



Tanque Verde District News & Views

Special Edition IV- Emily Gray Jr. High School Reflections on Teaching Through Coronavirus

May 19, 2020

Editor's note - In this fourth and final special edition of the Tanque Verde News & Views: Teaching Through Coronavirus, we describe the process of closing out this school year and preparing for next year, and we share reflections from Emily Gray Jr. High School teachers and staff members, our Jr. High School Leadership Team, and Superintendent Hagerman. We hope you've enjoyed these reflections, and that they provided an understanding of this experience through the eyes of our teachers and school leaders. Thank you ~ Claire Place, Director of Communications

End of Year Student Recognition

We want to recognize all of our students for completion of this school year. And we congratulate our 6th, 8th, and 12th grade students for their successful promotion and graduation, and celebrate their moving on to the next chapter in their academic careers, or pursuit of their work and life goals. We would like to thank all the teachers and staff who



Tanque Verde High School - Class of 2020

Virtual Awards Recognition: In lieu of our annual Awards Night, we have put together a virtual Awards Recognition from the information that our seniors shared with us. This presentation, highlighting the truly great things our seniors have accomplished, has been posted on the TVHS main website. Please check it out!

Virtual Graduation Celebration 5/23/20: We

delivered celebratory yard signs to recognize these students. From all reports, teachers, staff and students thoroughly enjoyed delivery day, and it is fun to see signs pop up throughout our community, and with happy, smiling students on their parents' Facebook posts!!



have been fortunate to have a local business come forward and sponsor our Virtual Graduation Celebration. As a part of this, they purchased 30 minutes of paid advertisement time on KOLD channel 13 to air the tribute to our seniors. The presentation will be on KOLD Channel 13 on 5/23/20 at 3:00 pm. It can also be viewed on KOLD.com/facebook. The great news is that family and friends locally and from anywhere in the country can tune in and celebrate our graduating seniors!

~ Thank you to our community sponsor!

In Person Graduation Ceremony - Date TBD: We are continuing to work with local organizations to find an indoor venue to host a Graduation Ceremony at the end of July or early August. This will allow the Class of 2020 to have the opportunity to get together as a group one last time and to allow family and friends the opportunity to celebrate the fantastic accomplishments with our seniors. As information and guidelines from the State about large gatherings of this type are defined, we will be able to finalize the details of this ceremony.

***Congratulations TVHS
Class of 2020 Graduates!***

Reflections on Teaching Through Coronavirus ~ from the Emily Gray Jr. High School Campus

Editor's Note: These heartfelt reflections from our TVUSD teachers, counselor, principals and Superintendent Hagerman provide their personal viewpoints and give us insight into what they are experiencing, learning, creating and giving, in order to teach and support their students remotely. We would like to thank ALL those who have contributed to this special four-part series, Teaching Through Coronavirus.



Together We Thrive

Greg Miller, M.Ed., and Beth Egan, M.Ed. EGJH Principal and Assistant Principal *It seems like the last 10 weeks have passed so quickly. Just 10 weeks ago, we were learning how to use Zoom, Google Meet, Loom, and Google Classroom. Now, we are talking about the end of school year routines, promotion and procedures to close down another school year. The sense of teamwork and belonging has really shined over the last ten weeks. Teachers searched deep within to find the time, motivation and*

creativity to put in endless hours to maintain positive learning opportunities for our students. With online learning, we have had a greater opportunity to gain new insight about our students and families. We have enjoyed seeing their animals, learning more about their interests and how they are passing their time. In addition, we also found great pleasure in watching teachers interact with students in more personable ways such as leading a Google Meet from a camper, sitting on their porches with their chickens, or sitting at their kitchen table with cats meowing in the background or walking across the screen. Just as we stayed calm as administrators, parents stayed calm and supportive as we ventured into online learning. Of course, none of this would

have been possible without the steady direction of district leadership keeping all of us on course. As we have read the reflections from a few of our fellow Bobcats, we can't help but feel inspired by all you have accomplished and the strengthening of our relationships together. We have learned the value of being together, working together, and thriving together during this difficult time and we are ready to conquer whatever comes our way. We once again want to say thank you to ALL of you for your patience, and positivity. As Jerry Frey reflected, "the sum of our parts is always greater than the individual." - Greg Miller & Elizabeth Egan



Encouraging Students As They Adjust To The "New Normal" Of School

Brittany Baechler, B.S., M.Ed.
Honors Language Arts and Yearbook

While the current reality of teaching and learning remotely has brought new challenges, it has also brought new opportunities. Without the normal constructs of a traditional classroom, teachers have been tasked to think outside the box and envision new avenues for student engagement and learning. The potential of these new possibilities has led me personally to have a more positive outlook on the current situation. Rather than focus on the things my students and I are missing out on, I am instead focusing on what I can do to make this time engaging, meaningful, and positive for students whose worlds have suddenly been turned upside down.

