

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Casa Grande Union High School District ♦ December 2021 ♦



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Casa Grande, AZ 85122
520-316-3360

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FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. ANNA BATTLE

December 2021

Dear CGUHSD,

What a pleasure it is to have another opportunity to recognize a valued staff member in the CGUHSD Newsletter. Each month, I will recognize an amazing member of the district for their Organizational Skills, Love of the Subject, Humility, Resilience, and Love of the Challenge. Everyone who works in schools are valued educators. Certified, classified, and administrative staff are teachers who make an impact on students and others each and every day. It is not about a title but, most importantly, it is about the love, service, and dedication to excellence we are privileged to give that makes another smile and feel worthy, and improves the quality of the culture where students are excited to learn.

The qualities below will remain constant each month as they are sound characteristics that capture the essence of educators in schools.

Organizational Skills The best buildings are built on a firm foundation. For an educator, that foundation is great organizational skills. Organizational skills provide the structure necessary to care for so many pupils.	Love of the Subject Students are much more apt to become excited about what they do for students and have genuine enthusiasm. An educator with a love for what they do is able to give students the joy of sharing something they love.	Humility The ability to accept that you aren't always right about something is a quality that makes for a great educator. Great educators are willing to learn more than one already knows.
Resilience The hard days can leave you discouraged. Students are complex at times, but a great educator ensures that they are cooperating. Unruly students and unpredictable environments can leave an educator questioning the profession. The resilient educator perseveres.	Love of the Challenge A great educator sees a challenge and is inspired by it. He/She does not avoid a challenging topic or student because of its difficulty. Rather, a great educator sees challenges as opportunities to grow and learn. At the end of the day, every educator is still a student and possesses a desire to learn.	 5 Qualities of an Exceptional Teacher (alignstaffing.com)



Cathie White
ECE Teacher

Staff Member of the Month: Ms. Cathie White, ECE Teacher

It is my pleasure to recognize [Ms. Cathie White](#) as the staff member of the month! From the very beginning of my tenure at Casa Grande Union High School District, I have been impressed by Ms. White's character, work-ethic, and sincerity. She gives her best to welcome others into the district, extends a hand to support, and ensures that every student in the CGUHS [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\)](#) program has a quality experience and enjoys what they do every day. She is a fantastic model for future teachers who want to enter the teaching field. Ms. White loves her craft of serving. Her classroom extends to future Cougars and families. The little Cougars are excited to learn in a positive and encouraging environment. Every day is a challenge, but she accepts challenges with poise and considers them as opportunities. She is a woman of great character, enjoys exercise, and loves students. I am honored to recognize her as December's Staff Member of the Month.

Congratulations! Go CGUHSD!!!

Sincerely,
Dr. Anna Battle

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE WITH PASSIONATE, PATIENT, PERSISTENT PERFORMANCE!!!



Greatest of the Grande Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the [Greatest of the Grande](#) contest sponsored by the Casa Grande Dispatch: [Linda Cassidy](#) (Best Nurse), [Casey Farnsworth](#) (Best Teacher), and [Casa Grande Union High School](#) (Best Public School). We are so proud of you and all that you do for our district! You are what makes us great! Thank you to everyone who voted for these amazing people and school!



Best Nurse
Linda Cassidy



Best Teacher
Casey Farnsworth



Best Public School
Casa Grande Union High



CASA GRANDE

UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



CONGRATULATIONS!
Your Wish Has Been Granted

Ms. Addison Awarded Classroom Funds

The Fiesta Bowl Charity Wishes for Teachers Program awarded [Deanna Addison](#), VGHS [Exceptional Student Services \(ESS\)](#) Teacher, \$2500 for her classroom. The annual grant program honors, supports, and celebrates Arizona's teachers by granting them their classroom wishes. Ms. Addison is one (1) of 400 hundred teachers statewide to receive a portion of the \$1 million funding. The 400 teachers represent 300 schools in 63 cities, teaching more than 200,000 students in 84 districts over 75 subjects. Nearly 2,000 teachers from over 90 cities across the state of Arizona applied for the program. The winners were randomly chosen from online applications detailing a school or classroom need. Ms. Addison's project was granted to provide iPads that are loaded with [Social & Emotional Learning \(SEL\)](#) curriculum and calming apps to support students in their endeavors to reconnect with the learning after a stressful event or provide independent practice on social emotional goals. Ms. Addison will be honored at the 50th Annual Desert Financial Fiesta Bowl Parade on Saturday, December 18, and the Guaranteed Rate Bowl on Tuesday, December 28, during halftime.



CONGRATULATIONS!
Hall of Fame

Coach Bias to be Inducted into Hall of Fame

VGHS Head [Boys Basketball](#) Coach Hank Bias has been selected for the Kettering Fairmont High School Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio. The induction ceremony will take place on February 5, 2022. Being named to the Athletic Hall of Fame is the highest honor that can be awarded to former athletes, coaches, administrators, or boosters by the Fairmont Athletic Department. The purpose is to recognize individuals who made "significant athletic contributions" to Fairmont High Schools and assisted the administration in perpetuating the spirit of pride and loyalty. Coach Bias served as the Head Soccer Coach and Head Basketball Coach for Kettering Fairmont High School for 29 seasons. He is the all-time winningest basketball coach in school history and holds many records for both sports. Coach Bias has been the Spartan's Head Boys Basketball Coach for six (6) seasons. His basketball knowledge, enthusiasm, charisma, mentorship, and character has developed the Vista Grande Basketball team into a respected program in Arizona.



