

Higley Headlines

Serving the Community Since 1909



From the Desk of Dr. Denise Birdwell, Superintendent



Superintendent,
A. Denise Birdwell, Ed.D.

Happy New Year to all of you in our community! The calendar year is off to a great start in our District as we have a lot to celebrate this school year. We are especially proud of our "A" Rating as defined by the Arizona

Department of Education. It is quite an honor and reflection of the great instructional talent and hard-working students in the District to be named the 6th highest performing district in the state and highest in the southeast valley.

Our goal is continuous improvement, and we are happy to announce that just before the close of the 2011 calendar year our Governing Board approved an updated curriculum in the areas of mathematics and science. The curriculum delivers more relevance and rigor for our students who are driven toward higher education with eighty-five percent of our students taking college courses upon graduation from our high schools.

Mathematics and science are subjects that are highly integrated and reliant upon the other and our science and math coaches, Mr. Jeremy Decker and Ms. Jennifer Tom, respectively, have been working together and working diligently since appointed to their instructional coaching positions last spring.

Beginning next fall, students will have the opportunity to take conceptual physics in 8th grade, chemistry in 9th grade and biology in 10th grade. This provides students the opportunity to take more rigorous science classes (Advanced, Honors or Advanced Placement) courses in 11th and 12th grades. To prepare students for conceptual physics in 8th grade, we have revised and improved the science curriculums in grades 1-7 to insure

students are prepared. Sixth grade becomes life science and 7th grade becomes earth and space science while grades 1-5 are general science.

These curriculum changes align beautifully with the Common Core Standards, newly released by the Arizona Department of Education to add more rigor to the curriculum, and the changes align with the movement to introduce conceptual physics earlier in the K-12 curriculum because in order for students to understand modern molecular biology and the biochemical processes, students need a solid background in both conceptual physics and chemistry. In the traditional curriculum, physics was not introduced until the junior year.

Aligning with the changes in the science curriculum, are changes to the mathematics curriculum. Beginning next year students will take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. This is important because students need to understand algebra to be successful in chemistry. For students who might struggle with algebra in 8th grade, an alternative pathway in high school is provided to provide more instruction and deliver the material at a slower pace. We do not want to force students down a curricular path who are struggling so this provides better safeguards to remediate students in algebra before it becomes a problem for them in other areas such as science.

These changes in our mathematics and science curriculum are good for all students whether on a path toward a top tier college or university or to develop a solid foundation of high school math and science for life beyond their secondary education. The changes will help our students compete more readily on a national level, as well as help to insure that students don't lose their way academically due to the introduction of algebra.

These curriculum enhancements are underway in Higley, and we are proud to be the first in the southeast valley to implement them. If you have questions about these curriculum enhancements, please contact instructional coaches Mr. Jeremy Decker (science) and Ms. Jennifer Tom (mathematics) at jeremy.decker@husd.org or jennifer.tom@husd.org. You can also reach them through our main number at 480-279-7000. 🏠

Did You Know?

Our High Schools Offer Engineering & Biotechnology

Biotechnology at WFHS

Biotechnology is a career that is in high demand and in growth mode. Our Honors Biotechnology courses at WFHS are designed to develop higher levels of lab research technology currently used in the field of biotechnology. Some areas of study include molecular genetics, DNA, protein structure function, analysis bioethics and also many innovative labs. One lab attempts to create an antibody against the West Nile Virus. This work is done in partnership with Arizona State University.

Engineering at HHS

Where do rockets, robotics, computer-aided design and green technology all come together? If you guessed the Honors Engineering Program at Higley High, you are correct! Students complete projects in engineering design methods, analysis, standards, teamwork and technical documentation. A major project is designing and building a wind energy device. The advanced course explores the study of electronic circuits that are used to process and control digital signals found in modern electronic devices; such as, cell phones, laptops, and digital cameras. 🏠



**HIGLEY
KNIGHTS**

“The goal of the Higley High School Academic Booster Club is to enrich the overall academic program at HHS through parent involvement and community support.”