Student learning is always at the core of everything I plan, but now I'm trying to think of new ways to encourage students as they adjust to the "new normal" of school. At the forefront of my mind are questions like, What can I do to maintain positive relationships with my students?; How can I encourage essential learning in a fun and engaging way?; and, How can I provide meaningful feedback to students so they are engaged in continued learning and growth? These considerations have prompted me to explore new instructional tools, try new strategies, and think more creatively as I provide new learning opportunities to students.

While my students are rising to the challenge of remote learning, and I am doing all I can to support them, I am also granting myself and my students grace, understanding that we are all going through a time of change. We may not be able to do everything, and that's okay. We do what we can, we adapt to the change as best we can, and we continue to move forward. Hopefully we will learn along the way and be stronger because of it. ~ Brittany Baechler

Teaching Through The Coronavirus - A Personal Reflection

Ted Dawson, M.Ed.
Emily Gray Jr. High School

Since Emily Gray's campus closed beginning on March 16th,

my experience has been defined by two big themes. The first is gratitude and the next is grief, if that's not too strong of a word.

I'm grateful for all the people close to me who are healthy and grateful to be employed and able to continue working during this unusual time. Like my colleagues, I feel lucky to be in Tanque Verde School District where all the communication in the district has been overwhelmingly positive and the direction and management of the end of the year has been organized, thoughtful, and clearly communicated. Thank you to Dr. Hagerman, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Eagan, Mrs. Hodge, and all the folks at the district office for the endless support these past weeks.

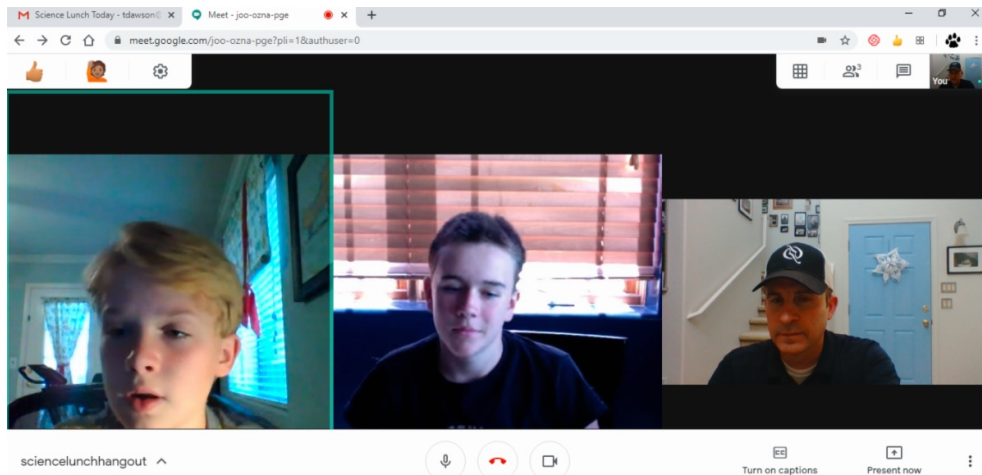


The grief comes from not seeing our students. Disrupted routines, uncertainty, and loneliness (particularly missing friends) affects anybody and for junior high-age students those feelings can be even more magnified so I'm concerned for how everybody is doing. I'm sad about what we're missing for the end of the year. Enough of my third period class made the honor roll earlier this year that they had pizza and a movie coming. I was looking forward to building and testing popsicle stick bridges with my first period class. I had planned to have lunch with my seventh grade basketball players to talk about how much they can accomplish next year. Finally, while much of the 8th grade is in Washington, D.C., I would've been involved with the fun experiences for the rest of the students to share here at EGJH. None of those things will happen in person this spring.

Now for the joy. The joy comes from seeing our students during Science Lunch Hangouts and from listening to parents tell me what their kids are up to at home. I've heard about math at the kitchen table, 4-H projects, baking, and family hikes and bike rides. Thank you to the moms and dads for taking up this unforeseen task. Many of our students have really risen to the occasion with creative work and with second and third tries to master something and nothing makes a teacher happier than that. Thanks, boys and girls! Among staff, I've had colleagues email me back at all hours with answers and encouragement. My fellow teachers have shown me care and grace again and again. I love and appreciate you, folks.

