



#TUHSDSTRONG



Do iT with Pride!

TUHSD Staff Monthly Newsletter from the
Superintendent's Office

JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year!

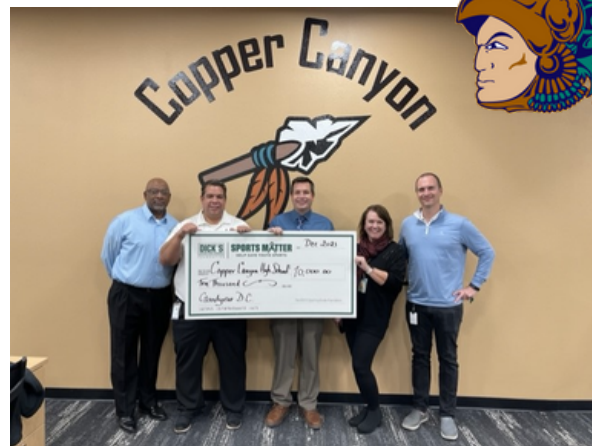
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Copper Canyon Presented with Sports Grant

Dick's Sporting Goods presented a \$10,000 check to Copper Canyon High School for new equipment for athletic teams and leadership development.

Items that the school will purchase with this generous donation include new golf bags and clubs for the Girls Golf Team; baseball bats and catcher's mitts for the baseball program; Softball bats; tennis racquets for the Girls and Boys Tennis team; additional equipment for football and funds for a leadership development program for student athletes. Dick's Sporting Goods recently presented the check at Copper Canyon.



Congratulations Copper Canyon and thank you to Dick's Sporting Goods for this generous donation!

University High School Makes Top Ranks in the Arizona FAFSA Challenge

The Arizona FAFSA Challenge recently congratulated University High School for ranking in the state's top 10 FAFSA completion leaders. U-High has a 74% FAFSA completion rate. Increasing a high school's FAFSA completion rate results in more seniors completing this critical application, which can assist with funding for their post-secondary education.

Congratulations U-High! We are so proud of the dedication to higher education shown by these incredible students and staff.



Ms. Klein awarded Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Grant

Kori Klein, a visual arts teacher at Copper Canyon, has been awarded the Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers grant!

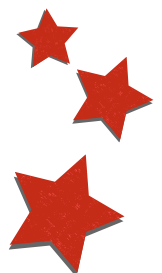
The Desert Financial Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers program grants classroom wishes to teachers across the state of Arizona, as a way to support, celebrate and honor Arizona educators.

"I was prompted to apply, especially this year, because I know how hard our students have been hit this past year and a half," said Ms. Klein. "Knowing that I got the ability through Fiesta Bowl charities to help improve the lives of our students in the classroom is one of the best feelings I've had."

Ms. Klein also revealed how she will use the funds to purchase a new sound system to allow students to listen to music that inspire creative and artistic ideas for their projects.

Congratulations Ms. Klein, we are so proud!

Click [here](#) to read The Glendale Star article featuring Mrs. Klein and other Arizona teachers who were awarded the grant.



TUHSD Students Awarded the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship

The QuestBridge National College Match is a national program that connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to top colleges.



Out of over 16,500 applicants, QuestBridge selected 6,312 finalists to be considered for the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship. This year, QuestBridge's 45 college partners were matched with 1,674 finalists, who were recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients.

Two University High students were matched and awarded this prestigious scholarship: Berzelai Ponce Lopez and Manuel Martinez Sanchez. Copper Canyon student, Aaliyah Humphrey, was another Questbridge finalist. Although she wasn't matched, she is planning to apply for regular admissions.

Congratulations Berzelai, Manuel, and Aaliyah for this incredible feat!



Berzelai Ponce Lopez



Manuel Martinez Sanchez



Aaliyah Humphrey

Outstanding TUHSD Students

XAVIER MARSHALL & ISSAC MADRIGAL

Tolleson Union High School had football players who received the Ed Doherty recognition. The Ed Doherty Award is the State of Arizona's highest individual high school football honor awarded by the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club.

Xavier Marshall and Issac Madrigal earned Week 12 and 13 nomination medallions for Outstanding Play

Congratulations on your achievements,
Xavier and Issac!



STEPHON DAILY

Stephon Daily, Sierra Linda High School football player, was recently awarded with the prestigious Ed Doherty Award!

Congratulations Stephon!



Spotlight on Matthew Silva, Warehouse Clerk

This month, we wanted to shine a spotlight on our Warehouse Clerk, Matthew Silva.

Mr. Silva had been a part of the Tolleson Union High School District for seven years prior, working in several positions including as a Custodian for Food and Nutrition at La Joya Community High School and as a Cafeteria Manager, before resigning from his position back in September of 2020. He recently rejoined the TUHSD staff as a Warehouse Clerk in November of 2021.

Mr. Silva chronicled his time at the district.



"I was briefly employed as a part-time custodian for Food and Nutrition at La Joya in the 2013-14 school year," said Silva, adding that he was promoted to a full-time custodian at Westview for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. The next school year, Silva was again promoted to Cafeteria Manager at Sierra Linda for 2014-2017.

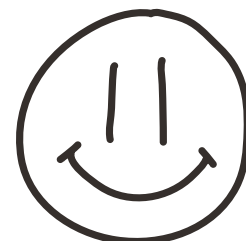
"I then was moved to Cafeteria Manager at Tolleson Union/University High School from 2017-2020," said Silva. Prior to that, he was a manager for a Sonic Drive-In.

