona educational standards and guidelines since the staff at the camp will be facilitating.

### Earth and Space Science

#### **Cycle Factory**

The students will join us at our "cycle factory" where they will learn about the water, soil, and air cycles. Using that knowledge, students will build a "tree" in a relay-style race. They will wear hardhats and use wiffle balls, chutes, pulleys, fake toilets, and imagination to build that model tree as well as discuss how pollution can enter each cycle and what humans can do to reduce and mitigate pollution.

#### **Standards:**

##### **Next Gen:**

- *MS-ESS3-4.* Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.
- *MS-ESS2-1.* Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.
- *MS-ESS2-4.* Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.

##### **Arizona:**

- *6.L2UI.11.* Use evidence to construct an argument regarding the impact of human activities on the environment and how they positively and negatively affect the competition for energy and resources in ecosystems.
- *6.L2UI.14.* Construct a model that shows the cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems.

Per the example above, specific student camp activities are chosen in alignment with Arizona academic standards by HUSD administration and teachers. Staff also attend science camps and if topics veer from the intended learning outcomes of the activity, they may provide clarification for students. Science camp is an optional experience for our students in which parents provide permission to attend.

## 5.14 Varsity Tutors - State Contract

Does this have anything to do with the tutoring program grant offered by ADE?

[Welcome to Achievement Tutoring | Arizona Department of Education \(azed.gov\)](https://www.azed.gov/)

This does not have to do with the tutoring grant from ADE. This is to support all students at Cooley with on-demand online tutoring. The company is providing the service free of charge to the district for the rest of the year as a pilot at Cooley.

This is an additional way that the school can support student achievement in the goal of raising student performance and the school letter grade.

## Course Guide Questions

### 6.1 All documents

This statement needs to be corrected to read what is in the actual law (Title IX) which states only sex and not the information in the parentheses. I understand that these things are being litigated in the courts but until a final ruling has been made by the Supreme Court, we need to ensure we are stating what the current law is and not interpretations of the law.

We contacted Legal and here is their response:

The Notification is appropriate and legal as written and will serve your District well if a complaint is filed against the District with the Office for Civil Rights or the Department of Justice. The matter of what "sex" includes has been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bostock*. What is being litigated is mostly issues of bathroom or locker room access by trans students. Almost all cases are being found in favor of the trans students.

#### Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

The Higley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity and expression), age, disability, veteran or military status, religion, or genetic information in the admission or access to, treatment or employment in its educational programs or activities. Inquiries or complaints concerning discrimination may be referred to the District's Compliance Officer:  
Human Resources, 480-279-7000, HR@husd.org

### HS Course Guide

Should that say June 1, 2024?

Yes, typo.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

\*Course Guide will go into effect on ~~6/1/2023~~ June 1, 2023

On page 26, digital photography internship lists prerequisite of Bioscience. Is that a typo?

Yes, Typo. Should say Digital Photography program.

### CTE INTERNSHIP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY DPIN401A/DPIN402B

MEETS CTE or ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT

The CTE Internship Program has been created as a supplement to formal classroom instruction. Its intent is to add significantly to the vitality and impact of courses that a student has taken in high school and/or post-secondary training. A CTE Internship is a course taken in the sequence of courses of an approved CTE program. The CTE Internship provides CTE students an opportunity to engage in learning through participation in a structured work experience that involves the application of previously developed CTE knowledge and skills. The CTE Internship must be directly related to the CTE program where the credits were earned. Students who are classified as seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and at least 16 years of age are eligible to participate. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the CTE organization, HOSA. Student must turn in the following to be considered: A) internship application B) instructor recommendation form C) resume.

Course Length: 1 year

Credits: 1.0

Prerequisite: Completion of **Bioscience** Program

Fees: Refer to fee schedule

Grade Level: 12

Location: HHS, WFHS

Pg 30

I'd like to see what is involved in this course. Is there a curriculum I can review? Does it include conversations about climate change, green new deal narratives?

This course follows the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum. Units for the course are the following:

Unit 1: Environmental Sustainability for a Better Tomorrow

Unit 2: Ensuring Safe and Abundant Water

Unit 3: Food Security

Unit 4: Renewable Fuels

(unit frameworks are attached)

### HONORS ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEERING EG303WA/EG304WB

MEETS CTE or ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT

Environmental Sustainability is a high school-level specialization course in PLTW Engineering. In this course students investigate and design solutions to solve real-world challenges related to clean drinking water, a stable food supply, and renewable energy. Students are introduced to environmental issues and use the engineering design process to research and design potential solutions. Utilizing the Activity-Project-Problem-Based (APM) teaching and learning pedagogy, students transition from completing structured activities to solving open-ended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills. Through both individual and collaborative team activities, projects, and problems, students problem solve as they practice common design and scientific protocols such as project management, lab techniques, and peer review. Students develop skills in designing experiments, conducting research, executing technical skills, documenting design solutions according to accepted technical standards, and creating presentations to communicate solutions. ADE CTE approved program – ADE course title: Advanced Engineering III.

