



January 2019

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Parents,

I would like to start off this month's newsletter with a celebration – Yesterday I went on ANN announcements to acknowledge the hard work and effort of our students during the first semester, coordinating with the release of the Semester One Honor Roll and Principal's List. The qualifying GPA for Honor Roll is 3.5, and the qualifying GPA for Principal's List is 3.8. In total, more than 1/3 of all Arcadia students qualified for these distinctions. The 661 students recognized were sent home with certificates yesterday. If your student didn't share their certificate with you, ask them. Go ahead and put it on the refrigerator with a magnet like we used to do when they were in elementary school. I still do it with my kids, it feels good.

This first month of the semester has been a very busy time for all of us here at Arcadia. We are continuing forward with daily teaching and learning, we are in the midst of course selection for the 2019-20 school year, planning student activities such as 8th grade visit day (last week) and TWIRP (this week), and proceeding with planning for the second semester testing window of ACT, AzMERIT, AIMS Science, and AP testing (among others). As we do so, our primary focus will be on growing our students each day that we have them, not simply getting them ready for a test.

Attached to the In-Touch email in which you received this newsletter, you will also find a letter from SUSD regarding ParentVUE upgrades that are being rolled out. The system enhancements will allow parents to view their multiple students in a single login, to customize automated alerts about student attendance and grades, and to report student absences from school. This last one will certainly be seen as a blessing to not only parents who do not want to call in to the attendance office, but also for our attendance clerk who will similarly benefit from a decrease in the number of calls received. You will later (possibly next week) receive an email with your ParentVUE activation code. I encourage you to utilize it above StudentVUE.

In closing, I'd like to share two links with you. One is in regards to the dangers of teenage vaping, the other in regards to teenage drinking. I know these are topics that we try to address frequently, always within in the context of safety.

[Dangers of Teenage Vaping](#)

[Teenage Drinking, Parents Hosting \(Not My Kid\)](#)

Professionally,

Todd Stevens - Principal Arcadia



The Arizona Department of Education's Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by the time they graduate from high school. The Seal is placed on diplomas and noted on transcripts. The Seal of Biliteracy program honors the language skills students attain; values language diversity; can be evidence of skills that are attractive to college admissions offices and future employers; and prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and in a global society. This year, interested seniors have already applied for the Seal and will be tested in their second language next month. Recipients of the 2019 Seal of Biliteracy will be notified by April 10. Last year, SUSD was proud to award the Arizona Seal of Biliteracy to 62 graduating seniors. Click [here](#) for more information on Arizona's Seal of Biliteracy.



The SUSD Governing Board seated two new members this month: Patty Beckman and Jann-Michael Greenburg. At its Jan. 10 organizational meeting, the Board elected Beckman to be the Board's 2019 president and returning member Allyson Beckham to be vice president. Acting Supt. Dr. John Kriekard and his staff look forward to working together with the new Board.

New Look Calendars: The next time you consult a [future school-year calendar](#) on the SUSD website, you'll find a different look to them. They're easier to read and, based on your suggestions, the second side has a complete list of all 30 SUSD schools, including bell times, early release times and office phone numbers. No dates have changed, just the design.