Finally, there is joy in knowing that, some time, in some way, we'll be back together again. Will we go to CIMI in November? I don't know, but we're planning as though we will. Will students play sports? When we're cleared to play, we're going to play. We'll get back in class, and we'll get back together. And we'll keep on being Bobcats because we never stopped!

-Ted Dawson



Left to right: Andrew Smith, Lev Humphries, Mr. Dawson

**The Real Heroes In This Situation Are The Students
And Their Parents**

Jerald Frey, M.Ed.
7th Grade Science



Friday, March 13th, was like any other day at Emily Gray. The kids were excited because it was Friday (or Freyday as we say in my class). Their excitement, however, was tempered by the test I was about to give them. I joked with my 7th graders that I preferred Friday the 13th over any Monday. In hindsight, who knew that Monday, March 16th would be the beginning of a new chapter in all our lives?

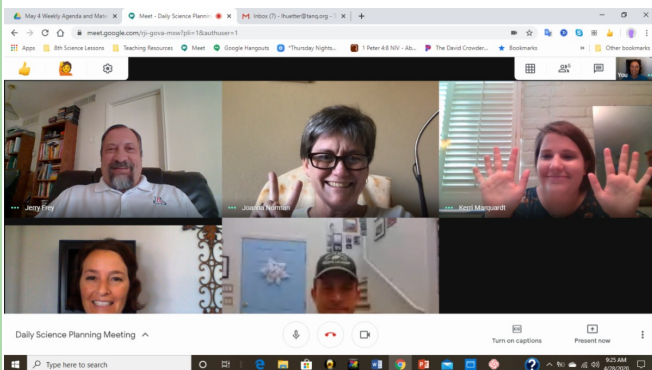
Like many, my first reaction was fear. Fear of the unknown, the fear of walking a path never traveled, the fear of the coronavirus and what it could do to our species and the most basic fear; how will I pay my bills? Through the storm, calming voices prevailed. The Arizona State Legislators and our Administration led the charge and quickly coordinated their efforts formulating a game plan that calmed most of those fears and got students and teachers back to focusing on our student's well-being. Focusing on the welfare of students is a

natural place for a teacher to be, and it didn't take long for the staff of Emily Gray to get behind the technology and a plan for success. Kudos to Dr. Hagerman, the Board of Directors and all the Administrators.....you were on point and thank you!

It is said that "necessity is the mother of invention". Well, let me tell you; whoever came up with that phrase years ago had no idea about loom, google suites, google hangout and google classroom. Instead of inventing technology, we, as a staff, had to reinvent ourselves (and very quickly). This is where I can honestly say; Tanque Verde is special! The staff and administration of our school district is like no other. My team, the science team, is as collegial as they come. The sum of the parts is always greater than the individuals. Teamwork and positive attitudes made this transition go very smoothly. I am sure the same can be said throughout all the Tanque Verde Campuses.

The real heroes in this situation are the students and their parents who reacted just as quickly. I was, and am amazed, by the support of the parents of this district. Early in the process, teachers were assigned phone calls. Every parent I spoke with was supportive, responsive and determined to participate. It was then, I knew everything would be OK! Of course, I am sad that our year was cut short. There was so much unfinished business with our curriculum, sports, clubs and year-end celebrations. I especially regret not being able to give one last piece of advice (and hugs) to the students before the summer break. I feel, like many, that we were short-changed by the virus. But most importantly, our students, staff and families are safe. We did the right thing, even though it meant sacrifice on all our parts.

Sadness has since given way to hope and excitement. I have hope that things will return to normal in the future. Well, at least, a "new normal". The enhanced use of the tools we have been given, have forever changed my teaching. Hearing from students, either via emails, google classroom and/or video lunches has been incredibly uplifting for me. Nothing brightens my day more than a smile from a student! We have found more efficient ways of learning and communicating. And yes, students themselves have taught me a few things too. I am looking forward to the good that will come from our "new reality". And who knows, maybe a seed has been planted in a future virologist right here at Emily Gray. I am grateful to be a part of this dynamic community. I miss my Bobcats, but until next year.....stay safe, be responsible & ROCK ON (a little geology humor)! ~ Jerry Frey



