

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **High School and Middle School are Riding for Success**

*Apache Junction High School and Cactus Canyon Junior High recognized by a national non-profit organization for promoting safe cycling and improving the lives of youth.*

**APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZ** (July 10, 2020) – Outride, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of youth through cycling, announced that Apache Junction High School and Cactus Canyon Junior High are one of 44 2020-2021 grant recipients for the Riding for Focus School Program.

The Riding for Focus school-based cycling program uses cycling as a tool for students to achieve academic, health, and social success. Over the past 5 years, Outride has provided 185 middle schools across the US and Canada with everything they need to get their 6-8th grade students riding including bikes, helmets, starter maintenance equipment, cycling curriculum, and teacher training.

AJHS and CCJH received in addition to training materials, 35 mountain bikes and safety equipment.

"I am proud of the work that physical education teacher Tim Mckee and the teams at AJHS and CCJH have done to earn this opportunity for our students," said AJHS Principal Christopher Lineberry.

"Through programs such as this, we are meeting the needs of the whole child, promote lifelong health and physical activity, and improve the quality of life for our students. We look forward to coming back to school in person soon so that we can get our students learning and riding!"

Outride is committed to being where the need is the greatest. In the 2019-2020 school year, 53% of the Riding for Focus students received free or reduced school lunches and 38% identify as non-white. In addition to the Riding for Focus programs issued to date, Outride has awarded 43 Outride Fund matching grants supporting local cycling communities through education, trail building, and rider development. Between the Riding for Focus program and the Outride Fund, Outride is committing \$1.4 million to youth cycling initiatives in 2020.

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## **About AJUSD**

The Apache Junction Unified School District serves over 3,200 students in a 217-square mile area that includes the City of Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Peralta Trail, Queen Valley and the unincorporated areas of the Superstition Mountain foothills. There are five schools in the district including a high school, junior high and a special education facility. Learn more about the Apache Junction Unified School District at [www.ajusd.org](http://www.ajusd.org).

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AJUSD empowers students by providing them with the knowledge, skills and ingenuity to pursue their dreams and make a positive difference in the world.