



# INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Casa Grande Union High School District ♦ August 2022 ♦

The University of Arizona

*Welcomes*

ARIZONA FFA

*Best of luck!*



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES



## FFA Chapter of the Year

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### New Teacher Welcome

New teachers were welcomed to the Casa Grande Union High School District on July 14-15.







### Induction 2022/23

CGUHSD teachers and staff prepared for the new school year with Induction on Monday, July 19. It included a welcome by Dr. Anna Battle, team building activities, and Dr. Jose Leyba, motivational speaker. Dr. Leyba spoke about the impact of using personal stories to connect with our students (Inspiring Excellence!).







### Meet Your Teacher

Meet Your Teacher was held Thursday, August 5, at the CGUHS campus. Each parent was able to follow their student's schedule, see their student's classrooms and campus, and meet their student's teacher. Thanks to everyone who came out for our Meet Your Teacher Night! It was great seeing everyone on campus.





### Give Me 5 Friday

Each week, Ms. Jennifer Kortsen, Public Relations Officer, interviews a teacher and posts it on social media. Her interview with Mrs. Christi Saucedo, VGHS, was posted on July 29, and on August 5, Mr. Casey Farnsworth, CGUHS. Check it out on the district's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



### Welcoming Cougars to Campus

We love our security staff! They help make our campus warm and welcoming along with keeping it safe.



### Farmall BN Tractor

Mr. Casey Farnsworth, [Casa Grande FFA Chapter](#) advisor, poses with the Farmall BN tractor awarded to the Cougars by the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association at the FFA State Leadership Conference held in June 2022. The chapter is excited to utilize it in their agriculture program including education, recruitment, parades, and so much more. For more information on the conference, see the next page.





### FFA State Leadership Conference

The [Casa Grande FFA Chapter](#) attended the Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference, during the weekend of June 9-11, concluding their phenomenal year. For the third time and second year in a row, the Casa Grande FFA Chapter was recognized as the #1 Chapter in the State of Arizona. It also received a Gold Star rating. Two of the chapter's members, Justin Jordan and Reiaann Sherwood, received their State FFA Degree for their accomplishments. In May, the chapter answered a few questions and submitted an application for a chance to receive a Farmall BN tractor. At the conference, the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association announced that the Casa Grande FFA Chapter was the recipient of that Farmall BN tractor. The chapter is excited to utilize it in their agriculture program including education, recruitment, parades, and so much more. The Casa Grande FFA Chapter is advised by Casey Farnsworth, CTE Agriscience teacher.







### FFA Earns Arizona FFA Chapter of the Year

The [Casa Grande FFA Chapter](#) was awarded the Arizona FFA Chapter of the Year Award and recognized as the #1 Chapter in the State of Arizona. This is the third time and second year in a row of receiving this great honor. Each year, the FFA officer team completes an extensive 20-page National Chapter application that goes into great detail of the activities they plan and host each year and is judged on three categories which are growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture within the members and in the community. The chapter's application now advances to the national level to be judged. In 2020, they were recognized as a national finalist, one of two chapters in the entire Western United States, and hope to again receive such honors. FFA advisor and CTE Agriscience teacher had this to say, "I am extremely proud of our FFA members and the dedication, love, and hard work they put into our FFA chapter and agriculture program here at CGUHS. Thank you to all who help make a difference in these students' lives each and every day. Thank you for supporting our agriculture program here in Casa Grande!"



Congratulations to the FFA for receiving 3 stars (highest rating available) on the national level!







### National Honor Society Induction

Congratulations to CGUHS's new [National Honor Society \(NHS\)](#) members who were recently inducted into the elite organization. Students must be invited for membership based on grade point average, volunteer contributions, leadership skills, and good character. NHS elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The Cougars are sponsored by Kim Batina, social studies teacher.







### Success Days

Success Days were held at both CGUHS and VGHS. Students picked up their laptops and student IDs, and were able to see other students and staff. Special thanks to all who assisted and especially the great student volunteers!







### Link Crew Welcomes New Freshmen

Casa Grande Union High School (CGUHS) [Link Crew](#), along with faculty and staff, welcomed freshmen on Wednesday, July 20. It was a cheerful day with sixty-six (66) Link Crew leaders hosting the event. Link Crew was trained on Thursday, July 14, and Friday, July 15, then created posters on Friday, July 15, and Tuesday, July 19, so they were prepared to help the freshmen during their first day at school. In small groups, Link Crew broke the ice with a few activities and shared their learned wisdom. After this, they took the freshmen on a campus tour. Thank you to all who welcomed our newest Cougars! "Whether you have them this year or four years from now, yours may be the face they remember, helping them to feel a bit more welcome and at home on our campus. Thank you!" noted Norma Machelor, Link Crew sponsor.







### Freshman 1st Day

Vista Grande High School welcomed freshmen on Wednesday, July 20, with fun games and activities. Welcome to our district, Class of 2026! The [Freshman Class](#) is sponsored by Clarisse Macaraig, English teacher.