Science Staff meeting including our newest



Changing circumstances can mean new opportunities

Sarah Kazy, B.A., M.A.T
8th Grade Language Arts

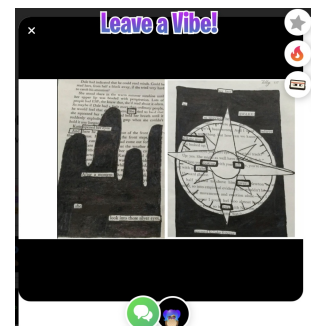
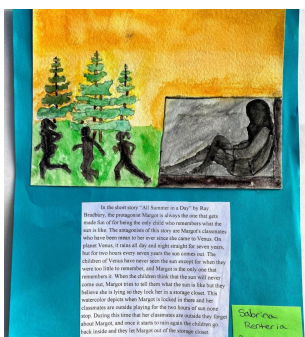
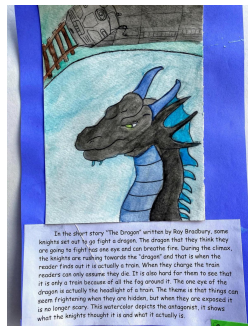
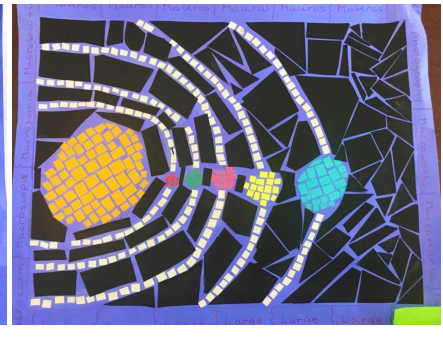
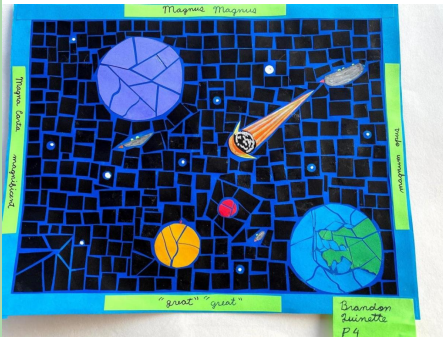
I appreciate the students who have been able to join us with online learning, for they have made the weeks more fun, clever, and creative! Changing circumstances can mean new opportunities, and it has been an adventure picking up new skills, testing out engaging online platforms, and learning what students gravitate towards most.

Google Meet and Flipgrid allowed us to safely see each other online, making these days more cheerful as students interact and share their work (shout out to all of the pets who joined us in online learning!). Highlights include playing Pictionary &

charades with ELA terms on Google Meet, and sharing blackout poems and odes on Flipgrid. Academic Showcase was not lost, thanks to a team of student Google Site designers who made it possible to display and share projects virtually. Now we are wrapping up the year with book clubs, using different tools in Google Classroom.

It has been great to "see" students, and super helpful to collaborate with colleagues. And thank you to parents for your encouragement and support with learning at home.

Following are examples of student work from our Virtual Academic Showcase



Academic Showcase Projects

1. Space scene by Brandon Quinette
2. Stars by Neave Rojas
3. Solar system by Elliot Unwin
4. Alien in space by Dani Mixer
5. Dragon by Emma Brower
6. Mind maze by Zoe Stilson
7. Planet Venus landscape and colonist children by Sabrina Renteria
8. Figure, mouse, starry sky by Reigan Quinette
9. Flipgrid - Blackout Poem_by Cecilia Bojorquez

Understanding There Are Things Worth Fighting For

Bernadette Roberts, B.A., M.A., M.Ed.
Social Studies 7

Wonder Woman has always been my hero and I have a scar on my knee to prove it. Dedicated to emulating her courageous valor, I slipped and fell in an upstate New York creek while playing Wonder Woman as I defended my younger sisters from nefarious, imagined foes when I was about 10 years old. Today, I find myself tapping into my inner Wonder Woman as I face school closures and defend my students from nefarious real foes, like lack of connection, physical distance, and apathy. I must remain as courageous as Wonder Woman. I must face these daunting foes. But how?