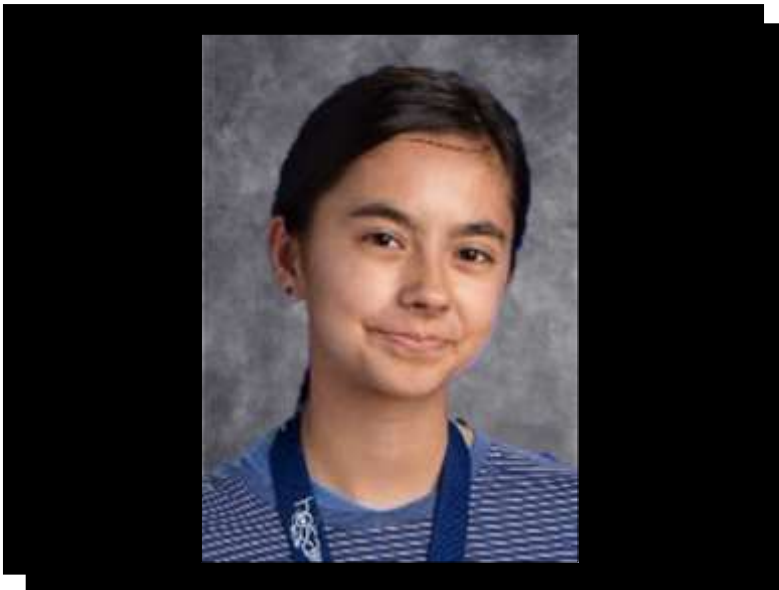
Over 1,600 students are enrolled in 15 different Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs throughout the Casa Grande Union High School District. Each month, a CTE program nominates a deserving student for this honor. For more information about our district's CTE program, visit www.cguhsd.org/CTE.aspx.

Sophia Jorda CGUHS

Sophia Jorda of Casa Grande High School was recognized Tuesday, December 7, as one of the Casa Grande Union High School District's [CGUHS Career & Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) Students of the Month at the district's Governing Board meeting. Sophia was nominated by [John Morris, Engineering Teacher](#), who had this to say about her, "Not only has Sophia excelled in the freshman engineering courses, having achieved the Certified SolidWorks Associate professional designation, but she has exceeded my expectations as a sophomore second-year engineering student. Her brilliance and creativity shine through in everything that she does. In addition to exceeding expectations in the Engineering I curriculum, Sophia is quick to step forward when additional opportunities, outside the curriculum, are presented. As the Chief Operating Officer for the CGUHS chapter of the [Students for the Exploration and Development of Space \(SEDS\)](#), Sophia keeps club activities humming along like a finely tuned machine. As the Lead Designer for this year's FIRST Robotics Competition Team, she will be busy coordinating the game analysis and strategy team and the build team to produce this year's competition robot. Sophia was quick to step forward to become a member of the CGUHS Near Space Research Team, which working with the Arizona Space Grant Consortium recently designed, constructed, and launched a payload to 100,000 feet, gathering data and photographs during the flight. Sophia is also a part of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium's Great Lunar Expedition for Everyone (GLEE) project and is working on a device that is scheduled to land on the Moon in December of 2023. It is for these reasons, and for many others not described here, that I nominate Sophia Jorda to be the December 2021 CTE Student of the Month for Engineering." Sophia's parents are Gerund and Annamae Jorda of Casa Grande, Arizona.



[L-R] Dr. Anna Battle (Superintendent), Sophia Jorda (CTE Student of the Month), and Lisa Miller (CTE Director)



Alora Grace Linehan (CTE Student of the Month)

Alora Grace Linehan CGUHS

Alora Grace Linehan of Casa Grande High School was recognized Tuesday, December 7, as one of the Casa Grande Union High School District's [CGUHS Career & Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) Students of the Month at the district's Governing Board meeting. Alora was nominated by [Noel Que, Bioscience Teacher](#), who had this to say about her, "Alora is in her senior year as a CTE/STEM Biotech student. Being the [AzHOSA CGUHS Chapter](#) President, a [Chief Science Officer](#), and an officer in a string of organizations, she has the qualities of being polite, respectful, and considerate as mentioned by many students and teachers. Alora perseveres in her studies as she is getting very good grades in all of her subjects while managing her time at work, clubs, academics, and community service. Presently, she is working on her Capstone Project of genetically modifying rice with beta carotene to obtain more Vitamin A." Alora's parents are David and Maricel Linehan of Casa Grande, Arizona.



For more information about the Rotary Club of Casa Grande, visit <https://casagranderotary.org/>. For past recipients, visit www.cguhsd.org/cgRotaryStudentOfMonth.aspx (CGUHS) or www.cguhsd.org/vgRotaryStudentOfMonth.aspx (VGHS).

Clara Isabella Munguia CGUHS

Clara Isabella Munguia of Casa Grande Union High School (CGUHS) was recognized Tuesday, December 7, as the Casa Grande Union High School District's CGUHS Rotary Club of Casa Grande Student of the Month during the district's Governing Board meeting. Clara was recognized for her accomplishments and activities: Class Rank (#1), Academic Award (3-Yr), AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Flinn Scholarship Semifinalist, Outstanding AP Spanish Literature & Culture Student, AP English Language & Composition Certificate of Achievement, AP United States History Certificate of Achievement, Student Delegate to Town Hall's Future Voices Conference, Bilingual Multicultural Club (President, Vice President, & Bilingual Student News Article Recognition), Student Council (Senior Class Secretary & 4-Yr Member), Key Club (Treasurer & 3-Yr Member), National Honor Society (President & 2-Yr Member), Mu Alpha Theta (Vice President & 2-Yr Member), Girls Who Code (Vice President & 2-Yr Member), Link Crew (2-Yr Mentor), DECA (2-Yr), National Society of High School Scholars (1-Yr Member), Special Needs Art Student Mentor (1-Yr), Tennis (4-Yr Varsity, 2021/22 Captain, 2020/21 Season Rank #1, 2021 Singles State Championship Competitor, 2019/20 Season Rank #1-2, 2018/19 Season Rank #4, 1st Place 2019 Pinal County Regional Championship), St. Anthony's Youth Group ARCO (1-Yr), Tutor (1-Yr), Babysitter (1-Yr), Volunteer, and Receptionist. After high school, she plans to attend a university and earn a degree in any of the following majors: International Relations & Affairs, Pre-Engineering, Legal Studies/Law, or Technology.



