FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alma Farrell Innovation Academy Officially Named as the First MUSD K–8 School

MARICOPA, AZ, December 10, 2025 – The Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board has officially approved the name of the district's newest K–8 school: **Alma Farrell Innovation Academy**, opening July 2026. The name honors Alma Farrell, a longtime MUSD educator whose decades of service shaped generations of students.

Located within the Sorrento neighborhood., Alma Farrell Innovation Academy will serve grades K–8 and launch under the leadership of Principal **Elizabeth Allison**. Guided by the theme *Igniting Minds. Building Futures.*, the school will offer an innovative approach to teaching and learning designed to prepare students for future success.

Alma Farrell Innovation Academy's Next Generation Workforce and work-based learning model features:

- **Kindergarten Discovery House**, providing individualized, developmentally responsive instruction.

- **Dynamic multi-age learning houses** for grades 1–8, allowing students to remain with the same teachers and peers for up to two years.

- **Middle School Academies**, where students in grades 5–8 engage in hands-on, career-connected learning and explore diverse career pathways such as Public Safety, Hospitality and Tourism, Financial Services, Digital Technology, Construction, etc.

- A **work-based learning pathway** beginning in kindergarten and growing through middle school to help students understand, explore, and experience real-world careers.

Principal Allison is actively seeking **industry partners** to collaborate with students through mentorships, career simulations, internships, and classroom experiences, connecting learning to real-world opportunities.

Alma Farrell Innovation Academy will open in July 2026, with student registration beginning February 2026, priority open enrollment available now until January 9, 2026. For more information visit **musd20.org/afia**.

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