



Parent Prospector Press

To focus instruction for increased student achievement.

On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future

January 28, 2019 - February 2, 2019

Principal Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**



This past week we held our first Prospector RUSH for our rising 9th grade students (current 8th grade students). It was the first step in their transitioning from junior high school to high school. During this event, the students and their parents were informed about course offerings and allowed time to complete their course requests for the 2019-2020 school year.

The transition from junior high to high school is one that millions of teens have done as they move through their educational experiences. It is an exciting yet stressful time for many students. At AJHS, we are working diligently to minimize this stress and create opportunities for these students to find a sense of belonging at the high school. Interacting with childhood friends and making new friends has been noted by students as an area of concern. To assist in this transition, we will once again be hosting a freshmen orientation prior to the start of school, as well as starting a new mentoring program; LINK Crew where we match freshman students with upperclassmen.

All of these events and activities are designed to give our students a sense of connection with their peers and school. Research supports that when students are connected to their school they are more invested in their education and tend to do better at tracking their personal achievement: grades, test scores, attendance and discipline. LINK Crew is not the only opportunity for freshmen to learn about high school life, we are also offering AVID and Health & Wellness courses where students can learn a variety of skills to support a successful freshman year. Some of the skills learned include but are not limited to: the importance of keeping track of daily homework assignments, long-term projects, assessments, note-taking, and staying organized.

We recognize that this is a major life transition for these young adults and we are committed to focusing our efforts on giving them opportunities to find success from the onset of their freshmen year. Our intent is to connect every incoming freshmen with a caring upperclassman beginning with freshmen orientation through the end of their freshman year.

Best Regards,

Dr. Angela Chomokos

Our Administrators & Counselors

Dr. Angela Chomokos	<i>Principal</i>	Bria Jenkins	Counselor Grades 9/10
Ms. Tanya Loftis	<i>Assistant Principal</i>	Valerie McFarlin	Counselor Grades 11/12
Ms. Sue Campbell	<i>Assistant Principal</i>	Jillian Conway	Psychologist
Mr. Tim Vanda	<i>Special Services/EVIT</i>		
Ms. Dawn Schwenkert	<i>Athletic Director/Teacher StudCo Advisor</i>		

Prospector Weekly Calendar"

O qpf c{.'Lcpwct{ '4:

: -22"co	Cf o kp'O ggkpi	"
7-22"ro	S wctvgrn{ 'C y ngvle 'Rctgpv'O ggkpi	; l32'Dwkrf kpi "
8-22"ro	Ukg'Eqwpekl'O ggkpi	"

Vwguf c{.'Lcpwct{ '4; "

: -22"co .; -22"co	Cpvk'Dwm{ kpi lUwlelf g'Rtgxgpvkqp"Cuugo dn{ "	RCE"
7-52"ro . '9-22"ro	Dq{u'Dcungvdcn	P qtvj 'I {o .'CLJ U"
6-22"ro	Dq{u'Uqeegt	F cxku'Hgrf .'CLJ U"
6-22"ro . '7-52"ro	I kni'Dcungvdcn	I ngpf crg'J U"
6-22"ro . '8-22"ro	I kni'Uqeegt	I ngpf crg'J U"

Y gf pguf c{.'Lcpwct{ '52"

'5-22"ro	Y tguv{kpi	Hqgtpeg'J U"
----------	------------	--------------

Vj wtuf c{.'Lcpwct{ '53"

6-22"ro . '7-52"ro	Dq{u'Dcungvdcn	Eqtvgl 'J U"
6-22"ro	Dq{u'Uqeegt	Eqtvgl 'J U"
6-22"ro . '7-52"ro	I kni'Dcungvdcn	P qtvj 'I {o .'CLJ U"
6-22"ro . '8-22"ro	I kni'Uqeegt	F cxku'Hgrf .'CLJ U"
9-22"ro	F tco c'Rtqf wevkqp"oY k ctf 'qh'Q\ o	RCE"

Hk k c{.'Hgdwtct{ '3"

8-52"co	RNE"	
9-22"ro	F tco c'Rtqf wevkqp"oY k ctf 'qh'Q\ o	RCE"
8-22"ro	Cppwcn'O kksct { 'Dcnl	Vj g'Xlgy u'cv'Uwr gtuvkqp"

Ucwtf c{.'Hgdwtct{ '4"

