



Parent Prospector Press

To focus instruction for increased student achievement.

On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future

February 4, 2019 - February 9, 2019

Principal Update:



by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**

This is a big year for AJHS as we work to renew our AdvancEd Accreditation. What is accreditation? And who is AdvancEd....AdvancEd is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the United States and internationally. AdvancEd uses a set of rigorous research-based standards and data/evidence based criteria to examine the whole institution~~the policies, programs, practices, learning conditions and cultural context to determine how well the parts work together to carry out the institution's vision and meet the needs of every learner.

In order to earn AdvancED Performance Accreditation, institutions must:

- Meet the AdvancED Standards and accreditation policies
- Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and engagement reviews
- Engage in continuous improvement

AdvancED Performance Accreditation is not about earning a label for a one-time evaluation. Rather, it recognizes those institutions that have sustained an exemplary commitment to continuous improvement and learner outcomes.

Accreditation supports that there is a standard for courses, coursework, credits and grade-level placement across accredited schools and colleges/universities. The AdvancEd Standards are:

- Leadership Capacity Domain
 - The fidelity and commitment to the purpose and direction of the district and school
 - The effectiveness of governance & leadership in the district and school
 - Engagement and involvement of stakeholders
 - Capacity to implement strategies to improve learner & educators performance
- Learning Capacity Domain
 - Impact of teaching and learning on student achievement and success is primary expectation
 - Positive and productive teacher and learner relationships, high expectations
 - Challenging engaging curriculum, quality instruction and comprehensive support for learners
 - Quality institution evaluates the impact of its learning culture, and adjusts accordingly
- Resource Capacity Domain
 - Use and distribution of resources supported by mission
 - Supports professional learning for all staff
 - Examines the allocation and use of resources to ensure appropriate levels of funding
 - Sustainability and organizational effectiveness to increase student learning.

On April 30 & May 1 we will be hosting a team of six (6) outside educators who will be conducting an Engagement Review. The Engagement Review is a two (2) day event designed to measure the degree to which AJHS has engaged in their ongoing improvement process over the past (5) years. At the end of the review, we will receive a report which will highlight areas of celebrations and improvements. We look forward to our review and the input from the Review Team. We will share the final review with our AJHS community, as well as use this report to guide and strengthen our efforts to improve student performance and AJHS effectiveness. More information to follow in future communications...

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

Monday, February 4

7:30 am	Facilities Meeting	Front Conference Rm.
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Tuesday, February 5

4:00 & 6:00 pm	Girls Soccer vs. Combs (Varsity Senior Night)	Davis Field AJHS
5:30 & 7:00 pm	Boys Basketball @ Combs	Combs H.S.
5:30 & 7:00 pm	Girls Basketball vs. Combs (Varsity Senior Night)	North Gym AJHS
6:00 pm	Boys Soccer @ Combs	Combs H.S.

Wednesday, February 6

12:30 pm	Aladdin Field Trip (Drama Club & Varsity Choir)	ASU Gammage
2:00 pm	NJROTC 10k Competition	Thunderbird Conservation Park

Thursday, February 7

8:30 am	Wrestling @ State Championships	Prescott Valley Event Ctr
7:00 pm	Booster Club Meeting	11/12 Bldg AJHS

Friday, February 8

8:00 am	NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival - Varsity & Honor Choir	NAU
9:30 am	Wrestling @ State Championships	Prescott Valley Event Ctr

Saturday, February 9

1:00 pm	Winter Drumline @ WGAZ Percussion Eval Show	Sossaman Middle School
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Important Dates to Remember:

February 4-6	Writing Benchmark #2	March 1	Movie Night - Davis Field
February 8	Choir to NAU	March 2	NJROTC Car Show
February 9	ACT	March 5	ABODA Festival
February 13	Early Release	March 6	Choir Concert
February 18	No School	March 8	Powder Puff Volleyball
February 21	Bus Evacuation	March 9	SAT
February 25	Spring Pictures	March 9	Drama Club Broadway Bound - NY
February 25	Site Council Meeting	March 11-22	Spring Break
February 25-March 1	IE Benchmark Posttest	March 25-April 19	AIMS Science Testing
February 26	Blood Drive	March 29	Lock-in