[L-R] Dr. Anna Battle (Superintendent), Clara Isabella Munguia (Rotary Student of the Month), and Brian Mabb (Principal)



[L-R] Dr. Anna Battle (Superintendent), Valeria DeLaCruz (Rotary Student of the Month), and Jeanette Beechum (Principal)

Valeria DeLaCruz VGHS

Valeria DeLaCruz of Vista Grande High School was recognized Tuesday, December 7, as the Casa Grande Union High School District's VGHS Rotary Club of Casa Grande Student of the Month during the district's Governing Board meeting. Valeria was recognized for her accomplishments and activities: GPA (4.2), VG Academic Achievement Award (3-Yr), National Honors Society (2-Yr), AP Spanish Class (2-Yr), AP Spanish Club (President), Link Crew (Member), and Soccer (2-Yr). In her free time, she likes to create handmade crafts for her small business and travel. After high school, she plans to attend Northern Arizona University (NAU) and study Criminal Justice to pursue her dream of becoming a Detective. Her life goal is to travel around the world. Valeria's parents are Ramon DeLaCruz and Yadith Moreno.



Casa Grande FFA Steak Fry

The Casa Grande FFA Steak Fry was a tremendous success on Friday, November 5. Casa Grande FFA members and alumni prepared and served over 2,100 meals at the annual event. The experience and proceeds will have a life-long impact on these high school students, giving them opportunities in the [FFA](#) that will be talked about for many years to come. Thank you, Casa Grande community, for your incredible support! The Cougars are advised by Casey Farnsworth, Agriscience Teacher.



Casa Grande Veterans Day Parade: CGUHS Marching Band Named “Best Marching Group”



The CGUHS [Pride of Casa Grande](#), [JROTC](#), and [Spirittline](#) represented the school at the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 6. Thank you to all the veterans for their service! The CGUHS Marching Band was named “[Best Marching Group](#)”.





Marine Corps JROTC

The Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC is instructed by Dr. Tyrone Hall, CWO-3 (ret), and MSgt Jorge Rico. The Casa Grande Union High School Marine Corps JROTC is instructed by Maj Rob Sherwood (Senior Marine Instructor) and GySgt Jesus Flores (Marine Instructor).



JROTC Cadets Earn Special Recognition & Uniforms

The [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets, (foreground to background) Nicholas Toscano, Marguerite Kerr, and Logan Barnhart, were rewarded with meritorious promotions and special uniforms at a mass formation encompassing nearly 120 cadets. The formation occurred before the start of the school day in the little gym on Wednesday, October 27. The cadets received special promotion recognition and special uniforms because of their superior academic performances for term one by achieving an 'A' grade in every class. The recognition was so significant, parents attended and had the special honor of pinning the newly-earned and well-deserved ranks onto the cadets' uniform.



JROTC Supports Sunset Ceremony

The [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets distinguished themselves through precise, flawless drill maneuvers at a recent event on the baseball field at Robson Ranch Resort Community in Eloy, Arizona, on Thursday, November 11. The Support Our Troops Arizona Chapter hosted a sunset ceremony for members of the community commemorating Veterans Day. Flags for all military services unfurled in the evening breeze as cadets marched onto the field when songs for each U.S. military service branch was played. The adjutant and sword bearer, Cadet Dylan Hughes (Front Row: Right), barked the commands as cadets executed each order with zeal and vigor. Cadet participants were (Back Row: L-R) Trev Hagen, Jovian Romero, Adrielle Romero, Gabriella Noriz, Marlon Quijada, and Armando Negrete. The national ensign and rifles were carried by (Front Row: L-R) Erin Swift, Sarah Foerster, and Pristina Valencia.



JROTC Cadets Support SOTAZ

On Saturday, November 6, [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets carried the national colors and all the military service flags to start the fundraising auction hosted by Support Our Troops Arizona (SOTAZ) in the stunning Hermosa Ballroom at Robson Ranch Resort Community in Eloy, Arizona. Cadets (pictured L-R: Trev Hagen, Jovian Romero, Adrielle Romero, Dylan Hughes, Sarah Foerster, Erin Swift, Pristina Valencia, Gabriella Noritz, Marlon Quijada, and Armando Negrete) comprised the detail which marched to the music of various services' songs as participants displayed reverence to their national flag.



Law Enforcement Speaks with JROTC Cadets

On Monday, November 22, [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets were mesmerized by the unique experiences and professional law enforcement knowledge of Mr. Reginald Winston (Deputy Chief of Police) and Ms. Theresa Ellsworth (Detective). Both serve the Casa Grande Police Department. Combined, these two peace officers have seen and done quite a bit in their law enforcement careers. Prior to joining the police force, they both were active military service members. Combined, they were able to effectively impress upon the cadets the importance of good decisions, education, leadership, and patriotism. Pictured (L-R): Marine Corps JROTC Cadets Erin Swift, Jovian Romero, and Trev Hagen, all who aspire to serve and follow similar career paths.