: -22"co	Y tguv{kpi 'Ugevkpcnu	Hqgtpeg'J U"
34-22"ro	Ur tkpi 'CIC'Eqcej gu'O ggkpi	O guc'J U"

"

Ko rqtwpvFcvgu'q'Tgo go dgt <'

Lcpwct{ '4:	Tkukpi 'Ugpkqt'Ul "3; a42'tgi kwtcvkqp"	Hgdwtct{ ';	CEV"
Lcpwct{ '4:	Ukg'Eqwpekl'O ggkpi "	Hgdwtct{ '35"	Gctn{ 'Tgrgcug"
Lcpwct{ '4:	C y ngvleu'Information Meeting"	Hgdwtct{ '3:	P q'Uej qqn'
Lcpwct{ '4:	Cuugo dn{ 'Cwqtpg{ 'I gpgtcn'Qhleg'"	Hgdwtct{ '43"	Dwa'Gxcwcvkqp"
	Cpvk'Dwm{ kpi 'Rtgugpvkqp"	Hgdwtct{ '47	Ukg'Eqwpekl'O ggkpi "
Lcpwct{ '52	Tkukpi 'Lxpkqt'tgi kwtcvkqp"	Hgdwtct{ '47/O ctej '3'IG'Dgpej o ctnlRquwguv'"	
Lcpwct{ '53("	Hgdwtct{ '3"Y k ctf 'qh'Q "	O ctej '4	PLTQVE'Ect'Uj qy "
Hgdwtct{ '3	O kksct { 'Dcnl	O ctej '7	CDQFC'Hgukxcn'
Hgdwtct{ '3	Tkukpi 'Uqrj qo qtg'Ul "3; a42"	O ctej '8	Ej qk'Eqpegtv"
	tgi kwtcvkqp"	O ctej ';	UCV"
Hgdwtct{ '6/8"	Y tkukpi 'Dgpej o ctnl%4"	O ctej ';	F tco c'Enwd'Dtqcf y c{ 'Dqwpf "'P["
Hgdwtct{ ':	Ej qk'q'PCW'	O ctej '33/44	Ur tkpi 'Dtgcml

O ctej "47/Cr tki'3; "CfO U"Uelgpeg"Vgukpi ""
O ctej "4; Nqenlkp" "
Cr tki'3/48"Ur tki "C| O gtk"
Cr tki'32 Gctn "Tgrgucg"
Cr tki'37 Ceef go le "Cy ctf u'P ki j v"
Cr tki'3; " Pq"Uej qqi'
Cr tki'42 Rtqo "
Cr tki'46 Uej qrtuj kr "P ki j v"
Cr tki'47/48 Vj g"Nkqp"Mpki "lt0'
Cr tki'52/"O c{"3"Cf xcpeGf "Xkuk"
"
"

O c{"8/": " KGDkqmi {"Rquwguv"
O c{"8 *****64pf "Cpwwci"Ugpkqt "Uej qrtuj kr "P ki j v"
O c{"9" Dcpf "Eqpegtv"
O c{"; Gctn "Tgrgucg"
O c{"; Qtej gunc "Eqpegtv"
O c{"32 Dgi kplpi "F tco c"Rtqf wvkkpu"
O c{"33 Rtqo "
O c{"37 Ej qk "Rqr u"Eqpegtv"
O c{"45 Eqo o gpego gpv"t tcf wvkkp+ "
"

Field Trips

2/1/19

Annual Military Ball

NJROTC

=Znci f ZYX hf]d]gbch`]ghYX`YfY Vt bHUM? Uhm5`nb`Uh_U`nb4 [cU^cf[`

Fundraisers

Student Council is selling Senior Shirts for \$10. A mass email went out to all seniors, but please see any STUCO member, Mrs. Schwenkert, or the bookstore for more information. We are pre-selling the shirts and will only be purchasing a handful of extras. Don't wait because the cost will go up to \$15 upon arrival.

AJ Parks and Recreation helps host a Downtown Running Walking Series to help our athletic teams raise monies for individual sport teams. 100% of the proceeds benefit our Athletic Teams. It is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth. All participants get a medal and if you participate in 3 or more events, you earn a t-shirt. We have two events remaining for this school year:

Girls Basketball: 3/2/19

Boys Basketball: 4/6/19

Check in is at 9:00 a.m. and the run/walk begins at 9:30. Both events occur at Flatiron Park.