April 1-26	Spring AzMerit	May 7	Band Concert
April 10	Early Release	May 8	Early Release
April 12	Mr. Prospector	May 9	Orchestra Concert
April 15	Academic Awards Night	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
April 19	No School	May 10	Yearbook Signing Party
April 24	Scholarship Night	May 11	Prom (date change)
April 25-26	The Lion King Jr.	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit	May 17	Senior BBQ
May 6 - 8	IE Biology Posttest	May 23	Commencement (Graduation)
May 6	42nd Annual Senior Scholarship Night		

Field Trips

2/6/19	Aladdin Broadway Musical	Drama Club & Varsity Choir
2/6/19	10k Competition	NJROTC
2/8/19	NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival	Varsity Choir

If your field trip is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at kallyn@goaj.org

Fundraisers

Student Council is selling Senior Shirts for \$12. A mass email went out to all seniors, but please see any STUCO member, Mrs. Schwenckert, 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.

If your fundraiser is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at kallyn@goaj.org

General Information:

Come join the Prospector Leo Club and Apache Junction Lions Club for their 22nd Annual Music Show Thursday, February 7th, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Performances by Pretty Slick, The Ultimate Vocal Band, Full Circle and Alan Whitson are sure to be a great evening of entertainment and all proceeds go to scholarships for our students!

Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenckert**

AJHS' quarterly Blood Drive is coming up on February 26th, 2019 and is open to the public. Get a form from any Student Council member or from the Stuco Lunch table. You can also follow the link to sign up online @ <https://bloodhero.com> (Sponsor Code: Prospectors). Those who sign up and successfully donate will be automatically entered into a Raffle for a Senior Shirt (priced at \$12) or a Prospector Lanyard (Priced at \$7). Save a life and donate blood. Hope to see you there!

Bragging Corner

Last week we congratulated Mylee Williams for making it to North Central Regional Honor Choir as 7th Chair. Well, the good news is that she moved to 5th chair last week, way to go Mylee!

Have Bragging News--please share!

This will allow us to recognize the many accomplishments of the Prospectors family. Send information to achomoko@goaj.org

9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

CLOSED CAMPUS

Apache Junction High School is a **CLOSED CAMPUS**...students are to remain on campus from the time of arrival in the morning until after their last class of the day. If a student is off-campus without permission, this is an off campus violation and will result in disciplinary action.

1st incident: Parent notification & Off Campus suspension 1 day

2nd incident: Parent notification & Off Campus suspension 3 days

3rd incident: Parent notification & Off Campus suspension 5 days & Behavior Contract

4th incident: Parent notification & Off Campus suspension 9 day & Due Process Hearing

If a parent/student requests an off campus pass or if a parent signs their student out, the student may return that day when the **parent signs the student back into school** at the front office. Student may **not** leave campus at anytime during their regularly scheduled day without notifying the attendance office.

11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

Registration for Rising Juniors and Seniors

This week Seniors and Juniors made their course selections for the 2019-2020 school year. Please check with your student to see which courses he/she has chosen for next year.

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will be online this year. More details will follow.

Stay Strong Seniors

Seniors now is the time to buckle down and finish your year strong. As we approach spring break, you will find yourself participating in many exciting graduation and the next step of you life activities. It is important that you continue to come to school every day and complete all assignments.

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.

Society

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

Attention JUNIORS: Dr. Chomokos is working on funding to be able to offer the **SAT** at no cost for interested **JUNIORS**. The test will be offered **at AJHS on Tuesday April 9th** during the school day. If you are interested, we are placing a sign up sheet at the Bookstore counter in the office. Please sign up as space will be limited to the first 100 students. Remember to visit www.kahnacademy.org to prepare for the test. According to the College Board, students who use Kahn Academy for 20 hours of practice for the SAT tend to score an average of **115 POINTS HIGHER!** If you took the PSAT in October, please make sure you have picked up your score report so you can review questions you missed. They can be picked up from Ms. Johnson in the College & Career Center.

