

## Weekly Board Report 4 September 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1515 as compared to 1431 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 710 vs. 727; Middle School 346 vs. 325; High School 448 vs. 413; Accommodations School 11 vs. 26. South Verde Magnet School 74 vs. 95.

Update on the 20 acres of Forest Service land: The Quitclaim Deed and the easement with APS have been recorded. We have one more easement with CenturyLink that snagged on legal wording. CenturyLink is rewording a revision of the easement and will forward it to us for recording. Legal counsel suggested approval of the Deed and the APS easement be put before the Board, but wait to approve the CenturyLink easement until its final recording.

On Tuesday this coming week, I will be meeting with Marilee Fowler of MatForce. Also on Tuesday I will be meeting with Nikki Miller of Camp Verde Promotions to potentially partnership with them in community and family outreach.

On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> I will be meeting with Charlie German the Town Mayor and Mary's favorite teacher (from way back in 19 hundred and 80 something). Charlie forwarded student scholarship opportunities to the High School earlier this week. On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> I will be meeting with Joy Borque from the VFW regarding several student programs: the Voice of Democracy Scholarship, the Patriotic Art award opportunity, and the VFW Scholarship.

South Verde's cross country and volleyball seasons are beginning next week with much anticipation. They have just enough girls for the volleyball team, yet the girls are excited and raring to go. Luke Hicks has worked hard to synchronize these fall sports and organize all the intricacies that entail a sports program. The lazy days of summer are definitely waning!

While a number of South Verde students are behind in math credits, most students are not disheartened by the work load. Thanks to the new math tutor, Jake Boyce, and to the reliable math volunteer, Kitty McDowell, the students are experiencing success and the support needed to assist with a subject that is often considered challenging for many people - not just teenagers.

South Verde looks forward to the parent/teacher conferences slated for next Friday, September 11. We hope for the best turnout ever so teachers and parents can work in an atmosphere of conviviality. The school is lucky to have such supportive parents who care deeply about their students. And the staff is lucky to work with students who have not given up on education, despite their obstacles.

Camp Verde HS Student Council held a United Blood Services blood drive on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, with 83 donors. Student Council had a goal of 55 donors, but exceeded that goal with 83 donors, and over 60 were students or CVUSD staff members. Fourteen students from the student council helped out throughout the day with setup, cleanup, check in and helping with snacks for the donors. Camp Verde HS Student Council has received one of the highest awards over the past year and half for blood donors and achieving their goals.

The Native American Club has begun at the high school led by Desiree Huey and will have a float in the homecoming parade, promoting Native American Week during the homecoming events. The Native American week is Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> and they will be having a traditional social dance during lunch in the courtyard.

The high school counseling department will hold a "Smart Moves before it's too late" meeting for parents on Thursday, Sept. 10th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the high school. This will be a time for the parents to

learn about scholarships, admissions to college, testing, entrance requirement and survival study tips for their children.

The Boys soccer team will compete in the Chino Valley Cup tournament this weekend. This tournament is one of the top tournaments in the State of Arizona for fall soccer.

Debbie Miller informed me that in the PE department every Wednesday is called CV day. I said is that for Camp Verde, she said no. It's for Cardiovascular Day. Every Wednesday PE is devoted to doing something all period that is cardiovascular.

This week, Robin Tankesley's gifted class has been studying about the brain, so today they were going to be making models of the human brain out of water, sand, and mashed potatoes to represent the weight, texture, and consistency of the brain.

From Sara (Middle School Counselor): Another "good thing" going on at the middle school is our little "affirmation" club. Those girls are SO NICE and it has been really interesting for them because they have been actively paying attention to other people trying to see who may need cheering up or who is doing good things. They have chosen to sign all of their affirmations "anonymous" because they do not want to "get credit" for writing them. They are also disguising their handwriting and trading notes when they deliver them so that nobody suspects them as the authors. I have read many of their affirmations and they are specific, positive, and well-written. One of the students who received an affirmation wrote back to "anonymous" thanking them for brightening their day and giving them a compliment. Another student who got an affirmation ran over to Mr. Howe and showed him because he was so excited. This is a completely student-driven project...the only thing I do is look up room numbers so we can deliver affirmations.

Wednesday our middle school Cross Country team traveled to Cottonwood, with all runners doing extremely well. The neat thing was our coach Rhonda Koeppel asked the team after it was over if they could do a Capturing Kids Hearts reach out, and they picked up all of the trash that was on the field from the other teams. Rhonda said the kids had the whole place was picked up in about 3 minutes. A great example of our kids being model citizens.

The 500 hallway classes (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades) are spearheading a recycling program at the elementary school. Students have been educated on the recycling process and have placed recycling bins for paper and plastic in classrooms. They have set up a rotation schedule so that each class takes turns gathering and preparing the recyclables for processing. (A big thanks goes to Stacey Barker for his help in setting up this program!)

Fundraising efforts for the elementary robotics program are starting to gain momentum. Peggy Dickey, the robotics coach, has secured a pledge from Taylor Waste for \$500! This will allow us to purchase a new robot for the team.

The robotic team has already started practicing for upcoming competitions. There is a high demand placed on team members—students must have no grade lower than a “B” in any subject, have no behavioral issues in the classroom, have ALL assigned school work completed and turned in, and commit to attending all practice sessions.

Joan Bourque, a local artist who has worked with our district for many years, will lead a team of South Verde students in working with gifted students at the elementary school to create a new mural in the gifted classroom. This is a great opportunity to connect older and younger students in a mentoring relationship, while creating artwork that will beautify our school.

