JANUARY 2026

# PANTHER PRINTS

HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 5-** Staff Work Day- No School

**January 6-** 1st Day of 3rd Quarter; 1st Day of 21st Century Clubs & Musical Rehearsals

**January 7-** Full Day (No Early Release)

**January 8-** Coffee with the Principal & PTO Meeting (9:00 am)

**January 13-** Camelback High School Field Trip for 8th Grade

**January 19-** Martin Luther King Jr. Day- **No School**

**January 20-** 100th Day of School

**January 21-** Freeman Fine Arts Academy Cheer & Dance Showcase @ 5:30 pm; Full Day (No Early Release)

**January 27-** Keogh Health Connection @ 3:30 pm

**January 28-** Student of the Month @ 9:00 am; Fine Arts Award Ceremony ! 8:30 am; 5th & 6th Grade Field Trip to the Phoenix Art Museum

**January 29-** ***Parent Teacher Conferences;*** Ballet AZ Alice in Wonderland Field Trip for 2nd - 4th grade @ 9:00 am

**January 30-** ***Parent Teacher Conferences***




## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Herrera Community,

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! I hope your families had a chance to rest and recharge because the energy on campus is already buzzing as we jump into the third quarter of 2026. This part of the year is exciting as our students' hard work really starts to click and their artistic and academic visions truly come to life. I'm so excited to see the new projects, rehearsals, and creative challenges our community will take this season. Let's dive back in and have an amazing Quarter 3 of the 2025-2026 school year!

Best,
Dr. Alicia Clynick

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## STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATES

Our student council is selling Herrera shirts! If you are interested in purchasing one and showing school spirit, take a moment to fill out the order form in the QR code. Please only send cash!

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We want to give a special shout out to all of our partners that contributed to our annual Reindeer Run event in December! Students across all grade levels were excited to participate, and over 60 students were able to bring home prizes such as Holiday presents and gift cards.

Thank you to our parent volunteers as well for volunteering at the Reindeer Run and helping with the organization of our Winter Festival in collaboration with our student council. We appreciate everything that you do for our Herrera community!






## UPCOMING TESTING

State assessments officially begin this month! Students that are English Language Learners will be completing the AZELLA assessment over the next few weeks. Specific dates and information will be provided by our EL Interventionist, Ms. Alvarado.

Early literacy testing using AimsWebPlus will also be taking place over the next two weeks for all K-3 students.

# HERRERA MISSION AND VISION

MISSION - HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS WILL NURTURE CREATIVE POTENTIAL IN STUDENTS BY PROVIDING A RIGOROUS ARTISTIC EDUCATION, FOSTERING A PASSION FOR THE ARTS, AND DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS ACROSS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES, WHILE PREPARING THEM FOR FUTURE ARTISTIC PURSUITS AND ENRICHING THEIR LIVES THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION.

VISION- TO BE A LEADING INSTITUTION IN THE ARTS, CULTIVATING INNOVATIVE ARTISTS AND CRITICAL THINKERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

# FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES PROGRAM

## JANUARY 2026

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 WINTER BREAK | 2 |
| 5 | 6 NO FFVP THIS WEEK | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13  WHITE PEACH | 14 | 15  CARA CARA ORANGES | 16 |
| 19 | 20  WHITE NECTARINE | 21 | 22  BABY PINK LADY APPLES | 23 |
| 26 | 27  RED PEARS | 28 | 29  BABY GALA APPLES | 30 |

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# 21ST CENTURY UPDATES

We are excited to continue with 21st Century programming this semester! There are several new clubs and tutoring starting this month, along with some changes in times for some of the programs. We will also have tutoring for all students from 3:30-4:30, and enrichment classes taking place from 4:30-5:30. We are still accepting registrations, so take a moment to register your child for 21st Century in the QR code provided. All students will receive a meal at the start of their clubs!

*Please remember that attendance is important*! *Students should be attending the clubs each scheduled day. If you have any questions please reach out to our coordinators: Denise Presuel-Gonzalez and Taylor Flower.*

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Title IV-B afterschool program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Arizona Department of Education. For more information visit: http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/

# Learning Beyond the Classroom

Education doesn't have to stop when the school bell rings! Some of the most impactful learning happens right at the kitchen table or in the backyard. This month, we've put together a list of "fun learning" activities—simple, low-prep ways to spark curiosity, practice math, and build literacy skills while simply having fun together as a family.

Grades K-2: Kitchen Chemistry: Create "Magic Milk" by adding drops of food coloring to a shallow bowl of milk, then touching it with a toothpick dipped in dish soap. It teaches surface tension in a burst of color!

Grades 3-5: The "Price is Right" Grocery Edition: Before putting groceries away, have your child guess the price of each item. Then, look at the receipt together. It's a great way to practice estimation and decimals.

Grades 6-8: The $20 Meal Challenge: Give your teen a budget of $20 and have them plan (and help cook) a nutritious dinner for the whole family. This teaches budgeting, nutrition, and life skills.

**ATTENDANCE GOAL FOR THE SCHOOL: 95%**

**DECEMBER ATTENDANCE RATE:**

**89%**