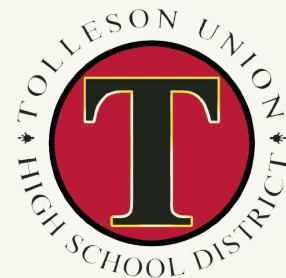


#TUHSDSTRONG

Do it with Pride MARCH 2022



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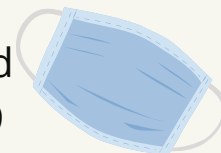
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SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

COVID-19 policy change

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and patience as we navigated through the ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this health crisis, we remained committed to following the CDC guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families.



We are celebrating that we have turned a corner with regards to masks and they **are now optional**, effective as of February 28, 2022.

The CDC is only recommending mask wearing in schools for those counties that are designated high risk. However, while masks will be optional, if you are at high risk for severe illness, are immunocompromised, or have chronic health conditions, you should discuss the merits of mask wearing with your healthcare provider. **TOGETHER WE ARE TUHSD STRONG!**

Sincerely,
 Nora Gutierrez
 Superintendent



OUTSTANDING TUHSD STUDENTS

Two Copper Canyon football players signed to play Division II collegiate football on National Signing Day. Congratulations to **Alejandro Flores**, who signed to play at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and

Derrick Sailor, who signed to play at Western New Mexico University in Silver City. Both young men are not only impressive on the football field; they are strong in the classroom. Alejandro and Derrick are both ranked in the top 15% of their class. Congratulations!

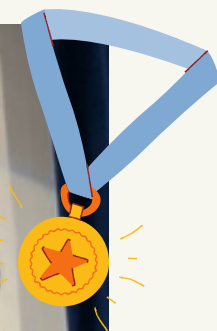


OUTSTANDING TUHSD STUDENTS

WHS Cumulative 4.0 GPA Ceremony



Westview High School recognized each of their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students who have a cumulative **GPA of 4.0** or higher with a special ceremony on Thursday, March 3rd.



Both students and their families were invited to come and join in the celebration. The ceremony included a presentation of the school colors, followed by a few words from Assistant Principal Russell Peters. The students were then awarded a medal for their accomplishments.



OUTSTANDING TUHSD STUDENTS

On Monday February 8th, the Sierra Linda High School Advanced Early Childhood students, **Alize Dominguez, Marivel Soto, Alejandra Duarte** and **Jasmin Varela**, taught in Mrs. Reeser's and Ms. Scheibach's 2nd grade classrooms at Western Valley Elementary School in the Fowler School District.

They taught 2nd graders simple sign language and also about positive self esteem. The last time students were allowed to teach in person was before the pandemic.

Western Valley Principal Dr. Jennifer Quirk was responsible for allowing our students the opportunity to teach in actual classrooms. Thank you Dr. Quirk.



MICROSOFT CASE STUDY

Microsoft recently concluded their case study on their partnership with the Tolleson Union High School District.

Check out how the TUHSD and Microsoft partnership is helping the district to close the digital divide and keep students and teachers focused on student academic achievement and what matters most, all while enjoying ongoing Microsoft support.

The full case study is available [here](#).



HOP,SKIP,DRIVE PROGRAM

The Tolleson Union High School District has partnered with a transportation company called Hop,Skip,Drive to provide a unique solution for transporting students to and from school that are living **outside** of our district boundaries.



Parents can simply download the Hop,Skip,Drive app to begin setting up rides to and from school for their student. Parents schedule a time and pickup location on the app and a Hop,Skip,Drive CareDriver will arrive to take their student to the nearest TUHSD bus stop.

Like other popular transportation apps, parents can track their child's ride to and from school in real-time through the app. This service is provided **free of charge** for parents living outside of the district boundaries and for McKinney-Vento students.