The two new elementary school secretaries, Brianna Johnson and Jennifer Collins, are working hard to streamline the check-in process for parents. They have created signs and reorganized the check-in area to help guide parents when they arrive at our school. In addition, all staff members are working to redirect parents to the office if they are found in the school without a visitor's badge.

The elementary school will begin their Tier III tutoring program for an hour after school beginning on September 14<sup>th</sup>. This will allow time for students outside of the regular school day to receive added help with reading and math skills in a small group setting. Crunching the numbers—this means that a student who is significantly behind in reading or math will be receiving four hours of extra instruction per week. That's 20 hours per month and 120 hours for the six months leading up to the AzMERIT test. This is the equivalent of going to school for an extra 18 days. The added time will greatly improve these students' chances of success both in and outside of the classroom.

Third grade teacher Boyd Copper led his class in a flag retirement ceremony on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students were taught the proper way to retire both the American flag and the Arizona state flag. They also learned proper procedures for raising and lowering flags. We will be sharing photos of this event with the media so keep an eye on the local paper for a story on this event.

The new elementary counselor, Rebecca McIlvaine started with us this week and has hit the ground running—she has already begun to counsel students, jump-start the Student Study Team, and design a behavioral incentive program for our school.

In addition, a new special education paraprofessional, Jessica Bassous, will be starting at the elementary school next week. Jessica has already earned more than 90 hours in special education credits and will be a great asset to our team.

Our third-grade students have been invited to participate in an historic event. The Town of Camp Verde will be burying a time capsule in September to be opened fifty years from now on Camp Verde's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students will have class pictures taken and will write happy birthday messages to the future citizens of Camp Verde. These will be included in the time capsule, along with a list of the students' names. The exciting part about this project is that there is the potential for many of these students to be present when the time capsule is opened, and to be able to recount their participation with this project during the opening ceremony.

### **AzMERIT cut scores**

On August 14, 2015, the State Board of Education adopted the AzMERIT performance standards (cut scores) as recommended by the AzMERIT Standard Setting Committee. As expected, the percentage of students who passed AzMERIT (that is, earned a "Proficient" or "Highly Proficient" score) is much lower than AIMS. See the estimated statewide results in the table below.

On August 24, 2015, the State Board of Education adopted the Move on When Reading (MOWR) cut score for AzMERIT Grade 3 ELA. The adopted MOWR cut score is a reading only score that is equivalent to the former AIMS Grade 3 Reading MOWR cut score. Fewer than 3% of the students who participated in the Spring 2015, AzMERIT Grade 3 ELA test are expected to score below the MOWR cut score. While students who did not meet the MOWR on the Spring 2015, AzMERIT Grade 3 ELA test were not retained due to the MOWR requirement, those students are entitled to receive reading intervention services during this school year. MOWR results will be available when reports are released.

### **AzMERIT reporting timeline**

District level, school level, and teacher level AzMERIT reports will be online reports. The online reports include a variety reports that show performance of groups of students and show performance of individual

students. (A student data file will also be available.) **Online reports and the student data files will be released on October 6, 2015.**

The only paper AzMERIT report is the AzMERIT Family Report. Two copies of each AzMERIT Family Report will be provided – one to be sent home to the student’s family and one to be kept in the student’s cumulative folder. An AzMERIT Family Report Guide in both English and Spanish will also be provided at a ratio of one per student. The Guide is intended to be sent home with the AzMERIT Family Reports. **Paper AzMERIT Family Reports and AzMERIT Family Report Guides will be delivered to District Test Coordinators on October 20, 2015.**

**Getting ready for AzMERIT reports**

An AzMERIT Reporting Guide will be released in mid- to late September, describing various AzMERIT online reports. An appropriate TIDE User Role will be required to access AzMERIT online reports regardless of whether the school administered the paper-based or computer-based Spring 2015 AzMERIT. For teacher level reports, rosters will have to be uploaded. In the coming weeks, we will provide detailed information about reporting access based on TIDE User Role and how to create and upload rosters.

Sample AzMERIT Family Reports, the English version of the AzMERIT Family Report Guide, and the Student Data File layout are posted on the AzMERIT test coordinator [webpage](#). The Spanish version of the AzMERIT Family Report Guide will be posted soon.

**Statewide AzMERIT Results**

ADE expects to release school and district level AzMERIT results in November. At this time, there are no plans to embargo AzMERIT results. Below are the estimated statewide AzMERIT results.

<b>AzMERIT ELA est. % of students for Spring 2015</b>	<b>Minimally Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Highly Proficient</b>
<b>Grade 3</b>	44%	15%	31%	10%
<b>Grade 4</b>	43%	19%	33%	5%
<b>Grade 5</b>	37%	33%	27%	3%
<b>Grade 6</b>	39%	27%	30%	4%
<b>Grade 7</b>	41%	26%	29%	4%
<b>Grade 8</b>	40%	27%	26%	6%
<b>Grade 9</b>	47%	26%	21%	6%
<b>Grade 10</b>	49%	21%	22%	8%
<b>Grade 11</b>	54%	20%	17%	8%

<b>AzMERIT Math est. % of students for Spring 2015</b>	<b>Minimally Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Highly Proficient</b>
<b>Grade 3</b>	27%	31%	27%	15%
<b>Grade 4</b>	29%	29%	32%	10%
<b>Grade 5</b>	29%	31%	27%	13%

<b>Grade 6</b>	38%	30%	21%	11%
<b>Grade 7</b>	48%	22%	18%	13%
<b>Grade 8</b>	43%	24%	20%	13%
<b>Algebra I</b>	45%	23%	23%	9%
<b>Geometry</b>	47%	24%	24%	6%
<b>Algebra II</b>	47%	24%	23%	6%