=Znci f Z bXfU]gyf`]gbch`]ghYX`YfY Vt bHUM? Uhm5`nb`Uh_U`nb4 [cU^cf[`

General Information:

Be sure to mark your calendars for our 21st Annual NJROTC Benefit Car and Motorcycle Show. The event will be Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 10:00a - 3:00p. Anyone interested in entering a vehicle or making a prize donation can contact Lisa Schroeder at 928-460-0331 or Daniele Darnell at 602-418-6633.

All AJHS Employees, starting Thursday if you wear a college t-shirt, you can wear jeans! We are hoping this will start conversations with students about their future! Please encourage students to go see their counselors and/or Mrs Johnson to start a game plan for their college career!

Teachers~~How do you change the system to personalize learning? Want to learn more about the power of student advisories? Join Dr. Chomokos for a workshop on student advisories and the power of enabling students to know well, and be known well, by at least one adult at AJHS. Research indicates that this connection and a sense of belonging leads to improved student outcomes. Building supportive relationships between students and teachers.

Student Council Update

by Ms. Dawn Schwenkert

Student Council actively participated in Prospector Rush this past Wednesday. All 8th graders from Cactus Canyon JH came over for the morning. Activities included: ice breakers, visiting of CTE classrooms, Counselor presentation, and a PEP assembly. HUGE thanks to NJROTC, Cheer, Band, and all the teachers who helped pull this together.

Bragging Corner

Sophomore Melvin Lopez deserves a big high five and congratulations for auditioning and making it into the Regional Band! He worked so hard over the last few months and proved that he is among the top high school musicians in the Phoenix area.

Mylee Williams also made it to Regional (7th Chair!!!) and she is the first regional singer in 4 years. Last one was her brother, Preston Williams. Mylee worked hard on materials over the years and it paid off!

We couldn't be prouder of both Prospectors! If you see them this week, please congratulate them!



A HUGE thank you to our high school staff for welcoming CCJH students on campus this past week. It was a great success and CCJHS students and staff had a fabulous time. STUCO hosted Club RUSH and pumped up AJHS Prospector PRIDE with a class of 2023 Pep assembly.

Have Bragging News--please share!

[H\|gk \]``U`ck i ghc fYWz\[b\]nY`h`Y`a UbrmUWta d`\]g\`a Ybhtj`cZ`h`Y`DfcdgYWtcfj`Z\`a \]`n\`GYbX`\]bZcfa U\|cb`hc`UWca c_c4 \[cU`cf\]](#)

9/10 Academic Update

by Ms. Tanya Loftis

Second semester is off and running, please make sure you are reviewing your grades and taking care of both current and eligible make-up assignments, projects, tests/quizzes. Do **NOT** wait to address your concerns with teachers.

- Continue to dedicate 15-30 minutes a night to study or complete homework.
- Utilize "Lunchtime Tutoring", the first 25 min. Of your 45 min. Lunch

m èl ~ ù iè i èl 7 ~ š àl š èi l l i ~ ~ ilà i

In addition, please review your first semester grades to ensure no errors have occurred and also checking your progress towards graduation requirements.

11/12 Academic Update

by Ms. Sue Campbell

Registration for Rising Juniors and Seniors

This week rising Juniors and Seniors will be making their course selections for the 2019-2020 school year. Counselors will be in CTE classes Wednesday, January 30th and Thursday, January 31st for our rising Juniors and on Monday, January 28th and Friday, February 1st in US/AZ History classes for our rising Seniors. Your student will be bringing home a course selection for you to review and sign. Please discuss your student's choices with them, sign and return their course registration sheet. Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will be online this year. More details will follow.

Celebrate your year with the purchase of a yearbook

To order your yearbook click the link below:

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1001689/Apache-Junction-High-School/2019-Yearbook/2018070704194395070/CATALOG_SHOP/?utm_content=TOP-CTA-BUTTON&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=YBK_MER1469_YBA_HOLIDYGFT&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_term=Trigger%20Overflow&campaign=193015

AJHS has a proud tradition of offering a high quality yearbook for students to celebrate their high school years. Producing this type of quality yearbook is an expensive endeavor. We would like to always be able to offer this type of yearbook to our students. Selling copies of the **yearbook** is the most important source of the program's income.

