

AGUA FRIA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1481 N Eliseo Felix Jr. Way  
Avondale, AZ 85323

NONPROFIT  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PHOENIX, AZ  
PERMIT#1662

FOLLOW US

 [facebook.com/AFHSD](https://facebook.com/AFHSD)

 [instagram.com/agua\\_friahsd](https://instagram.com/agua_friahsd)

 [linkedin.com/company/aguafriahighschooldistrict](https://linkedin.com/company/aguafriahighschooldistrict)

A Family OF HIGH SCHOOLS



» **West-MEC**  
**CAREER ACADEMY**  
**@AGUA FRIA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**OPENING AUGUST 2025**



**TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS FOR**  
**ELECTRICAL**  
**WELDING**  
**DIESEL MECHANICS**  
**AIR CONDITIONING TECHNOLOGY**



**WEST-MEC.EDU**



SUMMER 2025

**COMMUNITY** **CONNECT**  
A Family OF HIGH SCHOOLS



Pictured left to right: Student Council Presidents — Madelyn Gonzalez (Millennium High School), Ezra Jones (Canyon View High School), A'mi Wells (Agua Fria High School), Bode Acton (Verrado High School), and Brianna Palermino (Desert Edge High School).



# GOVERNING BOARD MESSAGE

As the Governing Board, we are **committed** to ensuring that **every student** receives a **high-quality education** rooted in excellence and opportunity. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of collaboration, where parents, educators, and community partners work together to create transformative learning environments. By championing innovation and equity, we prepare students not only to meet the challenges of tomorrow but to redefine what's possible in their lives and communities.

In January, the District welcomed two new Governing Board members, Corby Naylor and Sarah Silk, whose fresh perspectives and dedication to student achievement will help shape the future of our schools.

“Education is the cornerstone of opportunity,” Naylor shares. “I’m honored to work alongside such passionate leaders to ensure every student has the tools and confidence to thrive.” Silk adds, “Strong schools are the heart of a strong community. By fostering collaboration and innovation, we can help students reach their full potential and make a lasting impact.”

“Together, with the commitment of our entire Board and the support of our community, we are building a brighter future—one student, one classroom, and one school at a time.”  
-Kristen Acton, Governing Board President



Pictured from left to right: Governing Board President Kristen Acton, Governing Board Member Eric Cultum, Governing Board Vice President Vickie Landis (seated), Governing Board Member Corby Naylor, Governing Board Member Sarah Silk, and Superintendent Mark Yslas.

# AFHSD IS UNIFIED

**Learning, Employment, and Advancement Pathways (LEAP)** is a specialized workforce development initiative in line with the Academies model that empowers students with disabilities by preparing them for meaningful, long-term employment. Through job training, skill-building, and real-world work experiences, LEAP helps students gain the tools and confidence needed to thrive beyond high school. The program includes TSW (Transition from School to Work), which connects students directly with job opportunities and community partners. Currently serving 15 students across all five District campuses, the LEAP Program plays a critical role in addressing the employment gap of people with disabilities. One student's experience offers a powerful example of how LEAP is changing outcomes.

Cris, a student in our Agua Fria TSW program, has been interning at the District's transportation depot for over a year, shadowing mechanics and gaining hands-on experience. His dedication, positive attitude, and strong work ethic have truly stood out—so much so that the Transportation Department is eager to hire him on next school year through our Alumni Work Program.



## UNIFIED ALUMNI WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT



**CRIS**  
Class of 2025



# Portrait of a Graduate

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Portrait of a Graduate is our school District's vision for the 21st-century traits and professional competencies essential for student success. It guides our learning communities as we design academic and work-based learning experiences that prepare students for bright futures in any pathway they choose.

Integrity ● Critical Thinking ● Collaboration ● Responsibility ● Communication



**TYLER NGUYEN**  
Class of 2025

### Responsibility

Tyler Nguyen, a senior at Millennium High School, exemplifies the Portrait of a Graduate trait of responsibility through his dedication to academics, athletics, and community service. Maintaining a 4.0 unweighted GPA while enrolled in rigorous AP and IB courses, he balances his time between varsity and club volleyball, National Honor Society, and volunteer work. Tyler plans to attend Arizona State University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering, with aspirations to innovate environmentally friendly solutions in the automotive industry.

