



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED
School District

NEWSLETTER

August 2023

The First Day of School 2023-2024

Welcome
BACK
TO
SCHOOL

August 9, 2023

Nearly 9,000 students in grades K-12 returned to school on August 9, 2023, at Flagstaff Unified School District.

Students and staff were eager to return and kick off the new school year.

Thank you to all FUSD families and staff who made the First Day of School an amazing day. 🌲



View more
photos on
flickr
Scan the
QR Code



IN THIS ISSUE



Malkhassian, finalist for Arizona Teacher of the Year... Page 2



Camp IWANNAGO concludes successful summer... Page 4



CHS Interior Design Team compete in Denver... Page 6



Superintendent's Message

I am excited and honored to welcome our students and families to the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you for choosing the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD)! I am grateful you have selected FUSD, and I am eager for our families and students to partner with the dedicated educators and staff who will be sharing their talents and expertise to create inspiring, inclusive, and supportive learning communities and provide the services needed for students' growth and success.

In addition to guiding students' understanding of essential learning outcomes and providing pathways for them to discover their interests, FUSD will provide intentional focus on developing key skills that our community has identified as needed for students to succeed in FUSD and beyond in this rapidly changing and complex world. These skills are Critical Thinking, Communication,

Empathy, Initiative, and Resilience. Throughout this school year, I will be highlighting and making connections to the ways FUSD students and staff are developing these important skills.

FUSD values the trust families place in our staff when sending their children to school each day and will continually refine our procedures to prioritize the health and safety of all those in our schools. All members of our communities play a critical role in the lives of our children, and we ask for your active support and help in keeping them safe.

I look forward to connecting with you and sharing in the successes of the Flagstaff Unified School District's 2023-2024 school year.

Sincerely,

Michael Penca
Superintendent



WATCH VIDEO

SCAN ME!

Kathleen Malkhassian, finalist for Arizona Teacher of the Year

August 24, 2023

Kathleen Malkhassian, a 4th-grade teacher at Thomas Elementary School, was named one of five finalists for the 2024 Arizona Teacher of the Year award by the Arizona Educational Foundation (FEA).

The AEF stated that its Teacher of the Year program is the state's highest honor bestowed upon Arizona's public school teachers. The annual Teacher of the Year program is the premier event of the AEF, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to spotlighting and championing the exceptional work of public schools.

The AEF also explained that any certified full-time teacher working in an Arizona state-accredited public school or a Bureau of Indian Education school is eligible for nomination. Teachers can be nominated by a student, colleague, administrator, family member, or friend, and they can also self-nominate themselves.

The AEF states the prize package for the Arizona Teacher of the Year includes \$15,000 from the AEF and travel paid to attend several National Teacher of the Year events, including a trip to the White House to meet the U.S. President and a weeklong trip to the International Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The winner is also considered for an honorary doctorate from Northern Arizona University.

Malkhassian mentioned that Ginni Biggs, former principal of Thomas



Elementary School, nominated her.

"Out of 252 nominees, I went through three rounds and was selected as one of the top five finalists. I am completely humbled and honored to be nominated and [to] make it this far in the process," said Malkhassian. "Teaching is a team effort, and I am incredibly lucky to work with such outstanding educators and students at Thomas Elementary School. I am thankful for the opportunities FUSD has provided to help me grow as an educator."

Superintendent Michael Penca commended Malkhassian.

"Congratulations on your selection

**Continued on page 5 /
Malkhassian**

ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL PENCA
Superintendent

LANCE HUFFMAN
*Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum & Instruction*

GOVERNING BOARD

DOROTHY
DENETSOSIE GISHIE
President

CHRISTINE FREDERICKS
Clerk

KRISTINE PAVLIK
Member

CAROLE GILMORE
Member

ERIK SATHER
Member

CONTACT

FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
3285 East Sparrow Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

(928) 527-6000 | www.fusd1.org



Kate Haynes



Sarah Gurley

Kate Haynes, Sarah Gurley nominated for Four Peaks Teacher of the Year Award

August 16, 2023

Two Flagstaff Unified School District teachers, Kate Haynes and Sarah Gurley, were nominated for the Four Peaks Teacher of the Year Award recently.

The teachers were named 2023 Four Peaks for Teachers grant recipients, receiving \$1,000 cash grants to supply their classrooms further.