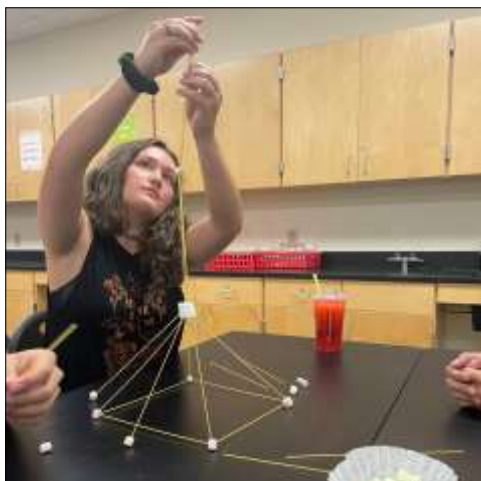
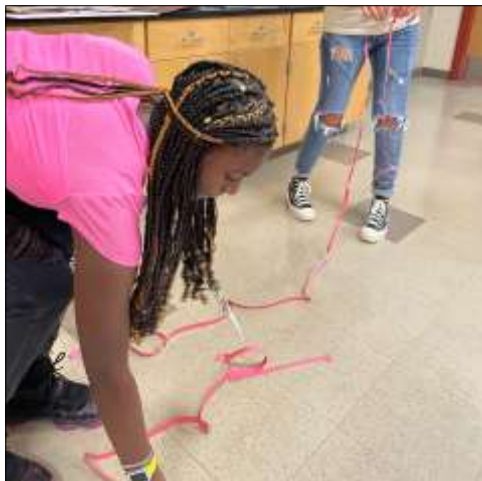






### Investigative Science

Ms. Cristy Malonzo welcomed VGHS freshman [Investigative Science](#) students on July 21-22 to the new school year with an activity titled "Team Building". Students were instructed to do a challenge in groups and explain the said activity. "I wanted to increase their motivation and encourage collaboration and teamwork towards a common goal. I was amazed at their attention and participation in my class and saw the spark of their potential and creativity." Through the activity, students had a chance to get to know their peers and look forward to the new school year together.







### Freshman Success

Ms. Demarest's CG Union [Freshman Success](#) class enjoyed a team building activity.







### AP English

Vista Grande's Ms. Lisa Borninkhof's [AP English](#) class is learning about ethos, pathos, and logos. Students are also inspired by her "Everything Is A Choice" bulletin board display.







### Spartans Attend Cardinal Training Camp Practice

The [VGHS football team](#) attended a Cardinal Training Camp Practice. Cardinal's TE #89, Stephen Anderson, took a personal photo with the group! The Spartans are coached by Jon Roberts, PE/Health teacher.







CGUHS 2018/19 Lemelson/MIT InvenTeam  
Mr. John Morris, Advisor



CGUHS 2018/19 Lemelson/MIT InvenTeam  
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**APPLY NOW**

**Ready, Set, GO!**

## InvenTeams® Grant Application NOW OPEN!



The Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam initiative offers an unparalleled opportunity for high school students to cultivate their creativity and experience invention. Participation in an InvenTeam offers:

- Hands on experience for high schoolers
- A new style of project-based learning that makes STEM accessible to all
- The chance to build life long creative learners

**Drop into our virtual Office Hours:  
Tuesdays, Aug. 2-30 at 7:00 PM ET**

*Topics include:*

August 2: Finding Problems in Your Community

August 9: Background Research

August 16: Competitive Review  
(What's on the market & patent search)

August 23: Engaging Your Community

August 30: Final Application Submission

*Click link below to join the Zoom session.*

**Apply Today!**  
**Deadline: September 6, 2022**

**LEMELSON-MIT**  
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For further assistance, please email [inventeams@mit.edu](mailto:inventeams@mit.edu).



# FOOD SERVICES



**APPLY NOW**

## Free & Reduced-Price School Meals Application

\*Assists with fees (athletic, academic, & college application) and discounts on internet services.

Children need healthy meals to learn. Casa Grande Union High School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.00; lunch costs \$3.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals (see below). Reduced-price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

[Food Services Webpage](#)

[Online Application](#)

[English Printable Application](#)

[English FAQ](#)

[Spanish Printable Application](#)

[Spanish FAQ](#)

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Questions?

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## VFW Voice of Democracy Competition



Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 80,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, "Why Is The Veteran Important?" The

Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31, 2022, deadline who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

[Entry Form](#)

[Rules & Eligibility](#)



## VFW Teacher Award

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members, or other interested individuals. The deadline is October 31, 2022.

[Entry Form](#)

[Rules & Eligibility](#)



## Upcoming Events

September 05	Labor Day (No School/Offices Closed)
September 06	Governing Board Meeting 5:30/6:30 PM
September 07	Student Early Release 1:05 PM
September 14	Student Early Release 1:05 PM
September 16	In-Service Day (No School)
September 21	Student Early Release 1:05 PM
September 23	Q1 Grading Period Ends (45 Days)
September 27	Governing Board Meeting 5:30/6:30 PM
September 28	Student Early Release 1:05 PM
September 29	Student Early Release 1:05 PM
September 29	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:30-7 PM
September 30	Student/Teacher Early Release 1:05 PM





Governing Board Members (L to R): Jack Henness, Joe Lopez, Taylor Kerby, Kelly Herrington, and Chuck Wright. Regular Governing Board Meetings are typically held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30/6:30 p.m. (unless there is a conflict and approved by the Governing Board) at the District Office in the CGUHSD Board Room (1st Floor) and LIVE via our [YouTube Channel](#).

# Governing Board



## Next Meetings @ 5:30/6:30 PM

- Tuesday, September 6
- Tuesday, September 27 (due to Fall Break)



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. [rllopez494@gmail.com](mailto:rllopez494@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 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](mailto:chuck.wright@pinaldesign.com)