**Mr. Larry Rother,
Principal,
Higley High School**

UPCOMING DATES:

- 2/1- 2 “Hangin’ with the Knights” Orientation for Future Freshmen
- 2/16 Taste of Higley-Sponsored by the Academic Booster Club
- 2/28 AIMS Testing-Writing
- 2/29 AIMS Testing-Reading
- 3/7 HHS Band & Orchestra Concert
- 3/12-16 Spring Break
- 3/28 Choral Concert
- 4/10 AIMS Testing-Math
- 4/11 AIMS Testing-Science
- 4/24 District Wide ACT Testing Juniors Only
- 4/26-27 Dance Concert
- 5/2 Band Concert
- 5/9-17 Advanced Placement Testing
- 5/15 Band Concert
- 5/24 Graduation @ 7:00PM

480-279-7000 | www.husd.org

Higley High School

proud new bike owners Vasile Pugmire, a junior, and Jesse Marquez, a sophomore. 🎓

Meet a Veteran



Courtney Tyler

Congratulations to HHS Senior Courtney Tyler! Courtney is the second place recipient of the nation-wide Joe Foss Institute Essay Scholarship. Contest entrants were assigned to

“meet a veteran you did not previously know, get involved in that person’s life, and write an essay about the experience.” Courtney’s touching essay about her new friendship with Harry, a Korean War Veteran, wowed the judges and earned her the national scholarship. 🎓

Student Council



HHS Student Council

In December, Higley High’s Student Council visited the State Veterans Nursing Home. The students

delivered over a \$1000 dollars in supplies that were raised by HHS students, and then they spent the afternoon with the residents, playing



HHS Student Council

games and visiting. The students and residents enjoyed their time together, and the students’ appreciation for what our servicemen and women have done was magnified. Students were able to talk with World War II, Korean and Vietnam war vets and even met a couple who not only served in the Navy together but have been married 68 years! 🎓

Higley High School Academic Booster Club (A.B.C)

The mission of the A.B.C. is to enrich the overall academic program at Higley High School through parent involvement and community support. Our goal is to enhance opportunities for students and teachers to excel inside the classroom, recognize their achievements and promote a culture of academic excellence. 🎓

Taste Of Higley

Higley High School is hosting a Taste of Higley community event on Thursday, February 16, 2012, from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The evening will include a taste of local restaurants, live music, family entertainment and a silent auction. We invite all members of the community to come out and enjoy the great food, weather and entertainment. Restaurants that have participated in the past include Texas Road House, Sal’s Gilbert Pizza, Chick-Fil-A, Tailgaters Grill, Apple Dumplings Café, Rubios, Brio, Dunkin’ Donuts, Burrito Shack, Cantina Laredo, Buffalo Wild Wings, Paradise Bakery, Baci’s Italian Bistro and many more. Thanks to our partnership with these local businesses and restaurants, the funds raised by this event will provide scholarships, awards, recognition opportunities, and enhance academic programs for the students of Higley High. Please join us for a “tasty” evening and support the students and teachers of Higley High. 🎓



Family “Knight” Out:

The A.B.C. understands the importance of building strong character in our students. We recognize that good character is developed with support from both school and families. Each month the A.B.C. recognizes one student who has received a “Positive Referral” from a staff member by awarding their family with a \$50 - \$100 gift card to a local restaurant to be used for a “Family Knight Out.” A Positive Referral is earned when a student demonstrates extraordinary effort, character or responsibility. 🎓

100 Bikes

Twelve HHS students received new bikes in December as part of “100 Bikes for 100 Kids” Program. Here Mr. Blea is pictured with



Mr. Blea, Vasile Pugmire and Jesse Marquez

Kindergarten Round-Up Community Invitation



All Higley families of kindergarten age children are invited to attend our Kindergarten Round-Up Open House.

When: Thursday, March 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Where: At all Higley K-8 schools

What: Come and register your child for kindergarten. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your kindergartner to visit the campus, meet teachers and classmates, and hear about the kindergarten learning standards. This informational meeting will also provide an overview of kindergarten routines, instructional practices and readiness expectations.

We look forward to seeing you on March 1st.

Please be sure to bring the following documents for registration:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Residency (contract on your house, rental or lease agreement, electric bill)
- Drivers License 




2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be five years old by August 31, 2012 it is time to register your student for kindergarten! Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year is currently taking place at our K-8 schools. Please visit your home school to enroll your child.

Registration packets and school boundary information can be found on our website at www.husd.org or are available at our schools in the front office.

If your child will turn 5 between September 1 and December 31, you may consider having your child tested to see if they will qualify for early entrance into Kindergarten. We currently are accepting applications and assessment fees of \$45.00 at the District Office through


our Community Education Department. Testing will begin in June and will conclude prior to the first day of school. After students pass the Early Entrance assessment, they will be able to register for kindergarten. 

Happy Birthday Arizona!

On February 14, 2012, the state of Arizona will be celebrating its 100th year of statehood. Higley students have been participating in activities across the district which

have introduced them to Arizona's natural beauty as well as lessons focusing on the history of the people who have built this state.