Four Peaks also mentioned that one lucky educator will win an additional \$3,000 and a teachers' lounge makeover for their respective school this year. Community members voted for the teacher they thought should win the ultimate prize by liking their post on the Four Peaks Instagram feed. The

teacher with the most "likes" won, and voting ended on August 18, 2023, and the winner was not known by the publishing date.

The best part of my journey has been building foundations for joyful learning with amazing students and families

— Kate Haynes

Kate is a special education pre-K teacher at Knoles Elementary School.

"Her tireless efforts to ensure her students have the best learning opportunities make her stand out," stated Four Peaks. "From applying for grants to updating playground equipment, Kate leaves no stone unturned."

"The best part of my journey has been building foundations for joyful learning with

Continued on page 7 / Four Peaks Teacher of the Year

FUSD students participate in successful summer internship with the City of Flagstaff

August 1, 2023

Two Flagstaff Unified School District students participated in a successful summer internship program with the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), which partners with FUSD for career exploration and development.

Patti Pastor, Career Exploration Coordinator at FUSD, explained she was able to offer the internship to students through their partnership with CFA.

"One of my former students who I knew was interested in sustainability stepped up to the plate to tackle this issue with a couple of other students statewide," Pastor said.

The interns included Flagstaff High School senior Halen Lemmer and another student from Coconino High School. The interns worked on the Carbon Neutrality Project with the City of Flagstaff's Sustainability Department.

The Work-Based Learning Alliance, or WBLA, thanked the interns for sharing their amazing work at the virtual showcase.

"WBLA [expresses] our heartfelt appreciation to all of the mentors and attendees," they said. "[Their] presence and active participation truly made the showcase a resounding success."

Pastor explained that the internship program was a different model compared to a traditional internship.

"Our grant pays the students, it's 100% virtual, and it doesn't require a huge investment of time on the employer's side," she said. "However, we found successful outcomes for both employers and students."

Pastor said interns work in teams of five to seven to deliver a project to provide insights and solutions

to a real challenge for employers. Employers act as mentors to their assigned teams by meeting with them virtually one to two hours per week for updates, guidance, and direction as needed. The two summer cohorts of internships last 100 hours each and begin in June or July, and students are paid by a program grant.

"Our national partner, WBLA, will work with the business to help design a project. Many projects are created in under one hour. Previous projects had students working on supply chain analysis, market research, and social media strategies," she said. "Students will be juniors and seniors in high school. Some students will likely be from the Flagstaff area, and others from across the state. We aim to match students to their interests and to the region of the state where they live, if possible."

Pastor added students are not required to have access to any databases or sensitive information, and all work is submitted via a virtual internship platform.

"I love to think of the internships as a way for us to have young people serve as consultants to local organizations and businesses," said Pastor. "[FUSD] will have the opportunity this year for four internships throughout the year. It's a great way to see FUSD students researching, collaborating with other school districts, and using their professional skills to solve problems."





Camp IWANNAGO concludes another successful summer program

August 21, 2023

The Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) concluded another successful Camp IWANNAGO, which is also known as the Summer FACTS Program.

Kyle Christian, coordinator of the FACTS Program at FUSD, explained the camp is staffed by the FACTS Program and they take 5- to 12-year-old students in Flagstaff.

"Students are grouped by their upcoming fall grade level and we plan a variety of age-appropriate activities, field trips, and various community trip events," he said. "In recent years, we've had families and children who visit Flagstaff and decide to have their kids attend the program."

