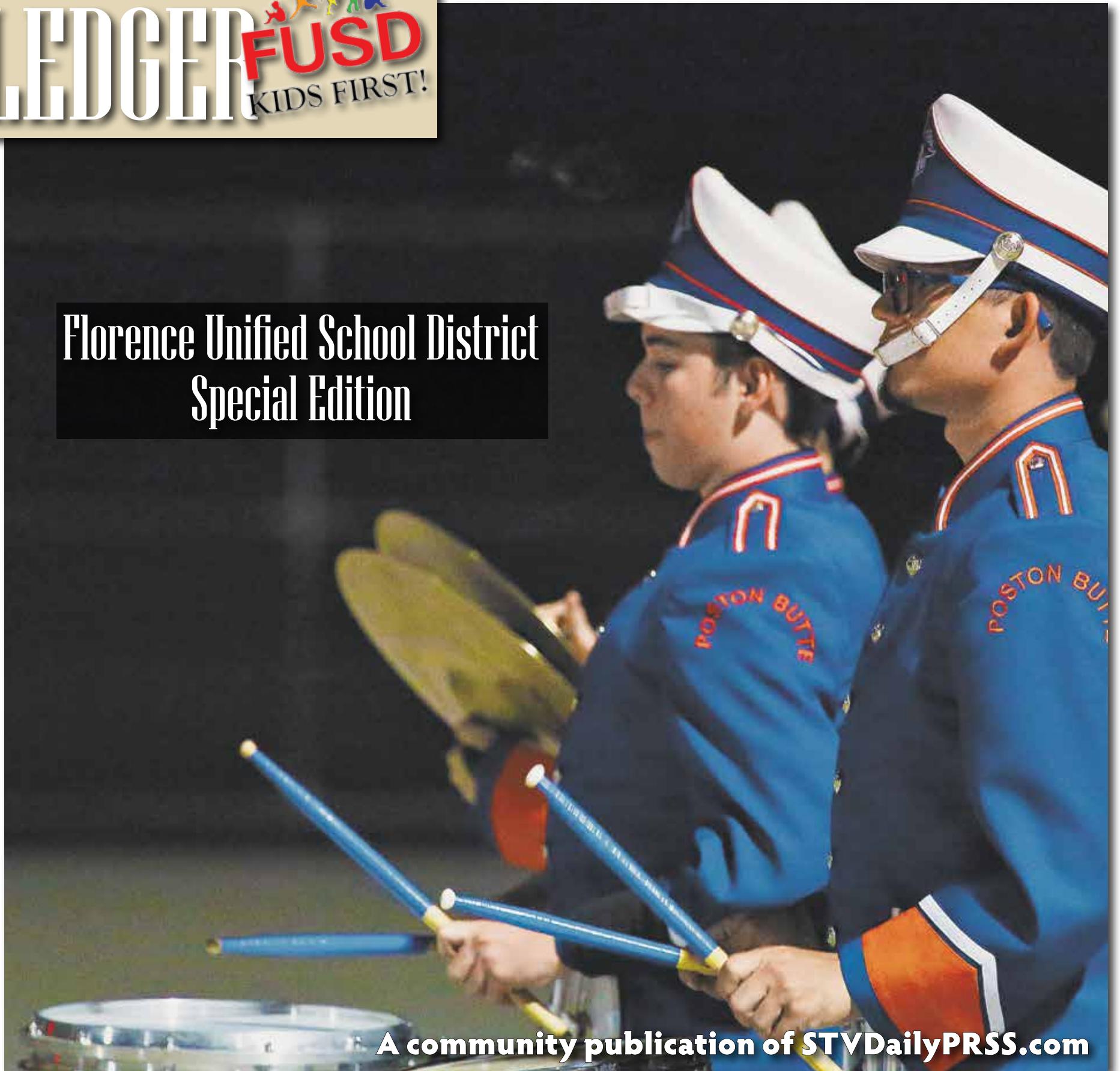


SOUTHEAST VALLEY

LEDGER

FUSD
KIDS FIRST!

Florence Unified School District
Special Edition



A community publication of STVDailyPRSS.com

Insight on AP

By Carolyn Brooks
The Bronco Heat

According to the AP College Board, students are “already using the skills it takes to succeed,” but AP challenges you to “take them to new levels.”

The purpose of Advanced Placement classes are not to solely prepare you for college, but for the rest of your future. Although the title “AP” has quite a stigma surrounding it, all those classes will be worth the all-nighters and crazy stress in the long run.

When it does come to how it affects your adventure to and throughout college, the AP College Board gives a few reasons why AP is the right choice for you, “Stand out in college admissions, earn college credits, skip introductory classes, and build college skills.”

Advanced placement classes are more challenging, higher level courses, so it is normal to expect every AP course to be tough. That is at least one thing each student should know when taking that step into a more challenging environment. In saying this, knowing a class is difficult does not mean that you are not able to succeed. So for your own good, do not switch out if you simply do not want to put in the effort.

If you are truly not prepared for a specific course, maybe it isn't the course for you. No student should feel uncomfortable and far behind in a class, even if you put in all the work that is required.

If you are not comfortable taking such a rigorous course, or it is not in your best interest to take that course, maybe Advanced Placement isn't for you, and that's

OK.

The AP College Board states that, “There are a million paths to your future. By giving you the opportunity to explore what interests you the most, AP courses help you find and pursue your unique direction.”

AP can definitely help you along the way, whichever path you happen to take in life. First though, it is always an excellent idea to come prepared to your Advanced Placement class every single day. Another aspect that will help any student is being able to speak with your peers and teachers.

Mr. Svedin, the AP Calculus teacher at PBHS, indicates that it is extremely important for a student to be able to communicate. “Students in AP classes should be self directed. They should be able to ask for help; that's probably the biggest thing! A lot of students suffer silently and end up not doing very well on their tests. Always ask for help when you need it!”

Another attribute that leads a student on the road to success is being able to work with others. Mr. Svedin gives us his thoughts on this point: “Successful AP students also help each other. There is research that shows that collaboration increases long term retention.”

When asked what advice she would give to new AP students, Jennifer Hessler, a returning AP student and Junior here at Poston Butte High School says, “It is important that you have time management skills. You also need to know how to communicate with your teacher. Assume that you have homework every night when



Learning about the Product Rule in AP Calculus AB



Mr. Svedin, AP Calculus and Geometry teacher at Poston Butte High School, throws a 3-Dimensional shape into the air.

going into the class so you can ‘mentally prepare yourself.’”

When a student gives AP classes their very best, and is willing to challenge themselves, that student

will come to find that Advanced Placement has given them a payoff well deserved. “It is too hard...” should never be a statement in any student's vocabulary.

FLORENCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

OCTOBER

21 Poston Butte High School
Homecoming vs. Cholla HS at 7 p.m.

21 Florence High School
Homecoming vs. Benjamin Franklin HS at 7 p.m. Parade Downtown Florence at 1 p.m.



26 Poston Butte High School
Fall College and Career Fair 6-8 p.m. in the Library



27 Magma Ranch K-8 School
Fall Festival 6-8 p.m.

27 Circle Cross Ranch STEM Academy
Fall Festival 5:30-7:30 p.m.



28 Skyline Ranch K-8 School
Halloween Fest 6-9 p.m.

28 Copper Basin K-8 School
Monster House 6:30-8:30 p.m.



31 Community Ed
Hoot Night
29895 N. Desert Willow Blvd., 480-987-5386

NOVEMBER

08 Election Day



11 Veterans Day
No School

15 School Board Meeting
District Office in Florence at 6 p.m.



23 Thanksgiving Break
No School, Nov. 23-25

DECEMBER

03 San Tan Valley Holiday Parade
29895 N. Desert Willow Blvd., 480-987-5386



03 Community Education Holiday Festival
29895 N. Desert Willow Blvd., Noon-4 p.m.

13 School Board Meeting
San Tan Foothills High School at 6 p.m.

15 High School Final Exams
Dec. 15 & 16, District half days.



19 Holiday Break
Dec. 19 - Jan. 6
No school!

For more information, see the FUSD calendar online at <http://bit.ly/2d6H8gx>

Florence IB instructor earns award

Melissa Haugen, Florence High School International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Teacher, was named the 2016 AZIBS Outstanding Diploma Program Teacher on September 15 in Mesa, Arizona. Mrs. Haugen was nominated by Florence Unified School District IB Program Coordinator Mrs. Valencia Coppel.

This annual award is only given to three teachers per year. Mrs. Haugen was the high school grade's recipient and two others were awarded for elementary and middle school. The award is graded on a rubric of the following topics – Dedication to the International Baccalaureate Program, Demonstration of distinguished teaching performance, Evidence of exemplary fidelity to the IB principles and practices, and Mentor/supports those less experienced with IB.

Mrs. Haugen has been with the Florence Unified School District since 2004 and has built the International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Program. Florence High School Principal, Mr. Thad Gates said, "Mrs. Haugen is an outstanding art teacher. Every spring she hosts the annual IB student art show, and I am consistently blown away by what her students produce. The wide variety of styles, intricate detail and precision in each of the students pieces speak to the fantastic instruction that they are receiving from Mrs. Haugen."

Dr. Amy Fuller, FUSD Superintendent said, "Mrs. Haugen exemplifies what it means to be a teacher in the Florence Unified School District. This award is well deserved for the countless hours and dedication she has given to the students at Florence High School and around our district."

