



# Parent Prospector Press

*To focus instruction for increased student achievement.*

*On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future*

March 4, 2019 - March 23, 2019



## Principal Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**

March has come in with a gust of success for students and programs. This past weekend, our NJROTC hosted another amazing Benefit Car & Cycle Show; our performing arts students competed in Drumline and Guard competition; and our athletic teams wrapped up their participation in spring tournaments. As this week rolls forward, our athletes are busy competing while our performing arts students are preparing for their concerts, and out of state trips and competitions. It is truly a busy time of year!

I'd like to remind parents/guardians of the upcoming AZMerit assessments as well as the AIMS Science exam. Within the classrooms, along with teaching the Arizona Academic Standards, our math, English and biology teachers are preparing our students for these assessments by using AZMerit and AIMS review questions as class warm-ups and review.

As an incentive to reward and award academic excellence, this spring we are starting a new academic achievement recognition program. This program is designed to reward students for their dedication to scholarly work. The program consists of three levels: Silver, Gold and Platinum. Students can earn rewards for their GPA, and passing AZMerit and if applicable AIMS Science. Please note that this program is in addition to our current programs which consist of: NHS, and Academic Letters. More information to follow regarding opportunities offered to our students as they work to find their very best academic self and achieve proficiency on their exams.

On a different note, for us to maintain a consistent uninterrupted learning environment for all students, we make it our school policy to minimize classroom interruptions. Therefore, we are requesting that you not contact the office to relay messages to your son/daughter, unless it is a true emergency. Also, remember that students should not be using their cell phones during class time; but they may use them before and after school as well as during passing time and their lunch period. If you need to contact your son/daughter feel free to call or text them at these times.

Finally, as a reminder, encourage your son/daughter to remain engaged in their learning and academics. During the spring it is easy to forget the importance of keeping the focus and completing all of their work. It is imperative that they finish the semester with the same enthusiasm as when they started~~we are rooting for them!

Have a wonderful spring break~

*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, March 4

3:30 pm Boys & Girls Tennis vs. Miami AJHS

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## Tuesday, March 5

8:30 am Wind Ensemble @ ABODA Spring Festival Gilbert H.S.  
 3:30 pm Boys & Girls Tennis @ Saguaro Saguaro H.S.  
 4:30 pm Varsity Softball @ Invitational Tournament Apollo H.S.  
 7:00 pm AJHS Booster Club Meeting 11/12 Building, AJHS

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## Wednesday, March 6

3:30 pm Track & Field @ Combs Multi Meet J.O. Combs H.S.  
 3:30 pm Boys Tennis @ St. Mary's Phoenix Tennis Ctr.  
 7:00 pm Spring Choir Concert PAC, AJHS

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## Thursday, March 7

3:30 pm Girls Tennis vs. St. Mary's AJHS  
 7:00 pm Orchestra Spring Concert PAC, AJHS  
 7:30 pm Varsity Softball @ Invitational Tournament Apollo H.S.

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## Friday, March 8

8:30 am Varsity/Women's Honor Choir @ Jazz/Madrigal Festival NAU  
 11:00 am Track & Field @ Gaucho Invitational Glendale Comm. College  
 1:30 pm Varsity Softball @ Invitational Tournament Apollo H.S.  
 3:30 pm Girls Tennis @ Vista Grande Vista Grande H.S.  
 3:45 pm JV Baseball @ Saguaro Saguaro H.S.

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## Saturday, March 9

9:00 am Varsity Softball @ Invitational Tournament Apollo H.S.  
 11:00 pm Drama Club - Broadway Bound New York City

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## Monday, March 11

1:30 pm JV Softball vs Saguaro AJHS  
 3:45 pm Varsity Softball vs Saguaro AJHS

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## Tuesday, March 12

3:45 pm Varsity Softball vs Arcadia AJHS  
 4:00 pm JV Softball @ Arcadia Arcadia H.S.