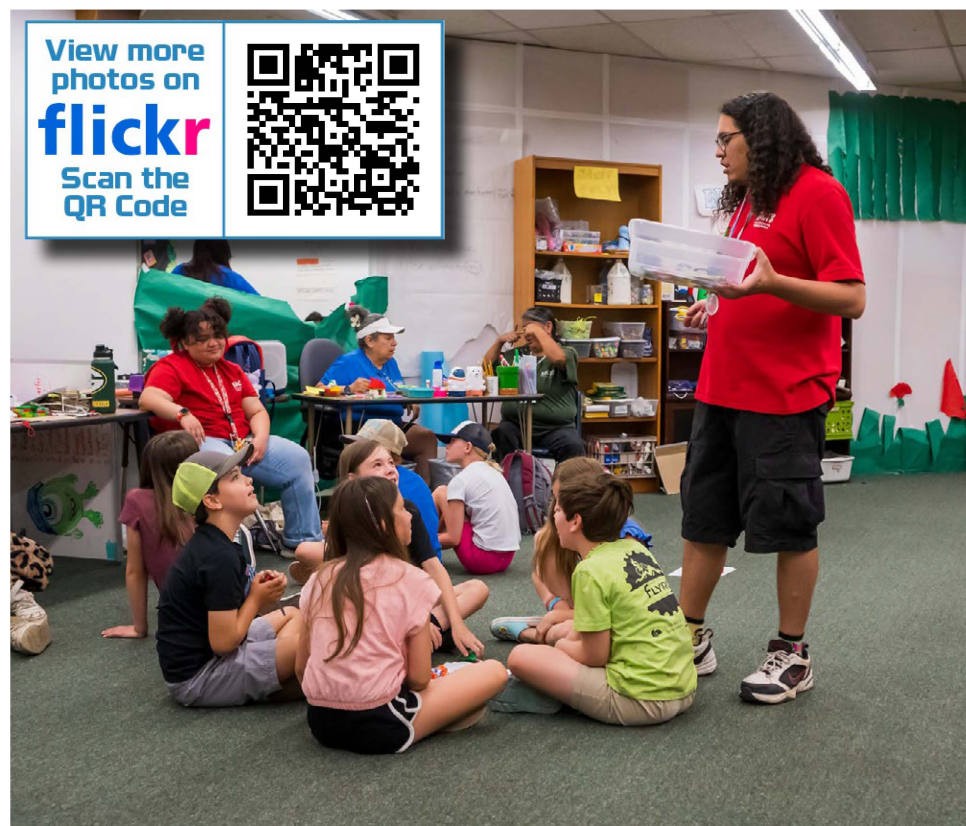
The camp offers a swimming program at a local FUSD pool.

"We've offered swimming lessons

in the past and often have a trip to the Aquaplex," he added. "Additional field trips include trips to local and state agencies and companies like the Flagstaff/Coconino Public Library, the Grand Canyon, the Museum of Northern Arizona, local stores and shops, downtown Flagstaff, hiking trips along Mt. Elden and local forests, and a middle school camping trip."

The camp's summer program hours were from 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday during the months of June and July.

"FACTS exists to provide safe, enriching, and fun learning opportunities for students who do not always have adult supervision at home," said Christian. "We exist to provide support in the out-of-school times as much as possible to ensure student safety." 🌲



FUSD's CTE Program has a new logo

August 4, 2023

Flagstaff Unified School District's College and Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) has a new logo thanks to Mia Perez, a 2023 graduate of Flagstaff High School, who designed the winning creation, and who is now attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) studying entertainment engineering and design.

Tom Safranek, the director of College and Career Development at Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD), explained that the CTE Department now has an official branding package for district and campus use.

"[The logo] has two orientations, horizontal and vertical, two text colors of black and white, and the text and logo can be separated and used each alone for specific types of applications that may require it," he said.

The new logo can be used on program-specific apparel, like t-shirts and promotional items.

"CTE is a different animal in numerous respects than other departments, programs, and elements of a school district. Many CTE departments in other districts have their own branding that can be used for myriad applications, such as recruiting materials, public-facing communications, and department swag," said Safranek. "Among other things, this helps call attention to the world of CTE that can too often be lost in the shuffle of everything else going on in a school or [school] district. CTE is the answer to the question, and formal branding helps keep it visible in a recognized and professional way."

Safranek explained that the idea for the CTE logo began in the early spring of 2022 when he approached FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca about creating a department



Mia Perez

branding package.

"With his approval, we began to work with Madison Pompeo in the Communications and Public Relations Department on the idea," he said. "We worked with Mrs. Quick to provide this as an opportunity for her upper-level class, which they eagerly embraced."

There were 12 logo designs submitted and a selection group picked one that was moved forward.

"We were very impressed with one in particular, so we conducted a follow-up [or] client meeting with the student, Mia Perez, to present a few refinements and variations," said Safranek. "We received the revised design [and] we believe the winning design exceeded our expectations. I believe the logo is much better than many professionally designed ones I have seen other [school] districts use."

A branding guide was also



CTE | FUSD
Education That Works | Career & Technical Education



CTE | FUSD
Education That Works | Career & Technical Education

developed with help from the FUSD Communications Department.