Marine Corps JROTC

The Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC is instructed by Dr. Tyrone Hall, CWO-3 (ret), and MSgt Jorge Rico. The Casa Grande Union High School Marine Corps JROTC is instructed by Maj Rob Sherwood (Senior Marine Instructor) and GySgt Jesus Flores (Marine Instructor).



JROTC Cadets Present National Ensign at the 31st Annual Anti-Drug Poster Contest Awards Ceremony

On Thursday, November 18, Pinal County Attorney Mr. Kent Volkmer and [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets Marguerite Kerr, Joel Huber, Erin Swift, and Shelby Fulks presented the national ensign during the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. The event was the 31st Annual Anti-Drug Poster Contest Awards Ceremony. Many prominent community members from towns throughout the county were in attendance at the Florence Unified School District Auditorium.



JROTC Cadets Attend Officer Career Day

On Tuesday, November 23, [Vista Grande High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets (L-R) Malinah Whatley, Erin Swift, Marguerite Kerr, Nicolas Toscano, and Marlon Quijada, with Senior Marine Instructor Chief Warrant Officer Hall, attended the 32nd JROTC and Armed Forces Officer Career Day Luncheon at McCormick Ranch Gold Club in Scottsdale, Arizona. This event was supported by all Military Armed Services. All the Arizona universities were represented by their respective college Reserve Officer Training Corps admission officers, along with the public and private military service academy representatives. In addition to the amazing meal and refreshments, cadets learned first-hand college and career readiness requirements and expectations for military officers.



JROTC Cadets Present Colors at Championship Game

On Friday, November 19, [Casa Grande Union High School Marine Corps JROTC](#) cadets presented the colors at the 4A State [Football](#) Championship (Round 1) at CGUHS's Al Van Hazel Stadium.



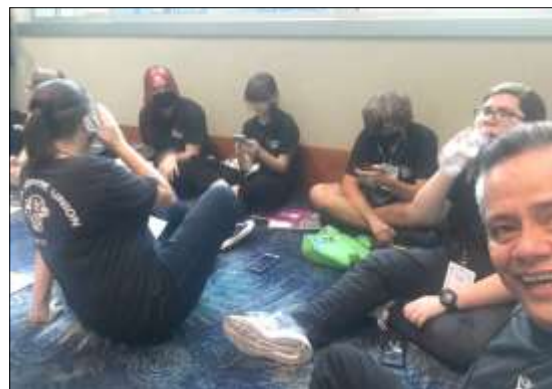
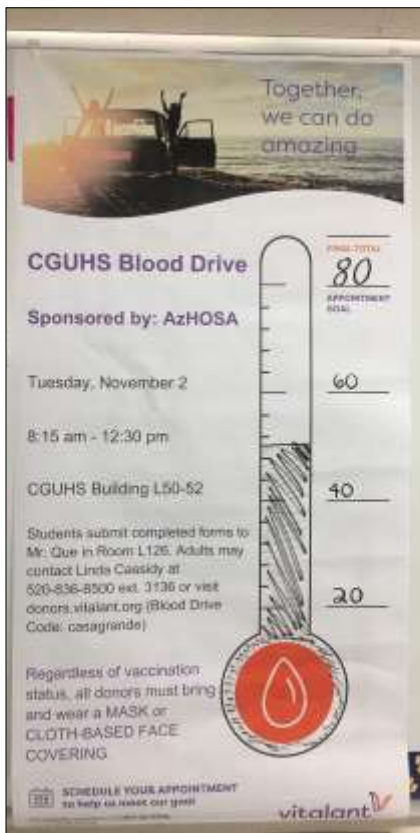
JROTC Support Request

Please use this [online form](#) to provide information necessary for effective support of your event.



AzHOSA & Key Club Hosts Successful Blood Drive

More than fifty student and adult donors flocked onto the CGUHS campus on Tuesday, November 2, to take part in the Blood Drive. Vitalant's partnership with [AzHOSA CGUHS Chapter](#) and [Key Club](#) members will sustain the much-needed blood for many patients. Thank you to all the blood donors for being our heroes.



SpaceVision Conference: Students for the Exploration & Development of Space (SEDS) Club



Seven students from the [Students for the Exploration & Development of Space \(SEDS\)](#) at Casa Grande Union High School (SEDS@CGUHS) chapter of SEDS-USA traveled to Houston, Texas, November 4-6, for the SpaceVision 2021 Conference titled "Moonshots". This year's conference was hosted by Rice University and took place at the NASA Johnson Space Center/Space Center Houston complex.

During the three-day event, students attended lectures and workshops on a variety of topics including the NASA Artemis program, space policy, astrobiology, commercial space, space medicine, philosophy and ethics, astrophysics, business in space, and space art. Keynote speakers included Howard Hu, Deputy Program Manager for the NASA Orion Program; Engineer Dr. Harold White, formerly of the NASA Breakthrough Propulsion Technology Lab, now Director of Advanced R&D at Limitless Space Institute; Dr. David King of the Lunar & Planetary Institute;

Dr. Camille Alleyne, Deputy Program Manager of NASA Commercial LEO Development; and Astronaut Michael Lloyd Coats. Former NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine was scheduled to give the closing keynote but cancelled at the last minute due to health concerns.

SEDS@CGUHS seemed most impressed with Dr. White who took the time to meet with them personally and volunteered to mentor the students on a yet-to-be-determined project. A large portion of the work done by the Limitless Space Institute is educational outreach.

