



With  
gratitude

Many thanks to all TVUSD Teachers,  
Students, Staff, Families and  
Community Members for a successful  
2021-22 school year!

We thank you for being part of our  
Tanque Verde Schools Community



## Tanque Verde District News & Views

*The latest news and information from TVUSD!*

SY 2021-2022, Issue No. 3 ~ End School Year 21/22 , May 25, 2022

*Editor's Note ~ In this End of School Year 21/22 Edition of the Tanque Verde District News & Views, we are pleased to present messages from the Governing Board and Superintendent Hagerman, as well as the latest news and information from TVUSD. Returning to our quarterly electronic News & Views format this year gives us the opportunity to highlight our schools, teachers and students, and bring special interest stories from around the district. In this issue, we are focusing on stories highlighting the progress made throughout the year, strategic investments which support student achievement, innovative outdoor learning spaces, and the District Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles which are the foundation of the work we do to educate and support our students.. Thank you for your continued support and interest in TVUSD!*

### 2022 End of School Year Message from the Governing Board President ~

Dear TVUSD Community,

What a school year.

Challenges abounded...COVID interfered with our best laid plans, construction encountered unexpected issues, and we faced an ugly truth about racism in our schools.

Even as we grappled with how to keep students in classrooms and learning amidst COVID surges, how to teach and learn with intermittent utilities, and how we treat each other, our students and staff continued to do what they do best...shine. One just has to review the Acknowledgments presented at the end of the Governing Board meetings throughout the year to see what I mean. (The Acknowledgements are one of my favorite parts of our meetings.)

- TVUSD was one of the few districts in Arizona to begin this school year with improved ELA scores.
- Athletic teams continued to develop their skills and pushed past their own records, both on and off the field.
- Fine Arts at all our sites continue to flourish and grow.
- More students challenged themselves with honors and college level classes.
- More CTE/JTED students represented at regional and national events than ever.
- Emily Gray earned the SARSEF top middle school award, third time in a row.
- Teachers and site leaders continued honing their skills with professional development and educational tools.
- Leaders emerged to help us reflect on who we are and who we want to be.

I realize this is by no means a comprehensive list. Yet, it's clear that with the support and guidance of our teachers, staff, administration, and parents, our students worked hard, excelled and grew in several areas.

Let me repeat...In the midst of various challenges, our students and staff shined.

Our school community overcame challenges and persevered to the end of the year, a little tired and a bit stronger. Both that perseverance and strength will be needed as we move into our next school year, to continue the learning and work we need to do to grow as a district and community.

As you clean out binders, reset classrooms, and close the books on this school year, I hope you realize that each of you contributes to the achievements of our district.

*You are this district*

An enormous thank you to everyone for all you did this school year, and I wish you a restful and relaxing summer break.

Kind regards,  
Anne

Mrs. Anne Velosa  
TVUSD Governing Board President



## Superintendent's Letter ~ End of Year Message SY 21/22

Dear Tanque Verde Unified School District Community and Staff Members,

As we near the end of the 2021-22 school year, we are reflecting on the challenges, the progress, and the opportunities for change that we have experienced this year in the Tanque Verde Unified School District.

In what we hope will be our last year affected by the pandemic, we have faced continued uncertainty about Covid variants, and yet we also saw some return to normalcy. The rhythms of classrooms and schools were restored. We were able to come back together for student performances and athletics, community meetings and school events, and we were able to attend fundraisers to support our schools.

We experienced a challenge of great importance in our community when we faced issues concerning diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools, addressing it on many levels. We continue to make progress through specific actions we have identified, and we continue to work toward being an even better TVUSD. We acknowledge that as a learning community, we are united in our responsibility to ensure that our schools are a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for ALL students and staff.

We have made significant progress in updating our curriculum and ensuring that all students are learning at high levels. Despite the pandemic period, we continue to challenge our staff to continuously learn together, working through Professional Learning Communities and shared Professional Development to improve instructional practices. We have updated our Code of Conduct to reflect our growth and understanding of the need to clearly represent our values and expectations for students in our schools.

Finally, we are seeing the future of our TVUSD schools being built before us, as construction projects on all campuses bring new and improved school facilities for our students, and for the benefit of the community we serve. We look forward to celebrating the opening of these new buildings with our community at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Thank you for your continued support, your patient understanding of the improvements we are making, and for your grace and understanding as we strive to make ourselves a school district that our students, parents, staff and community are proud to call their own. Together, we are building a bright future for TVUSD.

