

AGUA FRIA
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2026

CONTACT: Melinda Marchese, Director
Communications and Community Initiatives
623.932.7033 | mmarchese@aguafria.org

**Agua Fria High School District Appoints Matt Lees as Principal
of Verrado High School**

(Avondale, AZ. - Jan 28, 2026) The Agua Fria High School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Matt Lees as Principal of Verrado High School, effective immediately. The Board approved the appointment during its regular meeting on January 14, 2026.

Mr. Lees has been serving as Interim Principal at Verrado High School, where he has provided steady leadership, built meaningful relationships with students and staff, and continued to foster the school's strong culture of academic excellence and community pride. His deep understanding of Verrado's traditions and his unwavering commitment to student success have made a lasting impact on the campus.

A native of Northern California's Bay Area, Mr. Lees also spent time in Oregon before his family moved to Flagstaff during his high school years. Arizona quickly became home, and he has been proud to live, work, and raise his family here ever since.

At the heart of Mr. Lees' leadership philosophy is a simple truth: schools are built on people. His priorities include fostering authentic connections, creating meaningful growth opportunities, and cultivating a school culture where students and staff feel seen, supported, and inspired.

"Mr. Lees has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to the Verrado community," said Dr. Mark Yslas, Superintendent of the Agua Fria High School District. "We are confident that under his continued guidance, Verrado High School will thrive as a place where students excel, staff are valued, and families feel proud to belong."

The Agua Fria High School District congratulates Principal Matt Lees on this well-deserved appointment and thanks him for his continued dedication to the students, staff, and families of Verrado High School.

#####

The Agua Fria High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, and Litchfield Park, with six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Goodyear, Millennium, Verrado, and Agua Fria Online. Additionally, the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at www.aguafria.org.