



Parent Prospector Press

To focus instruction for increased student achievement.

On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future

September 3, 2018 - September 8, 2018

Prospectors Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**



We have now completed the first 4 ½ weeks of the fall semester and Progress 1 grades have been posted to the students' StudentVue & ParentVue. It is essential that we all continue to focus on the academic growth of our students. I encourage you to communicate with teachers if you have a question or concern. This is a good time of the year to discuss with your son/daughter about your expectations and offer them some strategies and suggestions for academic and social success at school. Continuing to work as a team will enhance their

personal goal to succeed. Their high school years are an important time for providing direction for the rest of their life. Please feel free to contact your son/daughter's counselor or grade-level administrator if you need assistance with this matter. As a school, we are committed to assisting all of our students to find their best-self, therefore, we will soon be offering departmental tutoring during the lunch break. Watch for the schedule in the next Prospectors Press.

Absenteeism from school is becoming a national problem for our youth, this holds true for AJHS as well. This year we are making a special effort to ensure that all students fully benefit from their educational opportunities afforded them by attending school and being on-time. By staying involved and engaged in school our students feel better about themselves and are more successful after high school. Students can start building the habit of attending and being on time for school as early as preschool; learning that attending school on time, every day is important. By consistently attending, high school students typically do well in school, college, and at work. Did you know:

- Starting in kindergarten, students begin to fall behind academically and socially with too many absences
- Missing 10% increases the chance that your student will not read or master math at grade-level
- Missing just a day or two every few weeks causes a student to fall well behind his/her peers
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to catch-up students
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the three (3) signs that a student may drop out of high school
- Being present at school, your student learns valuable social skills
- By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th-grade test scores

It is important to note that school policies and state laws also recognize that regular attendance is an important aspect of education. It is reflected in Arizona's mandatory school attendance law, which requires that parents ensure that their children between the ages of 6 and 16 attend school. Please visit the AJUSD School Board Policy Manual at www.ajusd.org to better understand the following attendance policies; JE, JE-R, JEA, and JEA-E. These policies are the expectations that the State of Arizona has set in law for parents concerning their children's attendance.

We truly miss your son/daughter when they are gone or late as we value their contributions to their individual classes and to our school. We recognize that there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent or late for school, please know we are here to help if you or your student are facing challenges that affect regular school attendance or being on time.

Best Regards,

Dr. Angela Chomokos

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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, September 3

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 4

3:00 pm	Boys Golf vs. Casteel & Mesquite	Apache Creek Golf Club
5:00 & 6:00 pm	Volleyball vs Vista Grande	@ Vista Grande High School
7:00 pm	Booster Club meeting,	11/12 building

Wednesday, September 5

3:00 pm	Girls Golf vs. Tempe	Apache Creek Golf Club
4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 pm	Volleyball vs. Desert Edge High School	HOME
6:00 pm	JV Football vs. Vista Grande	@ Vista Grande High School

Thursday, September 6

4:00 pm	Swim	@ Skyline High School
4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 pm	Volleyball vs. Poston Butte	HOME
6:00 pm	JV Football vs. American Leadership Acad.	@ ALA Queen Creek

Friday, September 7

6:30 - 7:10am	PLCs	In Depts
1:00 pm	Boys Golf	@ Superstition Cup Inv Tourney
7:00 pm	Varsity Football	@ Vista Grande High School

Important Dates to Remember:

September 3	No School	October 1-12	Fall Break
September 12	Early Release	October 18-19	Adv. Drama Performance
September 14	Powder Puff FB game	September 22	Site Council
September 17	Site Council	October 24	Early Release
September 17-21	Homecoming Spirit Week	November 12	No School
September 22	Homecoming Parade	November 14	Early Release
	Homecoming Dance	November 19	Site Council
September 26	Choir & Orchestra Concert	November 21-23	No School
September 27	Early Release		Happy Thanksgiving
September 28	Early Release	December 12	Early Release
	Homecoming FB Game	December 17	Band Concert

December 19	Choir Concert	March 8	Drama Productions
December 20	Orchestra Concert	March 11-22	Spring Break
December 21	End of Semester (Early Release)	April 10	Early Release
December 24-January 6	No School	April 19	No School
	Winter Break	April 22	Site Council
	Happy Holidays	April 24	Scholarship Night
January 16	Early Release	April 25-26	Drama Performance
January 21	No School	April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit
January 28	Site Council	May 7	Band Concert
January 30-February 1	Musical	May 8	Early Release
February 13	Early Release	May 9	Orchestra Concert
February 18	No School	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
February 25	Site Council	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
March 6	Choir Concert	May 23	Commencement (Graduation)

General Information:

The AJHS Site Council will be meeting on designated Mondays at 6:00 pm: September 17, October 22, November 19, January 28, February 25, April 22. The meetings will be held in the 9/10 building. The meeting notices, agendas and meeting minutes will be posted on our website. The focus on the Site Council will be the implementation and review of the school improvement plan as it relates to the District Strategic Plan, school updates, and the expenditure of the general unspecified tax-credit account.

Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenckert**

Student council is in full swing preparing for the Powder Puff Game and Homecoming. This week we will be voting for the Homecoming Queen and Homecoming King for seniors.

Powder Puff teams have been formed and teams will be practicing for the next two weeks. The game is, Friday September 14th at 7 p.m. Cost is \$3 or 3 nonperishable food items. The Homecoming King and Queen will be announced at half time.

This year's theme for Homecoming is "Carnival". Tickets are on sale. Please see a Student Council Member or the Bookstore for tickets. Single tickets are \$20 and Couple tickets are \$35.