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## Wednesday, March 13

2:30 pm Track & Field @ Phoenix Christian Invitational Phoenix Christian School

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## Thursday, March 14

3:30 pm	Boys Tennis @ Washington	Washington H.S.
3:30 pm	Girls Tennis @ Washington	Washington H.S.
3:45 pm	JV Softball vs Youngker	AJHS
3:45 pm	Varsity Baseball vs Youngker	AJHS
6:30 pm	JV Baseball @ Youngker	Youngker H.S.
6:30 pm	Varsity Softball @ Youngker	Youngker H.S.

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**Tuesday, March 19**

3:45 pm	JV Baseball vs Washington	AJHS
3:45 pm	Varsity Baseball @ Washington	Washington H.S.

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**Thursday, March 21**

3:45 pm	JV Baseball @ Washington	Washington H.S.
3:45 pm	Varsity Baseball vs Washington	AJHS

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**Friday, March 22**

3:45 pm	JV Baseball @ Poston Butte	Poston Butte H.S.
3:45 pm	Varsity Baseball vs Washington	AJHS

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**Saturday, March 23**

10:00 am	Winter Guard & Drumline @ WGAZ Competition	Millennium H.S.
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***Important Dates to Remember***

March 5	ABODA Festival	April 19	No School
March 6	Spring Choir Concert	April 24	Senior Interviews
March 7	Spring Orchestra Concert	April 24	Scholarship Night
March 8	ASVAB Results	April 25-26	The Lion King Jr.
March 9	Drama Club Broadway Bound - NY	April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit (pending)
March 11-22	Spring Break	May 2	Powder Puff Volleyball
March 27	AIMS Science (Biology Students only)	May 6 - 8	IE Biology Posttest
March 29	StuCo Lock-in	May 6	42nd Annual Senior Scholarship Night
April 2	AzMerit - Writing	May 7	Band Concert
April 3	AzMerit - Reading	May 8	Early Release
April 5	Color Run	May 9	Orchestra Concert
April 9	SAT	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
April 10	Early Release	May 10	Yearbook Signing Party
April 10	Senior Cap and Gown Pickup	May 11	Prom
April 12	Mr. Prospector	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
April 15	CAC Sophomore Presentation	May 17	Senior BBQ
April 15	Academic Awards Night	May 23	Commencement (Graduation)
April 16	AzMerit - Mathematics		

# Field Trips

3/5/19  
3/9/19

ABODA Festival  
New York Trip - Broadway Bound

Wind Ensemble  
Drama

If your field trip is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at [kallyn@goaj.org](mailto:kallyn@goaj.org)

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## Fundraisers

Student Council is selling Senior Shirts for \$12. Bring your receipt from the bookstore to Mrs. Schwenckert's room to order your shirt. This is a pre-sale. Limited quantities may be available after the shirts are delivered.

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 one event remaining for this school year:

Boys Basketball: 4/6/19

Check in is at 9:00 a.m. and the run/walk begins at 9:30. Event occurs at Flatiron Park.

If your fundraiser is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at [kallyn@goaj.org](mailto:kallyn@goaj.org)

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## General Information:

**Do you have new or like new professional clothing that you no longer wear or want?** We are looking for donations to start a Professional Closet for our students. The purpose of the closet will be to give students the opportunity to have professional attire for scholarship and job interviews. If you have a donation please contact Kathy Allyn at [kallyn@goaj.org](mailto:kallyn@goaj.org) or (480) 982-1110 x 2303.

Teachers and Staff~~Funny Money!

One more week (March 3-March 8) of our Faculty Spirit Contest! For every day that you wear an AJHS shirt, you can receive "Funny Money" \$10 from Kathy Allyn. Thursdays are COLLEGE DAYS~~if you wear COLLEGE apparel in lieu of AJ apparel you can get funny money too. You must physically come to Kathy to receive your Funny Money (no email entries). At lunch on Friday, March 8, we will post 4 "Funny Money" \$10 bills outside of Dr. C's office. If your serial numbers match the posted bill(s)~~you will win an actual \$10 bill~~no funny business! There will be 4--\$10 bills handed out with a \$25 gift card drawing for all participants at the end of the two week contest (3/8/19).