Course Length: 1 year

Credits: 1 Weighted

Prerequisite: Honors Intro to Engineering Design & Honors Principles of Engineering OR

Fees: Refer to fee schedules/College tuition if taken for dual enrollment

Co-Requisite: Honors Principles of Engineering

Location: WFHS

Grade Level: 11, 12

Pg 30 and 67 why are these courses being removed? Is it due to lack of interest?

The course was teacher dependent, and the teacher no longer works at HHS. The new HHS teacher is able to teach Aerospace Engineering, which is why we are adding that course.

**HONORS CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE EG305WA/EG306WB**

**MEETS CTE OR ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT**

Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) students are introduced to important aspects of building, site design and development. They apply math, science, and standard engineering practices to design both residential and commercial projects and document their work using 3D architectural design software. Utilizing the activity-project problem-based (APM) teaching and learning pedagogy, students will progress from completing structured activities to solving open-ended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills. Through both individual and collaborative team activities, projects, and problems, students will solve problems as they practice common design and development protocols such as project representation, and documentation of design solutions according to accepted technical standards and use of current 3D architectural design and modeling software to represent and communication solutions.

Course Length: 1 year	Credits: 1
Prerequisite: None	Fees: Refer to fee schedule/College tuition if taken for Dual Enrollment
Grade Level: 11, 12	Locations: HHS

Pg 30; Honors Aerospace Engineering has no prerequisite, but the other honors do. Why is that?

Just an oversight. The prerequisite is Honors Principles of Engineering.

**HONORS AEROSPACE ENGINEERING EGXXXWA/EGXXXWB**

**MEETS CTE OR ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT**

This course will allow students to explore the physics of flight and space through software simulations and hands-on experiences. They bring concepts to life by designing and testing an airfoil, propulsion system, and a rocket. Students learn how these concepts apply to a career in aerospace engineering and other engineering fields. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in SkillsUSA Student Association. ADE CTE approved program – ADE Course title: Advanced Engineering III.

Course Length: 1 year	Credits: 1
Prerequisite: None	Fees: Refer to fee schedule/College tuition if taken for Dual Enrollment
Grade Level: 11, 12	Locations: HHS

Pg 40 If a teacher recommends it, they don't have to take Sports Med II?

Teacher recommendation is to allow students to take personal training concurrently with Sports Med II.

**PERSONAL TRAINING SM201A/SM202B**

**MEETS CTE or ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT**

This course teaches students the basic principles of fitness for the prospective fitness professional and characteristics of quality communication and fitness leadership. Topics include behavior modification, enhancing motivation components of fitness, fitness assessment, risk stratification, exercise programming and modifications. This course will help prepare students to sit for Personal Trainer Certification. Observation hours in various off-campus and on-campus sports medicine settings will be required. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA). This course may be offered for dual credit and leads to various industry certifications. ADE/CTE approved program. ADE course title: Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation III.

Course Length: 1 year	Credits: 1
Prerequisite: Sports Medicine II/Teacher recommendation	Fees: Refer to fee schedule/MCCCD Tuition if taken for Dual Enrollment
Grade Level: 12	Location: HHS, WFHS

Pg 43 I often hear that teachers only use CNN when discussing such issues mentioned in this course. Why is that? Could this course open the district up to complaints being filed with ADE? Will there be the opportunity for students to have different perspectives without certain beliefs being pushed onto students?

We follow the college board guidelines and standards for AP Seminar. This course also meets the Arizona State Standards for English 10.

**AP CAPSTONE: AP SEMINAR CP301WA/CP302WB**

MEETS ENGLISH REQUIREMENT FOR 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE; MAY BE TAKEN IN LIEU OF HONORS ENGLISH 10

This yearlong course, students develop and strengthen analytic and inquiry skills, exploring two to four relevant issues chosen by the student and/or teacher. For example, students might explore the question of whether national security is more important than a citizen's right to privacy, or whether genetic engineering is a benefit to society. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles; research studies; foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to consider an issue from multiple perspectives, evaluate the strength of an argument, and make logical, fact-based decisions. Students question, research, explore, pose solutions, develop arguments, collaborate, and communicate using various media. After taking AP Seminar, students will have the opportunity to further hone their inquiry and analytical writing skills in AP Research. NOTE: This is a weighted course.