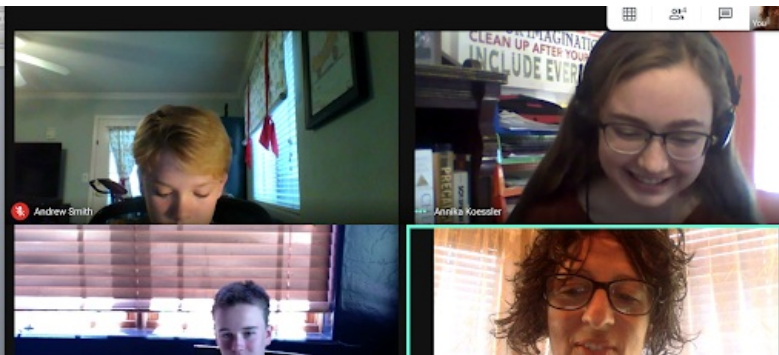


Google. Fear. Dread. Run. Impossible. I cannot wield Google. Yet, I courageously engage. Documents. Slides. Google Classroom. Google Meet. Victory! Google, I've got you mastered on a rudimentary level. Thank you, inner Wonder Woman. Courage? Check! Nefarious foes? Not if I can help it. Lack of connection, physical distance, and apathy? You are defeated.

It does not take effort for me to remain committed to my students, colleagues and district during this time of school closures. I love what I do and would do it in my sleep if I could. It does, however, take great effort for me to remain connected with these people that I care about.

One of the reasons that Wonder Woman is one of my heroes is that she understands that there are things worth fighting for, and she does what it takes to fight for them. For me, staying connected to those I care about is one of those things. Wonder Woman will always be my favorite hero but Google might just be inching its way up my list and I won't need a scar on my knee to prove that.

~ Bernadette Roberts



Beginning of a Google Meet with some of my 6th period students (they gave permission to be screen-shot.)



Roberts' SS7 Weekly Agenda

WEEKLY TASK LIST

April 27 - May 1

LEARNING TARGET

I deliberately inspire others. (7.C.4.4)

REMEMBER!

The materials you need are in your google drive under the 'classwork' heading.

My Office Hours = M, T, W, F 10 - 12, Th = 1 - 2

Google Meet = Thursday, check your email for your class's specified Meet time.

Email me at broberts@tana.org with questions. I'm here for you. :)

1. Complete 1 activity on this week's choice board. Tell me about it. (essential)
2. Complete another activity. Tell me about it. (extend)
3. Communicate why inspiration matters. (enrich)
 - a. email me your thoughts about this. <https://www.thechurning.net/three-reasons-inspiration-matters-in-a-time-of-change/> and /or
 - b. Send me an inspirational video or article you like and I will respond to you.

Encouraging quote of the week

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.
-English Proverb



Connectedness

Marsha Shelton, M.S. Counseling, LCPC
School Counselor

Teaching Through the Coronavirus: What remote Counseling has looked like over the past several weeks.

As the Emily Gray School Counselor, my greatest passion is helping students work through problems to be able to focus on school. This Pandemic has given us a platform like no other to test our problem solving skills. As a school, we were not able to "fix" or

"control" the harsh realities of this Pandemic. Knowing this, I tried my best to stay focused on what we know works:

Same Job➡New Methods: Since I could not call kids into my office, how would I reach out to students and parents making sure they had resources needed for this time? I put together a Covid 19 Resources and Support page. I made over 90 phone calls home the second week of the school closure to make sure students/parents understood how to access online learning opportunities. We emailed one another, I sat in several "google classrooms" learning firsthand the face to face contact was important. It allowed me to see and hear the student's concerns.

Same Emotions➡More Intensified: Students displayed a wide range of emotions...which is typical for Junior High students. Some were happy. Yay, NO SCHOOL. Some were sad. Others had no idea how they felt. Check in forms were on the Counseling page and the Library page to help students share how they were feeling. Some emailed. Some asked for phone calls. Just yesterday, I was on a google meet call with a student because they were feeling lonely. These emotions are real; they are more intense and our students need to know we are still here to help. Another student shared her newfound love of art with me. (see below).

*Same Community Support➡More Respect, patience and gratefulness
School connects all of us to our community. It is the place where teachers care for, teach, and grow inquisitive minds. It is the place where parents turn for security, routine and direction. It is the place where students unite as friends, share their feelings, and embrace their learning. While the method of caring for students has changed over the past month, my role has remained the same: give students and families a sense of connectedness to maintain positive social, emotional, and academic health. Our district gave our community time to slow down. This gave our community the ability to focus on physical, emotional, and academic well being. Tanque Verde Unified School District knows education is critical to all students but also understands that connections drive our success. Thank you for staying connected during this time of isolation.
Stay Well, Mrs. Shelton*

Resources (Please click on the links for more information):

[Dealing with Loneliness](#), [Coping During Covid 19](#) & [Tucson Resources](#)

*Star Wars Cantina Band
Celebrating "May the 4th be with you"*

T.V. Learns
TVUSD K-8 Music Teachers



Owl Babies

T.V. Learns
Mr. Ted Dawson, EGJH 7th Grade Teacher

Balancing Work and Family During Remote Teaching

Jaime Spicker, BA in Elementary Education, MA Library Science
Resource Math Teacher

I believe in separating work from home. It's what has allowed me to remain in the teaching profession for 27 years... and counting!