All my best,

Scott Hagerman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## TVUSD Vision and Mission Guide Instruction and Student Learning

*“Excellence is our goal, understanding our foundation.”*

TVUSD is guided by our District Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles. These documents not only guide us over the course of years, but also provide the foundation for the annual Board Goals. The Board Goals provide a framework for the daily work of teaching and learning, keeping student achievement at the forefront of our work.

### District Vision

TVUSD will be the premier choice for K-12 education. Our students will achieve academic and personal success in an ever changing world.

### District Mission

TVUSD will ensure effective communication, collaboration, school partnerships and state of the art facilities that support our vision for students as well as benefit all constituents. Our balanced budget ensures continuity of programs and empowers growth.

### Guiding Principles

- Demonstrate integrity, honesty, and respectfulness through open communication.
- Seek input from and recognize the expertise of all stakeholders in order to achieve unified community support.
- Make progressive, dynamic decisions for 21st Century Learners through creativity and innovation.
- Create an active learning centered environment to meet the needs of all students.

- Maintain fiscal responsibility and seek new funding opportunities to enhance student learning.
- Create a positive climate for everyone to attract and retain students and staff.
- Make decisions based on factual information and/or measurable results.

The Annual TVUSD Board Goals may be found here: [District Vision, Mission & Goals](#)

Click on graphic below for larger image:

**TVUSD PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS**

TVUSD will be the premier choice for K-12 education. Our students will achieve academic and personal success in an ever-changing world.

**GRADES PREK-6**  
Building a foundation of skills and knowledge to inspire lifelong learning and future success.

**GRADES 7-8**  
Exploring varied career and educational pathways to identify interests and opportunities.

**GRADES 9-12**  
Identifying career and college pathways with four-year plans aligned to student interests, ambitions and aptitudes.

**COLLEGE & CAREER READY!**  
Preparing students with superior resources and instruction to be competitive and successful in a changing world.

TVUSD will ensure effective communication, collaboration, school partnerships and state of the art facilities that support our vision for students as well as benefit all constituents. Our balanced budget ensures continuity of programs and empowers growth.

**TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
[www.tanqueverdeschools.org](http://www.tanqueverdeschools.org)



## Strategic Investments - Construction reflects community goals

The Tanque Verde Unified School District is pleased to provide our community with an update on the 2020 Bond Projects. With TVUSD Voters' support of the 2020 Bond Initiative, and \$20,490,073 of SFB new construction and building renewal funds, construction continues to progress very well on new school facilities and renovations at each TVUSD campus.

### Investing in Excellence!

Swaim Architects and Lloyd

Construction are working together to design and build modern school facilities that reflect our TVUSD community's goals and priorities:

Agua Caliente & Tanque Verde Elementary Kindergarten Buildings

- Strengthen our focus on Early Education and Kindergarten.

Emily Gray Junior High School Fine & Performing Arts Building

- Foster fine and performing arts programs district-wide through a continuum of high quality instruction and facilities.

Tanque Verde High School New Science Building

- Accelerate student learning in state of the art educational science labs.

Tanque Verde High School Student Commons Building

- Support students on College and Career Pathways by creating modern facilities, with Ed-Tech and Career Guidance Centers, student collaboration and classroom spaces.

The image above is from the postcard recently distributed to our community. The projects have progressed since the time of mailing. Please visit our schools to see what's new!

In the fall when construction has been completed, we will hold open houses to celebrate this achievement with our community.

*Thank you TVUSD Voters for your continued support!*

## 20 X 2020 Plan

TVUSD is one of two Pima County school districts which have met the Governor's [20 by 2020 Plan](#) goal. As a reminder, the amount of money we received from the state did not allow us to make this goal. Rather, TVUSD made additional investments to meet the goal. As of now, TVUSD teacher salaries have increased by 20.3%. TVUSD continues to invest in teacher salaries in support of student learning as a top priority.

## Salary increases

During the 2021-22 school year, all staff received a 2% raise. In addition there was a one time payment of \$1,500 for each contracted employee. In January of 2022, the hourly employee rate was increased by an additional 5.35%.

In July 2022, contracted employees will receive a 5.35% raise. There will also be one time payments of \$1,000 in September and \$1,500 in December for contracted employees. Hourly employees will receive \$500 in September and \$500 in December. The board will consider an hourly rate increase again in January 2023.

This chart shows the percentage of change over four years ending in March of 2022, for Pima County School Districts, with the yellow highlighting the two districts achieving the 20% teacher salary increase goal.