Course Length: 1 year

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credits: 1 English for 9 or 10, 1 Elective for 11 or 12

Fees: AP exam fee

Location: HHS, WFHS

Pgs 43, 55, and 56, Why are we taking out the prerequisites for certain English and math classes?

We have those students who fail the previous course continue on the pathway and work to get the credit made up through concurrent enrollment or through RISE lab.

Pg 79 What are some reasons a student would get release time? Is this for seminary or work?

Release time is for seminary. Release time/off-campus instruction for students who are taking courses through HVA. We need these for the scheduling process.

**RELEASE TIME RL801A/RL802B**

Students may be granted release time for specific reasons approved by the school administration. All Release time requires a Consent of Release Time Form.

Course Length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Administrator approval

Grade Level: 12

Credits: No Credit

Fees: None

Location: HHS, WFHS

**RELEASE TIME/OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION RR801A/RR802B**

Students may be granted release time for off-campus instruction. All Release time requires a Consent of Release Time Form.

Course Length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Administrator approval

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credits: No Credit

Fees: None

Location: HHS, WFHS

## HVA Course Guide

Pg 6 and 7-Why is Spanish/World Language being removed? Lack of interest?

We do not offer these pathways in HVA. They are the pathways that are at Sossaman and Cooley. This information should have been removed last year.

Pg 8-Why is Keyboarding being removed? Is it due to lack of interest?

Lack of interest and low level of content.

Pg 9-Does any physical education actually take place, or do they just talk about sports and exercising? Also, please explain the diversity in sports and why it is necessary to have that embedded in the course?

Students have to participate in physical education activities, log their time, and submit videos to the teacher. We follow the curriculum that was approved when HVA was created in 2021.



**COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION MSPE899**

Team sports, extreme sports, and outdoor sports are among the types of activities students learn about and participate in during this course! This interactive course helps students learn safety rules for exercise, how to improve skills, and how to establish and accomplish goals. It also provides an overview of many dual, team, extreme, and outdoor sports. Practicing game strategy to improve the chance of winning in competition, improving sport skill and performance, diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices balance out the topics students discover in this course. Fitness logs help students monitor physical activities. Students complete projects that lead to the knowledge, skills, and values they need to implement and maintain a physically active lifestyle. Students also have the opportunity to earn a national award by participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge.

Course Length: Fall and/or Spring Semester

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 7, 8

Fees: None

Location: HVA

**FITNESS MSPE903A/MSPE904B**

Students who want to be fit but don't know where to start are invited to join a diverse group of virtual classmates who help with exploring and understanding fitness and health. With the support of these virtual friends, students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve those levels. Students also learn safety rules for exercise, how to create equipment from household items, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and qualities of sportsmanship. Students keep a log of physical fitness activities while exploring topics that include diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. Each PE project leads to improved student understanding of personal skills and the environments in which activities are played.

Course Length: Fall and/or Spring Semester

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 7, 8

Fees: None

Location: HVA

**Pg 16 – Social Studies 7 MSSS701/MSSS702**

United States history will be taught as it intersects with global issues. Is that about global issues that were happening in that time or now? This seems to incorporate Global Citizenship.

**This course follows the curriculum standards for the State of Arizona and our HUSD district curriculum maps.**

**Pg 16 – Social Studies 8 MSSS801/MSSS802**

This course seems to be teaching students how to be activists. What happened to teaching proper Civics? The whole Global Citizen is part of CASEL's doctrine. The incorporation of global citizenship as a significant aspect of civic education may dilute the emphasis on American identity and values and the utilization of CASEL's doctrine, may introduce external ideologies into the classroom.

**This course follows the curriculum standards for the State of Arizona and our HUSD district curriculum maps.**

Pg 23 CTE-When the HVA students take CTE courses, do they do them online or come in to one of our campuses?

**Online.**

Pg 24-English-Why doesn't English 9 have a prerequisite?

The first English course in high school in English 9, regardless of the courses that a student was in prior to high school.

Pg 24- The inclusion of specific ideologies, such as Equality, Identity, and Understanding, as a central concept in an English course raises legitimate concerns. We are overemphasizing Ideologies over literary exploration. The possibility of ideological bias and indoctrination is an understandable concern that parents might have. English courses are designed to develop essential skills such as reading comprehension, writing proficiency, and critical analysis. The introduction of specific ideologies diverts attention from these core goals, potentially leaving students without a well-rounded foundation in language arts.