HopSkipDrive - Rides for Kids Sponsored

We understand how complicated it can be to get your kids to school. HopSkipDrive makes it simple & safe for your kids to get to where they need to be in the Tolleson Union High School District

- ✓ Pick a date and time
- ✓ Connect with a CareDriver
- ✓ Get real-time updates and peace of mind

Schedule your ride today! ❤️

Safe and Reliable Rides for Your Family [INSTALL NOW](#)

HOP, SKIP, DRIVE PROGRAM

Hop,Skip,Drive wants to ensure transportation is simple for parents and safe for kids. Find out more about the Hop,Skip,Drive program by downloading their app or visiting www.hopskipdrive.com.



This service is being provided as part of the \$2 million A for Arizona Transportation Grant that the District received in 2021.



TUHSD EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight on Ruby Acuña, HR Coordinator

This month we wanted to shine a spotlight on one of our HR Coordinators, **Ruby Acuña**. Ruby joined the Tolleson Union High School District last semester when she started at the beginning of November, 2021.

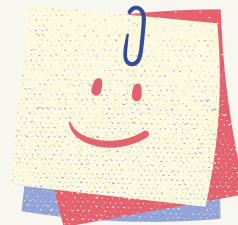
"I love that everyone is very welcoming, and friendly, especially in the HR Department," she said.

Previously, she worked with Liberty Elementary School District for 14 and a half years as an ELL Technician, in Special Needs, and as a Program Specialist for the Before and After School Program L.E.A.P. Extended Day.

"I grew up in Poston, AZ, a little ranch in the Valley called Quail Mesa Ranch." Her father worked in agriculture. "This ranch was surrounded by fields of alfalfa, watermelon, melon, and corn. We were not allowed to take crops from the fields, so my dad planted our own garden. We had many animals from turkeys, chickens, pigs, dogs, cats, geese, to a lamb," she said.

Ruby came to Phoenix in 1999 and moved to where she currently resides in Buckeye, Arizona in 2007.

"I have 3 children. Two daughters and one son." She has no grandchildren at the moment, "but I am so ready for them!" she added.



We are so glad that Ruby Acuña decided to join the TUHSD Family. Thank you for all the hard work you have done and continue to do for the District!

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE NIGHT

University High School had their Science Night with the Society of Hispanic Engineers from ASU. The night included different kinds of science and engineering experiments that the students worked on. Despite it being a chilly night, there was a great turnout with many parents in attendance as well. Thank you to the Society of Hispanic Engineers for helping promote the knowledge and interest in STEM within our TUHSD students.



SHPE | ASU
 Leading Hispanics in STEM.
 Promoting knowledge and interest in STEM

**UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
 SCIENCE NIGHT**

Join us for a night of STEM activities, food, information on applying for college, financial aid information, and to win PRIZES

101100
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Wednesday, February 23rd
 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 Hosted by SHPE de ASU
 RSVP on the link below or scan the QR code
tinyurl.com/SHPEASU

SHPE
NOCHE de CIENCIAS™
 ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN STEM




STEAM NIGHT AT WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL



West Point High School held its first ever STEAM Night on March 9th.

Students and family members were invited to the West Point campus to partake in a night of experiments centered around the theme: Reach for the Stars.

The experiments were carried out and explained by the students for those in attendance.



Special guests included the NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera and NASA Astronaut Trainer Brian Ewenson.

Thank you to Ms. Melissa Girmscheid for putting together the first of many STEAM nights at West Point High School.