The IB Program at Florence High has seen several students earn the full Diploma since its inception. Over time, the expansion of the program has allowed students from all over Pinal County to attend FHS and where they are able to earn a competitive diploma. Graduates who earn the diploma have an advantage over students who do not when it comes to college admissions and scholarships.

For more information on the International Baccalaureate Program at Florence High School call (520) 866-3560.



Mrs. Valencia Coppel, International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Florence High School with Mrs. Melissa Haugen, FHS Visual Arts Teacher who won the award.



FUSD schools 'accentuating the positive'

Most of us remember a time in education where the only time we saw the Assistant Principal was when something bad had happened. Punishment for poor decisions was important for students to learn right from wrong. Well, the research is beginning to show us that punishment might not be enough.

Over the past two years the Florence Unified School District has implemented the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS). This program, which is fully funded by a grant, sets up a system of expectations for each school that is developed by the teachers and staff on campus. Once these expectations are put in place, students are encouraged to follow these expectations throughout the day.

Sounds pretty standard, but here is where it gets interesting. When a student is "caught in the act" participating in one of the expected behaviors, teachers and staff can give that student a ticket based on the behavior. This ticket is then redeemed for a prize or some kind of recognition. This positive reinforcement encourages students to continue the behavior and provides motivation for other

students to work to receive the same.

Each school has a program tailored to their individual cultures and behavior goals for the year. At Magma Ranch K-8, for instance, they are striving to earn 10,000 tickets on the year. The key to all of this is the data.

By using a system called School Wide Incident or SWIS, each school tracks behavior incidents, positive and negative, that is so detailed that it can tell the school specific times of the day and locations where incidents are most likely to occur. This allows the school administration to be more diligent in curbing problem behaviors and also encourages all staff to get involved with the positive reinforcement.

Every teacher is encouraged to give as many tickets as they see fit and students work hard to earn them. Over the past two years, Florence Unified School District has seen a significant decrease in student behavior referrals and long-term suspension hearings.

If you would like to learn more about this program you can visit www.fusdaz.com/mtss or watch a short video at <https://goo.gl/Wm5skc>

FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL



International
Baccalaureate
Diploma Program

- Graduate with an Associates Degree
- Graduate with a World-Renowned Diploma
- IB Diploma Recipients are more likely to Study Abroad in College.
- Give yourself a head start against the competition for college.



Email us at info@FUSDAZ.org with the subject line IB Diploma and schedule a tour TODAY!

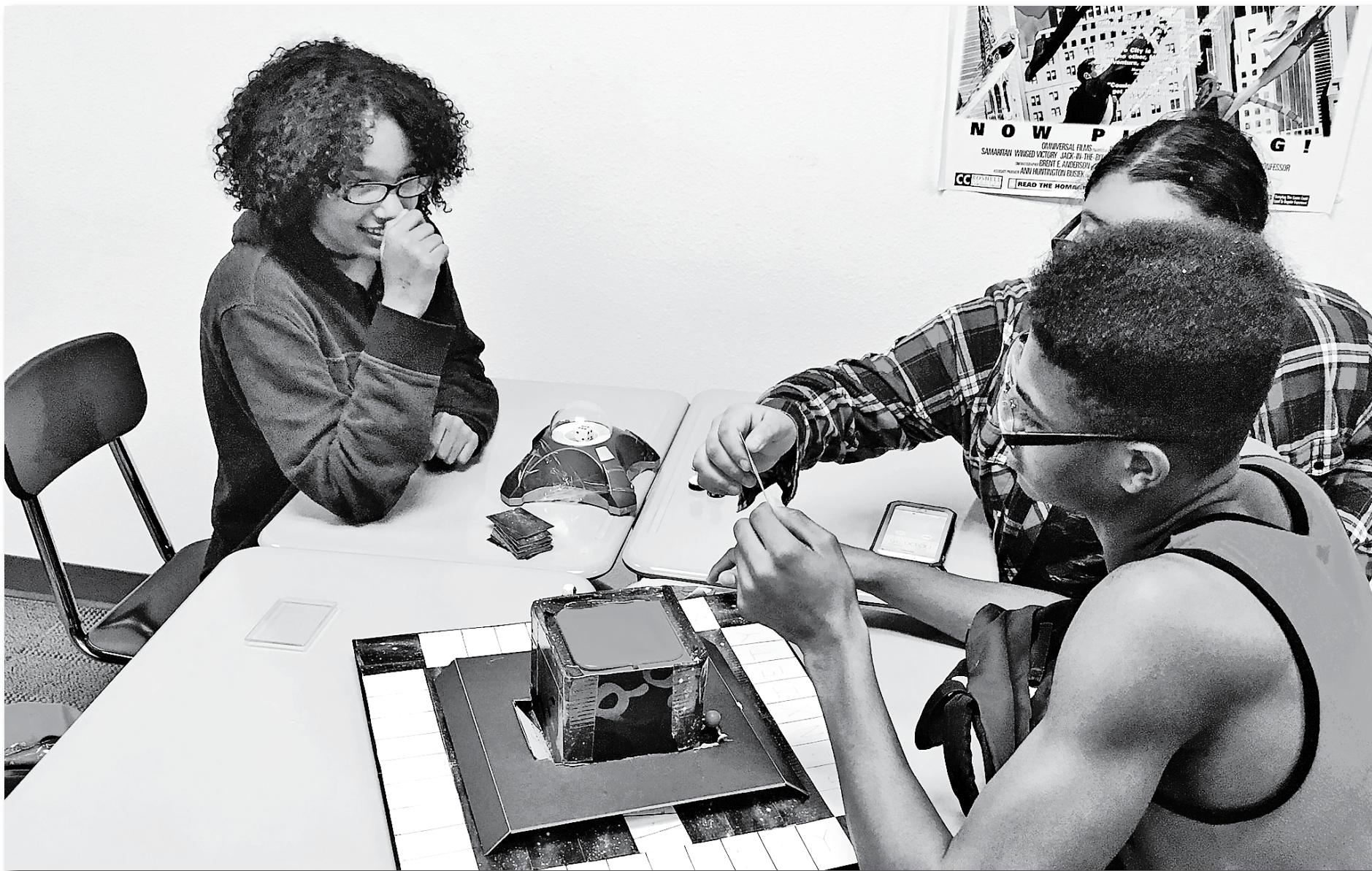


Mrs. Valencia Coppel, International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Florence High School with Mrs. Melissa Haugen, FHS Visual Arts Teacher who won the award.

1000 S. MAIN ST., FLORENCE • 520-866-3560

FHS.FUSDAZ.ORG

It's Magic: San Tan Foothills



San Tan Foothills offers a video game class, where students conceptualize and develop a video game. The first stage includes creating a board game.

Andrew Luberda | PRSS

By Andrew Luberda
STVDailyPRSS.com

It might not be appropriate to let the cat out of the bag, but the History and Evolution of Gaming class at San Tan Foothills is tricking students by teaching geometry, science and history under the guise that they are learning how to conceptualize and develop video games.

It's a fact that teacher Daniel Sisto does not deny. As a matter of fact, unlike real magicians, he attempts to tell his students

how the trick works.

Even though students don't realize it, flipping a water bottle and attempting to have it land right-side-up finds them discussing geometry.

"I tell the students I'm tricking them," Sisto said. "Kids need a magic trick."

In addition to academic benefits, the class provides other social benefits, including the elimination of social anxieties that some students experience. For others, the class is the only reason to stay in a traditional high school setting.

"It's like the sugar with the medicine: it helps it go down," said Sisto.

According to Sisto and San Tan Foothills' Principal Dr. Tim Richard, many, but not all, of the students likely wouldn't remain in school if not for the class, which numbers nearly 75.

"At the end of the day, some of these students wouldn't make it in high school without a drive or push this class provides," said Sisto.

Added Dr. Richard, "This program has been implemented successfully at other

schools around the country," he said. "It really targets those students that might not be otherwise motivated to attend a traditional public school. It gives at-risk kids a chance to reinvent their love for education."

It's working.

During a recent visit to the school to observe, students ranging from freshman to senior were interacting and working together to develop a board game, the first part of class before students choose between modeling and coding in the

gaming class tricks students



After students successfully develop a board game, they will begin programming their concept next quarter.

Andrew Lubberda | PRSS

second quarter.

“I joined the class so next semester I can start learning coding and become more advanced,” said freshman Grayson Shockley.

Sisto uses Zulama, a computer-generated imagery (CGI) game design curriculum, which was designed by educators at the world-renowned Entertainment Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University. It gives teenagers experience with problem solving and thinking creatively – skills they need to earn jobs in

a digital world.

“I see some of these students who are going to go to UCLA or some awesome California tech school,” he said. “But they don’t know what to go into.”

Architecture, computer gaming, and creating commercials are just a few potential career fields for students who participate in this class.

Sisto, who acknowledged his own social anxieties while in high school, finds tremendous joy in witnessing his students overcome their own anxieties

and interacting socially. His passion for teaching the class stems from his personal experiences as a teenager. Students are known to stay after school – as late as 5:30 – playing, creating and developing video games.

“They stay after school and make their friends they are going to have for high school,” Sisto said. “We have kids that you would never expect to be hanging out together and they are. I think that’s awesome.”

Senior Randy Toner said he enrolled in

the class because he likes video gaming and creating, playing video games. Also, he says, because, “It’s basically a free class.”

