

FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED  
School District

# NEWSLETTER

September 2023



## Summit High School students kayaked, paddle-boarded Lake Mary

September 8, 2023

Summit High School students kayaked and paddle-boarded around Lake Mary on September 7, 2023, thanks to the staff and administration at the school.

The unique experience at Upper

Lake Mary was also made possible by Moenkopi Riverworks, who supplied kayaks, rafts, paddle boards, and personnel.

"[Moenkopi Riverworks took] great care to provide an amazing and unique outdoor experience for the students," said Trisha Eberlein,

principal at Summit High School.

"[The students also enjoyed] picnic lunches, games, and beach time, [which] were additional bonuses. The trip supported the school's efforts to build community and relationships with one another."

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## A message from our SUPERINTENDENT



FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca

### Introduction to Profile of Learning Skills

This past July, as locations around the world were in the midst of a scorching heat wave including here in Flagstaff, a weather station at the south end of Death Valley National Park reported the sixth-hottest reliably measured temperature in world history at 129 degrees Fahrenheit — just short of the all-time world record for a reliably measured temperature of 130 degrees set on July 9, 2021. Almost more hard to fathom is how slowly it cooled off that evening, as a temperature reading taken between midnight and 1 a.m. local time in Death Valley still registered 120

degrees Fahrenheit.

Despite the harsh conditions, Death Valley is also known for its Superblooms when a vibrant carpet of wildflowers covers the desert floor. According to the National Park Service website, the purple, yellow, white, and orange blossoms of Mariposa Lily, Desert Gold, Bear Poppy, Lilac Sunbonnet, and Desert Chicory attract sightseers and pollinators who would not otherwise visit Death Valley. The transformation of dormant

*Continued on page 3 /  
Learning Skills*

## Be the "I" in kind



Teachers at Knoles Elementary School pose with their free oil change vouchers, thanks to Jim Babbitt Ford's Teacher Appreciation giveaway. Photos, top L-R: Eileen Hayes, Kylie Haidet Beacon, Anna Brown, Amy Sullivan, Taylor Doren, and Crystal Kamrowski. Not pictured is Steven Wright and Heather Hustead. Bottom: The Jim Babbitt Ford mobile unit.

### Oil changes for teachers, thanks to Jim Babbitt Ford

Eight teachers at Knoles Elementary School will receive a free oil change service from a state-of-the-art mobile service van that will come to them, thanks to Jim Babbitt Ford's Teacher Appreciation giveaway.

The teachers include Eileen Hayes, 4th Grade teacher; Kylie Haidet Beacon, 3rd to 5th Grade teacher; Anna Brown, 1st Grade teacher; Amy

Sullivan, 4th Grade teacher, Taylor Doren, program specialist; Crystal Kamrowski, paraprofessional; Steven Wright, 4th Grade teacher, and Heather Hustead, 2nd Grade teacher.

Jim Babbitt Ford thanked all the teachers for their hard work at Knoles Elementary School, and they appreciate what they do for our children. 🌲

### ADMINISTRATION

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### ...Learning Skills / From Page 2

seeds to a good wildflower season depends on at least three things: well-spaced rainfall, warmth from the sun, and a lack of drying winds. These conditions tend to occur once a decade with the most recent superbloom years occurring in 2016, 2005, and 1998.

In the book *Trust & Inspire*, the author Stephen M. Covey states, "People are like that. We have greatness inside of each of us, though sometimes it is just as dormant in the wildflowers in Death Valley. The seed is always there — it just needs the right conditions to flourish."

I was fortunate to hear Stephen M. Covey speak at a national conference for school superintendents last February, and began listening to the *Trust & Inspire* audiobook in late July as my wife and I drove to Crested Butte, Colorado, to visit family and see Crested Butte's renowned summer wildflower blossoms. On Rustler's Gulch Trail while I was continuously snapping photographs of wildflowers that caught my eye, I shared with my wife the idea I had for unpausing and providing intentional focus on the Profile of a Learner Skills this school year.