"Please join me in celebrating the wonderful logo for our department," added Safranek. "[This is] further proof that CTE provides students with concrete skills that will serve them well in life as they move beyond our classrooms, labs, and shops." 🌲

...Malkhassian/ From Page 2

as [a] candidate for Arizona Teacher of the Year," said Penca. "We are grateful for your service to Thomas Elementary School and FUSD, and we are rooting for you in this process."

The awards ceremony is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on October 14, 2023, at the Madison Center for the Arts in Phoenix. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.azedfoundation.org/teachersrock>. 🌲



Coconino High School's Interior Design Team fared well at national leadership conference

August 1, 2023

Congratulations to the Interior Design Team of Coconino High School! In July, the team participated in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America's (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Laura Locke, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Coconino High School said the team had a great time at the conference.

"We had a wonderful time meeting FCCLA members from all over the country, attending general sessions,

and representing the state of Arizona in the Interior Design STAR event," she said.

Locke said 12th Graders, Jatzia Narvaez and Kendyl Adams, presented their innovative design for a youth recreation and counseling center to the judges at the conference, and they advanced into the top 10 national finalists category.

"Even though they did not make the top three and take the podium during the recognition session, they still received gold medals for their high score," Locke said.

"Thank you for all of your support

for our students in the Interior Design program at CHS and all our Career and Technical Education programs!" she said. "Jatzie and Kendyl are looking forward to taking the podium next year in Seattle, Washington."

"Congratulations to the CHS Interior Design Team! Thank you for supporting their success," said Michael Penca, superintendent of Flagstaff Unified School District.

"Congratulations to the design team!" said CHS Principal Tadd Ragan. "I am looking forward to continued growth this coming school

year."

According to their website, the FCCLA is a national Career and Technical Student Organization for students in Family and Consumer Sciences education in public and private schools through grade 12. FCCLA offers intra-curricular resources and opportunities for students to pursue careers that support families. More than 235,000 student members are active in over 4,900 chapters across 46 states. 🌲



Indian Education Committee

2023-2024 IEC Meeting Schedule

5:30 — 7 PM

FUSD Board Room | 3285 East Sparrow Avenue

zoom LINK:
<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/81842993469>
Meeting ID: 818 4299 3469
Call: 1 669 444 9171

*Come
Join Us!*

August 14, 2023
September 18, 2023
October 09, 2023
November 13, 2023
December 11, 2023

January 8, 2024
February 12, 2023
March 11, 2024
April 8, 2024
May 13, 2024

The IEC's purpose is to plan for the development of programs designed to meet the specialized and unique educational needs of eligible Native American students.

Be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the JOM program.



WWW.FUSD1.ORG/NAESP

The NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

invites you to a four-part engagement and empowerment training sessions provided by SunClan Consulting.



The Power of Family Engagement

Here's what parents/guardians of Native American students will gain from the training sessions: tools to be more involved in their children's education, confidence advocating for services for their children via federal program, learn how to contribute to cultural events at school, and understand how to contribute to culturally related activities in their children's schools.

Session 1:
"How to be an Effective
Indian Education Committee (IEC)"
August 17, 2023
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Mount Elden Middle School (MEMS) Dome
<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/85745968976>

Session 2:
"How to work with Staff to incorporate
Culture into the Curriculum"
September 28, 2023
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Family Resource Center
<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/85745968976>

Session 3:
"How to Prepare your Children
for a College Education"
October 26, 2023
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Family Resource Center
<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/85745968976>

Session 4:
"How to Advocate for
Services for your Children"
November 2, 2023
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Family Resource Center
<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/85745968976>



Visit our website for more program info: www.fusd1.org/naesp



...Four Peaks Teacher of the Year/ From Page 3

amazing students and families," Kate said.

Sarah is a special education teacher at Flagstaff High School.

"Sarah's love for her students, along with her efforts to make education exciting for each one of them, sets her apart," Four Peaks

stated.

"Watching students, especially those with special needs, grow and persevere is incredibly rewarding," Sarah said.

"Their commitment to shaping young minds and empowering the next generation is an inspiration to not only us but the community as a whole," stated Four Peaks in their announcement of the nominees. 🌟

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Frank Alvillar Jr.