When asked what he loved about the district, Silva revealed, "I just love the atmosphere. There is nothing like working for the Tolleson Union High School District."

An Arizona native, Silva grew up all around the West Valley in Phoenix, Tolleson, and Avondale. He currently lives in Southwest Phoenix with his family, his wife Adriana, his 16-year-old daughter, a Sophomore at Tolleson Union High School, and his 9-year-old son. Silva will soon be introducing another family member, with his second son making his debut in February 2022. Congratulations to Mr. Silva and his family!

"I am very excited to be back working for the district," said Silva. In football, his allegiance is to the Green Bay Packers. "Go Packers!" he adds.

We are so glad to have you back in the TUHSD family, Mr. Silva. Thank you for all the hard work you have done and continue to do for the district!



TUHSD In the News

TUHSD'S NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS RECOGNIZED IN AZ BIG MEDIA

TUHSD's two beautiful and brand-new Performing Arts Centers, at Sierra Linda and West Point, were recently highlighted in an AZ Big Media article. The article expressed the importance of top-notch performing arts centers not only for the schools, but for the students and the community as a whole.

Click [here](#) to read the full article!

Why top-notch performing arts centers are must-haves for Valley schools



LIFESTYLE | 30 Nov | KYLE BACKER

Bright lights, cheering parents and ticket sales are typically associated with Friday night football, but athletes aren't

TUHSD'S TRANSPORTATION GRANT RECOGNIZED ON NEWS CHANNELS

Tolleson school district launches Uber-like ride service

By **Rocio Hernandez**

Published: Monday, December 13, 2021 - 5:05am
Updated: Monday, December 13, 2021 - 9:12am



The Tolleson Union High School District is using a \$2 million grant to offer an Uber-like transportation service to students who live outside of the district's boundaries, including students who are homeless or in foster care.

TUHSD's transportation grant, used to help provide additional transportation for our students, was recognized across media channels in the Valley.

Check out the articles on [KJZZ](#), [KTAR News](#), [Arizona Education News](#), and [FOX 10](#).

TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL'S ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHTED IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW

Tolleson Union High School's Assistant Principal for Athletics, Activities and Facilities, Dr. Ray Perkins, was recently spotlighted in the West Valley View for his impact on the lives of his students.

"He [Dr. Perkins] connects with students on a different level, which brings a unique and dynamic perspective to our administration team," revealed Tolleson Union High Principal, Felipe Mandurraga. "I have worked with many admins in my career. Dr. Perkins is by far the best at interacting with students."

The West Valley View article went on to highlight Dr. Perkins' heart and drive for his students and his passion for teaching.

Congratulations for your well-deserved recognition Dr. Perkins. We are so grateful to have you as part of the TUHSD family!

Click [here](#) to read the full West Valley View article!



WEST VALLEY VIEW NEWS | OCTOBER 4, 2021

Sports & Athletics

For more sports visit WestValleyView.com

A heart for young people from the NFL to Tolleson

BY KALLA HINGLETON
The Tulsa Times Contributing Writer

From adolescence to the NFL, and now Tolleson High School, Dr. Ray Perkins has been making an impact on young people.

The Richmond, Virginia, native attended the University of Virginia to play football and graduated with a degree in sociology. In 1987, he went on to be a 20-year-old rookie for his favorite football team, the Dallas Cowboys.

"I grew up a Cowboys fan, so it was a dream come true," Perkins said.

After a stint with the Cowboys, he played in Alberta, Canada, then returned to the NFL to play for the Cleveland Browns.

He finished his career with the Arizona Cardinals.

When his football career ran its course, Perkins started working in education. He's going on 33 years.

"I wanted to give back by being a teacher and coach," said Perkins, the assistant principal of athletics, activities and facilities. "I've always had a passion and a heart for the young people."

Perkins started giving back to the youth while he was still a young person. He coached and played on his church's basketball team in high school. As a Cowboy, he worked at a group home during the offseason.

Perkins is in his ninth year as a vice principal at Tolleson High School. "Tolleson is very rewarding," Perkins said.

"We're a hidden gem. We have young people doing tremendous things and going a lot of places."

"Not only is he on campus and at events, but he actively engages with his students."

"He connects with students on a different level, which brings a unique and dynamic perspective to our administration team," Tolleson Principal Felipe Mandurraga said. "I have worked with many admins in my career. Dr. Perkins is by far the best at interacting with students."

Perkins is charge with athletics, activities and clubs. Knowing that for many students the transition to high school is a challenging time and that being involved causes them to perform better academically, Tolleson has set a school goal of 95% connectivity for its students. At the school with approximately 2,100 students, a report earlier this year showed that about 92% of the student body was involved in at least one way on campus.

"I love seeing young people in their environment, whether it's extracurricular or co-curricular," Perkins said. "They notice, they want to have you at their events, and that is really cool."

For Perkins, one of the most rewarding parts of his career is getting to see people after their time as one of his students.

"Knowing that I had a chance to interact with that young person and hopefully I shared a golden nugget."

NFL continued on page 16

Dr. Ray Perkins said he's proud he can pass along advice and enthusiasm to students. (Photo courtesy of the Tolleson Union High School District)

WAY OF GRACE CHURCH

TEACHING WITHOUT COMPROMISE
LOVING WITHOUT EXCEPTION

Join us online or in person this Sunday at 10:30am as we gather to praise God, sing, pray and hear from our pastor, RICHARD SCHOOLS BUCKEYE

Find more info just WestValleyView.com

WAYOFGRAACECHURCH.COM

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*Have a Great Second
Semester!*

2022



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