One thing I have learned through distance learning is how important it is to keep that separation even when working from home. I have an active family and home life, and bringing work into our space poses challenges. My family desires my undivided attention when I am home, and I want to give that to them! So, creating time and space to work which is separate from "homelife" is very important. I have done this by creating a "work schedule," and I encouraged my students to do the same thing. I also have a work space, different from the other areas in our home that are for family time.



I find that by keeping hours that are strictly for "work" and time for family, I feel more balanced. I love that I have designated certain spaces for work that do not interfere with spaces where we eat, talk, rest, play, etc. This way, work does not feel like an intrusion.

My students and I have been meeting for regular weekly Hangouts. I choose the same day and time to make it consistent. Hangouts have only been 30 minutes, and we just connect. That's it. We talk about how they've been, what they've been doing with their time, how they feel about everything going on. I ask them about all of their classes, what's been easy, what's been challenging. I really have not found it a good way to "teach" using video conferencing. If students have questions about an assignment, they email me. I've been able to see screenshots of their work, and then I can help them fix any problems. - Jaime Spicker



Weekly Reflections from our Superintendent

Scott Hagerman,
Ed.D.
Superintendent
May 19, 2020 - As we complete our final week of our official school year, I want to thank you all for your

patience, perseverance, and thoughtfulness

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank our employees who are retiring at the end of this school year. We have been fortunate to have each of you as part of our TVUSD Team. Congratulations on your retirement! We will miss you ~ Un abrazo.

*Johanna Belobraydic - EGJH
Judy Bower - TVDO
Sue Edwards - TVES
Joanne Grove - TVES
Cheryl LaRose - TVES
Andrea Massey - TRAN
Pete Michalegko - TRAN*

during this school crisis of historic significance. We will continue to communicate with our staff and district families as we receive guidance from the CDC, State, and the county and put that guidance into plans to support student learning in a manner that is safe and meaningful.

In the meantime, we wish each and every one of our Class of 2020 Graduates all the best! Congratulations on all your achievements. We hope that you are all able to get back on course soon and continue to pursue your goals. You are our bright future! Continue to shine!

There are so many worthwhile and important things that we have seen happening throughout our school community. We would like to acknowledge a few of them one last time here before we close the school year. We look forward to being back with you all as a community together: students, parents, families, teachers, and staff.

Pam Park - TVES
Sharon Plaisted - TVES
Gay Polivchak - TVES
Mike Ratajczak - EGJH
Rebecca Shockley - EGJH
Lea Stickles - TVDO



Acknowledgements

- Thanks to our teachers, students and families for being resilient during times of hardship and uncertainty.
- Thanks to our community for providing support and reassurance at our time of need.
- Thanks to our Governing Board for providing thoughtful guidance during the school closure to ensure continuity and support to our students, families, teachers and staff members, and to our community. Your leadership is very much appreciated!
- Thanks to our administrators for being diligent and unfaltering while providing thoughtful leadership in the face of a school crisis of historic measure.
- Thanks to our Special Ed and Intervention team for the work they are doing to help all students access our learning opportunities.
- Thanks to our IT Staff who are at the ready to help at a moment's notice whenever technology issues develop.
- Thanks to the custodial, maintenance and ground staff that come every day and are working to make our schools safer.
- Thanks to our School Nurses who are monitoring the Pima County Health Dept. information, and providing their expertise in decisions about reopening regarding school health and safety.
- Thanks to our Business Office Staff who are keeping our district's accounts and payroll running smoothly.
- Thanks to our Human Resources Staff who are keeping our employees well informed of assistance available to them, and keeping our retirees and new hires in their focus as we plan for the future.
- Thanks to our Food Services Staff, Support Staff, and Transportation Team, who stand at the ready, and who are pitching in behind the scenes.
- Thanks to everyone who has shared their love of learning on TV Learns.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer!

-Scott Hagerman, Superintendent

Thank you for your interest in the Tanque Verde Unified School District.



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