Frank Alvillar Jr., Teacher on Assignment at Flagstaff High School

Frank Alvillar Jr. is a Teacher on Assignment serving on the administrative team at Flagstaff High School. He is no stranger to FHS and has taught several classes there since 2017, including AP U.S. Government, U.S. History, Economics, and PLATO. He has also served as a wrestling coach at FHS since 2019.

Before joining the FHS team, he taught social studies and world history for several years at Baboquivari Unified School District in Sells, Arizona.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in History and a Master's degree in Education from Northern Arizona University. As a Teacher on Assignment, he will be responsible for administrative duties for safety,



Bob Kuhn

discipline, and restorative practices at FHS.

Bob Kuhn, interim assistant principal at Coconino High School

Bob Kuhn is currently serving as an interim assistant principal at Coconino High School. He returned to Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) after retirement after a long career in education. He last served as the Assistant Superintendent of Operations from 2007 to 2022.

Before serving as the FUSD Assistant Superintendent, he was a middle school principal, high school principal, assistant principal, energy/construction manager, and a teacher.

Kuhn holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Supervision, a post-baccalaureate teaching certificate, and a Master's degree in Educational



Trisha Eberlein

Leadership all from Northern Arizona University.

Trisha Eberlein, new principal at Summit High School

Trisha Eberlein is the new principal at Summit High School. She was previously an assistant principal at Flagstaff High School and has worked for Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) for nine years.

She explained that she is from Flagstaff, Arizona. She attended Christensen Elementary School, Knoles Elementary School, East Flagstaff Middle School, and Sinagua High School.

Before coming to FUSD, she worked at Dysart Unified School District, where she mainly taught before becoming a school administrator. She holds a Master of



Kathy Figueroa

Arts in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

In her new role, she is responsible for planning, organizing, controlling, and directing the instructional programs and building operations for the school district's alternative education program while providing a safe and positive learning environment for students and staff.

She has goals set in her new position.

"[I want to] continue the legacy our previous principal, Chris Koenker, established and to bring more clubs and elective options to students both during and after school," she said.

As for hobbies, she said she enjoys any activities outdoors.

"[I like] hiking, rafting, boating, wake surfing, skiing, and spending quality time with family and friends," she said.

***Continued on page 9 /
Staff Highlights***

...Staff Highlights / From Page 8

Kathy Figueroa, new Human Resource Analyst at FUSD

Kathy Figueroa is the new Human Resource Analyst filling the role of Carrie Cromer, retiring as of September 1, 2023.

Kathy is not new to Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). She has been working for FUSD for eight years. She worked at Cromer Elementary School for nearly five years and three years at Coconino High School as an administrative assistant at both schools.

Prior to working for FUSD, she worked doing financial crime investigations for 10 years. She was born and raised in California.

In her new role, Kathy will help to maintain employment records for the school district. As for goals, she wants to be a resource.

"[I want] to be an asset to my team and the [school] district and be a source of information to faculty, staff, and families," she said.

She has four children, two are at Northern Arizona University, one proudly serving the U.S. Navy and one in elementary school. In her free time, she enjoys various activities.

"I love making the most of living in Flagstaff. I enjoy going downtown, trying new restaurants, and supporting local businesses," she said. "I am also a lover of the outdoors. I enjoy fishing, hunting, and off-roading."

"I am so excited to be part of the Human Resources Team and [I] look forward to helping those within our [school] district and community that need my assistance," she added. 🌲

Watch our new FUSD Recruitment video!



SCAN ME!



FUSD FOOD SERVICE

What's Eating You? June Food Critic Activity

July 17, 2023

Do you struggle to get your kids to eat vegetables? You're not alone. Trying to encourage veggie consumption can transform the dinner table into a war zone. In a previous issue, we talked about using the Satter Method to help kids and their families develop a sustainable positive relationship with food. However, sometimes, the way we prepare vegetables can be off-putting to children.

Kids have sensitive taste buds, which may make the natural bitterness in vegetables unpalatable. One way to address this problem can be to add vegetables into recipes that do not normally call for them, also sometimes known as "sneaking" veggies in. This does not need to be a malicious act, and no "sneaking" is required. You can be totally up front with your child about adding the vegetables, and even better, get them involved in making it with you.

