

Superintendent's Snapshot

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2, 2025

DNA: Definitely Not Average

Big dreams often start at the cellular level, and for these students, Biology was the first step toward futures in medicine, research, and service.

Hazel Kuipers – Desert Sunrise High School

Hazel is bound for Kansas State University with her sights set on becoming a dermatologist. A dynamic leader and teammate, Hazel served in student government, explored business management, and held her own on the tennis court. She's the kind of student who leans in, figures it out, and gets it done. In a field where the details matter and commitment runs deep, Hazel's already got skin in the game.

Brihanna Arellano – Desert Sunrise High School

Brihanna is headed to the University of Arizona, supported by the Wildcat Excellence Award. Her interest in science deepened through EMS courses and sharpened through AP and Dual Enrollment classes. Brihanna is motivated by the kind of science that doesn't settle for easy answers and never stops asking why. With her eyes on the world of medical research, she's ready to dig deep and help push science forward.

Akayla Neely – Maricopa High School

Akayla didn't just check the boxes in high school, she found meaning in the mix. DECA gave her the confidence to pitch, plan, and think on her feet. NHS gave her space to serve. And somewhere in between, she found her calling in healthcare. She leads with intention and isn't afraid to do the hard work that comes with it. Next stop: San Diego State University, where she plans to become a Physician Assistant. The future is calling, and Akayla's already on her way.

Call it biology. Call it ambition. Whatever it is, it's just getting started.

Thank you for choosing MUSD.



Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Superintendent
Maricopa Unified School District