### Integrity

Makenzie Jones, a senior at Canyon View High School, exemplifies the Portrait of a Graduate trait of integrity through her faith-driven values, strong moral compass, and unwavering commitment to doing what is right—whether or not anyone is watching. She maintains high academic honors while balancing a demanding schedule filled with IB, AP, and Honors courses, athletic commitments, and leadership roles. After graduation, Makenzie will attend New Mexico State University to play Division 1 softball and major in Kinesiology, continuing her mission to improve the lives of others through her leadership and service.



**MAKENZIE JONES**  
Class of 2025

“I am thrilled how our students are embracing the Portrait of a Graduate. Our students are academically thriving, growing in character and preparing for amazing opportunities both now and into the future. So proud of our students and the dedication of our teachers!– Eric Cultum, Governing Board Member”

### Communication

Irene Arias, a senior at Agua Fria High School, exemplifies the Portrait of a Graduate trait of communication through her leadership, collaboration, and consistent positivity. As Senior Class President and co-founder of the National Hispanic Honor Society, Irene plays a leading role in seven clubs and organizations, all while maintaining exemplary grades. Her ability to communicate with clarity and grace, even under pressure, makes her an essential leader in both student life and schoolwide events. After graduation, Irene will attend Northern Arizona University to major in Mathematics with the hope of teaching high school level math.



**IRENE ARIAS**  
Class of 2025

### Critical Thinking

Nathan Fugitt, a senior at Verrado High School, exemplifies the Portrait of a Graduate trait of critical thinking by skillfully blending creativity with logistics to produce innovative, compelling storytelling. A leader in the Film & TV program, he has brought to life a variety of projects—from a campus food review show to this year's senior graduation video—demonstrating strong problem-solving, collaboration, and production management. While passionate about film and confident in his industry readiness, Nathan plans to broaden his horizons by studying language and business at Grand Canyon University, expanding his skill set beyond cinema.



**NATHAN FUGITT**  
Class of 2025



**ILKER AGUILAR**  
Class of 2025

### Collaboration

Ilker Aguilar, a senior at Desert Edge High School, exemplifies the Portrait of a Graduate trait of collaboration through his deep involvement in the performing arts and his ability to unite others through music. As a section leader in marching band, choir, and Thespian Troupe #6843, Ilker blends his talents across disciplines to create meaningful, expressive experiences for his peers and audiences alike. Known for his positivity, creativity, and dedication, from composing original pieces to mastering a traditional Japanese flute, Ilker's collaborative spirit has made him a friend to many and a valued contributor to the Desert Edge community. After graduation, Ilker plans to pursue a career in composition or musical arts.



# EXEMPLARY TEACHERS

Across the Agua Fria High School District, our teachers go above and beyond to inspire, innovate, and lead. From launching award-winning programs and developing inclusive curriculum to guiding students toward industry certifications and meaningful community service, these educators embody what it means to make a lasting impact. Their dedication is shaping futures—one student, one classroom, and one bold idea at a time.

“Thank you to our dedicated teachers for their commitment to our students. Your efforts in providing a safe and inspiring environment motivate our students to learn and grow. We are grateful that you have chosen the Agua Fria High School District to share your talents, and we are proud to have you as part of our educational community.— Vickie Landis, Governing Board Vice President”

**OUR DISTRICT IS PROUD TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TEACHERS!**

**SCOTT  
BOTT**

**CRYSTAL  
MOWBRAY**

**DAVID  
WIRTH**

**EMILY  
COX**

**CLARISSA  
MENDOZA**

**KOLTON  
BOOTHMAN**

**MATTHEW  
SCHOCK**

**KRISTI  
KASTENBAUM**

**CAITLYN  
MARRER**

**RYAN  
WILLIAMS**





# IN THE WORKS!



**MILLENNIUM**  
HIGH SCHOOL

The long-awaited Millennium High School renovation begins May 2025. Phase 1 includes courtyard construction and relocating the Main Distribution Frame to start interior upgrades.