When asked if CGI is something he would study in college, Toner replied, “No.”

Yet he later admitted taking the class could lead to financial benefits.

“The class teaches us how to create games,” Toner said. “So maybe, in the future, if I can create my own game I can make money off it to help myself out.”

Looks like Mr. Sisto and Dr. Richard tricked another student.

Teachers shave heads to raise funds for student with Leukemia

Magma Ranch K-8 Student Council Advisors Mrs. Michelle Nord and Mrs. Anita Sorensen challenged the students at Magma to raise \$2,500 during the month of September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The money would be raised for Team Kaylee in support of Kaylee Moreno, a student who was diagnosed with Leukemia last year. All money raised would be donated to the family to help with medical expenses.

If the students reached the goal, the teachers would shave their heads. If \$3,000 was raised, Mr. Lopez, Principal at Magma, would get a yellow ribbon colored into the back of his hair and Mr. Eric Campbell, Campus Monitor, would also shave his head. On Sept. 23, the school celebrated a pep assembly where over \$5,800 had already been raised and the teachers shaved their heads in front of the entire school and special guest, Kaylee Moreno.

Mr. Scott Smith with Relay for Life, Mr. Lupe Garcia from Jesus Died for U Ministries, representatives from the Correction Corporation of America (CCA) in Florence and their FCC Community

Activities Team attended the assembly at Magma Ranch K-8 to also present funds they raised. CCA provided the family with a check for \$3,285 that was collected in a little over a week. Mr. Garcia and his parish raised \$1,000 but offered \$700 more when Mr. Pat Barton, Mr. Jeff Tidd, Mr. Nate Kievert, Mr. Nick Tessari, Jayden Harmon, and Peyton Langeheine stepped forward to also participate.

Magma Ranch Principal, Eddie Lopez said, "At Magma Ranch one of our mottos is "Family – Community – School – Mustangs United For Success" and we have so many people that made this experience possible. Community members, teachers, students, parents, staff and local organizations united together to support our own during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Thank you everyone for all your support and loving kindness for such a great cause."

"The Magma Ranch Community has a strong bond with Magma Ranch K-8," said FUSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "This event was a testament to the strength of a community to come together to support another family in need."



Student Kaylee Moreno makes the first cut.



Kaylee Moreno with her teachers, family and students at Magma Ranch K-8.



Kaylee Moreno with the teachers and staff at Magma Ranch K-8 who shaved their heads in solidarity with the young leukemia patient.

New Anthem K – 8 principal enjoying restart

By Andrew Luberdia
STVDailyPRSS.com

The saying goes, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

New Anthem K – 8 Principal Leah Alisa must have studied history well because she believes in the Bert Lance quote from 1977.

Alisa, who replaced now-retired and former Principal Kathy Brown, is part of a new administration team at the school and plans to keep things moving along as they were under Brown’s direction.

The new first-year principal moved back to Arizona from Hawaii in 2007 to be closer to family. After interviewing with Brown, Alisa started her career in the Florence Unified School District (FUSD) as a teacher. Since then she has continued to move within the district. Most recently, she spent three years as the Assistant Principal at Magma Ranch

before interviewing to replace the person who originally hired her.

“For me, it’s been fun to be a part of this change,” Leah told the *STV Daily PRSS*. “To invite people to see what we’re about and see all the fun things we’re doing (here) because we’d love to have (them).”

During a recent interview, Alisa said the school will continue its PRIDE and PBIS programs.

The PRIDE program, an acronym for Participation, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence, recognizes students who display any or all of these traits. Once each month, teachers from each classroom select a student to participate in a PRIDE lunch with the principal.

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support is a framework that assists school personnel in adopting and organizing behavioral interventions that enhance academic and social outcomes in all students.

In addition to Alisa, Anthem K – 8 welcomes new Assistant Principal Kevin Rainey, a new nurse and approximately 15 new teachers, including first-grade teacher Kendra Keens and fifth-grade teacher Burns King.

“It’s a refresher for Anthem K – 8,” Alisa said. “We’re starting fresh again with a new administration and quite a few new teachers.”

Anthem K – 8 offers a program called Pathways, which supports students with a lower academic ability as well as those who are medically challenged. There are also two autism-based classes at the school.

Among the accomplishments so far by the staff, both newcomers and veterans, was the creation of new mission statement, which will be published soon on the school’s website.

As the first quarter nears its completion, Alisa was asked to reflect on the start of her new position.

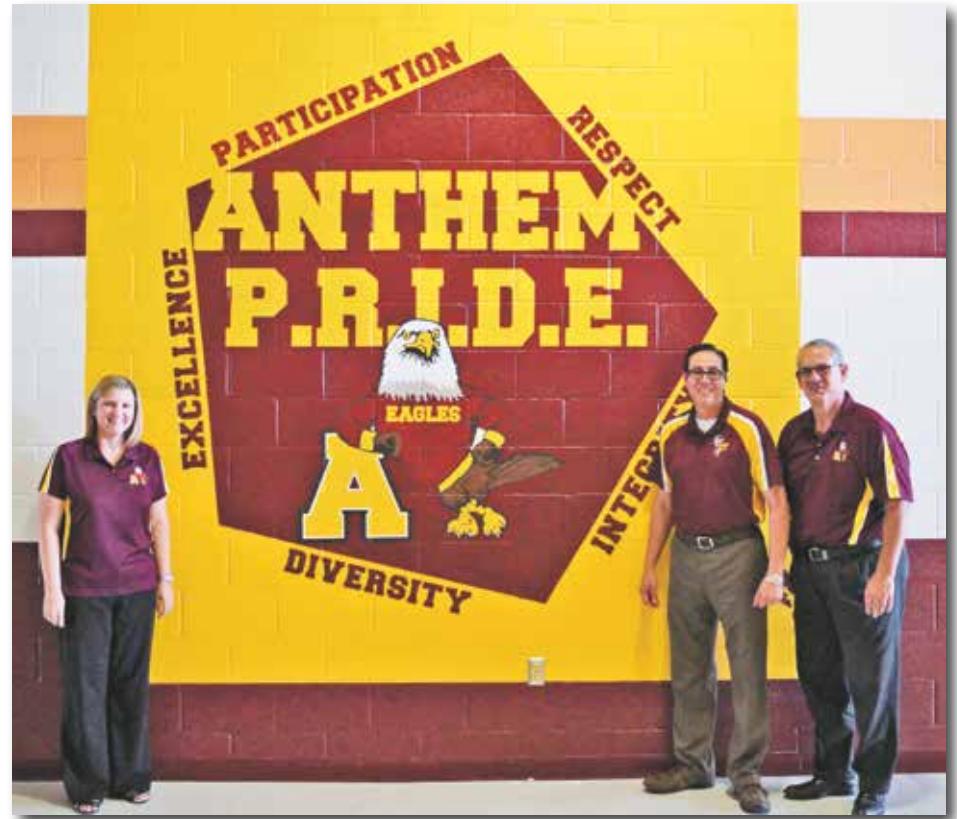
“We had a great first week,” she responded. “It was a great kickoff to the new year.”

Alisa said the staff feels like family; they support and help each other. She admits there’s been a lot of new learning, especially those new to FUSD.

“Our teachers have been fabulous,” she said.

When asked to name a few positive experiences so far in her new position, Alisa said the school’s PTA, families and community have been extremely supportive. Students need the support from all three, she says.

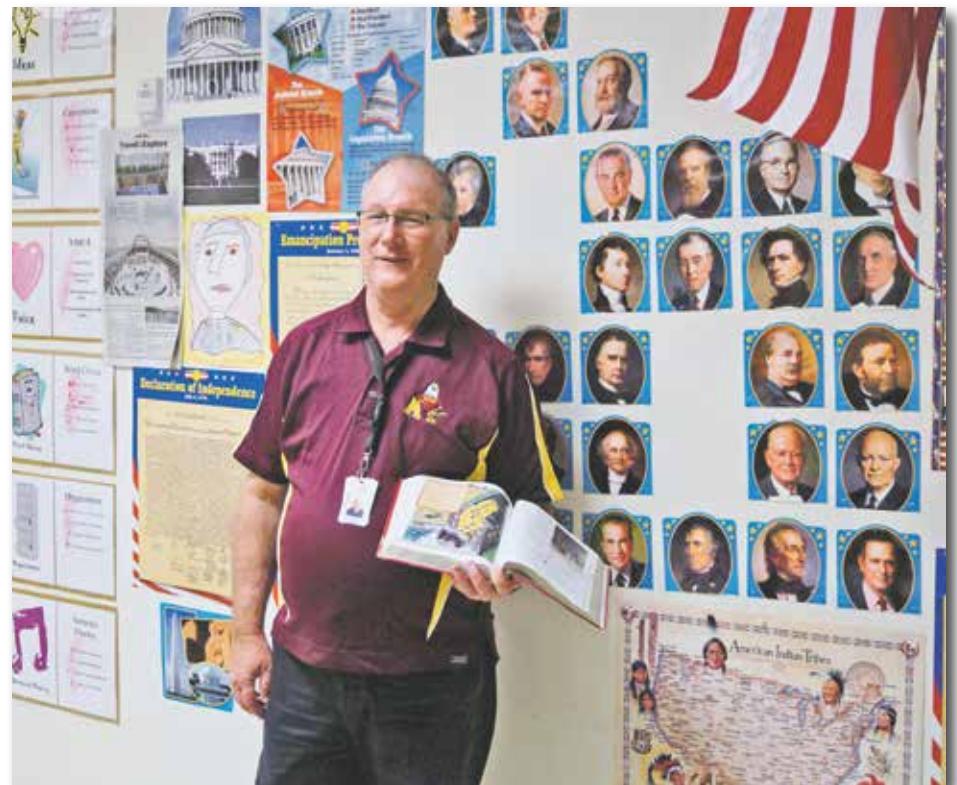
“It all goes hand-in-hand,” she said. “You can’t have one without the other.”