Bragging Corner

Harrison and Jake battled all of the matches at Johnson Ranch Golf Club with Harrison tying for first place in a three-way tie with the Campo Verde boys. The tiebreaker was the highest handicap hole, which went to Campo Verde. Matt had one of his best finishes also. Our team won its first match in two years by defeating Poston Butte yesterday and are now ranked in DII golf as a team. Last year we did not have enough players to qualify as a team in any of the matches so it was a great day yesterday!!!

The boys and girls swim team had their first meet of the season last night, and they were amazing. For the girls team, Madisyn Woods and Audrey Washburn both set school records in their events, and qualified for state. Maddi set the school record in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. Audrey set the school record in the 100 breaststroke. Bella Vasquez, Audrey Washburn, Maddi Woods, and Kaylee Smith also qualified for state in the medley relay.

For the boys, Brady Williams crushed his previous best time in the 100 butterfly and also qualified for state. Adam Belscher, Jacob Jilk, Brady Williams, and Seth Peterson also qualified for state in both the medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay. Please recognize all the swimmers on the team as they have represented AJHS with honor, school spirit, and the highest level of character. Go Prospectors!

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**

5 Ways to win in the classroom

(Kipp, Kendall; VolleyballUsa; Vol 46, No 2)

1. **Be comfortable talking with your teachers**- When you give them the opportunity and seek their guidance, they will be there to help you.
2. **Do your homework thoroughly**- It may be tempting to rush through your work to get it done quickly, it will do you more good if you strive for comprehension, not just completion. When it comes time for a test, you will be better prepared.
3. **Study ahead of time**-Studying ahead of time not only ensures you have enough time to learn the material, it also gives you the opportunity to seek extra help from your teachers or friends if there are things you don't understand.
4. **Prioritize**-While it might be hard to choose school over social events, successful students understand that school comes first and must be a priority.
5. **Set goals**-Set goals for yourself at the beginning of the year so you know what you are working for. Start thinking about what you might be striving towards after high school, helps to keep you focused on today when reaching for tomorrow.

11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

Attendance

Prospectors please make sure you are watching your attendance. One of the most important things you can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing your academic success.

I have been meeting with Juniors and Seniors to review their attendance. This includes both tardies and absences. Please remember that students are expected to attend at least 90 percent of class time in order to receive credit. Withholding of grades or credit can/may occur if a student is absent (excused and unexcused) more than ten (10) days in a semester (page 5 of the Prospector Student Handbook).

There are many great things happening on campus, but you need to be present to be a part of them.

Hope you enjoyed your long weekend!

Counseling Corner

Sophomores and Juniors, we are excited to announce that the PSAT will be offered at AJHS on October 24th *during* the school day. To register, please pick up a blue registration form at the Bookstore desk in the main office. The cost for the test is \$25. Once you have paid for your test, you will receive a study guide. **The registration deadline is September 10th.**

For students interested in the ACT, please see Mrs. Jenkins for a FREE study guide.

The Flinn Scholars Program offers Arizona's 20 most accomplished and promising high-school seniors an education distinguished by exceptional resources, flexibility and opportunity -- without a dime of debt. The scholarship offers full cost of tuition and mandatory fees, plus housing and meals for eight semesters at ASU, NAU or UA. It also offers a three-week overseas group seminar, plus individual study abroad among a number of other benefits.

To qualify for the Flinn Scholars Program, students must:

- Be in the top five percent of their graduating class and have at least a 3.5 GPA.
- Have strong SAT or ACT scores (see flinnscholars.org for details).
- Demonstrate leadership in a variety of extracurricular activities.
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident by the time of entry of university.
- Be an Arizona resident for at least two years prior to entering university.

The **deadline for applications is Oct. 5, 2018.** To apply, go to flinnscholars.org.

EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

Dana Kuhn is an Assistant Principal for EVIT (East Valley Institute of Technology). She is an educator with over 20 years' experience, both in and out of the classroom. She has taught technology courses such as Microsoft and web page development. She's taught American/Arizona History, American/Arizona Government, Yearbook, and Credit Recovery courses. Dana also serves on AdvancEd site visiting teams to review accreditation credentials for other schools. At EVIT Dana is in charge of the following programs:

- 3D Animation
- CISCO Networking
- Coding
- Criminal Justice
- Cyber Security
- Digital Device Diagnostic & Repair
- Fashion Design
- Fire Science
- Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- Radio Broadcasting & Music Production
- Video Production

Dana believes that EVIT is the most magical place for high school students. The opportunities are endless and the ability to jump-start your earning potential right out of high school is incredible! There is no better place to spend ½ your school day than at EVIT! Dana holds both an Arizona Teaching Certificate and a Principal Certificate. If you'd like to talk to Dana she can be reached at 480-461-4017 or dkuhn@evit.com.

Athletic Update

by Ms. Dawn Schwenckert

What's the Score?

Sport	Opponent	Freshmen	JV	Varsity
Football	CDO	20-6 W	0-42 L	13-41 L
Girls Golf	Queen Creek			Lost in a close match
	McClintock & Saguaro			2nd
Boys Golf	Poston Butte			Lost in tie-breaker
	Deer Valley & South Mountain			Win
Girls Cross Country				N/A
Boys Cross Country				N/A
Girls Volleyball	Seton Catholic	Lost	Lost	Lost 15 - 25, 15 - 25, 18 - 25
Girls Swim/Dive	Maricopa & Poston Butte			2nd
Boys Swim/Dive	Maricopa & Poston Butte			2nd



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