Celebrate your Senior with a Senior Ad in the Yearbook

Did you know you could celebrate your senior and their high school accomplishments by placing a senior ad in the yearbook. Yearbook ads are a great way to celebrate student success and milestones and reflect on the person your student has become. Show your pride and support your school at the same time.

There are a variety of options and prices for you to choose from:

\$125.00 - Full Page

\$80.00 - 1/2 Page

\$50.00 -1/4 Page

The deadline to place your ad in the yearbook is January 31, 2019.

Visit the Josten's website to design and place your ad today.

<http://jostensadservice.com?REF=A00218800><<http://jostensadservice.com/?REF=A00218800>>

Counseling Corner

CAC will be coming to our campus on March 6th and 7th to give the Accuplacer test. Sign ups are in the front office outside of Mrs Johnson's office. Last day to sign up is March 1st!

Pinal County Federal Credit Union is offering a \$500 scholarship to one AJ student planning to attend Central Arizona College in the Fall of 2019. The applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and take a minimum of 12 credit hours to qualify. Pick up the application from Ms. McFarlin in Counseling, Ms. Romney in the Bookstore, or from Ms. Johnson in the Career Center. All applications are due by Friday, February 1st to Ms. McFarlin in Counseling by the end of the day.

Job Opportunities

The Renaissance Festival has many fun job opportunities for the months of February and March. If anyone is interested please call Jeremy at 480-234-9651 he is doing interviews this weekend!

Volunteer Opportunities

Mrs. Johnson has several companies that are looking for volunteers, if you need to get your hours in for your scholarships! Go see her!

Tuesday, January 29: AJHS will be hosting a Suicide Prevention Presentation given by the Office of the Arizona Attorney General's office. The presentation will be given to the 9th and 10th graders first, followed by a second presentation for our 11th and 12th graders. Information about presentations offered by the state can be found at <https://www.azag.gov/outreach/presentation-request>

Special Services Update

AJHS is pleased to introduce two new instructors to the Life Skills program, Ms. Carrieres and Mr. Darling. A note from Ms. Carrieres and Mr. Darling:

Prospector Family,

We are so excited to be teaching at AJHS and look forward to working with our colleagues to create a great learning environment for our students. We are both new teachers and are ready to apply what we have learned throughout our schooling to implement robust curriculum in this awesome program.

Mr. Darling is a graduate from AJUSD attending Kindergarten through 12th grade and graduating from AJHS in 2014. He went on to attend college and play football at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Darling is also the football coach for AJHS and was a paraprofessional in the classroom last semester.

Ms. Carrieres graduated from Northern Arizona University and completed her student teaching at Williams Field High School in the Life Skills Program. While living in Flagstaff, Ms. Carrieres was a paraprofessional with experience in grades K-12, and is eager to get to know each student, and is passionate about their success.

We look forward to providing open communication with parents and encourage parents to reach out to either of us.

Mr. Darling and Ms. Carrieres

EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

The EVIT EXPO had a wonderful turnout for their main event of the year. If you did not get a chance to visit the campus feel free to contact EVIT directly and set up a time to tour during the week.

EVIT, is Joint Technical Education District (JTED) serving high school students and adults who reside in 10 East Valley school districts and provides advanced career and technical education (CTE) at two central campuses in Mesa – the Main and East campuses – and at Apache Junction High School. Starting next August, EVIT will also be operating a central campus in Fountain Hills.

The EVIT JTED also provides funding to its 10 founding member districts so they can offer CTE at their high schools too. But unlike those programs, EVIT Main, a 65-acre campus in west Mesa, and EVIT East, an 11-acre campus at 6625 S. Power Road, are all CTE, all the time. EVIT Main and East students spend a half-day at their high schools in academic classes and a half-day at an EVIT central campus in advanced career training.

“We also hope East Valley families who have never visited the campus will call and set up a tour that is offered weekly to see the many tuition-free career training options we can provide their students. You really have to see EVIT for yourself to understand how we can help your child find their career passion – and turn that passion into a paycheck.”

EVIT offers over 40 tuition-free programs for high school students who reside in Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Tempe, Fountain Hills, J.O. Combs, Queen Creek and Apache Junction districts. Tuition-based programs for adults are also offered, with financial aid available to those who qualify.