During the 2018-2019 school year and prior to the challenges of the pandemic, about 100 FUSD staff, parents, educational partners, and community members convened and identified the skills we believed were necessary to develop in our district's students in order for them to succeed as learners in our schools and after graduation in this rapidly changing and complex world. Since these skills, these seeds of greatness, were identified in the Spring of 2019, communication and intentional focus on their development has laid dormant. Throughout this school year, I will be highlighting and sharing with our community the ways both FUSD students and staff are cultivating the conditions for these skills to flourish. The skills identified that FUSD needs to prepare our students to be global citizens are as follows:

## Critical Thinking



- Collect, assess, and analyze relevant information to make sound judgments and decisions.
- Identify, define, and solve authentic problems and essential questions.
- Elaborate, refine, analyze, and evaluate own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts.

## Communication



- Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal skills in a variety of forms and contexts.
- Access information efficiently and effectively.
- Use digital technology tools to manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information.

## Empathy



- Demonstrate awareness, concern, and respect to connect to others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and culture.
- Work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams.
- Understand, negotiate, and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions.

## Initiative



- Set goals with success criteria.
- Utilize time and manage workload efficiently.
- Demonstrate commitment to learning as a lifelong process.

## Resilience



- Persist to accomplish difficult tasks and to overcome academic and personal barriers to goals.
- Embrace the idea that failure is a part of success and quickly pivot to keep moving forward.
- Respond productively to feedback, praise, and setbacks.

I am grateful for the talented staff of the Flagstaff Unified School District for cultivating inclusive relationships and school communities, and guiding our students to discover their learning path. In each of our students, they see the hope, wonder, ability, and greatness that lies within them and the trust families place in us when sending them to school. FUSD staff take pride that each one of us is given an amazing opportunity to be gardeners who have the ability to create the conditions to inspire and release students' potential so they can flourish. 🌱



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED  
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**ALL FUSD  
FAMILY RESOURCE  
NIGHTS**

**OCTOBER 5, 2023  
NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
DECEMBER 7, 2023  
JANUARY 11, 2024  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024  
APRIL 4, 2024  
MAY 2, 2024**



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED  
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**NATIONAL HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**

September 15, 2023 to October 15, 2023

3





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## Preschool students are busy learning before entering kindergarten

September 12, 2023

The Preschool Program at Flagstaff Unified School District provides half-day programming that meets the needs of young children and helps them enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Sara Owen, Special Education Preschool Teacher on Assignment and Coordinator of KinderCamp, explained that the Preschool Program is committed to providing each student with developmentally appropriate and engaging experiences in a safe, structured, and supportive learning environment.

"By focusing on each child's unique developmental journey, our preschool students will gain skills

to be academically and socially prepared to meet the challenges of today's diverse, multicultural, and inclusive society," she said. "Three of our programs provide an inclusive preschool classroom environment where students with special needs have their individual needs met through interaction with typically developing peers, general education teachers, special education teachers, and therapists."

Owen said the programs utilize the Frog Street Curriculum and provide many more opportunities for students to attend preschool programming before entering kindergarten.

"Five of our programs utilize a more specialized program model

with a smaller class size and focus on special interventions and strategies, which help children ages three to five reach developmental milestones," said Owen. "These may include services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or assistive technology."

Certified teachers take on the role of both special education and general education teachers.

"They work with highly skilled paraprofessionals on delivering developmentally appropriate learning experiences, collaborate with therapists on student goals and interventions, communicate with parents regarding student progress and strategies for developing skills, write and implement Individual

Education Plans (IEPs) for students who qualify and prepare students for their transition to kindergarten," explained Owen. "Our team believes that early intervention can positively impact a child's developmental journey and that a parent's partnership in their child's education is vital to their learning."

The FUSD Preschool sites are at Thomas Elementary School, Killip Elementary School, Sechrist Elementary School, Kinsey Elementary School, Cromer Elementary School, Knoles Elementary School, Leupp Elementary School, and DeMiguel Elementary School. 🌟





## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### FHS Girls' Flag Football team doing great in their first season

September 21, 2023

The Flagstaff High School Girls Flag Football team is enjoying their first season and chalking up wins left and right.

Head Coach Tyrone Johnson, who is also the head coach for the Flagstaff High School (FHS) Girls Basketball Team, took the helm as head coach for the flag football team this year in their inaugural season.

"It's the first season for [Girls Flag Football] to be an official AIA sport within the state of Arizona," Johnson said.

Girls' Flag Football is not a new sport, but it is new to FHS and northern Arizona. Most teams play in the Phoenix metropolitan area in a club circuit.