The new administration at Anthem K-8, Principal Leah Alisa (left), Assistant Principal Kevin Rainey and Dean John Contreras (right). Andrew Luberdia | PRSS



Kendra Keens, Anthem K-8 First-grade teacher. Andrew Luberdia | PRSS



Burns King, Anthem K-8 Fifth-grade teacher.

Andrew Luberdia | PRSS

STAY CONNECTED WITH FUSD



Get all of the news and information from around the district by connecting with us on social media!

FUSD DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: FlorenceUSD

Twitter: @FlorenceUSD

Instagram: @FlorenceUSD1

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Anthem K-8

Facebook: AnthemEagles

Circle Cross K-8 S.T.E.M. Academy

Facebook:

CircleCrossRanchSTEMAcademy

Twitter: @CircleCross_K8

Copper Basin K-8

Facebook: CopperBasinK8PTO

Florence K-8

Facebook: FK8Gophers

Magma Ranch K-8

Facebook: MagmaRanchStuCo

Twitter: @MagmaRanch_K8

Skyline Ranch K-8

Facebook: SkylineRanchK8

Twitter: @SkylineRanchK8

San Tan Heights K-8

Facebook: STHPTO

Walker Butte K-8 Leadership

Facebook: WalkerButte

Twitter: @WalkerButte

HIGH SCHOOLS

Florence High School

Facebook: FHSGophers

Twitter: @FHSGophers (Main Account) • @linkfhs (Link Crew)

@FHSGopherball (Football) • @FlorenceStuCo (Student Council)

@FHSVolleyball (Volleyball)

Poston Butte High School

Facebook: PostonButteHighSchool

Twitter: @PBHighSchool (Main Account) • @PostonAthletics (Athletics)

@PBHSStuCo (Student Council) • @PostonWrestling (Wrestling)

@PB_POMandCHEER (Pom & Cheer) • @PBHSTV (Multimedia)

@PBHS_FB (Football) • @PBHSSeniors2017 (Senior Class)

@PBHSGBasketball (Girls Basketball) @PostonButteBand (Marching Band)

San Tan Foothills High School

Facebook: SanTanFoothillsHighSchool

Twitter: @STFHighSchool (Main Account) • @STFHS_StuCo (Student Council)

@SanTanFbl (Football) • @STFHSBaseball (Baseball)

@STFHSYearbook (Yearbook)

@STFHS_FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)



Following youth and social media

By Miku Nelinger
The Bronco Heat

From sharing to liking to following, today's youth has popularized this generation of social media. When push comes to shove, the impact has left stigmas that signify matters amongst controversy.

The internet brings people of all ages onto its websites - but none larger than the demographic of teens, who are typecasted towards their electronic devices.

When apps like Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube dominate, we see growth of users daily, as polling from pewinternet.org share continued growth in accounts, with Seochat.com commenting that "social media sites have taken over our lives."

Users vary around the world, especially with the people around us. When asked about their viewpoints, two students and a teacher at Poston Butte High

School all share diverse opinions - showing dramatic differences in their answers.

While social media can be seen as a pathway to the outside world, others see a stigma that stem towards the younger generation. "Millennials" and "Generation Z" are cited as the audience for modern internet, but are the target of warring opinions from the older generation.

Issues such as work ethic, abuse, disconnection, and criticism from elders serves as influences to teens, said *Huffington Post*, where, "influence of social media on adolescents and teens is of particular importance... because they are among the heaviest users of social networking."

However, a Google Form sent out to students counted on 66.7% as people who can handle a day without social media, regardless of what the general public sees. The same survey showed 81.3% of

Continued on page 11

SOCIAL MEDIA

Continued from page 10

takers agree with mixed opinions of good and bad; that social media has its hiccups but is also revolutionary.

“I personally see social media as an outlet of positivity and way to bring people together. However, it also has its cons,” says sophomore Savannah Mieras, quoting cyber-bullying, rumors, and illegal ideas as negatives, “although the community can be loving and supportive, it is also vicious and hurtful when people get offended.”

“Social media is great, but it does not dictate or control my life [where] I couldn’t handle being without it,” Mieras says, logging in every now and then everyday. She justifies her usages as, “Communicating with friends and family, meeting new people, expressing myself as well as an outlet for entertainment. I personally enjoy watching video content and reading literature made by other people and I find it extremely calming when stressed.”

When asked about the stigma on youth by elders, Mieras agrees, “due to times changing so rapidly.” She believes the stigma is from the older generation being “against us for wanting to be involved and engaged in this new technology,” showing the divide age can do. Sharing that social media is a positive influence not only on her life but to many, Mieras explains that the internet saves lives, connects with others, and learn about the world around her.

Mr. Jason Stahl, the Multimedia teacher at PBHS accounts that while social interaction is what many strive to do, “It really comes down with how you approach [social media] that you use. If you use it intelligently and don’t throw everything at it, it can be amazing.

If you spew hate and don’t think before you post, it’s only going to hurt you.”

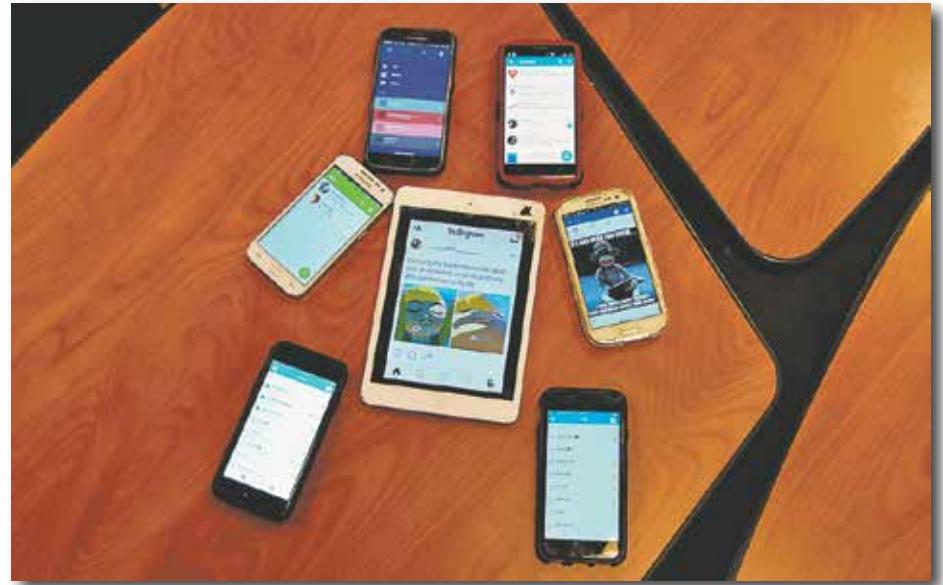
However, Stahl looks at the said stigma from another perspective: “[It] forces teens and kids to grow up quicker; creating a picture of perfection when there’s so much work behind it. They think their life is worse than it is. It tends to overwhelm the individual,” justifying it’s more than expectations, it’s about perspective.

Using social networking in order to connect and stay up-to-date with people from his organization to his family, he quotes “shot heard around the world” with the usage of social networking - because of getting so much out of it quite positively.

From an “outlier” like Mason Vannort, a high school senior, he says online connections can be made but disconnects the real world, explaining, “It has become the dominant source of outside information for our generation, for anything from news and politics to the dankest memes on the web,” and notices “an extreme dependency” from our generation.

Being the odd one out, Vannort doesn’t have as much of an impact from social media as he’s “actually pretty far behind in joining social media”, but understands social media’s “easier than ever to keep track of” for trends and more. Overall, he sees “a mixed bag” of opinions for good and bad.

In a world where controversy and impact are the factors that can limit or continue the utilization of these websites and apps, many factors can make or break the stance, especially with teenagers. Social media just so



Devices like these are common with high school students, all of which allow them to keep up with social media.

happens to become one function of society that ended up becoming significant to this generation, regardless of debate.



at Florence Unified School District

The Florence Unified School District uses the PBIS Program to encourage students to make good choices by reinforcing them with positive reinforcement when they are “caught in the act.”

This program has decreased our referrals across the district and has helped to reduce bullying and fights. Students are excited to make positive decisions and want to be caught in the act doing something good.

For more information, please visit: fusdaz.org/mtss

Newly absorbed FUSD K-8 aims to provide stability for students, staff



San Tan Heights K – 8 Principal Greg Bellemare approves of the school's new mascot, which was chosen by the Class of 2017. Andrew Lubberda | PRSS

By Andrew Lubberda
STVDailyPRSS.com

San Tan Heights K – 8, formerly San Tan Heights Elementary School, is one of three schools that was included in a voter-approved consolidation, which resulted in the former Coolidge Unified School District school being absorbed by the Florence Unified School District, effective July 1, 2016.

One of the goals for new Principal Greg Bellemare was to make the transition for both students and staff as seamless as possible despite some expected challenges.