We'll keep the community updated as work progresses, with Phase 1 completion expected by December 2026.



# THANK YOU VOTERS!

## RENT OUR FIELDS

Our fields are ready for game day action and community use. Scan the QR code for more information!



**VERRADO**  
HIGH SCHOOL

The new agriscience barn—funded by the 2023 bond—has broken ground and will open by August 2025. It will house animals, plants, and serve as a hub for agricultural studies, where our students can explore, discover, and lead in the field of agricultural science.



**AGRISCIENCES BARN**  
**COMING SOON!**

**DESERT EDGE**  
HIGH SCHOOL

### DUNCAN FAMILY FARMS PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE NEW DEHS AG BARN!

"At Duncan Family Farms, we believe that investing in our community is just as important as growing healthy, life-giving food. We are passionate about inspiring future agriculture professionals while raising awareness of the industry's many opportunities. By supporting our local education system and workforce development, we can help cultivate future leaders who will carry Arizona's agriculture forward."



Agua Fria High School will receive an upgraded cafeteria space beginning May 2025. The renovations will enhance safety, functionality, and provide modern environments for students to dine and gather. Funded by the 2023 bond.

Expected Completion: December 31, 2025



**AGUA FRIA**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks to the 2023 bond, Canyon View received new perimeter fencing, reinforcing the District's commitment to ensuring safe and secure learning environments.

**CANYON VIEW**  
HIGH SCHOOL



Goodyear High School opens its doors this fall for the class of 2029!

**AGUAFRIA.ORG/GHS**





# PARTNERING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

## Passion to PowHer

This year, we partnered with *Passion to PowHer* to inspire and empower young women by connecting their passions to future career paths. Through conferences, workshops, and discussions, the program builds confidence, professional skills, and a growth mindset while exposing students to career opportunities they may not have considered.

Students were mentored by trailblazing leaders, including executives from the Cactus League, Phoenix International Raceway, Cardinals Stadium, and the Phoenix Mercury, as well as professionals in the FBI, life coaching, entrepreneurship, and more.



“Through their stories and guidance, these accomplished women inspire students to explore new possibilities and pursue their goals with confidence and self-assurance. By connecting students with local role models, we can empower them to envision bright futures and take bold steps toward achieving their dreams. - Shelby Duplessis, Managing Partner of Diversified Future and Founder of Passion to PowHer”

### *AFHSD students attending Passion to PowHer*



*Shelby Duplessis*

## Business Spotlight



Ashley Redick



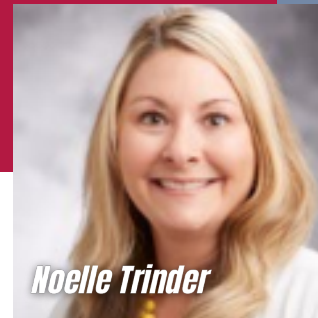
*“Partnering with the Academies of the Southwest Valley has been an incredible experience. We’re passionate about giving students real-world exposure to entrepreneurship and helping them develop the skills they need for the future. Seeing their creativity and ambition firsthand reminds us why investing in the next generation is so important.”*



Jamie Sanfilippo



*“Our partnership with Agua Fria High School District is a testament to Huntington University’s commitment to fostering education that is both accessible and impactful. By offering dual enrollment opportunities in digital media, we create a mutually beneficial pathway—empowering students with college-level experience while enriching our university with passionate, career-ready learners.”*



Noelle Trinder



*“Our students are our future. Creating pathways for students to grow into core health care roles is a priority at Banner Health. Strategic planning and partnerships, like with the Agua Fria High School District, help us achieve these goals for the students in the communities we serve.”*



Blade O'Neill



*“The industry is always evolving, and I want to ensure students are set up for success, just like I was. By supporting the next generation, we’re shaping a strong future for all of us, whether we’re hiring the next editor, designer, or videographer, ensuring the industry is left in capable hands.”*