



Prospector Press

To focus instruction for increased student achievement.

On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future

September 17, 2018 - September 22, 2018

Principals Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**



This week I would like to focus on a variety of different topics:

When moving to a 45 minute lunch period, we did so with the intention of establishing a structure for lunch-time tutoring and academic assistance. After meeting with department representatives, I am excited to inform you that beginning Monday, September 24, academic assistance will now be offered from 10:20-10:40am~

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Monday & Wednesday: | English & Social Studies | 11/12 Building |
| ➤ Tuesday & Thursday: | Mathematics & Science | 9/10 Building |

Academic assistance is for students to make up tests/quizzes, and to acquire academic tutoring. Please encourage your son/daughter to utilize this intervention strategy.

- ❖ This year we will be establishing an AJHS Site Council. The council will be meeting on designated Mondays at 6:00 pm beginning October 22. Meeting notices, agendas and meeting minutes will be posted on our website. The focus of 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. More information to follow in the near future.
- ❖ As you know Arizona allows an individual taxpayer to contribute up to \$200 (or a married couple filing jointly up to \$400) to a public school of their choice and get a dollar-for-dollar credit against your tax liability. That means you, as an Arizona taxpayer, can direct some of the money that you would normally pay in state taxes to go directly to the eligible school program YOU select. Many of our parents choose to give their tax-credits to a specific club or athletic team, however, you also have the option of donating to the general unspecified school tax-credit account. This account will be managed by our Site-Council, with the intent of supporting programs of greatest need.
- ❖ Throughout history, there have been a variety of health concerns centered around high school students. Most recently the concern is regarding e-cigarettes and vaping on high school campuses. I share this common concern with high school principals throughout the nation. As cited in a CNN report which aired on April 6, 2018, "A sharp spike in vaping and the use of e-cigarettes by students has grabbed the attention of the US Food and Drug Administration. The rapid spread of the fad was flagged in a [2016 report](#) from the US surgeon general. It cited a 900% increase in e-cigarette use by high school students from 2011 to 2015, and the [2016 National Youth Tobacco Survey](#) noted that 1.7 million high school students said they had used e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days. For middle school students, the number was 500,000." I recommend that all parents become familiar with the facts regarding this national epidemic and the health risks associated with vaping. (*Vaping now an epidemic among US high schoolers* By **Roni Selig, Davide Cannaviccio and Charlotte Hawks**, CNN Updated 6:47 PM ET, Fri April 6, 2018). As with other high schools, we too have seen an increase in students choosing to use vape devices on campus. As a preventative measure, later this fall we will be offering educational opportunities for students, parents, and teachers to learn more about the facts surrounding these personal choices.

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 17

All Day	Mime Day	AJHS Campus
7:30-9:00am	College Fair	South Gym
7:30a - 10:00am	Facilities Meeting	Conference Room

Tuesday, September 18

All Day	Twin Day	AJHS Campus
3:00pm	Boys Golf Mesa & Shadow Mountain	Apache Creek
4:00pm	AJHS vs. Saguario	Saguaro

Wednesday, September 19

All Day	Animal Print	AJHS Campus
4:00pm	Cross Country	Red Mountain High School
6:00pm	Freshman Football vs. Shadow Mtn	AJHS Davis Field

Thursday, September 20

All Day	Circus Tent Day (Red & White)	AJHS Campus
12:00pm	Girls Golf East Valley Invitational	Las Colinas Golf Club
4:00pm	Girls Volleyball vs. Washington HS	Washington HS

Friday, September 21

All Day	Meme/Vine Day	AJHS Campus
6:30-7:10am	PLC	Departments
7:00-9:00pm	Varsity Football vs. Shadow Mountain	Davis Field

Saturday, September 22

9:00 - 10:00am	Homecoming Parade (map attached)	AJHS Campus
8:00p - 11:00pm	Homecoming Dance	North Gym

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September 17-21 Homecoming Spirit Week	September 27	Early Release
September 22 Homecoming Parade	September 28	Early Release
Homecoming Dance		Homecoming FB Game
September 26 Choir & Orchestra Concert	October 1-12	Fall Break
Picture Retakes		

October 16	Josten's Senior Cap and Gown Presentation	January 21	No School
October 18-19	Adv. Drama Performance	January 30-February 1	Musical
October 23-24	Senior Cap and Gown Orders	February 13	Early Release
October 24	Early Release	February 18	No School
November 12	No School	March 6	Choir Concert
November 14	Early Release	March 8	Drama Productions
November 21-23	No School	March 11-22	Spring Break
	Happy Thanksgiving	April 10	Early Release
December 12	Early Release	April 19	No School
December 17	Band Concert	April 24	Scholarship Night
December 19	Choir Concert	April 25-26	Drama Performance
December 20	Orchestra Concert	April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit
December 21	End of Semester (Early Release)	May 7	Band Concert
December 24-January 6	No School	May 8	Early Release
	Winter Break	May 9	Orchestra Concert
	Happy Holidays	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
January 16	Early Release	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
		May 23	Commencement (Graduation)

Field Trips

Saturday, 9/22	Diamondbacks Game - National Anthem	Choir
Saturday, 9/22	Millennium HS Invitational	Band

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Fundraisers

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General Information:

Just a reminder Teachers, you must meet with Dr. Chomokos at least 3 weeks prior to any field trips or before having your request submitted to the School Board. All out-of-state field trip requests must be submitted to the Board at least 60 days prior to departure. Please keep in mind that you also need time to schedule transportation which may require a requisition. If you need to schedule time for field trip approval contact Kathy Allyn at kallyn@goaj.org.

Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

There has been a lot of conversation about why Homecoming is occurring the way it is. Between the change in calendar, the varsity football schedule, and conversations at the district level, the team decided to make this year a two-week celebration. This coming week, AJHS will have spirit week, the parade, and the Homecoming Dance. Next week, will encompass the Bonfire and Homecoming Football Game. We know this is uncommon and many people are left scratching their heads, but to meet the needs of all students, Apache Junction High School will resurrect older traditions with ongoing activities to make this year the best of the best!

We hope to see you at every event:

Spirit Week: **Monday** - Mime Day, **Tuesday** - Twin Day, **Wednesday** - Wild Day (Animal Print),
Thursday - Circus Tent Day (Red & White), **Friday** - Meme/Vine Day

Saturday:

Parade - 9am

Homecoming Dance - Carnival Theme - Single (\$20), Couple (\$35)

Bragging Corner



Thank you to Lisa, Jeanette, and Jerry for doing an outstanding job in cleaning up the outdoor kiln ceramics area. Students now have a clean and organized space to store their ceramics pieces.

Have Bragging News--please share!

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9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

Arizona Laws 36-798.03.

Tobacco products are prohibited on school grounds, inside school buildings, in school parking lots or playing fields, in school buses or vehicles or at off-campus school-sponsored events.

Under the provisions of A.R.S. 36-798.03. a person who violates the prohibition is guilty of committing a petty offense.

JICG: Tobacco use by students

The possession or use of tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, electronic cigarettes, other chemical inhalation devices, or vapor products is prohibited in the following locations: *school grounds, school buildings, school parking lots, school playing fields, school buses, and other district vehicles, and off-campus school-sponsored events.*

Consequences for use and/or Possession of tobacco on school property

**represented as tobacco use or possession (vaporizer device & liquids)*

1. Off-Campus suspension 5 Days + Contract
2. Off-Campus suspension 9 Days + District Due Process Hearing

11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

Picture Retakes

Picture retake sign-ups have been occurring in English class. Students will receive a pass from their English teacher the beginning of next week for their scheduled retake time. If your student does not have an English class and would like to sign up for retakes or missed signing up, please see Mrs. Campbell.

Applying for College

If you are interested in going to an in-state university, I would encourage you to begin the application process to one of our great universities. Last week I shared a link for applying to Arizona State University. This week's link is for the University of Arizona, www.arizona.edu/admissions. Scroll down click on Freshman and it will walk you through the process.

Counseling Corner

Prospector Counseling Pass: If you want to see Mrs. McFarlin, Mrs. Jenkins, or Mr. Mattausch in the College and Career Center and we are not available, please fill out a pass located on the bookstore counter and we will send for you when possible.

We are seeking junior and senior students to represent AJHS as delegates to this year's Pinal County Town Hall on Thursday, Oct. 18, at Robson Ranch in Eloy, AZ. Each year, Town Hall delegates examine all sides to an issue in an attempt to determine a solution. Past Town Halls have addressed local healthcare services, education, transportation, business development, and taxes. This year's topic is "Let's Be Civil -- Promoting Positive Communication."

By participating in this event, the selected students become eligible to win a Wayne Gerken Youth of the Year Scholarship. Scholarship awards range from \$250 to \$2,500.

If you are interested in being an AJHS representative at the Pinal County Town Hall, **please sign up in the College & Career Center (Front Office) no later than Wednesday, Sept. 26.**

EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

The EVIT classes are up and running with many activities which offer AJHS students a chance to show off their newly acquired skills. The culinary program has been working hard to prepare for special dining events and many local organizations, such as United Way, have scheduled one of their core meetings with the AJ/EVIT Culinary program. In October, the students will have their first opportunity to show off their culinary skills as they prepare a one-of-a-kind dining experience in the AJHS dining room. United Way Officials were so impressed with last year's experience that they have scheduled multiple events with the culinary program for the 2018-19 school year. Chef Diana has been working hard to prepare his students with the skills required to host professional banquet style events. Let us know if you may have a group interested in hosting an event with the AJ/EVIT Culinary program.

Athletic Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenckert**

What's the Score?

Sport	Opponent	Freshmen (JVB)	JV	Varsity
Football	Estrella Foothills	39-27 W	28-28 T	bye-week
Girls Golf	JO Combs			Win
	Carl Hayden			Win

Boys Golf	Williams Field & Arcadia			3rd
	East Valley Invitation			13th out of 19 Great Performance
Girls Cross Country	Valley Christian & Maricopa			Win
Boys Cross Country	Valley Christian & Maricopa			Win
Girls Volleyball	Wolves Classic tournament			
Girls Swim/Dive	Arete & Gilbert Christian			2nd Place
Boys Swim/Dive	Arete & Gilbert Christian			2nd Place



Apache Junction High School
 2525 S. Ironwood
 Apache Junction, AZ 85120
 (480)474-3980 phone
 (480)982-3787 fax
 Office Hours: 6:30am - 3:00pm