

# FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED School District NEWSLETTER

July 2022

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled at Killip Elementary School on August 9

July 29, 2022

Killip Elementary School is celebrating the opening of its brand-new building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, a day before school begins. The ceremony will take place at the school's front entrance located at 2300 E. 6th Ave., and it will be followed by tours of the new building.

Joe Gutierrez, principal of Killip Elementary, is excited to present the new building to the community.

"It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to provide the W.F. Killip Elementary School Community with a state-of-the-art educational facility. We are committed to providing our students with a STEM Integrated Curriculum as we prepare them for the next generation," said



Gutierrez. "We would like to thank the community of Flagstaff for prioritizing education in our city."

The new facility replaces the previous building which was more than 60 years old, a facility that lacked community spaces, adequate

instructional spaces, and modern building systems. The new multi-functional school is designed by DLR Group and built by CORE

*Continued on page 2 /  
Ribbon Cutting*

*Construction workers, landscaping crews, painters, teachers, and staff are working diligently to complete the facility for the first day of school scheduled on August 10, 2022. (Photo by Killip Elementary School)*

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## Sinagua Middle School authorized as IB World School

July 20, 2022

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) designated Sinagua Middle School as an authorized IB World School for the Middle Years Programme on July 11, 2022, following the school's multi-year application process for the rigorous program that empowers students in their academic journey.

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, director general for the IB, congratulated Sinagua Middle School on their accomplishment.

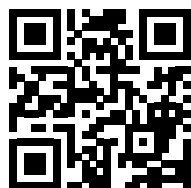
"As an IB World School offering the MYP, [Sinagua Middle School] is part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully and make contributions resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world," said Heinonen. "We commend your school's educators, administrators, students, and families for their active roles in choosing to offer the MYP. The positive results of this choice will become evident in your community as classes of MYP students graduate and undertake activities that enhance social, cultural, and economic environments locally, nationally, and perhaps, internationally."

According to the IBO's website,



it is a global leader in international education, developing inquiring, knowledgeable, confident, and caring, young people. Their programs empower school-aged students to take ownership of their learning and help them to develop future-ready skills, make a difference, and thrive in a world that changes fast.

Other IB schools within Flagstaff Unified School District include Coconino High School and Puente de Hózhó. You can learn more about FUSD's IB schools at [www.fusd1.org/IB](http://www.fusd1.org/IB). 🌲



### ...Ribbon Cutting / From Page 1

Construction to serve students and the surrounding community for decades to come. The flexible design adapts to fit current and future learning styles, it allows learning to occur anywhere and everywhere and provides spaces for community use throughout the year.

The facility is arranged in a pinwheel configuration, it features three multi-age learning pods for grades Pre-K through 5th grade around a central commons area. The pods include a variety of spaces to encourage both individual and team learning, such as creation stations for collaboration, quiet zones, traditional classrooms, and presentation platforms to share student projects. The heart of the school is the creative commons, where learners come together for reading, research, arts, music, and science.

"Our design fosters academic success and emotional growth through modulated levels of transparency and multi-age interaction among students in the learning pods, the Creative Commons, and the shared cafeteria

and gym," said David Schmidt, DLR Group Principal and LEED AP. "We blended spaces inside and out to allow learning to occur everywhere and the site became an integral component. The entire campus, site, gardens, and structure are designed to be a community asset to support the Sunnyside neighborhood and strengthen relevancy in education."

"It's so great to see the Flagstaff community say, 'Yes. We want to invest in our children's education and in our future leaders,'" said Tara Zika, director of business strategy for CORE Construction. "And then to see that beautiful vision become a tangible thing — one that will positively impact the learning environment for the next generation of students — it's inspiring. We are beyond grateful to be part of it."

The school construction project was funded through the 2018 voter-approved bond measure. Killip's prime location at the corner of 6th Avenue and 3rd Street positions it as a community asset and it frames incredible views of Mt. Elden.





# FUSD awarded for outstanding financial reporting

July 15, 2022

Flagstaff Unified School District #1 was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) on July 28, 2022, by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

ASBO recognizes school districts that have met the program's high standards of financial reporting and transparency, and FUSD earned the recognition for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year 2021.