"For us, it's brand new, and so it's a lot of firsts in our program. The girls are learning to play football. We got athletes out from soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, and so getting them together and playing a sport that they've seen but they aren't familiar with can be challenging," said Johnson. "We have one girl that played [Flag Football]. Right now, we [are] just going through a bunch of firsts, our first win, our first loss, our first touchdown, our first turnover..."

The team is not doing so badly in their first season, and they have won a majority of their games thus far. "We've played six games, we won our first five [games], and then we lost this past Tuesday to Williams Field [High School] down at their home [field]," said Johnson. "And Williams Field is a solid team, well-coached, some great athletes, and they beat us 20-13 but we showed some signs that we could play with the upper echelon of the state as far as the flag football program."

The team is currently 5-1 and they are looking to continue to improve



as they are halfway through their 12-game regular season.

Johnson explained they are playing Flag Football in the 5A Division because the sport is played in those divisions right now. After the regular season is over, the sport enters their playoff games where the top 16 teams will qualify for the state tournament.

"So, we're playing in the 5A Division... bigger schools, but it's fun," Johnson added.

Johnson explained their next game is on September 26 when they play Canyon View.

"[Canyon View] is another solid team that will give us another gauge as to where we can compete with some of the top teams in the state," said Johnson. "And then after that, we start regional play next Thursday.

Because we're in the northwest region, we open with Copper Canyon and that'll be our regional play starting up."

For its first season, Johnson said they got a lot of interest in the sport this season.

"We had a lot of girls come out this year. We got like 28 girls out in the program. I think it'll spark a lot of interest for next year as more people know [about the new sports program], and hopefully, it'll be here to stay because I think it's going to grow pretty fast," he added.

Johnson appreciates all his players and he was hesitant to single out some of them because he said they are all great players. He also appreciates his coaching staff, assistant coaches Jessica Herbel and Chris Barquin, for their help in

working with the players.

"The biggest shout-out [goes to] my coaching staff. Coach Jess, she's doing a great job in terms of keeping the stats and talking with the girls and working with them on technical things," said Johnson. "Coach Chris, he's our defensive coordinator and he's really getting the schemes and schematics together to keep us competitive, [and] to keep the other team from getting in the end zone."

"Collectively, they're doing well and we're all growing and learning together," he said.

Johnson encourages the public to come on out to the games, they have four more home games left in the regular season and he wants to see the crowd continue to get bigger. 🌲



## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### FHS Golf Team is halfway through its season

September 21, 2023

The Flagstaff High School Coed Golf Team is now more than halfway through their regular season, and they have competed in six matches and two invitationals thus far.

Head Coach Sean Manning explained that the FHS program comprises varsity and developmental teams.

"Of our varsity student-athletes, the top three players consist of Junior, Payne Lowry; Senior, Caleb Holgate; and Junior, Sean Pablo," he said. "Payne is in a position to possibly make state for his second straight year based on his consistent individual scores. We also have an impressive Freshman, Kal Choi, who has made the varsity team and has already qualified and competed in all but one of our varsity match play and tournaments. Very impressive, considering we only take the top five out of the 10 varsity qualifiers for these events."

Manning said the team played

in the Lake Powell Golf Invitational and the Northern AZ Mid-Season Invitation in Prescott recently, and FHS finished second and fourth place, respectively, out of 12 teams.

"We are home and hosting The Peaks Invitational on October 6 and are away for the Section VII Championship, which is in Prescott on October 20," said Manning. "The results and rankings of both the overall season team and individuals will be posted then. At that time, we can prepare our selected student-athletes for the state tournament on October 26."

Manning thanked the local business partners for supporting their efforts and contributing resources to their team. He thanks Continental Country Club, Aspen Valley Golf Club, Pine Canyon Golf Club, and Timberline Short Nine Golf for their continued support.

"We are very proud and fortunate to [also] have tremendous support from our coaching staff and Booster Club," he said. 🌲



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### Coconino High School Golf Team on a roll

September 21, 2023

The Coconino High School Golf team is on a roll! The girls' team is 7-0 and according to Head Coach Langley Martin, "they are doing amazing!"

"[The Girls Golf Team] is ranked 22nd in the state!" said Martin. "Junior, Jada Dickson, is ranked 40th in the state individually, and Freshman, Jazmin Boyce, is ranked 45th in the state individually."

