



February 18, 2022

Hello again, SUSD Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to report that the Arizona Legislature is moving toward resolving the Aggregate Expenditure Limit issue we have been telling you about in recent weeks. On Tuesday, the Arizona House of Representatives approved a resolution to allow the limit to be overridden this school year for money the state has already allocated to public school districts. This is good news. It is up to the Arizona Senate to act now, with a March 1 deadline looming. If you are not familiar with what's at stake, you can read more [here](#).

Academics

The Class of 2022 continues to make the most of post-high school scholarship opportunities. All 20 of our seniors who were named Semifinalists last fall for 2022 National Merit Scholarships – three from Arcadia, three from Chaparral, 12 from Desert Mountain, and two from Saguaro – have achieved Finalist status in that academic and leadership competition.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces winners of its various scholarships beginning in April. Students initially become eligible for the awards based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) taken during their junior year.

Fine Arts

Starting next week, Kiva Elementary School students' artwork will be on display at Paradise Valley Town Hall as part of the municipality's annual student art exhibit.

The students at Desert Canyon Middle School invite you to go down the rabbit hole with them next week as they present Disney's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* Join Alice as she meets the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts, the Cheshire Cat, and more wacky characters first made famous by Lewis Carroll, but with a fresh take for a new generation of performers and audiences. Shows are at 6:30 p.m. next Friday, February 25, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 26.

Coronado High School's Dance students take to their Auditorium stage next Friday night, February 25, for their Winter Concert. You'll be tapping your toes at the *One Night Only – A Night at the Movies* production, featuring dances from famous musicals such as *La La Land*, *Grease*, *Hairspray*, and more. The show gets underway at 6:30 p.m.

We like to celebrate the successes of our graduates, as well as those of our current students! We received the happy news today that 2019 Chaparral High School graduate Sam Primack will be taking over the lead role in the North American tour of *Dear Evan Hansen* this summer. Sam was an understudy in the show's Broadway production during his senior year three years ago and racked up a lot of frequent flyer miles! You may recall the tale of his commuting home to Arizona to take his final exams and perform at ASU's annual High School Musical Theatre Awards show. Good for you, Sam!

Athletics

Since we last wrote, post-season play has wrapped up for the Arcadia, Chaparral, and Desert Mountain girls soccer teams; the Chaparral, Coronado, Desert Mountain, and Saguaro boys soccer teams; the Saguaro girls basketball team and the Arcadia, Chaparral, and Desert Mountain boys basketball teams. We know how hard these student athletes work to perform at peak levels in the classroom and on the field of competition, and we congratulate them on their great seasons. Behind them are hard-working coaches – most of them SUSD teachers – who dedicate their off-hours to guiding and mentoring their players. To both, we offer our sincerest thanks for representing SUSD so well.

The Sabercats girls soccer team faces Notre Dame's Saints tomorrow in 4A state semifinal action. The girls take the pitch at high noon at Williams Field High School in Gilbert. Tickets are available [here](#), or you can watch the match with an [NFHS Network](#) subscription.

Coming up on Tuesday, February 22, our middle schools' cross country season concludes. The finals will take place at Chaparral Park, starting at 4:30 p.m. These runners are just beginning to learn the fine balance that is required between being a successful student and an excelling athlete.

COVID Update

Case numbers continuing to decline, both in our [SUSD zip codes](#) and in our [buildings](#). While overall transmission remains high, we are starting to see a few areas move into the substantial category. We continue to track the data and monitor for any spike in cases.

Enjoy the three-day, Presidents Day Weekend!

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)