Go Prospectors!

NOTE FROM THE NURSE

AJHS medication policy allows for parents to sign for students to receive over the counter medications for emergencies or occasional use. Parents need to provide medication for diagnosed chronic illnesses including students with frequent headaches. I will be asking parents whose students have taken Tylenol or Ibuprofen more than eight times to bring their own unopened bottle to use for the rest of the school year. I'm also concerned we don't overlook an undiagnosed illness so will be contacting these parents. Have a fun and healthy spring break!

Christine Stopa RN (480)982-1110 ext 2307

## Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenckert**

Interested in running for a Student Council position? Applications will be available on Monday March 4th and will be due on Friday March 29th. Come get involved and make 2019 - 2020 a fantastic year. If you have any questions, see Mrs. Schwenckert in room 186 or the Athletic Office.

Prom is right around the corner. Don't miss out on discovering the theme and location for this year's dance. Friday, March 8 we will be announcing it at lunch.

Student Council will be holding their annual lock-in on Friday, March 29 from 6p - midnight. You must request to come to this event. Please see Mrs. Schwenckert if you have any questions. There will be games, food, and lots of fun! We would love to have you.

Student council will be holding the Inaugural Color Run on Friday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. The celebrations will begin and end at Davis Field. Cost is \$10 to participate in the run or \$5 to come and hang out. Music, food, and games will be going on throughout the night. Hope to see you out there!

## Bragging Corner

Congratulations to Calista Smith and Shelby "Dallas" Wiltz for being selected as Students of the Month in February! Students of the Month are selected for their contributions to AJHS as students who represent high quality of character, respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and citizenship.



On Saturday February 23rd Apache Junction High School NJROTC Color Guard provided the colors and led the Lost Dutchman Days parade on Apache Trail. This was the first time the NJROTC unit provided a full 11 person Color Guard and consisted of the following cadets: Cadet Kohlmeyer, Cadet Deal, Cadet Jaress, Cadet Vigil, Cadet Simpson, Cadet Hofman, Cadet Adam C, Cadet Pride, Cadet Cleland, Cadet Latus, and Cadet Bliss.

**Have Bragging News--please share!**

This will allow us to recognize the many accomplishments of the Prospectors family. Send information to [achomoko@goaj.org](mailto:achomoko@goaj.org)

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## 9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

### ~POSITIVE PERSONAL CHARACTER~

AJHS encourages all students to demonstrate these quality traits of higher personal character:

- Respect- treat others with respect, accepting differences, using and modeling good manners, being kind and considerate of others, handling disagreements peacefully.
- Trustworthiness-be honest...don't deceive, cheat or steal. Have the courage to do the **right thing**, even when it is harder.
- Caring- Be kind and compassionate, express gratitude to others. Be charitable, helping others in need. Show and express forgiveness.
- Responsibility- Be diligent, do your best, and persevere. Demonstrate self-discipline and think before you act. Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitude.
- Citizenship- Do your share to make your school and community better. Respect authority, obey laws and rules. Support and cooperate for the greater good of the whole. Respect and protect the environment we all live in.

## 11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

### AZ Merit Schedule - Spring 2019

AZ Merit testing is rapidly approaching. AzMERIT is an annual statewide test that measures how students are performing in English and mathematics. Assessments can be effective tools to support your child's learning, by providing information to help teachers drive their instruction. Students enrolled in English 9, 10 and 11 and students enrolled in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry are required to test no matter what their grade level is.

**Writing - Tuesday, April 2, 2019**  
**Reading - Wednesday, April 3, 2019**  
**Math Part 1 & 2 -Tuesday, April 16, 2019**

\*EVIT students will check into their 3rd hour and leave for buses at 11:10 am.  
Sack lunch will be provided upon request.