Martin said the boys' team is also

doing amazing.

"We have our lowest team score this season, a 157, that is 13 over as a team for one match," said Martin. "The team is ranked 23rd in the state! Individually, Freshman, Karsten McCain, is on [his way] to making state with a ranking of 27th in the state. Junior, Skyler Boyce, is ranked 54th in the state individually." 🌲







## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### FHS Swim Teams have 6-1 records

September 24, 2023

The Flagstaff High School Swim Team just finished up their first invitational this past weekend, and they have 12 state qualifying swims, including four relays that qualified.

Rachel Perugini, coach of the Swim Team, explained Abbie Miller broke

two of her own school records: the new 200 free school record is 1:56.21, and the new 100 fly record is 59.63.

"Abbie also qualified for state in the 100 free, [and] Fiona Janik qualified in the 100 fly and 500 free," said Perugini. "Kieran Louchart

qualified in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke, [while] Corbin Payne qualified in the 100 free."

"Outside of the invitations, both teams have 6-1 records and [they] are looking forward to their next invitational with the entire team this coming weekend," she said. 🌲

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## FUSD students win art contest at annual Johnson O'Malley Conference

August 24, 2023

Flagstaff Unified School District students won awards at this year's Navajo Nation Johnson O'Malley Art Contest on August 23, 2023, at Twin Arrows Casino Resort.

The call for art from K-12 students included painted or drawn art representing the 2023 theme of "Building the future, reigniting the culture and language."

The winners were announced at the Johnson O'Malley Annual Conference, and the grand prize winner had their art featured on the front cover of the conference program. Other winners had their art pieces displayed at the conference. Art winners also received certificates, plaques, and art supplies.

The grand prize winner was Justine Sloan, an 11th Grader at Coconino

High School. The first-place winner was Michelle Billy, a 2nd Grader at Puente de Hózhó Elementary School, and the second-place winner was Joseph Bitsuie, a 5th Grader at Cromer Elementary School. Consolation prizes were also given to Harley Nez, a 4th Grader at Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School, and Tommy Nez, a 6th Grader at Mount Elden Middle School. 🌲



## The NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

*invites you to attend their monthly*

## NATIVE AMERICAN PARENT ORGANIZATION (NAPO) MEETINGS

The Native American Education Support Program (NAESP) invites students and their parents/guardians to attend the NAPO meetings to learn about events and opportunities within the school district and community.

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Zoom:

<https://fusd1-org.zoom.us/j/85745968976>

8/17/23 | Mount Elden Middle School  
9/21/23 | Thomas Elementary School  
10/19/23 | TBD  
11/16/23 | Family Resource Center  
12/14/23 | Flagstaff High School  
1/18/24 | TBD  
2/15/24 | TBD  
3/21/24 | Coconino High School  
4/18/23 | Puente de Hózhó

To learn more about  
our program, visit  
[www.fusd1.org/naesp](http://www.fusd1.org/naesp)





## FUSD FOOD SERVICE

# What's Eating You? Got chocolate milk? Why flavored milk should be kept on the menu

September 20, 2023

Flavored milk, such as chocolate and strawberry, is a common favorite among kids and adults. It's been found that 70% of kids choose low-fat chocolate milk as their favorite at school. However, with rising concerns about added sugar in foods and beverages, the question of whether chocolate and other flavored milk are a healthy option has recently been raised by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In February 2023, the national agency sought to revise school nutrition standards. The proposal suggested limiting the amount of flavored milk in high schools and banning it altogether in elementary and middle schools. Instead, schools would begin promoting only plain, low-fat milk to kids as their palates and preferences develop. Nearly 92,000 comments on the proposal immediately poured in offering opinions from both sides of the flavored milk debate.

This article will explain why flavored milk is a tasty and nutritious option for kids and why research suggests it should be kept on the menu.

### Removing flavored milk lowers kids' milk consumption

Research suggests that removing flavored milk from the menu limits kids' dairy options during meals. Studies have shown that not providing chocolate or strawberry milk as an option leads to a dramatic drop in dairy consumption. This is of concern, as kids would be missing

out on the vitamins and minerals they need to grow. Milk provides 13 essential nutrients. We may be familiar with calcium, which supports strong, healthy bones and teeth, but here are other functional health benefits this powerhouse beverage provides:

- ▶ **Iodine** — Supports healthy thyroid and brain development.
- ▶ **Potassium** — An electrolyte that plays a crucial role in heart and muscle function.
- ▶ **Selenium/Zinc** — Works with vitamins A and D in milk to build a healthy immune system.