In fourth grade social studies students are exposed to curriculum standards that teach them all about the state of Arizona and its rich history and heritage. After learning about our state symbols; the 5 C's of Arizona: Cotton, Cattle, Citrus, Copper, and Climate; and the three regions of Arizona: Sonoran Desert, Mountain Highland, and the Colorado Plateau and Arizona animals, the class recreated these aspects of Arizona in a quilt to celebrate the upcoming Centennial. Mrs. Hunt's fourth grade class at Cortina in the Higley School District had the wonderful opportunity to learn about Arizona in a unique and creative way as they made a stunning appliqué quilt from fabric and felt.

For this Arizona Centennial Quilt project each student was able to choose an aspect of Arizona that they wanted to capture in fabric. After drawing their ideas on paper, students were then able to use these templates to bring their design to life in felt. These individual quilt squares were then transformed into a quilted masterpiece as they were lovingly pieced and quilted together by Darlene Reach and Shynyn Engler to capture the art work of this fourth grade class in our Centennial Quilt. 



Centennial Quilt
from Cortina School

“Kindergarten Round-up on March 1st is a great opportunity for you and your kindergartner to visit the campus, meet teachers and classmates, and hear about the kindergarten learning standards.”

Steve Nance, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Williams Field High School

Attention AP Students

Registration for the 2011-2012 AP Exams is just around the corner. AP Exam registration will begin on Monday, January 23, 2012 and run through Monday, February 27, 2012. Each AP Exam will cost \$87.00 and fees can be paid in the bookstore. There is financial assistance available to those who qualify. Please see Dr. Jennifer Murphy with any questions.

The AP Exam schedule is outlined below:

- Wednesday, May 9 – Calculus AB a.m.
 - Thursday, May 10 – English Literature a.m.
 - Friday, May 11 – US History a.m., Studio Art p.m.
 - Monday, May 14 – Biology a.m.
 - Tuesday, May 15 – US Government a.m.
 - Wednesday, May 16 – English Language a.m.
 - Thursday, May 17 – Macroeconomics a.m., World History a.m.
 - Friday, May 18 – Human Geography a.m.
- There will be more information to follow. 🎓

“People to People” Student Ambassador



Robert Konieczny

Robert Konieczny, a sophomore at Williams Field High School, has been invited to participate in the Student Ambassador Program “People to People.” This is a life changing opportunity to travel and study in France, Italy and Greece during the summer of 2012. 🎓

Congratulations

Williams Field High School was privileged to award ten lucky students with bicycles. Students were picked at random and winners were announced on Tuesday December 28, 2011. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to the partnerships that provided the holiday surprise. 🎁



Lucky Students with Bicycles

Student Council Provides Social for Senior Center

The Williams Field High School Student Council hosted a “Senior Social” at Sunrise Senior Living of Gilbert. The students worked hard to organize the event, including invitations, decorations, and party favors. Each of the residents received a handmade flower corsage. The WFHS students also prepared fun activities for the guests of honor, including dancing and bingo. “Initially, both the students and the elders were reserved and cautious,” said Robert R. Ellis, grandfather of a WFHS student. “After a short time the barriers broke down and the generational gap was bridged. The students danced and laughed with the elders, and spent time talking,” he said. The students enjoyed hearing life stories and making connections with those from a different generation. The residents of Sunrise Senior Living have invited the students to come back in the spring. 🎓



Student Council “Senior Social”



“We are breaking down the generational barriers at WFHS through ‘Senior Social’ events.”

Mr. Shawn Lynch,
Principal
Williams Field High School

UPCOMING DATES:

- 2/10 Off the Track: An Evening of Improv @ 7:00PM
- 2/28 AIMS Testing -Writing
- 2/29 AIMS Testing-Reading
- 3/1,2,3 Spring Musical (TBA) @ 7:00PM (March 3 @ 2:00PM)
- 3/12-16 Spring Break
- 4/10 AIMS Math
- 4/11 AIMS Science
- 4/18,19 Dance Concert
- 4/24 District Wide ACT Testing Juniors only
- 4/26 Off the Track: An Evening of Improv @ 7:00PM
- 5/3,4,5 Intermediate/Advanced Class Play (TBA) @ 7:00PM
- 5/23 Graduation- May 23, 2012 7:00pm

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2012 ACT Test Dates

<http://www.act.org>

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Fee Registration
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14 - 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 - 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 - 18, 2012

2012 SAT Test Dates

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Fee Registration
January 28, 2012	December 30, 2011	January 13, 2012
March 10, 2012	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 2, 2012	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

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higley unified school district

THE KING AND I – Two Cultures Find Understanding

Feb 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

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WYATT EARP: A Life on the Frontier

Feb 7

Celebrate Arizona's Centennial featuring Wyatt Earp as Watt Earp



GILBERT HOSPITAL presents
"Door to Doc in 31 Minutes™"

BUILDING BRIDGES FAMILY CONCERT

March 3

with Tom Chapin



SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

March 23, 24, 29, 30, 31

Your Favorite Seuss

Characters Come Alive!