"The COE's mission is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting," stated David Lewis, executive director of ASBO International. "The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report informs stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community."

Susan G. Lambert, manager of Recognition Programs, also commended FUSD.

"Congratulations on receiving ASBO

Internationals' Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award," stated Lambert. "Your participation in the COE program is a testament to your district's commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting."

FUSD Superintendent Michael A. Penca appreciates the work of the FUSD Finance team.

"The Flagstaff Unified School District is proud to have earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting again this year and appreciative of the efforts of Ginger Stevens, Director of Finance and Business Services, and her team to maintain accuracy and transparency in our reporting," he said.

By participating in the COE program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency. Applicants submit their ACFR for review by a team of financial professionals who provide feedback to improve future documents. If the report meets the requirements of the program, it may receive the Certificate of Excellence. A district's participation in the COE program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure



*Ginger Stevens, director of FUSD Finance and Business Services, poses with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting with some members of her team. Pictured from left to right: Angie Goodrich, Ginger Stevens, Jan Dufek, Theresa Ruiz, Carrie Crowther, Linda Romero, and Christy Davis.*

processes.

ASBO International was founded in 1910, it is a nonprofit organization representing nearly 30,000 school business professionals worldwide. The organization is committed to providing programs, services, and a global network that promotes the highest standards in school business.

Its members support student achievement through effective resource management in various areas ranging from finance and operations to food services and transportation.

The COE is proudly sponsored by ASBO International Strategic Partner American Fidelity.



# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

## Wednesday, August 10, 2022

[www.fusd1.org](http://www.fusd1.org)

[www.fusd1.org](http://www.fusd1.org)



# FOOD SERVICE UPDATE



## Food Service Meal Program for the 2022-2023 School Year

July 13, 2022

As you are aware, schools have been able to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to students during the 2021-2022 school year. This was made possible thanks to the generous support of the USDA reimbursing schools for meals served to students, regardless of income.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are federal programs. Due to changes at the federal level, we will no longer be able to offer school meals at no charge for all students during the school year 2022-2023, as was the case for the 2021-2022 school year.

For the school year 2022-2023, we are requesting that families complete and submit the Free and Reduced-Price Household Application by September 1, 2022, if they believe their student(s) are eligible.

The online meal application will be available as of July 20, 2022 and can be found at <http://fusd1.schoollunchapp.com>

or on the FUSD website ([www.fusd1.org](http://www.fusd1.org)) in the Food Service department area.

We do have five schools still on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), including Killip Elementary School, Kinsey Elementary School, Leupp Public School, Summit High School, and Thomas Elementary School. Because students attending these five CEP schools will continue to receive school meals at no cost, there is no need to apply for meal benefits for students registered at these specific schools. (If/when students change to a non-CEP school, they will need to apply for meal benefits at that time.)

We encourage all parents/guardians to prepay and make school meal payments online. Please visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). There is no fee to add money to your student's account. You will need your student's "FUSD student ID number" (which you can get from the school office) in order to set up an account with My School Bucks. You will then be able to keep an eye on the

account and set up regular payments.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. We look forward to supporting your child(ren) during the coming school year. 🌲

*In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.*

*Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.*

*To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:*

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

# FUSD participating in School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program for SY 2022-2023

July 20, 2022

The Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) is participating in the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program.

As part of the program, FUSD will offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast will cost \$1.85 at all FUSD schools and lunch will cost \$3.20 for elementary schools and \$3.30 for middle and high schools. Students may qualify for free or reduced-price meals: reduced-price meals cost .30 for breakfast and .40 for lunch.