Additional sponsors of the conference included Limitless Space Institute, Lockheed-Martin, Baylor College of Medicine, Astranis, Boeing, Rice Space Institute, Relativity, Advanced Space, SpaceX, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Space Frontier Foundation, and nou Systems, Inc. Students had the opportunity to speak with representatives from these

...(continued) **SpaceVision Conference: Students for the Exploration & Development of Space (SEDS) Club**



... (continued)

companies and learn about the real-world of space business, the way the U.S. Government really works when it comes to making laws and regulating business, and how best to prepare themselves for a future career in the emerging space-based economy.

As a special treat, SEDS@CGUHS was joined by students from the SEDS chapter that they helped to establish at Arizona College Prep in the Chandler School District and the SEDS Chapter at Community High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The students had a wonderful time getting to know each other as well as networking with university students, NASA Directors, research leaders from major universities, and those from the space business community.

SEDS@CGUHS students who attended the conference are Dylan Benavente, Director of Space Advocacy and Chair of the Space Law, Policy and Ethics Special Interest Group; Sophia Jorda, Chief Operations Officer; Cruz Martinez, Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Chair of the Space Biotechnology and Medicine Special Interest Group; Ivanna Perez, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Chair of the Space Propulsion Systems Special Interest Group; Sean Price, Director of Social Media; Evan Centeno, Chair of the Space Robotic Systems Special Interest Group; and Ella Barth, SEDS-USA High School Outreach Manager. The group is advised by [John Morris](#), Engineering/Mathematics Teacher.

SpaceVision 2022 will be held at the University of Chicago next fall.

Near Space Research Team: High-Altitude Balloon Launch & Recovery



On Saturday, November 20, the High-Altitude Balloon launch and recovery went well. The Near Space Research Team traveled near Ajo, Arizona, to launch the balloons. The balloon to which their payload was attached burst while passing over Casa Grande, Arizona, at an altitude of 104,000 feet (19.7 miles). They recovered their payload about 22 miles southeast of Florence, Arizona. When recovered, the exterior of the payload enclosure showed no signs of damage. Inside the enclosure, one set of batteries had detached from their mount sometime in the flight and appeared to have caused some damage. They were not able to recover any data or photos. When they returned to school, they conducted a more in-depth failure analysis. The retiring team will be briefing the new team on their experience and lessons learned. The group is forming a new Near Space Research Team for the Spring 2022 Semester. Seventeen engineering students have already signed up for the project. As the only high school team on the project, the team has received praise from university and college students for their design and implementation. They look forward to building a stronger collaborative relationship with the other teams in the future. The Cougars are advised by [John Morris](#), Engineering/Mathematics Teacher. Visit the SEDS Club at www.cguhsd.org/cgSEDS.aspx. For more information on the Arizona Space Grant, visit <https://spacegrant.arizona.edu/research/ascend>.



AzHOSA Biotech Team Shares Science with Cougar Cubs



On Thursday, October 28, the AzHOSA Biotech Team visited the [Cougar Cubs Preschool](#) to show them some cool science experiments and, afterward, treat them with sweets. The cubs enjoyed the activity, and even talked about it the following day, much to the glee of Biotech students after hearing it. It is their hope that they were able to encourage the cubs to enjoy the wonderful world of science. The team would like to thank the [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\)](#) teachers and students under the supervision of [Ms. Cathie White](#). The [AzHOSA CGUHS Chapter](#) is advised by Noel Que, Bioscience/Science Teacher.

HOSA Fall Leadership Conference



After a two-year hiatus, this year's HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Fall Leadership Conference revived the face-to-face interaction and activities following the CDC provisions on Monday, November 1. Thirteen [AzHOSA CGUHS Chapter](#) members attended the opening session with other chapter schools. Afterward, members took part in various health conferences and workshops hosted by health professionals from across the state and over multiple industries. The Cougars are advised by Noel Que, Bioscience/Science Teacher.



FAFSA Fridays

FAFSA Completers!



The [VGHS Counseling Department](http://www.vghs.org/Counseling/FinancialAid.aspx) hosted monthly FAFSA workshops to help seniors earn money for college. The first workshop was on Friday, November 19. There were numerous students who completed their [FAFSA](https://fafsa.gov), and those who did not, got a head start on the process. The second workshop on Friday, December 10, included a Grand Canyon University (GCU) Admission Counselor who was available to assist students with college applications. For more information about the FAFSA, visit www.cguhsd.org/vgCounselingFinancialAid.aspx.



[Apply Early!](#)



[FAFSA Assistance](#)





GCU Field Trip

On Thursday, November 18, CGUHS [School Counselors](#) traveled with 38 senior students to visit the [Grand Canyon University \(GCU\)](#) campus. Students toured the campus, visited a dorm, saw various academic buildings, completed a career interest inventory, and learned about their application process. GCU provided the charter bus, and lunch was included at the Student Union. For more information about post-secondary education, visit www.cguhsd.org/cgCounselingPostSecondaryEducation.aspx.



Student Success Night

CGUHS [School Counselors](#) hosted a Student Success Night on Tuesday, November 16. There were over twenty-eight (28) colleges, universities, military, and local businesses present for the event. Students, from all grade levels, and their parents were in attendance and took home very valuable information pertaining to colleges and careers. Seniors also had the opportunity to attend a senior meeting where they received information regarding CGUHS's [senior timeline of events](#) and from [Herff Jones](#) (cap and gown orders). The school counselors look forward to adding more opportunities and information to this event in years to come.



