



FUSD Newsletter

Issue #16
September 2014

Math Takes Center Stage at FUSD

The Flagstaff Unified School District is currently conducting a comprehensive review of our mathematics program. This includes aligning curriculum to the new more rigorous standards, providing training for teachers and administrators, researching supplemental instructional material, strengthening intervention supports, reaching out to the community and appointing a district-wide mathematics coordinator, Jane Gaun, to oversee this work.

The adoption of new mathematics standards by the state of Arizona in 2010 has prompted this district-wide focus on strengthening mathematics teaching and learning. The 2014-15 school year marks the first time in which the State will test our students on these standards, which call for demonstrating a much deeper understanding of mathematics at all grades.

During the 2013-14 school year, the Mathematics Leadership Team was formed to review current research on mathematics education and the implementation practices of successful school systems in and out of our state. One change that resulted from this work was the addition of the Accelerated 6/7 and 7/8

mathematics courses to the FUSD middle school program. This change allows some students to accelerate in mathematics by compacting courses (3 years of mathematics in 2 years). This type of accelerated pathway is highly recommended by the authors of the new mathematics standards, and is the adopted model in many states and districts, including Massachusetts. It should be noted that Massachusetts is ranked number one nationally and sixth internationally in mathematics achievement.

FUSD supports a balanced approach to mathematics education that divides instructional time equally between building conceptual understanding, attaining procedural fluency and the application of this learning in various contexts. This approach will not only be reflected in new curriculum guides but also in the learning environments. Throughout the year, grade level teacher teams from across the district will be collaborating to align district curriculum guides and explore additional instructional resources.

However, it is not enough to teach better mathematics, we must also teach mathematics better. To do this, numerous professional learning opportunities for deepening content

knowledge in mathematics and reviewing research-based instructional practices have been made available for teachers and administrators. Through state and federal grants, over seventy K-8 teachers and almost half of the high school mathematics teachers have or are participating in long-term professional learning in partnership with NAU and the Coconino County Educational Service Agency. Additionally, school and district administrators are working to strengthen their role as instructional leaders in mathematics. They are gaining an understanding of the new expectations for teaching and learning mathematics, for supporting and coaching their teachers as they implement these changes and for communicating this information with the school community.

The final outcome of these efforts will be seen in increased understanding and achievement in mathematics as we prepare our students for the dynamic career opportunities of the next generation. Flagstaff Unified School District is committed to providing a high quality mathematics program to all of our students.

Upcoming Events

September

<i>Labor Day</i>	1
<i>Holiday</i>	
<i>Thomas Open House</i>	3
<i>FHS Open House</i>	4
<i>Knoles Open House</i>	10
<i>DeMiguel and Marshall Open House</i>	11
<i>FACTS "Lights On" Event</i>	13
<i>NAU Science and Engineering Day</i>	20

October

<i>Fall Holiday</i>	16 & 17
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The FUSD calendar and bus routes can be found on our website at www.fusd1.org.

Do you have a story idea? Please contact Karin Eberhard—keberhard@fusd1.org

Safety When Our Buses Are On The Road

School is back in session and the Arizona Department of Public Safety and Flagstaff Unified School District would like to remind you that school buses will be out on the roadways in force during this 2014 - 2015 school year. While the school buses are sharing the highways with local traffic, it is important to remember the Arizona laws that pertain to traffic around them.

Arizona statutes require:

- Drivers that are approaching or overtaking a school bus from either direction, which has stopped on the highway with alternating flashing lights and displaying a stop sign from the left side, to stop before overtaking the bus and remain stopped until the bus proceeds or no longer displays the stop sign and flashing lights.
- If you are approaching a bus that has not stopped, but begins to flash alternating lights, prepare to stop. School bus drivers are required to activate alternating lights, a minimum of 100 feet from a stop or when stopped on a highway, for the purpose of boarding and de-boarding children.
- On a non-separated roadway, a two-way left turn lane is not a separation of the roadway and you must stop for buses if you are approaching from either side of the highway.

Like all vehicles traveling the state's highway systems, school buses become involved in collisions. Everyone involved in this industry works hard to ensure the safe transportation of its students and to reduce the occurrence of collisions. The Arizona Department of Public Safety and Flagstaff Unified School District ask that all drivers stay alert around school buses. Stop, wait and drive safely.

Thank you to Sgt. L. Bradshaw (AZDPS) for his assistance with this article. Please visit the AZDPS website for further information.