The qualifications for children to receive free or reduced-price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal income Eligibility Guideline chart, see Figure 1.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application online at <http://fUSD1.schoolnlunchapp.com> unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals for the 2022-2023 school year. Application forms are also available at the FUSD Food Service office located at 3285 E. Sparrow Avenue in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during

**Figure 1: Federal Eligibility Income Chart for School Year 2022-2023**

Household Size	FREE			REDUCED-PRICE		
	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$17,667	\$1,473	\$340	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$484
2	\$23,823	\$1,984	\$458	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$652
3	\$29,939	\$2,495	\$576	\$42,606	\$3,551	\$820
4	\$36,075	\$3,007	\$694	\$51,338	\$4,279	\$988
5	\$42,211	\$3,518	\$812	\$60,070	\$5,006	\$1,156
6	\$48,347	\$4,029	\$930	\$68,802	\$5,734	\$1,324
7	\$54,483	\$4,541	\$1,048	\$77,534	\$6,462	\$1,492
8	\$60,619	\$5,052	\$1,166	\$86,266	\$7,189	\$1,659
Each additional person:	\$6,136	\$512	\$118	\$8,732	\$728	\$168

the school year by program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact Leslie Nichols at (928) 527-6094 or [lnichols@fUSD1.org](mailto:lnichols@fUSD1.org) at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Leslie Nichols will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining

official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Justin DiNardi at (928) 527-6010 or [jdinardi@fUSD1.org](mailto:jdinardi@fUSD1.org).

When known to FUSD, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the state program meets Federal standards.

An application may not be required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all of the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact Leslie Nichols, at (928) 527-6094 to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and

Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to FUSD, households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible," because the child is categorized, as defined by law as foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact Leslie Nichols at (928) 527- 6094 about their eligibility through the list above or should submit an income application. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

For more information, you may call Leslie Nichols at (928) 527-6094 or e-mail at [lnichols@fUSD1.org](mailto:lnichols@fUSD1.org).



## Flagstaff High School celebrating a 100-year anniversary, planning activities

July 18, 2022

Flagstaff High School is celebrating its 100th year anniversary and is calling all present and former alumni and community members to help celebrate.

Flagstaff High School (FHS) officially opened its doors on September 10, 1923, leaving its first graduating class to commence in June 1923.

Libby Miller, principal of FHS, explained a diverse committee of school and community members has begun planning multiple events that will honor and celebrate Flagstaff High School's rich history of academics, culture, athletics, and the arts throughout the upcoming year.

"[The committee] is calling upon the community for financial support, historical knowledge, and hands-on support to be able to celebrate one century of learning while visioning for the next," Miller said.

As for financial support, the committee's goal is to raise \$40,000 to be able to commemorate the occasion with t-shirts, banners, brochures, and events, such as a community birthday party, alumni activities, adult prom, and more. Further ideas are welcome.

There are several sponsorship levels for financial support. Level 1 is up to \$50 and the sponsor will receive an FHS sticker; Level 2 is \$51 to \$499 and the sponsor will receive an FHS sticker and t-shirt; and Level 3 is \$500 or more and the sponsor will receive a permanent brick with their name engraved and installed on the FHS campus, along with an FHS sticker and t-shirt. The link to the giving page is: <https://az-flagstaff-lite.intouchrecepting.com/FHS100Year>

The committee is also searching for historical knowledge. If you

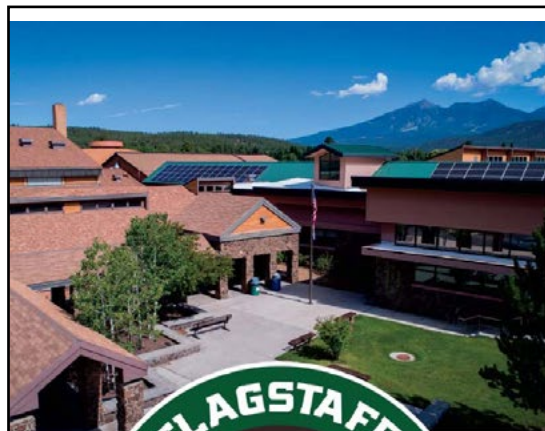
know of alumni to FHS or anyone with knowledge of poignant events or know of something or someone that should be recognized during the celebrations, please provide information to the committee by accessing this link: <https://bit.ly/3oMFCEk>

Miller explained ideas for commemorations thus far include: acknowledgment of FHS history and alumni at various athletic and cultural events; embedding FHS history into our existing cultural months

celebrated schoolwide — such as Native American, Hispanic, and Black History months; and hosting an all-alumni event including an FHS tour, adult prom, and other activities.