Bellemare, a 39-year veteran in education, hired nearly 30 new staff members, including some former CUSD employees, during the summer and counts about two-thirds of his 60-plus staffers as new to FUSD. Introducing the newcomers to different policies and procedures was necessary as well developing cohesiveness among all of the employees.

“The thing that I’m most proud about is the positivity of the staff, which has been (persistent),” he said. “As a result, the kids are moving along really well here and they’ve blended nicely, especially the upper level students, who have been bounced around.”

The eighth-graders at San Tan Heights K – 8 are attending a third different school in four years, including their second term at San Tan Heights.

The Class of 2017 attended the school as fifth graders, when it was San Tan Heights Elementary and a CUSD school. As sixth graders they attended Mountain Vista Middle School, then San Tan Foothills as seventh graders, and now they’re back at San Tan Heights K – 8 in its newest version.

In an effort to improve the morale and attitude of the eighth-grade class, Bellemare thought giving the students some ownership of the school was necessary. He allowed them to choose the school’s new mascot from four finalists he selected.

The one-time Mustangs, then Wolverines and Sabercats are now Hawks.

“The eighth-graders are pretty proud,” Bellemare told the *STV Daily PRSS*. “They chose the mascot and normally they don’t get to do that. The attitude I see is really becoming pretty good.”

With the first-quarter nearing completion, Bellemare is satisfied with the progress he’s witnessed since school started in both his staff and the students, but he knows there’s more to be done.

“We’re pushing connections with the kids and becoming a community,” he said. “We had our first student council and we’re hoping it becomes very active.”

San Tan Heights K – 8 is offering new electives to students that were not previously offered at the school, including math and science-based S.T.E.M. classes, Spanish, Dance and Band. Most, if not all, of these electives have been available at other FUSD schools.

“We’ve got a bundle of kids in dance,” Bellemare said. “I want to say 80-something students are in dance and really loving it.”

“We’re building up our band program,” he continued. “So I think we’re giving some opportunities that seem like a given at most places and now we’re providing them.”

It does indeed appear that Bellemare, his staff and the San Tan Heights K – 8 students have successfully accomplished their first goal together.

San Tan Foothills DANCE



Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced Levels Offered

Tax Credit Donations Accepted

(Supports Performance Costs & Competitions)

1255 W. Silverdale Rd., San Tan Valley, AZ

(480) 474-6240

Want to keep up with everything happening at **San Tan Foothills High School** *and* **Poston Butte High School?**



Visit them
online for all
the school
news!



SabercatChronicle.wixsite.com/news *and* TheBroncoHeat.com

Florence Unified School District rededicates newly consolidated schools

On Friday, July 22, 2016, the Florence Unified School District officially unveiled the new dedication plaques at San Tan Heights K-8, Mountain Vista Academy and San Tan Foothills High School. The schools were officially integrated into the Florence Unified School District (FUSD) as a result of the voter-approved partial consolidation between FUSD and the Coolidge Unified School District in 2015. This was the first election of its kind to pass in the history of Arizona and did so with a wide margin in all three areas needed to pass it. FUSD officially began

school on July 25 with all twelve schools open and nearly 10,000 students.

Present and pictured at each site are the Florence Unified School District Governing Board, led by President Denise Guenther, Vice-President Steve Johnson, Member Rose Marie Monks, Member Bob Dailey and Member Jim Thomas. Also in attendance, Dr. Amy Fuller Superintendent, Mr. Chris Knutsen Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Tony Jimenez, Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Curtis Chipman from the law offices of Udall Shumway also attended as he was

the lead attorney for the Florence Unified School District throughout the process. The Principals of each school welcomed everyone and led the photos while Dr. Fuller and Mrs. Guenther each spoke to the staff and thanked everyone for all of their hard work and for putting Kids First.

Each of the plaques was inscribed with the following message: "The Florence Unified School District hereby accepts [school name] on this day, July 1, 2016, as a result of the successful passage of the Consolidation between the Florence Unified School District

and the Coolidge Unified School District. This historic election, the first of its kind in Arizona, is a reflection of the dedication of our school board, staff, administrators and community members."

"The partial consolidation between Florence Unified and Coolidge Unified was a win-win for both districts as it will ensure the stability of both in the future," said FUSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "We are grateful for all of those who helped and voted in this historic election and welcome the members of our new community to FUSD."



At Mountain Vista Academy, pictured from left are: Bob Dailey, Board Member, Jim Thomas, Board Member, Rose Marie Monks, Board Member, Steve Johnson, Board Vice-President; Denise Guenther, Board President; Dr. Amy Fuller, FUSD Superintendent; Robert Edwards, Mountain Vista Academy Principal; Curtis Chipman, Udall Shumway.



At San Tan Foothills High School, pictured from left are: Bob Dailey, Board Member, Steve Johnson, Board Vice-President; Rose Marie Monks, Board Member; Jim Thomas, Board Member; Denise Guenther, Board President; Chris Knutsen, FUSD Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Amy Fuller, FUSD Superintendent; Dr. Tim Richard, San Tan Foothills High School Principal; Curtis Chipman, Udall Shumway.



At San Tan Heights K-8, pictured from left are: Tony Jimenez, FUSD Assistant Superintendent; Jim Thomas, Board Member; Steve Johnson Board Vice-President; Denise Guenther, Board President; Rose Marie Monks, Board Member; Bob Dailey, Board Member, Dr. Amy Fuller, FUSD Superintendent; Greg Bellemare, San Tan Heights K-8 Principal; Curtis Chipman, Udall Shumway, Chris Knutsen, FUSD Assistant Superintendent.



San Tan Heights Staff, FUSD School Board and Superintendent have a little fun celebrating the consolidation.

Students and staff support Poston Butte sophomore with Lupus

Forty staff and students from the Florence Unified School District participated in the annual "Walk To End Lupus Now" at Paradise Valley Mall on Sept. 17. They were all members of Team Butterfly Kisses in honor of Amarissa Mauricio, a sophomore at Poston Butte High School. She was diagnosed with Lupus three years ago.

Despite this diagnosis, Amarissa still attends schools full time and her favorite class is dance. The national anthem at the event was sung by Jaylie Robinson, a junior at PBHS. Some members of the Anthem K-8 School staff, where Amarissa's mom works, all helped raise money for the cause. The CAVIT Fire Class at FUSD wore their full uniforms, including oxygen tanks while they

walked. Numerous other clubs and classes from around the district also participated.

The "Walk to End Lupus Now" is an event that brings people together to create awareness for this disease. The hope is to one day, through funding research, there will be a cure.

Dayan Zepeda-Nazar, Amarissa's mom said, "I cannot tell you what it meant to me, to have the Florence support that we did. Thank you. I truly appreciate each of you and the love and support you showed our family and Amarissa."

"The generosity and support showed by our staff and students for Amarissa is incredible," said FUSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "We are very proud of everyone who got involved."



Amarissa Mauricio (middle) takes a picture with Peyton Lea Miller (left) and her brother, Brandon Mauricio (right) during the event.



A group photo of all the PBHS students who participated in the Walk to End Lupus Now.

Florence High Students excel at Survivor cast members' nationwide event

Nathan Lamas, Florence High School Student Body President, and Jeffrey Cordova, Florence High School Varsity Wrestler, recently attended the Cheer 4 Your Life nation-wide warrior challenge in Dallas, Texas. This event was created by Survivor Stars Mike Holloway and Missy Payne. It is meant to help teens with financial burdens.

"Jeffrey and I completed 17 out of the

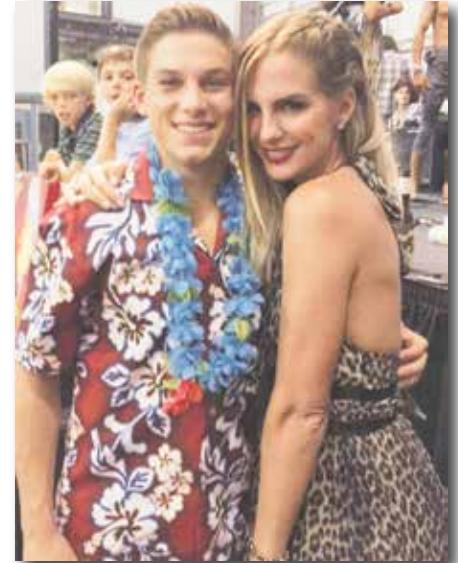
20 possible challenges and were awarded 3rd most challenges and 3rd in money raised," Nathan said. "The warrior games were physical obstacles and mentally challenging obstacles as you would see on the show of Survivor."

He continued, "This experience was one in a million. Not only meeting celebrities and great people, but also changing lives of other teens that don't have the

same opportunities as we do. It was very heartwarming to know that Jeffrey and I put time in on our own to complete 17 challenges and raise money for others. In doing these challenges, Jeffrey and I didn't know who the beneficiaries were and we actually roomed with one of them. To know that two small town boys from Florence, Arizona would make a difference in somebody else's life means everything to me. I hope it encourages others to go make a difference in other peoples' lives as well."

Nathan was able to meet another Survivor Star, Sierra Dawn Thomas, who has agreed to attend the FHS Prom with Nathan this year.

"Mr. Nathan Lamas and Mr. Jeffrey Cordova are great examples of the high character students we have in the Florence Unified School District," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "Their representation of the district at the national level is inspiring to all of us."



