

CHAPARRAL



Dear Firebird Families,

I want to begin this issue of the Firebird Flash with a big thank you. Similar to what I wrote in Wednesday's letter, I am so proud of the various staff members and teachers who assisted our students and families in getting through the lockdown and subsequent shelter in place. Our security guards and administrators did exactly what they are trained to do, our office staff did a wonderful job organizing the process to get students released to parents, and those parents who came to the office were as patient as anyone could ask. And finally, thank you to our counselors and support staff for being available to students who needed support yesterday and today. If there was a moment for all of us to exhibit our C.H.A.P. core values, this was it, and our ability to do so under stressful circumstances makes me proud to be a part of this community.

In the coming days and weeks we will be taking the opportunity to debrief the events and find opportunities for improvement. Although our first priority was managing the emergency and keeping students safe, we know that some things could have been done better. We are committed to making those improvements for the benefit of the entire community.

On Monday evening, we will host a district-wide community town hall related to school safety. This town hall will include district leadership and law enforcement partners, and is open to all parents and staff. We will begin at 5pm in the auditorium. A summary of the town hall will be posted on the district website afterward for those who could not attend.

Despite what happened on Wednesday, this week is culminating in a celebration of Homecoming. Our homecoming parade and pep assembly today were filled with school spirit and gave us the opportunity to see various groups perform and compete in games. The football game tonight is against Desert Vista and tomorrow's homecoming dance will be held on campus with the theme "Homecoming Hoedown." We hope to see many students there!


It's crazy to think that this issue of the Firebird Flash also brings us to within one week of the end of first quarter! Not only does that mean time is flying by, but it means first quarter grades will be due next Friday and eligibility for athletes will depend on the grades that are posted at that time. Please check your student's grades in StudentVue/ParentVue and ask your students to work with their teachers on getting any needed extra help or late work turned in.

Girls Flag Football

Congratulations to our girls flag football team on their win last night over Copper Canyon, 36-6! It was the Arizona Cardinals game of the week!

Pizza With the Principal

I held the first of four quarterly "Pizza with the Principal" lunch meetings with students last Thursday. I chose four students randomly from each grade level and invited them to come and have a discussion with me that included topics such as *What do you like most about Chaparral*, *What things would you change about Chaparral if you could*, and *If you have friends that did not choose Chaparral, what were their reasons?* It



was a great opportunity for me to get to know students on a more personal level and give students a voice who are typically not involved in student government or some of the other popular clubs/sports on campus. I'm already looking forward to the next one!

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT)

Congratulations to the following seniors who have achieved National Merit recognition based on their PSAT scores from last year. As you probably know, the PSAT is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to qualify students for recognition that could lead to scholarships and educational opportunities. This year we are excited to announce three National Merit Semifinalists and seven National Merit Commended Students! Please join me in congratulating them for their efforts and for representing Chaparral High School in this way!

Semifinalists: Endrias Abebe, Ashley Fu, and Kaitlin Kim

Commended Students: Trey Baum, Luis Chiappetti, Gavan Cunniffe, Raghav Gupta, Gavin Higgins, Aaron Pak, and Broderick Schmidgall

Our three semifinalists have a chance at also being named finalists, so we are looking forward to that announcement in the spring. All of our sophomores, along with juniors who registered, will be taking this year's PSAT on October 22.

Teen Court/Criminal Justice


Our criminal justice program has officially launched its Teen Court program, a valuable work-based learning opportunity in partnership with the Maricopa County Superior Court Juvenile Division. Teen Court is a Prevention/Diversion program aimed at addressing juvenile delinquency while educating students about the law and responsible citizenship. This program offers our own students a hands-on courtroom experience where they take on roles such as attorneys, jurors, and court staff to determine appropriate consequences for peers involved in minor legal offenses. Teen Court provides an excellent opportunity for students to apply their classroom knowledge of the legal system in a real-world context, while also honing critical thinking, public speaking, and decision-making skills. This is a program unique to Chaparral High School (within SUSD, anyway), and we're proud of our students for taking on this opportunity and responsibility!

Girls Soccer

Girls who are interested in soccer should plan on attending an informational meeting on Monday during lunch in Coach Carlson's room, E206. Last year we had enough interest to field three girls teams, and we're hoping to build on that momentum. Come on out and learn more about what has made Chaparral girls soccer a perennial competitor for state championships!

Student Volunteer Opportunity

Danielle Verlardi is a senior NHS student who started a great volunteer service project as part of her National Honor Society membership. If you think your student is looking for volunteer opportunities, read the following message from Danielle:



Looking for a rewarding and fun way to earn volunteer hours? Join us every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15 to 4:15 at Pima Elementary! We spend time with the kids reading, playing sports, and helping out with their afterschool programs like art, gym, legos, watercolors, coding, and more. The kids absolutely love having us there and see us as their buddies—it's a great experience, and the time flies by. You don't have to commit to every Tuesday or Thursday either—come when it fits your schedule! It's an easy way to get hours for NHS or other volunteer programs, so sign up today! Contact Dani Verlardi if you have any questions at dverlardi@icloud.com. The link to sign up is below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FADA628A3FCC61-51272053-pima/172193111#/>

I Love My Kids, BUT...

Are you interested in learning about the extent to which parents may be liable for decisions their children make? DeFusco Law is offering a free presentation on parental liability arising from situations involving our kids (negligent driving, intentional conduct that harms others, hosting parties/party buses, etc.). The presentation will be held at the Mohave District Annex on Wednesday, October 2 from 6pm-7:30pm. See the attached flier and link below.

Link to register: <https://parentalliability.eventbrite.com/>

Tax Credit

Did you know that anyone with an Arizona tax liability can donate money to Chaparral and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their contribution? Please visit the link below to learn more about tax credit donations. Donations that are not earmarked for a specific purpose go to the general fund and wait there to be disbursed for extracurricular activities as decided on by the school's Site Council. Over the last two years we have spent more than we have taken in in donations, so now is the time to contribute if you would like. Below I will also list the approvals we have made so far this year!

<https://www.susd.org/departments/finance/tax-credit>

- Up to \$2,000 for math tutoring
- Up to \$2,000 for Tuesday after school tutoring
- \$1200 for buses related to Special Education Field Trip
- Up to \$2,200 for assistant robotics coach
- Up to \$2,500 for Mock Trial coach
- Up to \$600 for bus and sub for an orchestra festival

CHAPTS Thank You

Thank you very much to all of the parents who donated to CHAPTS this fall! Because of your donations, CHAPTS met its fundraising goal, and that means they can continue with plans to support students and staff throughout the year. I can't believe the amount of support we have at Chaparral!

Upcoming dates:

Thursday, October 3	District Recess
October 7- 11	Fall Break
Friday, October 18	Home Football vs. Saguaro
Tuesday, October 22	PSAT (juniors who paid and all sophomores)
October 22- 24	Coffee House - Chaparral Auditorium
Wednesday, October 30	Early Release

*** Winter sports will be holding meetings and tryouts in October/November, so please have your students pay attention to daily announcements. You can also check the school website for coaches' contact information under Extracurriculars.