Studies also show that kids opting for flavored milk are less likely to choose soda and juice. While enjoyable in moderation, these beverages are much less nutritious than milk varieties.

### The amount of added sugar is minimal

As mentioned, the concerns of added sugars have risen over the years. Before we jump into the details, you may ask yourself, "What are added sugars?" The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) defines added sugars as sugars that are added during the processing of food, such as sucrose or dextrose, foods packaged as sweeteners (table sugar), sugars from syrups (maple syrup, honey), and sugars from concentrated fruit and vegetable juices. These do not include those that are naturally occurring in foods



#### Nutrition Facts

Serving size 1 Carton (236 mL)

Amount Per Serving

Calories 130

% Daily Value

Total Fat 0g 0%

Saturated Fat 0g 0%

Trans Fat 0g 0%

Cholesterol 5mg 2%

Sodium 180mg 8%

Total Carbohydrate 25g 9%

Dietary Fiber 0g 0%

Total Sugars 24g

Includes 13g Added Sugars 26%

Protein 8g 16%

Vit. D 2.6mcg 15% • Calcium 280mg 20%

Iron 0.3mg 2% • Potas. 390mg 8%

Vit. A 160mcg 20%

BPA FREE  
REV. 07-2019

NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE HAS BEEN SHOWN BETWEEN MILK DERIVED FROM PASTEURIZED AND NON-PASTEURIZED COWS.

found in milk.

You can find how much added sugars are in your food by looking at nutrition labels like the label displayed above.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than 25 grams, or six (6) teaspoons, per day of added sugar. Research has shown that the amount of added sugar in flavored school milk is minimal and contributes about 5% of added sugar in kids' diets. Additionally, the flavored milk kids are drinking at school is not the same as store-bought milks. Dairy companies have worked to reduce

the number of added sugars in flavored school milk by 38%.

In conclusion, flavored milk can be a nutritious part of a balanced diet for children and adults. Removing this option away from them during mealtimes can lead to higher consumption of added sugars elsewhere. Research recommends keeping flavored milk on the menu and preparing our children for the realities of our food environment where added sugars are present. This can be accomplished through basic nutrition education and teaching kids about balancing their daily lives through dietary habits. 🌿



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



*Chelsea Drey*

### **Chelsea Drey, the new 21st Century Community Learning Center Coordinator at Killip**

Chelsea Drey is the new 21st Century Community Learning Center Coordinator at Killip Elementary School, where she will coordinate after-school and summer clubs, activities, and tutoring opportunities for students, including chess, Discing 4 Kids, Flyers, and other programs.

Chelsea is not new to Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). She has worked at Coconino High School and Sinagua Middle School.

"I student taught at Coconino High School in the Fall of 2011, [I] was hired as a substitute that spring and was hired as a part-time history teacher in September 2012," she said.

She is originally from Minneapolis/



*Kyle Christian*

St. Paul, Minnesota, and she said she misses the water but not the mosquitos. She is a mother to her 10-year-old daughter Melanie, who is in the 5th Grade.

"I came to Flagstaff to attend Northern Arizona University in 2007 and have been here ever since," she added. "I absolutely love learning about learning, education, leadership, psychology, history, and so much more."

She possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Social Studies Education. She also has a Secondary Teacher Certification with approved history, government, and economics areas. She also has a Master of Education in Secondary Teaching and Learning, a Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership, and K-12 Principal Certification, all from Northern Arizona University.

Her new role brings a considerable amount of responsibilities.



*JayLissa Mockta*

She will ensure the best possible experience for all Killip students in after-school clubs and activities in collaboration with the FACTS program, coordinate grant requirements and implementation for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, collaborate with the Killip Elementary Leadership Team to align after-school programs with the goals of Killip and plan and facilitate Killip's summer programs.

Chelsea is eager to learn more about elementary education.

"It is a whole new world for me, but I am looking forward to learning about students and education from another perspective," she said. "[I also want to] continue learning about educational leadership under Joe Gutierrez after having Stacie Zanzucchi as my mentor for the past 12 years."