Nathan Lamas with Survivor Star Sierra Dawn Thomas who will be attending the FHS Prom with Nathan.



Nathan and Jeffrey with Mike and Missy from Survivor at the Warrior Challenge in Dallas, Texas.

FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrating 100 Years of Building Champions



Congratulations to the 100th FHS Graduating Class

1000 S. MAIN ST., FLORENCE • 520-866-3560

Poston Butte High School

*STEM Diploma Program



*Earn an Associate's Degree
when you graduate!*

Get a jump-start on the competition for college!



*Challenge yourself in
Engineering, Physics &
Software Coding!*



*Multiple 3-D Printers
on Campus!*

*Fully certified &
national award
winning staff!*

To learn more, call 480.474.6100, go online to PBHS.fuaz.org or email us at info@fusdaz.org with subject line STEM to schedule a tour today!!



32375 N. Gantzel Rd., San Tan Valley
*Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

Friday Night Lights at Poston Butte



The Poston Butte Cheer Squad entertains during a home game.



Poston Butte's Cameron Cheatam (#5) leaps high to catch the pass. Larry Tripp (#7) and another teammate run into the fray to help.

Friday Night Lights at San Tan Foothills



San Tan Foothills Pom Squad during a home game.



San Tan Foothills' Dilan Barraza (#14) receives a pass during a pre-game practice.



- Now offering multiple Advanced Placement Courses
- Video-Game Design Classes
- Career and Technical Education Options
- The New American High School
- Come see why Charter Schools Simply Cannot Compete
- Full Athletics and Electives Courses
- Beautiful Library/Computer Lab
- 1:1 Computing for every student

*Email us at info@fusdaz.org with the subject line **FOOTHILLS** to schedule a tour today!!!*

**1255 W. Silverdale Rd., San Tan Valley, AZ
(480) 474-6240**

Schedules *and* Scores

FHS Football

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|
| Aug. 19 | @ Santa Rita | W, 60 – 0 |
| Aug. 26 | @ Youngker | W, 28 – 11 |
| Sept. 2 | Sahuarita | W, 49 – 7 |
| Sept. 9 | @ Valley Christian | W, 40 – 14 |
| Sept. 16 | @ Blue Ridge | W, 56 – 28 |
| Sept. 23 | @ Safford | W, 58 – 28 |
| Sept. 30 | @ ALA – QC | L, 29 – 22 |
| Oct. 14 | Globe | 7 PM |
| Oct. 21 | Benjamin Franklin | 7 PM |
| Oct. 28 | Coolidge | 7 PM |



FHS Volleyball

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Aug. 30 | @ Pusch Ridge | W, 3 – 0 |
| Sept. 1 | @ Sahuarita | W, 3 – 0 |
| Sept. 2 | 2016 Lady Rider SW Challenge | |
| Sept. 6 | vs Valley Christian | L, 0 – 3 |
| Sept. 8 | vs Northwest Christian | L, 1 – 3 |
| Sept. 13 | @ Blue Ridge | W, 3 – 1 |
| Sept. 15 | vs Casteel | W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 16 | Wolves Classic | |
| Sept. 20 | vs Safford | W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 22 | @ American Leadership | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 27 | vs Benjamin Franklin | W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 29 | vs Globe | W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 3 | @ Benjamin Franklin | L, 1-3 |
| Oct. 4 | @ Safford | L, 1-3 |
| Oct. 6 | vs Coolidge | W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 14 | FHS Volleyball Invitational | |
| Oct. 18 | @ Globe | 6 PM |
| Oct. 19 | vs Combs | 6 PM |
| Oct. 25 | @ Coolidge | 6 PM |
| Oct. 27 | vs American Leadership | 6 PM |



STFHS Football

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|------------|
| Aug. 19 | San Manuel | W, 20 – 7 |
| Aug. 26 | @ Many Farms | W, 55 – 32 |
| Sept. 2 | Gilbert Christian | L, 37 – 34 |
| Sept. 16 | Antelope | W, 24 – 20 |
| Sept. 23 | @ Veritas Prep | W, 37 – 14 |
| Sept. 30 | @ Benjamin Franklin | L, 57 – 20 |
| Oct. 14 | Chandler Prep | 7 PM |
| Oct. 21 | @ Scottsdale Prep | 7 PM |
| Oct. 28 | Glendale Prep | 7 PM |



STFHS Volleyball

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--------|
| Aug. 30 | @ Benjamin Franklin | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 1 | @ American Leadership | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 6 | @ Coolidge | L, 2-3 |
| Sept. 7 | vs San Miguel | W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 13 | vs Santa Cruz Valley | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 15 | vs Arete Prep | L, 1-3 |
| Sept. 19 | @ Gilbert Classical | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 20 | @ Leading Edge Acad. | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 22 | vs Gilbert Christian | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 26 | vs AZ College Prep | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 29 | @ Arizona Charter | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 30 | @ Gilbert Christian | L, 0-3 |
| Oct. 3 | @ Arete Prep | L, 2-3 |
| Oct. 4 | vs Gilbert Classical | |
| Oct. 6 | vs Leading Edge Acad. | L, 0-3 |
| Oct. 12 | @ Santa Cruz Valley | L, 0-3 |
| Oct. 20 | @ AZ College Prep | 6 PM |



Schedules *and* Scores

PBHS Football

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aug. 26 | @ Goldwater | W, 40 – 6 |
| Sept. 2 | Independence | W, 45 – 6 |
| Sept. 9 | Glendale | W, 49 – 6 |
| Sept. 16 | @ Vista Grande | L, 27 – 21 |
| Sept. 23 | @ Marana MV | L, 38 – 27 |
| Sept. 30 | Williams Field | L, 42 – 0 |
| Oct. 7 | @ Flowing Wells | L, 24 – 17 (2 OT) |
| Oct. 14 | @ Marana | 7 PM |
| Oct. 21 | Cholla | 7 PM |
| Oct. 28 | Desert View | 7 PM |



PBHS Volleyball

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
| Aug. 30 | @ Casa Grande | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 1 | vs McClintock | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 6 | @ Sierra Linda | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 8 | vs Queen Creek | L, 0-2 |
| Sept. 13 | @ Vista Grande | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 15 | vs Williams Field | L, 0-3 |
| Sept. 22 | vs Flowing Wells | W, 3-2 |
| Sept. 26 | @ Maricopa | L, 2-3 |
| Sept. 27 | vs Desert View | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 29 | @ Cholla Magnet | W, 3-2 |
| Oct. 5 | @ Marana | L, 1-3 |
| Oct. 12 | @ Flowing Wells | W, 3-2 |
| Oct. 14 | FHS Invitational | TBD |
| Oct. 17 | vs Sunnyside | 6 PM |
| Oct. 18 | vs Cholla Magnet | 6 PM |
| Oct. 20 | @ Marana | 6 pm |
| Oct. 24 | @ Desert View | 6 PM |
| Oct. 25 | @ Paradise Valley | 6 PM |



2016 FUSD District Champions



Magma Ranch: 2016 FUSD District Champion-Softball. Skyline Ranch took on undefeated Magma Ranch. It was a great game, but Magma Ranch continued their dominance and won 11-1.



Walker Butte: 2016 FUSD District Champions-Baseball. Magma Ranch took on the undefeated and 2 time district champions, Walker Butte. It was a competitive game but in the end, WALKER BUTTE pulled off a 5-0 win for the three-peat.



Players to Watch

By Andrew Luberda
STVDailyPRSS.com

Prior to the start of the season, I visited

Florence, San Tan Foothills and Poston Butte high schools to preview the currently ongoing football season. In addition to interviewing players and coaches, I wanted to identify who

might be some of the top players on each team. Here's a look at six Gophers, six Sabercats and six Broncos who have contributed to the teams' successes so far under Friday Night Lights.

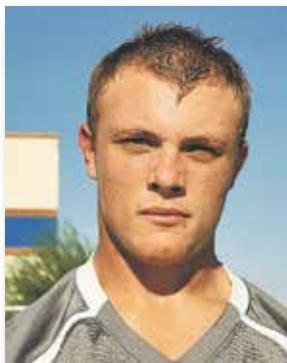
Cameron Cheatem (So), RB/SS – 5'10" 165

The Broncos' two-way, first-year varsity player is playing at a level beyond his years. Despite no previous varsity experience, Cheatem is making significant contributions on offense, defense and special teams this season. He's most valuable as a defender, where he has 26 tackles, including one for a loss. He's also tied for the team lead with two interceptions so far.



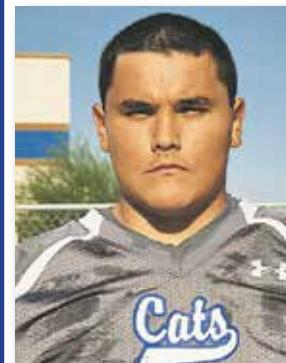
Johnny Craig (Sr), TE/DE – 6'2" 220

Craig is arguably the Sabercats' best all-around player. He has size and strength to match any of the top players in the state. Last year Craig made his biggest impact on defense, where he averaged more than five tackles per game. His three-and-a-half sacks in 2015 were good enough for second on the team. Only 2016 grad Caleb Ortiz (4) had more. Craig will be a two-way starter this season.