In June, kids at Camp IWANNAGO embraced their inner food critic in judging a new recipe. We offered a sample of "Hidden Vegetable Beef Burgers," which has carrots, zucchini, and shallots in the patty mix. Kids scored the burgers based on visual appearance, smell, taste, texture, and whether they would want it served again.

THE RESULTS

A total of 54 kids participated in our food critic activity, many of whom demonstrated their fabulous burger artistry skills.

The burgers received an overall rating of 17.5 out of 20 points. The average score for all criteria (smell, visual appeal, texture, and taste) was all above 4 points out of 5. When asked if they would like this meal served again, 30 kids said yes, and



only three said no. The hidden veggie beef burgers were a big hit with our kid critics.

VEGGIE-LOADING MEALS

This burger recipe is a great source of protein from the beef and many micronutrients and phytochemicals packed in the veggies. We were pleased to hear from many of the campers that they enjoy their veggies, but for many more kids, it can be a challenge. Loading veggies into recipes can help tame the bitter flavors so kids can learn to enjoy them.

Here are a few ideas on ways to add some extra nutrition to our kids' meals.

Veggie-packed muffins: Muffins are a tasty way to add zucchini,

carrots, or spinach to your child's diet. Many recipes use minimal or no added sugar, instead using banana or applesauce to sweeten the flavor. Try searching online for many great recipes.

Turn oatmeal orange: Oatmeal is an easy and nutritious way to start the day. Add a scoop of canned 100% pumpkin and cinnamon to make a pumpkin pie-themed oatmeal, or shred some carrots and go for a carrot cake oatmeal.

Pasta sauce: Pasta sauce is already chock full of tomatoes, but you can take it a step further and blend other veggies into the sauce to make it a super sauce. You can sauté onions, bell peppers, carrots, squash, and/

or celery and blend it with your pasta sauce. This can help kids who have an aversion to the texture of vegetables.

Smoothies: Smoothies are a great way to get the kids involved in some kitchen fun, beat the summer heat, and nourish our bodies in a delicious form. No recipe is required, and it can be fun to experiment with different combinations to find the tastiest one. Some ideas to get you started are peanut butter and banana, a berry medley, or a tropical-themed smoothie with mango and strawberry.

We hope you find some of these recipes helpful to appease your junior food critics! 🌿

Thank You

for your incredible years of service!



50 Years of Service



Betty Smith, Sex Education - District-Wide

45 Years of Service



David Johnston, Vocational Education
Coconino High School

35 Years of Service



Carrie Cromer, Human Resources Analyst - District Office
Beth Haglin, PE Teacher - Flagstaff High School
Debbie Kelsey, Data Integration Specialist - District Office

40 Years of Service



Carol Barker, Administrative Assistant - Leupp Elementary
Barb Campbell, 6th Grade Teacher - Sinagua Middle School
Carol Sharp, Special Education - Sinagua Middle School

30 Years of Service



Rochelle Bronson, Restorative Practice Coordinator - District Office
Frank Garcia, Director of Educational Enrichment - District Office
Terry Hosteen, Data Clerk - Native American Ed. Support Prog.
Donald Penny, Physical Education Teacher - Mount Elden Middle School

25 Years of Service



Amy Begay, 1st Grade Teacher - Puente de Hózhó Elementary School
Gabriel Gallegos, Custodian - Flagstaff High School
Carrie Jenkins, 6th Grade Teacher - Sinagua Middle School
Michael Jenkins, Resource Teacher - Flagstaff High School
Ben Kunkel, Social Studies Teacher - Mount Elden Middle School
Tina Largo, Bus Driver - Transportation Services
Cindy Noble, Director of Bilingual Education - District Office
Jennifer Parker, Librarian - Coconino High School
Kim Quisido, Instructional Specialist - Thomas Elementary
Lorraine Red Day, Bilingual Immersion Aide - Puente de Hózhó
Shelly Stearns, Social Studies Teacher - Flagstaff High School
Richard Treadway, Math Teacher - Mount Elden Middle School
Madelyn Trillo, Records Clerk - District Office
Gail Van Ooteghem, 1st Grade Teacher - Cromer Elementary School
Teresa Wilson, English Teacher - Coconino High School
Lori Wright, Social Studies Teacher - Coconino High School



3285 East Sparrow Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

(928) 527-6000
www.fusd1.org

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



View more
photos on
flickr
Scan the
QR Code



Now Hiring!

For all positions district-wide