Junior [ECAP](#) Meetings

Education & Career Action Plans

CGUHS [School Counselors](#) met with Juniors the week of November 1st to go over reminders such as graduation requirements and upcoming Junior/Senior year events. Students were provided a presentation which can be viewed on the Counseling Department's [College Checklists & Guides](#) webpage. Counselors strongly encouraged students to consider signing up to take the [SAT and/or ACT](#) for college/university entrance and to start applying for [scholarships](#).



NAU Visits

The [CGUHS Counseling Department](#) welcomed [Northern Arizona University \(NAU\)](#) on Wednesday, November 17, to speak to students about their campus. Students were able to ask questions and learn more about what campus life is like at NAU. For information about post-secondary education, visit www.cguhsd.org/cgCounselingPostSecondaryEducation.aspx.



Freshman [ECAP](#) Meetings

Education & Career Action Plans

CGUHS [School Counselors](#) met with Freshman students the week of October 18th during Cougar Hour. They shared a presentation which can be viewed on the Counseling Department's [College Checklists & Guides](#) webpage. The presentation covered a four-year plan along with important grade-by-grade timelines. Students were encouraged to take two (2) years of a [world language](#) as well as a minimum of two (2) years in a [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) subject area.



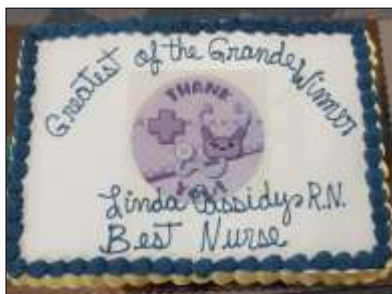
Senior Sunrise

The [CGUHS Class of 2022](#) held a Senior Sunrise gathering on Saturday, November 6. Approximately fifty seniors gathered at Van Hazel Football Stadium to watch the sunrise and eat breakfast together. As the sun rose into a beautiful pink and purple Arizona sky, the senior class cheered and celebrated their time together; realizing how quickly this year has already sped by and looking forward to creating more senior class memories.



Senior Breakfast

The [VGHS Class of 2022](#) held their Senior Breakfast, before the start of school, on Friday, November 12. They enjoyed their time together and the brisk morning.



Key Club Celebrates Sponsor Linda Cassidy, RN

CGUHS [Key Club](#) surprised their sponsor, [Linda Cassidy, RN](#), with a beautiful cake and flowers on Tuesday, November 30, in gratitude for all her work with the club. They also celebrated her winning the category of "Best Nurse" in the [Greatest of the Grande](#) contest announced in November. Zoey Cooper, from Kramer Media, presented her with a plaque. Thank you, Mrs. Cassidy, for all you do for the Key Club and community.



Key Club Sponsors Food Drive

CGUHS [Key Club](#) collected and respectively donated over 1,000 non-perishable canned foods to the [Casa Grande Food Bank](#) to assist families in need this holiday season. The Cougars are advised by Linda Cassidy, RN.



Key Club & NHS Collaborate in Campus Cleanup

The CGUHS [Key Club](#) and [National Honor Society \(NHS\)](#) collaborated on Saturday, November 13, to collect garbage and clean the parking lot at Casa Grande High School where they attend. The students expressed the importance of coming together to keep their high school free of debris. The students completed tasks such as sweeping, picking up garbage, washing classroom windows, and removing cobwebs from windows. The students agree that cleaning the school not only benefits their school but encourages others to be proactive and contribute their time in keeping our community and the facilities within it clean. Key Club is advised by [Linda Cassidy, RN](#), and NHS by [Kim Batina](#), Social Studies Teacher.



Key Club

CGUHS [Key Club](#) took part in the "Trick or Treat Drive Through" on Saturday, October 30. This event has been held in the Casa Grande Union High School Parking Lot for the past two (2) years and has brought the community and students together for a fun and safe evening. Candy, donated by the Key Club students, was passed out by the club members to bring joy to the children and provide some sense of normalcy amongst the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cougars are advised by [Linda Cassidy, RN](#).



Art Club

VGHS [Art Club](#) students are painting acrylic sunsets after school. Students meet every Tuesday from 3:15-5:30 p.m. If you would like to join or have any questions, contact Mercedes Clemons, CTE/Fine Arts Teacher, at mclemons@cguhsd.org.



Campus Cleanup

On Saturday, November 20, bright and early in the morning, CGUHS [Student Council](#) senior members and the CGUHS Sophomore Class Vice President spent the morning cleaning up the home-side, away-side, and concession stand areas of the CGUHS Van Hazel Stadium. These dedicated students wanted to pitch in and help the custodial staff clean up the mess after Friday night's playoff football game. Thank you to all the students for beautifying the area. The Student Council is advised by [Stacy Brady](#), Science Teacher.



Bilingual Multicultural Club

The CGUHS [Bilingual Multicultural Club](#) proudly assisted with the "Trick or Treat Drive Through" community outreach event on Saturday, October 30. This event has grown over the past year and, although we saw more trick-or-treaters, we finished early. Last year, the event continued late to allow everyone to go through the line. The event was well-organized under the leadership of Ms. [Stacy Brady](#), [Student Council](#) Sponsor. Cars moved quickly and safely through the many "trunks" for treats. Festive music played in the background giving the event a special feel. Many creative and fun costumes were seen. Those who attended were delighted with the spirit of giving and fun. Pictured (L-R) Imari Davis (Secretary), Mrs. [Jewel DeVet](#) (Sponsor), and Marco Navarro Cantu. Other members who came to volunteer were Clara Munguia (President), Victor Inzunza (Public Relations Representative), Titouan Pichon, and Monique Kisto.