Pablo Garcia-Hire (Sr), C – 5'10" 215

Garcia-Hire is new to his San Tan Foothills' teammates, but they're counting on him to play like a varsity veteran. The first-year center will anchor an offensive line that needs to be both strong and fast in Coach Martin's offense. Obviously, the Sabercats' new head coach believes Garcia-Hire is the right man for the most important position along the line.



Cody Lewis (Sr), MLB – 6'1" 210

Lewis is another of several first-year players on the Cats' roster this season. He'll lead the defense for a Sabercats' unit that needs to improve from a year ago, when it surrendered more than 50 points per game in the team's five losses. Even as a newcomer, Lewis' age and maturity figure to make a difference on a defense that can help the Cats live up to some preseason expectations.



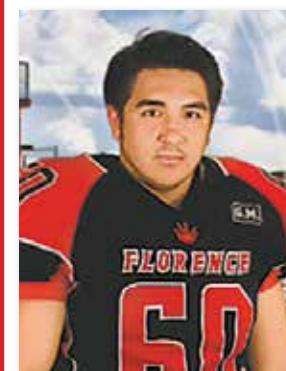
Lucas Machado-Landis (Sr), OL/DL – 5'11" 277

Machado-Landis is a three-year varsity player on the Broncos, where this season he is the anchor of the offensive line. He and his linemates are responsible for the Broncos averaging nearly 310 rushing yards per game. During his three varsity years, Machado-Landis reached the playoffs as a sophomore, experienced a forgettable season a year ago, and is looking to wrap up his final varsity season as his best.



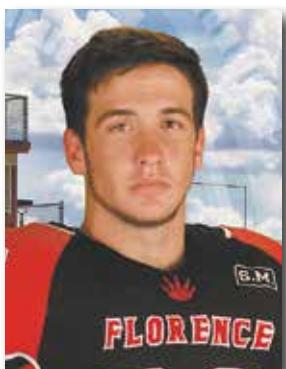
Garrett Mariscal (Sr), C/LB – 5'8" 215

Don't be fooled by this third-year Florence varsity player's height because he definitely plays much bigger, especially on defense. Mariscal is second on the team in tackles (45), sacks (7) and tackles-for-loss (8). As the anchor of the offensive line, Mariscal leads the group of big-nasty's who have paved the way for the Gophers' to put up over 3,000 yards of offense, an average of more than 400 yards per game.



Shelton Mathis (Jr), RB/OLB – 6'0" 185

Mathis made modest contributions on both sides of the ball last season, when he totaled over 400 all-purpose yards. With a varsity season under his belt, Mathis is the man for the Gophers this season. He's rushed for 220 yards and a team-high six touchdowns so far. He's been even better on defense, leading the team with 67 tackles, including 15 tackles-for-loss and a team-high nine sacks.



Oscar Miranda (Jr), OL/LB – 5'11" 175

Like White, Miranda is a second-year varsity player for the Broncos who appeared in four games last season. This year, the undersized offensive lineman is opening holes for the Broncos' stable of running backs. Defensively, he has 16 tackles, including five tackles for loss, which is third-best on the team.



Michael Posey (Sr), WR/Safety – 5'10" 170

Posey enters his first year in the Sabercats' program and he's attracted the attention of new head coach Ritchie Martin and his staff. The first-year Sabercat will play on both sides of the ball this season and despite being one of several new players on the roster, he will provide the type of leadership that generally only a senior can provide.





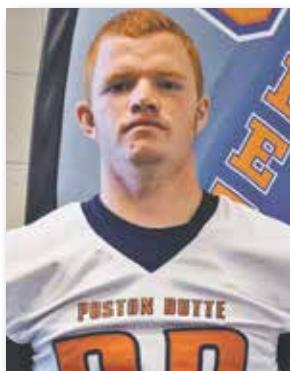
Players to Watch



Players are listed alphabetically by last name.

Jared Riley (Jr), RB/LB – 5'11" 185

Riley is a second-year varsity starter this season after finishing his sophomore season among the top tacklers on the Broncos. His 37 tackles were among the top five on the team and he had a fumble recovery. So far this season Riley's catches-to-touchdown ratio is 1:1. He's an even bigger asset on defense, where he has 37 tackles, including four for loss, two-and-half sacks, and a fumble recovery.



Ramazees Severe (Sr), WR/CB – 6'0" 175

This third-year varsity player is having arguably his best year yet as a Gopher. A quick look at the stat sheet will back up that claim. Severe has scored in just about every way a player can, including two touchdown receptions, three kickoff returns and a punt return. He could've returned any one of his team-high three interceptions for a touchdown as well. His 555 all-purpose yards rank second on the team.



Nolan Susel (Jr), SB/SS – 5'10" 175

Susel is another second-year varsity player who contributed almost exclusively on defense a year ago. This season he's making an impact on both sides of the ball, especially on offense, where he leads the Gophers' rushing attack with 531 yards. His five rushing TD's ranks second on the team. On defense, Susel is picking up where he left off last season with 46 tackles, including one tackle-for-loss.



Larry Tripp (Jr), RB/CB – 5'8" 155

Tripp is another second-year varsity player who appeared in four games a season ago and is a Bronco starter this season. Tripp, a two-way starter, nearly matches Riley with a pass-to-touchdown ratio of 1:1. In addition, Tripp has rushed for 175 yards and two touchdowns, and his 6.3 average yards per rush is currently second on the team. Defensively, he has 34 tackles and a fumble recovery in six games played this season.



Carter White (Jr), RB/TE/LB – 5'11" 195

White is a second-year varsity player for the Broncos after appearing in four games as a sophomore. As a junior this season, he is a leader on the team in every sense of the word, which includes his team-high average of 100 all-purpose yards per game. His five touchdowns are tied for second on the team as are his 397 rushing yards.



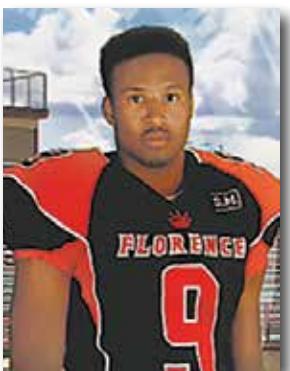
Brandon Williams (Jr), WR – 5'8" 165

Another first-year player at San Tan Foothills, Williams is a multi-sport athlete who Martin is counting on to be a playmaking receiver. Williams has the look of a running back, which could benefit him against weaker defensive backs, especially when he gets in the open field. Sabercats' first-year senior quarterback Danny Herrera will try to get Williams the ball in space and let his athletic ability take over from there.



Joshua Williams (Sr), WR/FS – 6'3" 194

The Gophers' spread the ball around in the passing game with four receivers having 14 receptions or more and Williams leads them all with 23. His team-leading nine touchdown catches are nearly half of his receptions total. In addition to leading the team in receptions and touchdowns, Williams also leads the team with 503 receiving yards.



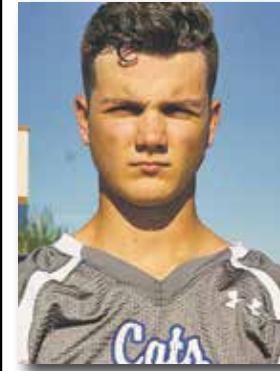
Jared Wood (Jr), QB – 6'3" 195

Wood is the second-year starting signal caller for the Gophers and through seven games so far this season he has six more touchdown passes than he had all of last year – 22 compared to 16. He averages more than 235 yards per game passing and completes nearly 60 percent of his passes.



Devon Ziman (Sr), RB – 6'2" 185

Ziman is not a first-year varsity player, but he may as well be. He was a big part of ex-San Tan Foothills' head coach John Sanders' plans, but things didn't go the way Ziman had hoped and he didn't finish the season. He's back this year, in a familiar starting spot, and shoulders the same expectations under Martin that Sanders had a year ago. Ziman has bought into Martin's program and likely will put up big numbers as a result.



San Tan Foothills' Freund accepts wrestling scholarship

By Andrew Luberda
STVDailyPRSS.com

The Freund family has been associated with the San Tan Foothills' wrestling program for at least the past five years, including two siblings who have had great success at the state level while being coached by their father, Jason.

One of the Freund's has accepted a wrestling scholarship to Oklahoma City University and it's probably not the family member you think it is.

If you know the family, then you won't be surprised to find out that senior Sydney Freund signed her National Letter of Intent during a signing event at San Tan Foothills in August.

That's right, Sydney is a female and she committed to one of the most successful collegiate women's wrestling programs that she says is "the best team in the country."

"It was the first team to actually reach out to me," Sydney said about her decision to sign with OCU. "I went to visit the campus and practiced with the girls. They were all very welcoming and the coaches are awesome."

According to Sydney, women's wrestling programs are increasing in numbers, but most, if not all, are found in smaller schools around the country.

Freund plans to study Ophthalmology at OCU to assist

her pursuit of a career as an Ophthalmologist.

The two-time state wrestling qualifier (a broken hand last year prevented a third-straight state-tournament appearance last year) also finds success in the classroom and at Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) state and national conferences.

This year, Sydney is the Mentor of the school's FBLA organization, a position she likely became accustomed to during her time in the Sabercats' wrestling program.

"Wrestling at San Tan taught me to be a leader," she said. "Our team really relies on the captains for support in and out of our sport."

Freund combines competitiveness, academics and beauty-queen looks, all of which she takes great pride in.

"I like to be proud of myself; who I am, what I do and how I look," she said. "I want to feel positive about myself because it makes me feel better."