"Everyone at Killip has been so welcoming, and I am lucky to have



*Melissa Shaeffer*

found such a wonderful school to join!" she added.

Although busy with work and family, she makes time for some hobbies and activities outside of work. She holds a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and enjoys hiking, including Grand Canyon hikes to the river and out. She also enjoys reading, going to the movies, and learning about anything and everything she can about education.

### **Kyle Christian, new FACTS coordinator**

Kyle Christian is the new FACTS Afterschool Program Coordinator, replacing Sydney Drake, who resigned last school year. As the FACTS Coordinator, Kyle will oversee the program, staff, and operations at

***Continued on page 11 / Staff Highlights***





## Wes Hanley, CHS senior, wins first place and Best in Show at county fair

September 22, 2023

Wes Hanley, a senior at Coconino High School (CHS), won first place and "Best in Show" for his banana bread entry in the Culinary Arts Category at the Coconino County Fair.

Janeille K. Buckley, Culinary Arts Chef and Instructor at CHS, explained her students participated in the county fair by researching, testing, and evaluating recipes.

"They decided on the recipe they wanted to create and submitted [them] to the fair after two rounds of testing," she said. "We had over 50 entries! This was a first in school history for the Culinary Arts program here at CHS."

Buckley said her students did very well with their entries. 🌲

### ...Staff Highlights / From Page 10

the FUSD elementary schools.

Kyle is not new to Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). He has been with FUSD for more than 12 years cumulatively. He explained five of those years were spent working for the FACTS program while working on his bachelor's degree and the year after he graduated. He then returned to FUSD after obtaining his Master's degree and has been back since. He previously served as the Grants Account Specialist for the Educational Enrichment Department.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Management with an emphasis in Outdoor Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He also has a Master of Divinity and Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary.

His goal for the program is to continue making it a safe, fun, and enriching opportunity for Flagstaff students.

Kyle said he is from Flagstaff and enjoys many outdoor activities and hobbies.

"I am a relatively new triathlete, and so I spend a lot of my time training for swimming, biking, running, and the myriad of hours of different fitness regimens that [it all] entails," he said. "I also dabble a little in some Python programming."

"I'm uniquely average in that I'm about as average as one can be," he added. "The only thing not average about me is just how unremarkably average I am."

### JayLissa Mockta, assistant coordinator of FACTS

JayLissa Mockta is the new assistant coordinator of the FACTS Afterschool Program. JayLissa has been with FUSD since 2021, working as a Native American Interventionist with the Native American Education Support Program.

JayLissa holds a Bachelor of Science in Learning, Literacy, and Leadership with an emphasis in Community Education and a minor in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona in Tucson. She also possesses an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Early Childhood Education and is certified for PreK-12 from Central Arizona College.

"I am starting my first semester back at Northern

Arizona University [and] working on my Masters of Education in Educational Leadership," she said.

She was born and raised in Flagstaff, and she also calls the Village of Shungopavi on the Hopi Reservation home as well. Her Hopi name at birth is Blue Butterfly Girl, and she is Hopi-Tewa and of the Fog Clan. She is also a FUSD product and a 2012 alumna of Flagstaff High School (FHS). She also attended South Beaver Elementary School, Flagstaff Middle School, and FHS.

In her new role, she will assist the FACTS coordinator and all FACTS participants.

"[I will be working] with our awesome, hardworking, and dedicated staff to ensure we are providing a safe and fun place for students before and after school hours," she said. "[I will also be] working with local organizations to provide a variety of services to our FUSD students."

"My goals within my new position are to continue to support hard-working families who need childcare for their students," she added. "[I also want] to create a positive environment for all students, families, and staff. In time, to provide more services that parents are needing support [with]."

When JayLissa is not working, she enjoys spending time with her two dogs, Otis and Leo, and spending time with her family, traveling to new places, and creating handmade arts and crafts.

### Melissa Shaeffer, counselor at Leupp Elementary School

Melissa Shaeffer is a new counselor at Leupp Elementary School.

Melissa holds a dual degree, a Bachelor of Science in Journalism, and a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Northern Arizona University. She also has a Master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

She is from Birdsprings, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation. She has two children attending FUSD schools and loves traveling, learning, and exploring new places. 🌲





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