The Bilingual Multicultural Club is growing. Last year, there were 4-6 members who attended meetings regularly. This year, there are about twenty. Students are learning the value of club involvement in getting a job and applying to colleges and programs of study. The next club event is tasting cakes from France and Turkey and learning about these countries. Students are welcome to join in the fun and expand their involvement in school and serving the community.



Spanish Classes Honor Loved Ones

In November, the [World Languages](#) hallway had a large display of the magnificent work the Spanish students created. For El Día de los Muertos, Spanish II created ofrendas (offerings) to honor their loved ones who have passed away. The AP Spanish Language students made masks with papier mâché while the AP Spanish Literature students painted ceramic skulls. The Spartans are taught by [Ana Matthews](#), World Languages Teacher.

HAPPENINGS



Homecoming Dance

The CGUHS Homecoming "Sequel" Dance was held on Saturday, November 6. Thank you to the Student Council for their hard work on the special event.



Spirit Friday

VGHS celebrated Spirit Friday on Friday, November 5, with the theme of "Anything But A Backpack". There were many clever ideas and fun for all.

Pride of Casa Grande Marching Band is State Runner-Up



Congratulations to the [Pride of Casa Grande Marching Band](#) who finished their season at the AzMBA 3A State Championships in 2nd Place. They also received high honors for Outstanding General Effect and Outstanding Music. It was an amazing year in which many new members were welcomed into the program, showing amazing growth from the beginning to the end of the season. The Cougars are instructed by Martin Hebda, Fine Arts Teacher.



Cougars Are Regional Champions

The [CGUHS Football Team](#) completed their regular season on Friday, November 5, with another win earning them the title of Regional Champions with an undefeated record of 10-0. The Cougars are coached by [Jake Barro](#), PE/CTE Teacher.



4A State Football Championship (Title Game): Friday, December 10 @ 4:00 PM

The undefeated, second-seeded, [CGUHS Football Team](#) marked another victory on Friday, December 3, when they defeated third-seeded Gilbert Mesquite 41-28 in the 4A State Football Semifinals at CGUHS's Al Van Hazel Stadium. This will be the first time in school history for the team to advance to the state title game. The 13-0 Cougars will take on top-seeded Poston Butte (11-2) on Friday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m. at Arizona State University's Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona. See details below. The Cougars are coached by [Jake Barro](#), PE/CTE Teacher.



4A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Go, Cougars!!!!

Friday, December 10 @ 4:00 PM

Note: School Early Release @ 1:30 PM

4A State Football Championship (Final)
CGUHS vs Poston Butte

Arizona State University (ASU)
Sun Devil Stadium
500 E. Veterans Way
Tempe, Arizona 85287



General Information

www.cguhsd.org/downloads/CG-FootballChampionships20211210-Current.pdf

Livestream: NFHS Network (4:00 PM Arizona)

Fees Apply (NFHS is not affiliated with CGUHS)

<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/aia/gam919c9fb410>

ASU AIA Parking Map

\$10/Vehicle (Cash NOT accepted; Credit Card or Debit Card only)

www.cguhsd.org/downloads/CG-FootballChampionshipsASUMap-Current.pdf

Tickets (No Tickets Sold at Gate)

Adult \$10.00

Senior (62 & Over)/Student (with ID)/Military \$5.00

<https://gofan.co/app/events/458067>

Football Season Thank You: November 12, 2021



This season has been filled with peaks and valleys. Much like a feel-good sports movie, we have experienced thrilling victories and disappointing defeats; however, I feel that we are heading in the right direction. That is why I want to thank all our sponsors and donors for their generous support for the Vista Grande football program. To the fans, thank you for coming out and supporting; hope to see you supporting again next year.

I would also like to thank my coaching staff: Without you gentlemen, none of this would have been possible: Joe Hawkins, Angel Ortega, Nik Halter, Jeremy Johnson, Sam Reeves, Terrence Greene, Cayle Ferguson, John Kashner, Chris Martinez, Robert Palacios, Ben Rodriguez and Skylar Collins. I can't forget about Kiana Peck and her student athletic training staff, thank you. To the senior football players, good luck in your future endeavors and to the returning and future players, let's continue to build. Go Spartans!

Jon T. Roberts, [VGHS Head Football Coach](#)

Constable Captures School Record



Tyrese Constable (Sr) is the first football player in Vista Grande High School's history to rush for over 1,000 yards (total of 1,038 yards). Tyrese accomplished the feat while playing the positions of Wide Receiver, Running Back, and Defensive Back (WR/RB/DB) this season. Tyrese plans to play football in college and is currently researching his options. The [Spartans](#) are coached by [Jon Roberts](#), PE/Health Teacher.

Staff Football Captain of the Week: Mr. Martin Hebda



Martin Hebda, Fine Arts Band Teacher, has been selected as the CGUHS Staff Football Captain of the Week. Each week, senior football players get together to select someone special they want to "lead them" into the coin toss at the week's game. Per Coach Barro, "Our players wanted to honor Mr. Hebda for making game day at CGUHS the best home-field experience in Arizona. He also brings great pride to the entire school by continuing to show in competition that the Pride of Casa Grande is the best band around. We appreciate you!" Staff members selected receive a Cougar football t-shirt and a plaque made by the CGUHS DECA students. Special thanks to all who impact the lives of our players!