Performing well on and off the mat was something Freund knew was necessary in order to fulfill one of her goals.

"I knew I needed good academic scores in addition to wrestling to get into a good college," she told the *STV Daily PRSS*. "It's always been a life goal to do well in both areas to solidify my college career."

And now she has.



San Tan Foothills' Sydney Freund signed her NLI with Oklahoma City University in August. Photo courtesy of Jason Freund.



Sydney Freund (right) with Oklahoma City University Wrestling head coach Matt Stevens (left). Photo courtesy of Jason Freund.

Potential Olympian in our midst!

By Mr. Galish
Sabercat Chronicle

It comes as no surprise to those that know her that San Tan Foothills Senior Wrestler Sydney Freund was offered a scholarship to wrestle for a perennial national powerhouse in college. So, when Oklahoma City University came calling along with their reputation of winning and a tradition of sending their lady wrestlers to World Games and the Olympics. Sydney Freund excitedly accepted their offer, or should we say challenge?.

Head Ladies Wrestling Coach for OCU, Matthew Stevens was pressed on why he chose Sydney. As you might imagine, Coach Stevens is a "to the point" kind of guy and was quick to note that what he loved most of all was that she was tough! He was referring to her academics as much as her athletics. Coach Stevens recognized immediately that Sydney was incredibly bright and courageous. He sees Sydney as a future leader of his program and fully expects her to represent OCU in International Competition.

The Freund family has had quite a run at San Tan Foothills in wrestling. Sydney's brother Dustin "DJ"

lettered all four years as well as making it to state each year and graduating as Valedictorian last year

Her Dad/Coach Jason Freund was particularly instrumental in grooming his daughter. The Freund family has been bleeding Sabercat Blue for many years.

Dad was asked what it was like coaching his daughter and in truth he became emotional. He admires the fact that his daughter "never gives up". Coach Freund recalled a match Sydney had against Florence last year that was an all-out war.

Coach stated, "Even though Sydney came up short on that match, she proved more to me regarding her toughness and character than any win."

Regarding Sydney moving out of state and being on her own for the first time, Coach Freund was confident in the lessons she's learned at home and trusts his daughter.

Sydney is on pace to graduate as Valedictorian. Proving once again that she possess incredible athletic gifts, as well as the work ethic and intelligence to excel in her studies. Sydney aspires to become an Optometrist and there is no doubt she will achieve her dreams of both wrestling in the Olympics and becoming an Optometrist.

For more updates around the district, make sure to visit STVDailyPRSS.com

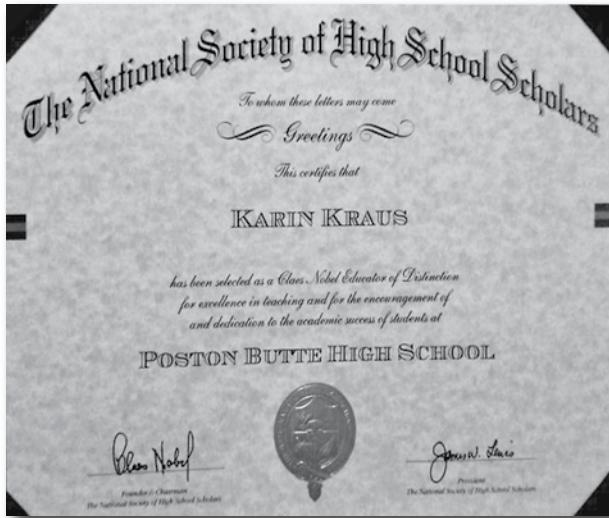
On Facebook: [SanTanValleyDailyPRSS](https://www.facebook.com/SanTanValleyDailyPRSS)

& Twitter: [@STVDailyPRSS](https://twitter.com/STVDailyPRSS)



Poston Butte High School teacher Ms. Kraus honored with national award

Ms. K. Alise Kraus, Poston Butte High School Engineering and Physics Teacher, was awarded her second national teaching award in Washington D.C. in August, 2016. Elias (Samantha) Kossmann, a member of



the National Society of High School Scholars, nominated Ms. Kraus as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction in recognition of her impact as an educator, leader and role model. As a winner, she will now be invited to all Nobel Prize Events in Stockholm, Sweden and opportunities for scholarships to continue her education.

The Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction program is named after Chairman, Claes Nobel, senior member of the family who established the famed Nobel Prize. Ms. Kraus was named a United States Presidential Teacher of Distinction in 2015.

"I am greatly honored to have received my National Awards, but what makes it truly wonderful, in both cases, was unknowingly being nominated by students," said Kraus. "I love coming to work each day. Teaching is a gift, every day is a mixture of emotions but if I can inspire a student to be the best they can be then everyday ends with a smile."

"The Florence Unified School District is grateful for the dedication of so many teachers who go above and beyond for their students," said FUSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "We have a number of high quality educators at all of our schools and commend Ms. Alise Kraus for being recognized for this much deserved national honor."



PBHS teacher Alise Kraus was nominated for a national award by her students.

Principal's Corner: Interviewing Dr. Richard

By Camille McKillip
Sabercat Chronicle

This summer San Tan Foothills High School reopened under Florence Unified School District and Dr. Tim Richard was hired as the new principal. He has had a lot of experience in different communities and school districts and I wanted to get to know more about what his plans and ideas are to make San Tan Foothills "A Place For Greatness". So I sat down and asked him a series of questions to get to know more about him and his experiences.

When I sat down with Dr. Richard, I first wanted to know what inspired him to become a principal. He told me when he was a teacher at one of his first schools, he really wanted to be able to put a proper system in place to get students and teachers excited to be at school, because he thought "there has to be a better way to do this."

Then I was very curious to know what his thoughts were on reopening San Tan Foothills. He was excited that he was able to be apart of it since he knew their were a lot of great kids here.

Then I asked him, "How did being the principal at Poston Butte High School help prepare him become the principal here at San Tan Foothills?" He replied that understanding the community was the most beneficial since he got know the kind of people who

lived here.

Then I asked "What is your favorite part of the day?" He says being on lunch duty in the cafeteria so he can interact with all the students which is great since



Dr. Tim Richard

he loves getting to know everyone. He wants his students to remember that he was fair and positive.

Finally I asked a frequently asked question, "Where did the slogan "A Place for Greatness" come from?" His answer was simply because he wanted to give everyone the promise that they could come to this place to be great.

I had a great time interviewing Dr. Richard and I look forward to seeing what he does to make this school "A Place for Greatness."

**FUSD
High School
Blood Drives**

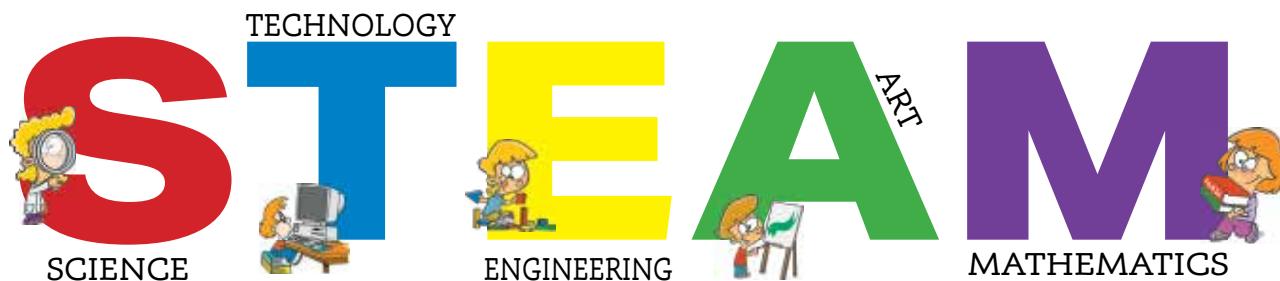
During the 2015-16 school year, FUSD high schools hosted 9 blood drives which resulted in 584 blood donations. Please contact your local high school today to make a difference!

Florence High School
Friday, October 28th
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Contact: llong@fusdaz.org

San Tan Foothills High School
Thursday, November 3rd
7:00AM to 12 PM
Contact: tpruitt@fusdaz.org

Poston Butte High School
Thursday, December 1st
7:30 AM- 12 PM
Contact: sfonzo@fusdaz.org

Partner with
United Blood Service



PREP ACADEMY

Florence Unified School District

- **\$50 Annual Registration Fee**
- **Now Enrolling Infants 6 weeks of age & older**
- **Camps for School Age Children**
- **Second Sibling Receives 10% off Tuition**
- **Open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
- **Drop In Rates \$35/Day (Preschool, K-Prep & School Age Students Daily)**
- **Kids Club: Before & After School Care K-8 at Magma Ranch, Skyline Ranch, Copper Basin, Circle Cross, Walker Butte & San Tan Heights**

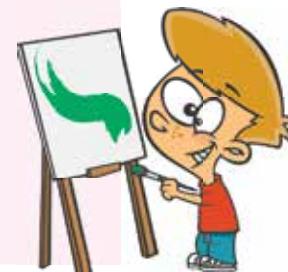


- **Kids Club Intersession Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter Break \$125 Weekly**

CLIP NOW & SAVE

Register before the end of October for STEAM, AM/PM care and the annual registration fee will be waived.

(A \$50 value)



480-987-5370 or 480-987-5385

Call Today to Arrange a Tour or to Obtain Enrollment Form!

29895 N. Desert Willow Blvd., San Tan Valley