*As of March 9, 2022*

### 20 by 2020 Plan Update

District	4 yr Change
Foothills	31.50%
TVUSD	20.30%
Flowing Wells	18.20%
Marana	17.70%
Sahuarita	17.70%
Vail	16.70%
Sunnyside	15.10%
state	11.90%
TUSD	3.60%



## Reimagining Where and How Learning Happens in TVUSD

Beginning with the design of the New Emily Gray Junior High School Campus Courtyard on Tanque Verde Road which opened in 2011, district leaders have been designing outdoor learning and collaborative spaces which enhance student experiences on our campuses. The spaces have been thoughtfully designed in collaboration with landscape architect, Mr. Eric Barrett of ARC Studios, Tucson Watershed Management Group, Inc., and at TVES with TVHS junior, Brett Lewis, an aspiring landscape architect!



### Emily Gray Junior High School Courtyard SY 2011-12

The new Emily Gray Junior High School on Tanque Verde Road was opened for the 2011-2012 school year, after being relocated from its original site on N. Melpomene Way. The design of the new EGJH courtyard includes landscaping zones representing the different biomes in our area, and provides a beautiful respite in the

center courtyard of the school for students and staff to enjoy. The courtyard is used for independent and small group learning, as well as a shady space for student celebrations and acknowledgments. (*image, above*)

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### Agua Caliente Elementary School Nature Trail and Learning Zone SY 2021-22

The Agua Caliente Elementary School Nature Trail has been part of our school community since 1989. It was first initiated by the ACES Student Council under a grant titled, “Agua Caliente Nature Trail Project, Live Gently with the Land”. It was developed with input and volunteer hours from students, staff and community members. It won multiple awards and is a highly utilized, integral part of our school and neighborhood community.

In reviewing the rich history of our one acre Nature Trail, we found a student-created pamphlet containing the trail’s original mission statement - “Provide learners with opportunities to develop the awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment for making informed decisions, using responsible behavior and taking constructive actions concerning the environment.”

ACES Principal, Mrs. Chris Rietz saw a need to restore the original Nature Trail, after more than 30 years of use, and envisioned an opportunity to create an innovative learning environment in conjunction with the restoration project. The school was awarded two micro-grants by A for Arizona to support the projects.

“Our committee of students, staff, and community members agree our top priorities for creating an exemplary, innovative learning environment are: shade, seating, restoring vegetation through green infrastructure, and integrating technology using solar power,” stated Rietz in the grant application vision statement.

The first phase of the project focused on restoring the nature trail and adding collaborative spaces. In the second project phase, the focus is on creating an outdoor science lab, enhancing an outdoor learning space for research and learning in a natural desert ecosystem, and adding a STEM teacher to lead the outdoor learning space.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2021-22 school year, and the second phase by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

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### Tanque Verde Elementary School 6th Grade Garden Renovation SY 2021-22 AND Outdoor Music Learning Space and Community Learning Hubs

Brett Lewis, a junior at Tanque Verde High School, with members of the Tucson Youth Leadership Project

and TVHS City Beautification Club, family and community members, led a project to restore and beautify the 6th Grade Outdoor Learning space at Tanque Verde Elementary School this spring.

*Members of the TVHS City Beautification Club (image, above right)*



Brett created a landscape plan and he and his team put into action the clean-up process and fundraising methods needed for the project. He and volunteers from the club spent a great deal of time pruning and raking out the beds. Brett repainted and refurbished the garden art, fixed up existing benches, and his family donated three new stone benches! Sixth graders helped with moving rocks, weeding, and gathering up the buried garden art.



On two Saturdays in late March and early April, 6th grade students and their families helped with the final two stages of the project, the planting of new trees and desert plants in the redesigned zones.

According to Ms. Jen Basler, 6th Grade Teacher at TVES, “Our vision is to have our 6th graders be caretakers of this very

special space. We are creating a maintenance plan for each quarter (season) so that it is properly cared for. We also have ideas for successive planting as the years go by.”

At the March 25, 2022 Governing Board meeting, Brett Lewis shared a presentation which highlighted the transformation with before and after project photos, which may be viewed here: [BoardDocs](#)

*Dean. Lincoln, Kendric, Leonardo, Ella, Connor, Callum, Mia, Jordan, Evelyn, Zoe (image above, from left to right)*

In the second TVES Outdoor Learning Project, funded by an A for Arizona Innovation Microgrant, school leaders, Principal Emma Batty and Asst. Principal Dr. Julie Laird, are working with community partners to design and develop an innovative outdoor music learning space and Community Learning Hubs. Musical adventures and lessons will be enhanced with large musical instrument structures in the kindergarten and primary playgrounds, where the music teacher will teach proper techniques for each instrument and provide space and time for students to explore, improvise, and experience musical concepts. The school will collaborate with community partners to create Community Learning Hubs in the outdoor musical



spaces and provide an after-school music learning hub for students to practice and inspire joy for learning outside of the classroom.