Attention tall Seniors! There is a scholarship for you to apply for if you are a female 5 foot 10 inches in your stocking feet or male 6 foot 2 inches or taller in your stocking feet. The Central Arizona Tall Society, C.A.T.S, would like you to apply for their awards. The application can be found on their website:

<http://www.tallphoenix.org/scholarship.html> Please follow the requirement of completing the application and mailing it into the organization as directed. If you need assistance please see Ms. McFarlin. Applications are available online, outside the Career Center, Ms. McFarlin's Office and library.

Seniors, the Pinal County Federal Credit Union application is still available. Pinal County Federal Credit Union is offering a \$500 scholarship to 1 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 Mrs. McFarlin in Counseling, Mrs. Romney in the Bookstore, or from Mrs. Johnson in the Career Center. All applications are due by Friday, February 1st to Mrs. McFarlin in Counseling by the end of the day.

Junior students and parents, start planning for senior year scholarship opportunities now! Desert Financial Credit Union is offering a scholarship opportunity for juniors to begin planning for right now. They have 10-15 scholarships for 2020 graduates to apply for. Criteria is involved and is available on their website:

<http://desertfinancial.com/scholarship> to learn more.

Desert Financial Credit Union is also offering a **paid summer internship for high school seniors**. Information is available at: <http://desertfinancial.com/internship>, remember, apply early for this opportunity!

For all students the **Central Arizona College, Early College Program** grant applications are available for students interested in taking a college class or two for summer. The application is with Ms. McFarlin in Counseling.

Mesa Community College will be coming to campus on Wednesday, February 13. Any students interested in meeting with them please email rjohnson@goaj.org or sign up in the front office.

EVIT COSMETOLOGY Information: If you are interested in applying for this program, spaces are **VERY** limited for the PM Section. Please pick up an application ASAP from Mrs. Jenkins.

Seniors, the Neely Foundation Scholarship is open for you to review and apply for. Students interested in college or a technical training school should apply. The scholarship can be found at <http://neelyfoundation.com/scholarships.html> The scholarship is renewable. If you have questions please contact Ms. McFarlin in Counseling or Mrs. Johnson in the Career Center. The closing date for all applications is April 19, 2019.

EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

Culinary students will be competing in SKILLS USA Region 3 competition at EVIT main campus on Saturday Feb 16th. Students from EVIT main campus and AJHS culinary will compete in this cooking competition with others schools from our region.

The competition is judged on areas of professionalism, technique and cooking skills and is timed. A panel of industry judges evaluates each contestant awarding scores in each area.

Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Skills USA serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually. The organization has 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of Skills USA.

Culinary Students will also be catering a reception for the City of AJ. We will be preparing a reception menu of finger foods for 100-150 people. Reception begins at 6:30 in the Culinary building cafe area. The city of Apache Junction will hold the annual State of the City event on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Apache Junction Performing Arts Center, located on the Apache Junction High School campus at 2525 S. Ironwood Drive. Mayor Jeff Serdy will play host to the event, which will spotlight the many achievements in the city over the last year and provide a look ahead to 2019 through an exciting multi-media presentation.

Athletic Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

What's the Score?

Sport	Opponent	JV	Varsity
Boys Basketball	Glendale	Loss	Loss
	Cortez	Loss	Loss
Girls Basketball	Glendale	Loss	Win
	Cortez	Loss	Win
Boys Soccer	Glendale		Loss
Girls Soccer	Glendale	Loss	Loss
	Cortez	Win	Win
Wrestling	Florence		2nd
	Sectionals		See below

**Ethan Wright, Gibson Limongello, Preston Lindstrom, and Nathan Munoz have qualified for State!
Good luck this week gentlemen!**



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