Seniors not testing will report to school at 9:35am or  
if riding the bus to school they will report to the library at 7:15am

<b>Testing</b>	7:15am	9:35am
<b>Break</b>	9:35am	9:45am
1st hour	9:45am	10:16am
2nd hour	10:22am	10:53am
3rd hour	10:59am	11:30am
4th hour - Lunch	11:30am	12:10pm
5th hour	12:16pm	12:47pm
6th hour	12:53pm	1:24pm
7th hour	1:30pm	2:00pm

**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](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.

## Counseling Corner

**AP Students:** Next week is the last week to register for AP exams. Registration forms are available at the bookstore desk. The cost is \$94 per exam, but there is a fee waiver available if you qualify.

**ASVAB:** Counselors will be meeting with Juniors next Friday during 1st hour in the PAC to review score reports. There will be an announcement reminder.

**La Fronterra Arizona:** Counseling resource in Apache Junction located on Apache Trail and Meridian. Services include: psychiatric, case management, peer support, individual, group, and family counseling, substance abuse counseling, parenting with Love and Logic, LGBTQ support group, and much more. La Fronterra accepts ACCCHS, private insurance, and has self-pay/sliding fee scale. They are able to schedule intake appointments within 7 days. **Phone: 480-784-1514 x2265 or 520-316-6049**

# EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

## Apache Junction Unified School District EVIT/AJHS Student Transportation Update Letter

Dear Parents,

Effective March 25<sup>th</sup>, the AJHS and EVIT Administrative Teams will be making transportation changes to help improve the security and safety of all students riding to and from EVIT MAIN or EVIT EAST campus. Specifically, students will now depart from AJHS at 11:10am at the 2<sup>nd</sup> gate north of the main office.

All AJHS/EVIT students:

1. Will be transported by bus to EVIT MAIN or EVIT EAST campus depending on their program of study.
2. Will arrive at the second gate North of the main AJHS office by 11:10am to be officially released from the AJHS campus to board the bus.
3. Must have an official AJHS/EVIT ID card to leave the gate and board the bus each day. (ID cards will be provided at no cost).
4. Are not permitted to leave campus for lunch and return to ride the bus. Lunch is provided on the AJHS campus for all students.

AJHS/EVIT students that will be driving themselves:

1. Must have a signed permission slip (notarized or confirmed by an Administrator) on file.
2. Must have a current AJHS parking permit.
3. May not transport any AJHS student except a confirmed sibling or family member.

Please feel free to contact Tim Vanda (480-982-1110 x5287) for more information.

# Athletic Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

Congratulations to Coach Sam Valencia. Coach Sam was named Coach of the Year for the 4A Region. Coach Sam just completed his first year as the Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach. We can't wait to see what he and The Lady Prospectors do next year!

**Baseball:** Baseball participated in the Joe Padilla Tournament this past week. They played well throughout the entire tournament turning in wins against Miami, San Tan Foothills, and Bisbee. The Prospectors are off to a great start with a 4-1 game record. Keep it up team!

**Boys Tennis:** Boys tennis has been working hard with two gentlemen; Matthew De Guzman and Thomas Duarte. Thomas has come away with wins at Seton and Shadow Mountain and the pair dominated doubles against Shadow Mountain. Good luck this week against Miami, Saguario, and St Mary's!

**Girls Tennis:** Your Lady Prospectors opened up the season with matches against Seton and Glendale. Lauren Powell took away wins in her singles and double match against Glendale. Riyanh De Guzman got the win with Lauren in the doubles match. The girls have a busy week with matches against Miami, Saguario, St Mary's and Vista Grande.

**Softball:** Softball is back in full swing playing five games in the last week. The girls smoked the Marcos de Niza Padres in their home opener on Wednesday afternoon. Good luck this week at the Cool Nights Tournament!



**Apache Junction High School**

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Office Hours: 6:30am - 3:00pm