The committee is actively recruiting volunteers for hands-on support. If you are willing to lead or participate in one of the many events planned, please contact the committee. You may contact Jeannine Brandel at [jbrandel@fUSD1.org](mailto:jbrandel@fUSD1.org) for information. 🌲

**Scan Code to submit  
your historical  
knowledge:**



*“Once an Eagle,  
always an Eagle!”*

### FLAGSTAFF HIGH SCHOOL Celebrates its 100 Year Anniversary!

This year, we celebrate Flagstaff High School's 100th year. We would like to commemorate the occasion with t-shirts, banners, brochures, and special events. Events planned thus far include a community birthday party, adult prom, alumni gatherings, and more! (*Ideas are welcome!*)

***Our goal is to raise at least \$40,000 to celebrate.***

If you would like to help sponsor of this event, please consider the sponsorship levels below.

#### **Sponsorship levels:**

- **Level 1:** Up to \$50 – Receives FHS sticker
- **Level 2:** \$51 to \$499 – Receives FHS sticker and t-shirt
- **Level 3:** \$500 or more – Receives permanent brick with name engraved and installed on the FHS campus, sticker, and t-shirt



**Scan the QR Code or  
visit [bit.ly/fhs100year](https://bit.ly/fhs100year)  
to donate!**

Thank you in advance for all of your support.



Dr. Lance Huffman

## Some new members to #TeamFUSD

**Dr. Lance Huffman** is the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at Flagstaff Unified School District #1 (FUSD). Dr. Huffman fills the role of former Assistant Superintendent Mary K. Walton who retired last school year.

Huffman received his Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Harvard University, he also earned a master's in Administration from the University of Phoenix, and his bachelor's in History Education from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He previously worked as Director of Continuous Improvement at the Sonoma County Office of Education, as Director of Teaching and Learning at Bellingham Public Schools, as principal at Scottsdale Unified School District, and as assistant principal at Madison Elementary School District.

**Justin DiNardi** is also new to FUSD, he serves as the Director of Operations for the school district.

DiNardi fills the role of former Assistant Superintendent Bob Kuhn who retired last school year. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University (NAU). He previously served as the Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance at NAU. He also previously worked as a Project Manager of Operations, Moving and Recycling Coordinator, and crew supervisor at NAU. He also serves as the board chairman of Coconino County Search and Rescue and is part of the Mountain Rescue Association.



Justin DiNardi



Alisha Mihoda



## Updated COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for SY 2022-2023 available online

The FUSD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for School Year 2022-2023 was revised on July 12, 2022. The plan is available at [https://www.fusd1.org/cms/lib/AZ01001113/Centricity/Domain/2260/2022-2023%20FUSD%20COVID-19%20Mitigation%20Plan\\_rev\\_071222.pdf](https://www.fusd1.org/cms/lib/AZ01001113/Centricity/Domain/2260/2022-2023%20FUSD%20COVID-19%20Mitigation%20Plan_rev_071222.pdf)

You can also scan the bar code here to access the Mitigation Plan.



**Alisha Mihoda** is the new Exceptional Student Services Coordinator at FUSD. Mihoda explained she attended FUSD years ago, she attended Sechrist Elementary School, Mount Elden Middle School, and graduated from Coconino High School. She continued her education and obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Mihoda has worked for FUSD for 14-plus years in a number of

different roles including special education paraprofessional, a gifted teacher, a resource teacher for elementary and secondary, a 4/5 Multiage teacher, and a program specialist. She also served on various committees throughout the school district, she is also a restorative practice trainer, and is in the final months of completing the National Institute for School Leaders. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys who are FUSD students.





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(928) 527-6000  
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## ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL PENCA  
Superintendent

LANCE HUFFMAN  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

JUSTIN DiNARDI  
Director of Operations

## SCHOOL BOARD

CAROL HADEN  
President

DOROTHY  
DENETSOSIE GISHIE  
Clerk

ANNE DUNNO  
Member

CHRISTINE FREDERICKS  
Member

CAROLE GILMORE  
Member

## CONTACT

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