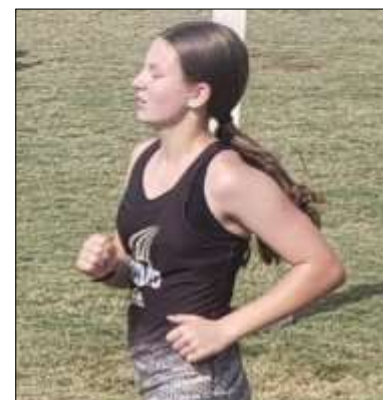
Signing Day: Selena Perez & Emilio Barreras



Congratulations to Selena Perez and Emilio Barreras, VGHS seniors, on their commitment to play NCAA Division I sports next year. Selena signed her letter of intent to play [Softball](#) (Shortstop) at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California. Emilio signed his letter of intent to play [Baseball](#) (Shortstop) at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

Graffius Qualifies for State Meet

Madison Graffius represented Vista Grande High School at the Division II State Cross Country Meet on Saturday, November 13, at the Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix, Arizona. The [Spartans](#) are coached by Cristina Salcido-Grigg, PE/Health/English Teacher.



Need A Transcript or Education Verification?



Submit Requests Via Email

Mrs. Francis Pitman

fpitman@cguhsd.org

Include:

- (1) Maiden Name or Name Used During Attendance
- (2) Date of Birth
- (3) Contact Information
- (4) Graduation Date or Last Date Attended
- (5) Purpose of Transcript
- (6) Name & Contact Information of College/Person/Business/Agency
- (7) Indicate Official or Unofficial Transcript

Note:

Our transcripts are sealed in an envelope for official use. If the seal of the envelope is broken, the transcript is no longer official.

A 48-Hour Notice Is Required (2-Business Days)



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Did You Know?

There are approximately 3,863 students* enrolled in our school district. * 12/03/2021

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Casa Grande Union High School
cghs.cguhsd.org



Vista Grande High School
vghs.cghsdsd.org



CGUHS Online Academy
cgoa.cguhsd.org

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<https://cguhsd.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

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- CTE Marketing Paraprofessional
- Custodial Supervisor
- Custodian
- English Teacher
- Facility Maintenance Worker
- Future Certified Positions
- Grounds Worker
- Guidance Counselor
- Head Softball Coach
- Head Tennis Coach
- Head Track Coach
- Health Office Clerk
- IT Support Service Center Technician
- Mathematics Teacher
- Mobile Tutoring Paraprofessional
- Security Officer
- Special Education Paraprofessional
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More Info >

www.cguhsd.org/doApplications.aspx

Updated 12/03/2021



Governing Board Members (L to R): Jack Henness, Joe Lopez, Taylor Kerby, Kelly Herrington, and Chuck Wright. Regular Governing Board Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office in the CGUHSD Board Room (1st Floor) and LIVE via our [YouTube Channel](#).

Governing Board



President: Jack Henness was a CGUHSD Board Member from 1999-2010. In 2020, he was selected by Pinal County School Superintendent Jill Broussard from a pool of four (4) applicants to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Salcido. He was selected CGUHSD Board President in January 2021. jhenness@cguhsd.org



Member: Kelly Herrington has lived in Arizona for over 20 years and in the Casa Grande area for the past five (5) years. She earned a Marketing degree at the University of Arizona. She has two (2) children who are in the Casa Grande school districts and their educational welfare as well as all the other children in the area is of utmost importance to her. Kelly is very involved in our community and wants its continued growth and success. She is a local Realtor and Sales Manager for her brokerage in Casa Grande. She also sits on the Executive Board for WeSERV (West and Southeast Valley) Association of Realtors and was the Pinal Chapter Chairperson for 2020. Charity and giving back to our community are also very important to her. Kelly has been the Co-Chair for the Realtor Memorial Run for the past four (4) years benefiting the Casa Grande Alliance Cancer Support Center and has also been involved in the Realtor Golf Tournament benefiting the Boys and Girls Club. Kelly loves her community and the opportunity to serve for its continued growth and success. kherrington@cguhsd.org



Member: Taylor Kerby is a full-time educator. After graduating from Arizona State University (ASU), Taylor completed dual master's degrees in Education and Religion at Claremont Graduate University. He is currently a doctoral student at Grand Canyon University where he will graduate in 2022. He has served as a mentor teacher and is passionate about enabling educators to improve their pedagogy and connect with students. He lives in Casa Grande with his two daughters. tkerby@cguhsd.org



Pro Temp: Joe Lopez, originally from California, has been an Arizona resident for 18 years. He is an ASE Master Technician and has worked in the automotive repair industry for 43 years as a technician, service manager, successful business owner, and as an instructor. He owned and operated an auto repair shop in San Jose, California, for twenty years, and his business in Casa Grande has been in operation since 2013. He has great dedication to the field of automotive technology, as well as to education and community service. Joe is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Casa Grande, and was president of the club for the 2017-2018 term; he was a Kiwanis Club of Willow Glen member (San Jose, CA) for 19 years and was a two-time past president in that club. Joe taught automotive technology at both Central Arizona College and at Casa Grande Union High School. He and his wife, Rachel, have been married for 20 years. Joe enjoys desert landscaping, serving in the community, and helping people. He considers himself to be a life-long learner. rlopez@gmail.com



Member: Chuck Wright is a Casa Grande native, growing up in a farming family in the Greene Reservoir area south of Arizona City. He has three sons, all of whom have graduated from CGUHS. Chuck is an Industrial Designer, specializing in architectural design and has been self-employed in his own business, Pinal Design Group LLC, in Casa Grande for 34 years. Chuck has previously served on this board in 1997-2001, serving two years as president. He is past Chairman of the Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce and also chairman of the Arizona City Sanitary District. Chuck also currently serves on the City of Casa Grande's Board of Adjustments. chuck.wright@pinaldesign.com