Produced by Copperstar

Repertory Co. in partnership with the HCPA



Find complete show information and purchase tickets on line
www.higleyarts.org

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

9th, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

20th, Monday

- President's Day. No School.

23rd, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

MARCH

1st, Thursday

- Kindergarten Round-up

8th, Thursday

- Governing Board

12th – 16th, Monday - Friday

- Spring Break. No School.

22nd, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

APRIL

6th, Friday

- Spring Holiday. No School.

12th, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting.

26th, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

MAY

10th, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

23rd, Wednesday

- WFHS Graduation

24th, Thursday

- HHS Graduation

24th, Thursday

- Last Day of School

31st, Thursday

- Governing Board Meeting

* Governing Board dates and times are subject to change. Please visit the website at www.husd.org for an up to date listing of events.



HIGLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Join & Support the Higley Education Foundation

mdswisher@hotmail.com • 480-235-5857

The Higley Education Foundation

The HEF "Biggest Loser" Challenge contest started on January 13th. We will match dollar for dollar for each pound lost, up to \$500, to the winning team. The winning team will receive a check from HEF to be used at the school for student education. The final weigh-in will be held on April 20th to determine the winning team. The winning female and male with the highest percentage weight loss will each receive \$50.

Our "Spare Change" coin drive also started on January 13th. There will be a winning K-8 school and a winning high school receiving a mini-grant for the most spare change collected. The winners will be determined during a baseball game between HHS and WFHS this spring – date to be announced.

At the holiday event, \$14,000 was raised for mini-grants and student scholarships. \$5300 in mini-grants were delivered in 2010-11.

Thanks for your support of the Higley Education Foundation 🏠



Higley Unified School District
2935 South Recker Road
Gilbert, Arizona 85295-7846

H·I·G·L·E·Y

C O N N E C T

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PERMIT NO. 254

Governing Board

Governing Board Member
Mrs. Denise Standage,
2005 - 2012



Denise Standage

Be a Buddy NOT a Bully

Is the community of the Higley Unified School District up to a challenge? In February, the month we celebrate Valentine's Day where the tradition of exchanging tokens of affection occurs, I am hoping we can establish a new tradition of "Be a Buddy NOT a Bully."

School districts across the nation, as well as HR departments across corporate America deal with complaints of bullying. We too must figure out how to address the issue of bullying in order that our children are safe in our schools, and become citizens that will influence our society for good in the workplace upon graduation. Ronald Reagan

said, "Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we've ever known." I am hoping we can instill in our children the importance of establishing friendships—"Buddies," and teach our children how to communicate effectively and eradicate bullying from our schools and from our community.

Bullying statistics are not uplifting bits of information; nevertheless, as a community, we should understand and take the issue of bullying seriously. Bullying will not just go away because we refuse to acknowledge that it occurs—as statistics for 2010 reveal, one in seven students is either a bully or a victim of bullying. In addition, according to Bullying Statistics 2010, many studies show that acts of bullying occur because of abuse at home.

As the Higley Unified School District strives to keep its "A" rating, continues to increase rigor and relevance of our curriculum and encourages our students to excel in their future goals, let us also take a stand

against the negative actions of bullying. Let's teach our children how to "bully-proof" themselves. Let's encourage our children to stand for values that will protect themselves and their peers and put an end to bullying situations. More can be learned about the staggering statistics about bullying and cyber bullying at www.stompoutbullying.com and www.workplacebullying.org.

The Governing Board is very concerned about the issue of bullying. We have placed information on the District website so students, parents, and concerned members of the community can know what procedures should be followed in case students either witness or are a victim of bullying. The information about our bullying policy can be found by going to www.husd.org/bullyingprevention. Bullying is being taken seriously in Higley. Please help us educate our students and keep them "bully-proofed." If you have any concerns or questions regarding this important issue, please feel free to contact me anytime at dstandage@husd.org. 