There is not a question in this statement.

**ENGLISH 9 EN101A/EN102B**

**MEETS ENGLISH REQUIREMENT**

In English I, students take a journey through important concepts—the Unknown, Equality, Identity, Opportunity, and Understanding—to learn the foundations of communication and analysis. In each unit of the course, students explore a

**HONORS ENGLISH 9 EN101WA/EN102WB**

**MEETS ENGLISH REQUIREMENT**

In English I, students take a journey through important concepts—the Unknown, Equality, Identity, Opportunity, and Understanding—to learn the foundations of communication and analysis. In each unit of the course, students explore a

Pg 26 Art History - This course is an opportunity for students to reflect on how art was and is used as a vehicle to communicate, depict political and religious propaganda, and serve as evidence of cultural shifts and changes.

Focusing extensively on art as a tool for communication and propaganda may introduce a potential ideological bias into the curriculum. Parents may be concerned that the course could inadvertently promote specific political or religious perspectives, leading to distrust in the objectivity of the educational content. A course with a heavy focus on political and religious themes may not align with the values of all parents and students within our district.

There is not a question in this statement.

Pg 30 PE-How are the students monitored to ensure they are actually doing the weekly requirement?

Students have to submit logs and videos to the teacher.

Page 39-Why would we charge students for wanting to take a 7th course? What does the fee cover?

The 7<sup>th</sup> course is above and beyond the 6 courses required and funding is not received. The fee covers the cost of the teacher, curriculum, and supplies. The fee is consistent with what we charge for summer school online courses.

## MS Course Guide

Pg 14-For fitness testing, can the tests be done separately by sex? Based on what ██████ told me last year, female students were not comfortable testing in the presence of boys because the boys would make fun of them, and the girls wouldn't put in much effort because they were too embarrassed. There was also a situation where the boys would videotape the girls running and then make comments about their bodies.

Students who are uncomfortable should talk with their teachers about the testing. Any situation where boys are recording girls running should be reported to site administration.

## ELECTIVES – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION MSPE899 or MSPE900

This course introduces students to the importance of physical activity in order to live a longer, healthier, enjoyable life; including flexibility training and cardiovascular and strength development. Team sports, dual and individual, are emphasized. Units in Team Sports may include Basketball, Football, Lacrosse Soccer, Volleyball, Hockey, Baseball/Softball and Team Handball, as well as fitness focused training. Students will also gain an understanding of individual fitness levels and will obtain the skills to self-analyze through practical applications. This course will cover areas in lifetime sports. Lifetime sports is designed for all students interested in improving their overall personal fitness. Students will explore the relationship between exercise and personal wellness. Students will assess their current fitness level, identify areas for improvement and set goals for achievement. Lifetime Sports 1 is a blend of fitness activities and recreational sports which may include badminton and whiffle ball. A health-related physical fitness test may be administered once each semester. This is a moderately active course and specific attire may be required. This course may be repeated.

Course Length: Fall and/or Spring Semester

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 7, 8

Fees: Please refer to the fee schedule.

Location: CMS, SMS

### Pg 27 – Social Studies 7 MSSS701/MSSS702

United States history will be taught as it intersects with global issues. Is that about global issues that were happening in that time or now? This seems to incorporate Global Citizenship

This course follows the curriculum standards for the State of Arizona and our HUSD district curriculum maps.

### Pg 27 – Social Studies 8 MSSS801/MSSS802

This course seems to be teaching students how to be activists. How about teaching proper Civics? The whole Global Citizen is part of CASEL's doctrine. The incorporation of global citizenship as a significant aspect of civic education may dilute the emphasis on American identity and values. The utilization of CASEL's doctrine may introduce external ideologies into the classroom.

This course follows the curriculum standards for the State of Arizona and our HUSD district curriculum maps.

## Information Items

### 6.3 First Read IMG Animals in Schools

What constitutes a "policy" vs a "procedure"? Per this policy, will the superintendent actually establish procedures or policies for animals in the classroom.

I'd like to change the verbiage to read "The board directs the superintendent to develop procedures consistent with the policy to appropriately and humanely bring live animals into a classroom to be approved by the board."

The Superintendent may establish procedures for appropriately and humanely bringing live animals into a classroom. Such procedures shall forbid the transporting of live animals that are not service animals on school buses.

The procedures are already established and are outlined in the regulations and exhibits. The board doesn't approve procedures (regulations) so therefore that language proposed contradicts the policy (see policy BGD).