ACHIEVEMENT IN ACTION

Glendale Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winter 2007

Serving communities in Phoenix and Glendale since 1911

APHALLO CORTEZ | GLENDALE | GREENWAY | INDEPENDENCE | MOON VALLEY
SUNNYSLOPE | THUNDERBIRD | WASHINGTON | METROCENTER ACADEMY | NORTHERN ANNEX

Mr. Jacobson’s career with the district spans 28 years. Prior to his current position, he served as Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Jacobson’s rich personal history with the district goes back even further, however, to his days as a student at Sunnyslope High School.

The administrators, teachers and support staff of the Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) remain committed to providing our students the best education in Arizona. Our students continue to earn scores on state-mandated assessments that exceed the averages in Maricopa County and Arizona. All schools in the GUHSD have also been identified by the Arizona Department of Education with achievement profiles that are Highly Performing and Excelling. These results are an indication that our curriculum is aligned to the Arizona State Standards, that our students can demonstrate what they have been taught at high academic levels and that our students are prepared to confront the challenges they will encounter as they continue their academic pursuits in the future.

In addition to preparing our students for academic success, we are committed to being accessible and available to parents and neighbors in the communities we serve. In fact, we are proud to announce that a new “Parent Portal” is available through our Infinite Campus Education Management System. This online tool ensures that parents have fast and easy access to information that would have required many phone calls to many different departments in the past. For example, parents can check on their student’s academic progress, determine whether their child was in attendance in each class period and review any disciplinary referrals and consequences from the comfort of their home, or from anywhere they have Internet access. Parents also have greater access to teachers and administrators through the use of active e-mail connections on the Parent Portal. Communication is now easier and faster than ever.

These are indeed exciting times in the Glendale Union High School District. Our district is fortunate to have the support of parents and neighbors who are eager to work collaboratively with teachers and administrators in providing students with environments that are clean, safe and equipped with technological tools to promote effective learning. The strong support throughout the communities we serve has resulted in successful bond and override elections in the past. The new Media Centers that have been built at each school are an excellent example of the benefits our students receive when our parents and neighbors take an interest in supporting our schools.

I thank each of you for entrusting your children to us. We take that responsibility seriously. We won’t let you down.

Sincerely,

Warren Jacobson
Superintendent
SETTING THE STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Glendale Union High School District continues to set itself apart as a district that defines excellence. Of the 522 high schools evaluated in the 2006 Arizona LEARNS school profiles, only 54 were designated as “Excelling,” the highest possible rating. Nearly ten percent of those Excelling high schools were in the Glendale Union High School District.

Released by the Arizona Department of Education in October 2006, the profiles rated schools across the state from Excelling to Failing in six categories.

Fully 55 percent of the schools in GUHSD received an Excelling rating. The number of schools in the district receiving the top rating increased 44 percent from last year. This accomplishment is all the more remarkable in that statewide, the increase in schools so designated was only 3 percent.

In addition, four schools in the district (44 percent) received Highly Performing labels, the second-highest ranking.

The Arizona Department of Education considers various criteria in determining the ratings. A few of these include Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), graduation and dropout rates and how a school’s students perform on AIMS in the current year and over a three-year average.

Warren Jacobson, Superintendent of Glendale Union High School District, attributes the district’s high ratings to its strong professional development program, skilled curriculum coordinators, and motivated teachers, as well as to the fact that the district has historically been data driven. “Glendale Union administrators and teachers have high expectations for all students,” Jacobson said. “The schools continually encourage students to re-test to try to exceed the standard. And none of this would be possible without the strong partnerships we’ve developed with our families.”

To ensure the continued success of its students, GUHSD offers state standards prep classes; before- and after-school tutoring, including programs sponsored by state funds; a 3-week math tutoring program for AIMS; and Project SHARP, a free summer math program.

In our most recent parent satisfaction survey, over 94% of respondents assigned a positive rating to the overall quality of their schools.

Arizona has set a target drop-out rate of 6% or less. The drop-out rate for GUHSD is an impressively low 2.5%.

2006 AZ LEARNS School Ratings
Apollo ................. Highly Performing
Cortez .................. Excelling
Glendale .............. Highly Performing
Greenway ............ Excelling
Independence .... Highly Performing
Moon Valley ........ Excelling
Sunnyslope .......... Excelling
Thunderbird ........ Excelling
Washington .......... Excelling

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GLENDALE UNION SCORE ON AIMS: ‘PERFECT’  *AZ Republic, Friday, May 19, 2006*

All of the approximately 3,700 seniors in the Glendale Union High School District met the AIMS (Arizona Instrument Measurement Standards) challenge to earn their diplomas in 2006. Comprehensive plans for passing AIMS tailored to the school and the individual student have resulted in major gains in performance on the exam.