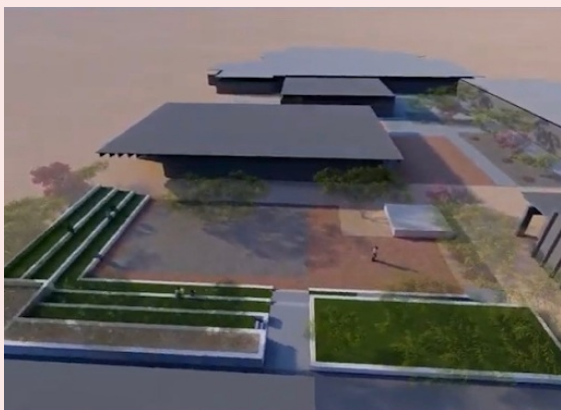
The project is expected to be completed for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

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## Tanque Verde High School Courtyard Renovation SY 2021-22

With the support of TVUSD voters for the 2020 School Improvement Bond, the Tanque Verde High School campus is undergoing extensive renovations and improvements. Formerly Emily Gray Junior High School, the campus has undergone past projects funded by the Arizona School Facilities Board to provide high school level facilities to meet the growing needs of the community. The current projects, also funded largely by the SFB, include the new Student Commons Building, new Science Building, and outdoor, flexible learning spaces.

"The outdoor learning spaces allow for us to enjoy the unique and natural beauty of the Tanque Verde Valley. We will soon have spaces for teachers to take students outside for lectures, collaborative learning or even independent reading and individual practice," remarked Dr. Amy Cislak, TVHS Principal. "These spaces will also allow for us to come together as a community for special performances, awards ceremonies, presentations, lectures, and even movie nights!"



*Architect's rendering of the central courtyard*



*Construction is underway on the Courtyard*

Taking learning outside can be difficult when teachers have to think about all of the resources they need to carry outside. By having highly functional spaces and furniture already outside, with access to electricity for technology, innovative learning will be easier to implement. The courtyard design pictured here, provides an example of the reimagined outdoor spaces.

"We are excited that our outdoor learning experiences will mimic what a student will see if they are to attend the University of Arizona Franke Honors College or other higher education institutions who have created outdoor learning and collaboration spaces," added Dr. Cislak.

## Tanque Verde USD Superintendent Dr. Scott Hagerman Appointed to the Arizona State Board of Education

The Tanque Verde Unified School District is very pleased to announce Dr. Scott Hagerman, TVUSD School

Dr. Hagerman was appointed to the position to replace current Board Member, Mr. Calvin Baker, former

Superintendent, has been appointed to the Arizona State Board of Education by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey after receiving senate confirmation in an 8-0 vote of support on April 3, 2022.

After recognizing and thanking the retiring board members, Governor Ducey recently stated, "Our new board members have big shoes to fill, but I am confident that with their new energy, fresh ideas and diverse backgrounds, we will be able to continue strengthening education for our students."

Governor's Office News Release- March 21, 2022: [Governor Ducey Selects New Education Board Members](#)

superintendent of the Vail Unified School District, who was appointed by Governor Ducey in 2016. This is the first time a Tanque Verde Unified School District Superintendent has been nominated and appointed to the Arizona Board of Education.

The Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting is Monday, June 27th at 10:00 a.m. Location: 1700 W. Washington St., Executive Tower, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Or use the [Virtual meeting link](#) to watch the proceedings. Agenda and materials [here](#).

More information may be found here: [Arizona State Board of Education](#)

***Congratulations, Dr. Scott Hagerman,  
Appointed by Governor Doug Ducey to the  
Arizona State Board of Education!***



"The Board, created by Article 11 of the Arizona Constitution, is composed of eleven members: the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the president of a state university or state college, four lay members, a president or chancellor of a community college district, a person who is an owner or administrator of a charter school, a superintendent of a high school district, a classroom teacher and a county school superintendent. Other than the superintendent of public instruction, each member is appointed to a four-year term by the governor with the consent of the Senate." [Arizona State Board of Education](#)



*Dr. Scott Hagerman*



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