A New Look and More Parking for Cromer

Cromer, the last school scheduled for office reconfiguration to improve safety, has now been completed and is very well received by the office staff. Now at all FUSD schools you must pass through the office in order to enter the school. In addition, Cromer has a new parking lot for its staff. This addition is cause for true celebration for parents, staff and visitors!



News Briefs

FUSD's Family Resource Center

K-12 Tutoring by FUSD Certified Teachers

FUSD School Information & Forms

Community Resources & Referrals

Computer & Internet Access

Adult Basic Computer Training

Parent & Family Workshops & Classes

Parenting Information & Books

Children's Books & Videos Available for Checkout

Interpreter Services (Spanish & Navajo)

Last month the FUSD Governing Board voted unanimously to name the FHS baseball field the "Gil Corona Baseball Field". Mr. Corona was a WWII Veteran and POW, FHS teacher, Varsity Baseball Coach and Assistant Football Coach. Assistant Superintendent Bob Kuhn stated "It is great to be able to name a field after a dedicated teacher and coach, which Gil Corona was in his tenure at Flagstaff High School. Crowds at FHS will be proud to look up and see the name Gil Corona on the scoreboard".



As part of the 10-day Flagstaff Festival of Science, adventurers of all ages are invited to explore alternative energy sources, the magic of bubbles, the formation of comets (and make one yourself!), the agility of robots, the nature of the mind, the chemistry of explosions, unbelievable physics phenomena and much more during **NAU's Science & Engineering Day, Saturday September 20 from 1-4pm at the High Country Conference Center and surrounding buildings**. In addition to participating in hands-on experiments, watch NAU professors and students put on amazing displays of science; go on tours through NAU's laboratories equipped with cutting edge technology; and discover how NAU is shaping the future of STEM education during the open house of the Center for Science Teaching and Learning.

Before coming, be sure to pick up a passport or download one @ <http://scifest.org/>.

FREE parking will be available in the parking garage at High Country Conference Center.

STEM

Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number – 527-6000

Curriculum and Instruction Office – 527-6021

Human Resources – 527-6070

Food Service – 527-6090

Bilingual Education – 527-6107

Student Support Services – 527-6160

Transportation – 527-2300

Family Resource Center – 774-1103



Congratulations to the students and staff at Thomas Elementary School for becoming the 2nd "No Excuses University School" in FUSD. Thomas and Leupp have earned this recognition by demonstrating a commitment of college readiness and through efforts to ensure all children meet standards in reading, writing and math, not matter their challenges.





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Excellence For All By All

Please visit our Facebook page (Flagstaff Unified School District/Facebook) for all of the latest events and good news.



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Statement of Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Motto and Goals

Vision Statement:

Excellence for All by All

Mission Statement:

The mission of FUSD is to provide the best comprehensive educational opportunities for all in a safe, collaborative environment of high standards and expectations.

Core Beliefs:

We believe in the power of expectation; in the impact of high standards; in the value of diversity; and in the six pillars of character.

Motto:

Education at the Top of Arizona

Goals:

- Maintain and Improve Comprehensive Student Opportunities and Services
- Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified, Motivated, and Excelling Staff
- Improve Student Preparedness and Mastery
- Research and Create Desirable and Relevant Educational Opportunities and Services
- Increase Public Engagement and Support for FUSD
- Develop Diversified Partnerships and Revenue Opportunities



Student Profile— Holly Jamerson

Holly Jamerson is a senior at Coconino High School. While looking for a project for her Girl Scout Gold Award Holly learned from her mother about the need at Cromer Elementary School for a garden that could be used by the students and the science teacher, Mrs. DiVittorio, to incorporate environmental sciences into her lessons. She started the garden project with the help of the school's garden club. "We started working on the garden in May. We planted pumpkins, and the sisters of three, a Native American tradition of corn, squash, and beans. Sunflowers were planted in June. These last few weeks, we have put in a pond, bird-feeders, a lot of plants

to attract butterflies and new wood trimming around the garden edges." Holly would also like to acknowledge Home Depot who donated most of the plants, a shed, and other supplies. There is a blog on the school website where you can see the progress. The garden was completed with the help of Mrs. Curtin, Mrs. DiVittorio, Principal Gordon, TerraBirds, Summit Fire Department, and other community volunteers. Congratulations to Miss Jamerson for her Girl Scout Gold Award and we thank her for the wonderful community service project that will serve Cromer Elementary School for years to come.