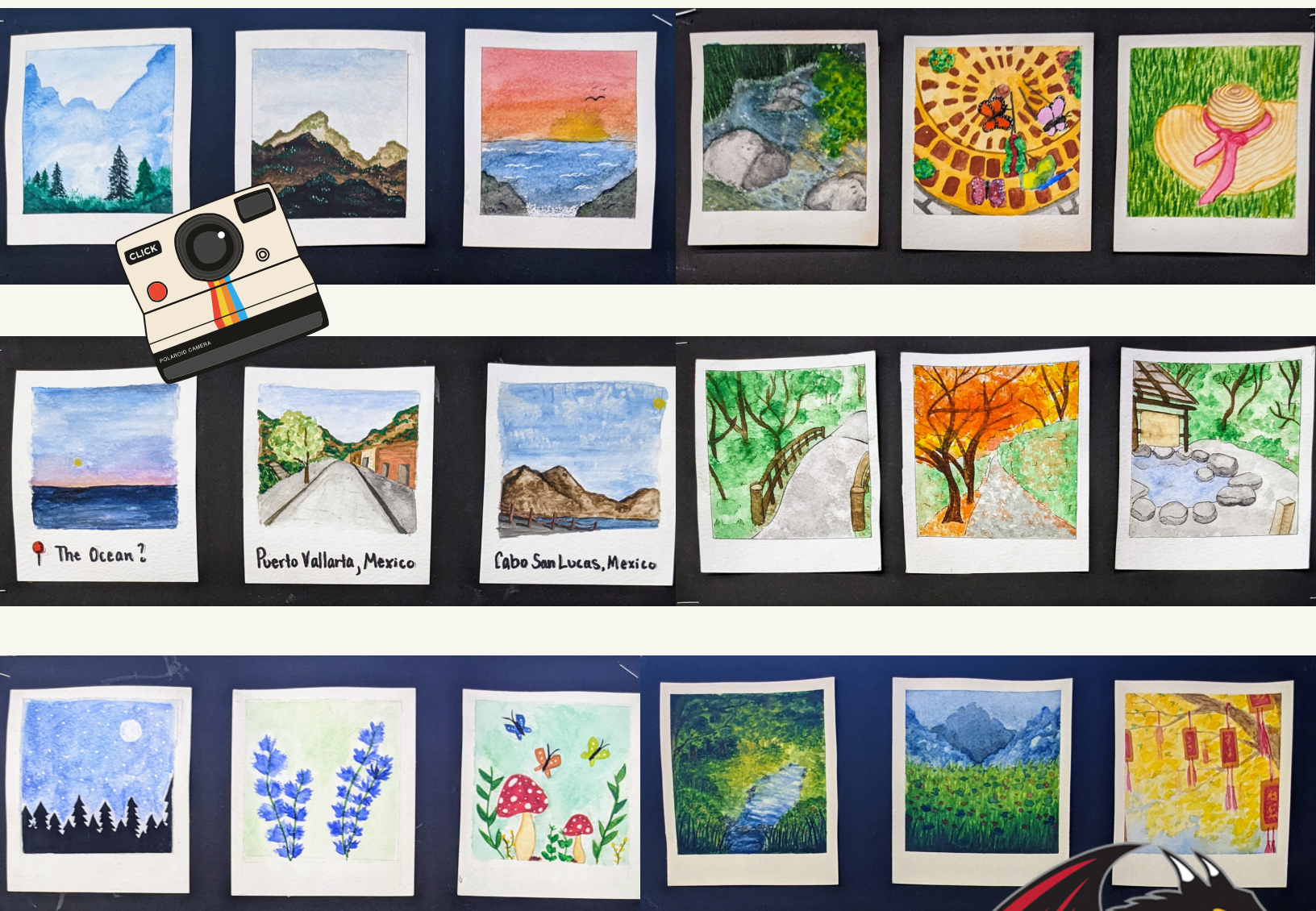


ARTWORK FROM WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Art students, under the direction of Ms. Valentina Dima, Art Dept. Chair at West Point High School, created the following artwork based on a Polaroid Watercolor assignment.



Ms. Dima directed her students paint images as if they took the pictures on a trip they had been on, or a trip they would like to go on. Even if the students had not gone on a trip recently, they drew images for a future trip they planned on taking.





Thank you for reading this edition of #TUHSDSTRONG. The semester has been flying by and we hope you

*enjoyed your
spring break*

and continue enjoying the remainder of the school year. Our next edition will be out in April!



Brought to you by the TUHSD PR Department:
Joseph Ortiz, Dominic Garramone, and Genesis Alvarado Ruiz