

CHAPARRAL



Attachments:
Tax Credit
Criminal Justice

Dear Firebird Families,

The first quarter is over, and it's finally starting to feel like fall! I looked at the forecast, and Tuesday is calling for a high in the 70s... yay! Speaking of fall, the 2nd quarter usually goes pretty fast. We have a few days off, including November 11 for Veterans Day and November 27-29 for Thanksgiving. Final exams are just three weeks after that!

Fall sports are winding down and winter sports will begin soon. Make sure your students wishing to try out are connected in Register My Athlete before tryouts begin, and contact Mr. Heikka (the AD's assistant) if you have any questions.

On Thursday night I was excited to attend the annual Coffee House event! Dr. Brauer and the choir program hosted three nights in a row that showcased the incredible talent our students have. I'm always blown away at what they are able to do at such a young age! And they were nice enough to perform songs we know, including those from Billy Joel and Fleetwood Mac. What a great evening!

As usual there are several announcements and things to keep in mind below. Always feel free to comment or ask questions, and only I will see them.

Tax Credit

It's that time of year to consider making a dollar for dollar tax credit donation to Chaparral High School. Did you know that our Site Council meets every month to review requests to support extracurricular activities? These requests are funded by undesignated tax credit donations. Often, families will make tax credit donations for a particular field trip or on behalf of a particular student, but donations made to Chaparral in general go in the undesignated fund and are allocated based on need and request to clubs, athletics, field trips, etc. Please consider making a donation today - for most people with an Arizona tax liability, a credit of up to \$200 (single) or \$400 (joint) is available when you do your taxes!

Lately, the committee has approved funds for the following:

- Transportation costs of \$3500 for Band for their performance at Walt Disney World
- Funding of \$6750 to support choir students for three different trips this year
- Up to \$6000 to support cost of students to attend Unitown
- \$4000 to help the Robotics team register for competition

Over the last two years, we have been allocating more money that we have been taking in, so this is a request to please consider making a donation to Chaparral. Anyone can donate to the account, and anyone with an AZ tax liability can file a form for a credit back on the donation (up to the allowable amount). Just visit donate.susd.org or check out the attached flier.

Attendance Summary

District shared attendance data for the first quarter 10 weeks, and here's what our looks like:

1: 96.45%
2: 95.07%
3: 93.14%
4: 92.51%
5: 92.28%
6: 92.65%
7: 93.24%
8: 91.69%
9: 83.90%
10: 91.90%

Attendance should be on the forefront of everyone's mind because of its impact on school funding. Not only do we need students enrolled in SUSD, but we need them to attend on a daily basis. If there are things we can do as an admin team, counselor team, or classified staff to help make that happen, please let us know! The attendance goal for this year is 93%. We've got 4 weeks at that level, and right now we're running behind DM which is has 8 weeks at that level.

Attendance

If you need to call the attendance line to excuse a student for the day or pick up a student early, please make sure you provide a reason for the absence. We can only mark the absence excused if the reason fits one of the state's allowable categories, and we cannot choose a category if you do not leave a reason.

Students who are being picked up early should pick up a blue pass from the office between classes and use that as their pass to leave class later in the day. If students do not pick up the blue pass, we have to disrupt class by calling or sending security, which is not ideal.

If a teacher makes a mistake in marking attendance, only the teacher can correct the mark. The can do this by working with the attendance clerk directly.

Finally, attendance is checking messages all day long, so it's ok to leave a message. We will get to it very soon unless for some reason tons people are calling. There is usually no need to call the receptionist to call a student out.

Thank you!!!

Drop off and Pick up

This is a reminder about drop off and pickup procedures.

- Please do not drop students off in the staff lot or bus loop in the morning.
- Please do not drop off or pick up students in the parking lanes. That's what the pickup lane is for.

Free/Reduced Lunch

Each year we have families that qualify for free/reduced lunch. Recently we were informed that the number of applications from our school is down compared to previous years, so this is a reminder (and encouragement) to please fill out your application if you qualify and have not already done so. We want to make sure that every student benefits from the resources available to them. The application can be found on the district website under Nutritional Services and is [linked here](#).

Substance Abuse Awareness Presentation

On November 14, all 9th and 10th graders will be able to participate in a substance abuse awareness presentation during their 3rd period class. This presentation is brought to us in partnership with notMYkid and will include a portion of time with individuals affected by fentanyl use within their family. We are looking forward to providing this opportunity for students to learn more about the dangers of substance use and abuse.

Criminal Justice Recap


Criminal Justice is one of the programs we have that is unique to Chaparral. In a two-year sequence of courses, students are exposed to all aspects of the American criminal justice system, including types of crimes, court procedures, and forensics. Students are also exposed to a wide variety of guest speakers, from police, to FBI, to Border Patrol, and more. Recently, our criminal justice students participated in a Career Day at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. This hands-on experience included reviewing a case, analyzing evidence, and deciding whether to charge it as First-Degree Murder, Manslaughter, or Self-Defense. Students opted for Manslaughter and provided strong reasoning behind their decision. They were so engaged, curious, and inspired to learn that the case review turned into a miniature productive debate. The students critically analyzed Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) for First Degree Murder, Manslaughter, and Self-Defense—all concepts we covered in class. It was incredible to see them apply what they learned in a professional setting and get it right! ---- See attached picture!

Math Tutor App

One of our students, Prithvi, recently developed his own AI-based iPhone app for math tutoring. If you're interested, you can check it out by searching MathTutorAI in the App Store.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The Phoenix Holocaust Association (PHA) is delighted to share that Chaparral alumna Busy Philipps will be featured in the Phoenix Holocaust Association's upcoming International Holocaust Remembrance Day event on Thursday, January 23, 2025. After graduating from Chaparral, Busy has gone on to become a highly decorated actor, even winning the Critics' Choice Television Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. At the event on January 23, she will be leading a conversation with New York Times Bestselling Author Georgia Hunter in which they will discuss Hunter's book [We Were the Lucky Ones](#) which was also adapted as a miniseries by HULU. The event will take place in Chaparral's auditorium from 6:00-7:30pm that evening.



As this is a homecoming of sorts for Busy, we are hoping that many people from Chaparral's community will join us! Student admission is complimentary, and more information can be found at: <https://phxha.com/events/we-were-the-lucky-ones/>