For the past four years, sophomores in the Glendale Union High School District have outperformed their peers across the state on every component of the AIMS test.

OUTSTANDING READING SCORES

Students in Glendale Union High School district continue to perform beyond the state average on the sophomore AIMS reading test. In 2006, 80 percent completed this section of AIMS successfully.

SUPERIOR MATH SCORES

In 2006, fully 85 percent of sophomores in the Glendale Union High School District passed the math component of AIMS. That is 13 percent higher than the state average.

HIGH WRITING SCORES

The district’s students also continue to exceed the state average on the sophomore AIMS writing test. In 2006, 75 percent of GUHSD sophomores completed this section of AIMS successfully, compared to 70 percent across the state.

Performance of Sophomore Classes on AIMS Test Over 4 Years

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The following graphs provide a snapshot of how sophomores, juniors and seniors in the Glendale Union High School District performed on AIMS in 2006.

For more information about the AIMS test, visit www.ad.gov/AIMS/students.asp
Parents' Right to Review Teacher Qualifications

The Glendale Union High School District continues its long-standing tradition of providing quality instructional staff to work with your children. Our teachers are recruited from the strongest teacher-preparation programs in Arizona and across the nation. All teachers participate in ongoing professional development activities to maintain their content knowledge, as well as their ability to plan and deliver effective instruction. The district is proud of its record of student achievement, which is a direct result of the efforts of our professional staff.

As a parent of a student in the Glendale Union High School District, you have a right to know the professional qualifications of the teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's teachers, and requires us to provide this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers:

- whether the Arizona State Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches,
- whether the Arizona State Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances,
- the teacher’s college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees,
- whether any teacher’s aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

The Glendale Union High School District looks forward to continuing its positive partnership with our parents. Your high expectations for student achievement, school involvement and appropriate behavior on behalf of your student make an important difference in the success of our schools. Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to receive any of the information described above, please call Dr. Linda Rosness at the Glendale Union High School District office, 623.435.6066.

Rights for Students with Disabilities

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004, each school district is responsible for identifying, evaluating and providing services for all public, private or home-schooled children with disabilities.

If your child attends a private school or is home-schooled and you feel that your child may need to be screened for a possible disability, you should contact the GUHSD Office of Special Education at 623.435.6089. You may also refer your child for screening by contacting the school psychologist at the public school your child would attend if he/she attended public school. All public school students are screened within six weeks of the date of enrollment in the public school.

The Arizona Department of Education website also gives further information regarding the identification of children with disabilities at ade.az.gov/ESS/ChildFind.
FUTURE FRESHMAN NIGHT

Future Freshman Night is held at all GUHSD campuses on January 18. This event gives parents and future freshmen the opportunity to learn about the programs that make their school special, to have their questions about the registration process answered and to meet teachers, administrators and counselors.

At Future Freshman Night, parents can meet the school principal, the Parent Action Club president, teachers from each content area and even current students. In addition, they will have the opportunity to view performances by many of the performing arts groups that are active on campus. At many of the schools, participants can also tour the campus and classrooms.

Starting times for Future Freshman Night vary. Please call your school for more information.

Apartment High School
8045 N. 47th Ave.
Glendale, AZ  85302
623.435.6300
Principal: Brian Capistran

Cortez High School
8828 N. 31st Ave.
Phoenix, AZ  85051
623.915.8200
Principal: Tom Hernandez

Glendale High School
6216 W. Glendale Ave.
Glendale, AZ  85301
623.435.6200
Principal: Deborah Jordan

Greenway High School
3930 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ  85053
623.915.8500
Principal: Michael Dellisanti

Independence High School
6602 N. 75th Ave.
Glendale, AZ  85303
623.435.6100
Principal: Mark Farison

Moon Valley High School
3625 W. Cactus Rd.
Phoenix, AZ  85029
623.915.8000
Principal: Michael Fowler

Sunsetslope High School
35 W. Dunlap Ave.
Phoenix, AZ  85021
623.915.8760
Principal: John Croteau

Thunderbird High School
1750 W. Thunderbird Rd.
Phoenix, AZ  85023
623.915.8900
Principal: Norman Smalley

Washington High School
2217 W. Glendale Ave.
Phoenix, AZ  85021
623.915.8400
Principal: Carol Lippert

GUHSD has more
Excelling high schools
than any other district
in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Glendale Union High School District
Office of Community Relations
7650 N. 43rd Avenue, Glendale, AZ  85301
623.435.6000  623.435.6078 fax
www.guhsdaz.org

Superintendent: Warren Jacobson
Governing Board Members:
Vicki Johnson
Kevin Clayborn
Steve Burke
Kathy Jacka
Donna Stout

Mission Statement
To empower all students for the choices and challenges of the 21st Century.