NOVEMBER 2026

Cat Tracks Newsletter

IMPORTANT INFO FROM MRS. NEHRMEYER

Dear Mountain Vista Families,

When we returned from Fall Break, I shared some important news with our staff. Earlier this week, I shared this news with our students and now I'm writing to share with you that my last day on campus as your Oracle School District Superintendent will be December 16, 2026. In January 2027, I will start a new chapter and will serve as the Executive Director of ASBAIT, Arizona's largest health insurance pool for educators and their families. I have been served on the ASBAIT Board of Trustees for five years and their Chairperson for three years. As bittersweet as it is to depart from Mt. Vista and our Oracle family, I'm thankful for this new chapter and professional opportunity. Together with our Governing Board, I will share our plans for a smooth and successful transition as well as our plans for hiring your next Oracle School District Superintendent.

Over the past ten years as your Mt. Vista Principal and then Superintendent, we have made incredible gains together for our students. We earned and have now maintained our Arizona "B" school letter grade for four years. We have maintained steady enrollment while public schools across the state face difficult decisions based on declining student enrollment. In fact, 25% of our students choose Mt. Vista over their neighborhood school and attend Mt. Vista as open enrollment students. We brought free breakfast and free lunch to all Mt. Vista students, regardless of their home income. We have received approximately $1 million in competitive grants to improve our facilities and educational opportunities for students. We have earned the trust of our community and voters successfully passed two budget overrides which allow us to provide small class sizes, competitive wages for staff, full-day kindergarten, and special programs including music, physical education, and technology for our students. Also with the trust and support of our community and voters, we passed a $13.2 million dollar capital bond and built new classrooms, a library, renovated our campus, purchased new school buses and school vans, and improved access to educational technology. Our Preschool earned the prestigious 5-Star status from Quality First. The list could continue for pages. We have done incredible things together for the students and staff of our special school.

Effective January 4, 2027, when we students and staff return from Winter Break, **Allison Hendrix** will serve as our **Interim Superintendent** through the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Hendrix taught 7th and 8th Grade English at Mt. Vista for 20 years. She has served as our Grants and Special Programs Specialist for six years and as our District Office Director for two years. Mrs. Hendrix is a former Mt. Vista student and a proud Mt. Vista parent of two former students. When I think of Cougar Pride and the perfect person to lead the Oracle School District through this transition, I do not hesitate to think of Mrs. Hendrix. The moment you meet her, I know you will feel the same care, warmth, sense of community, and truly, Cougar Pride that I felt the first time I met her and each day I have worked with her since.

As you know, I also serve as your Mt. Vista school principal. When we return from Winter Break, I plan to recommend to our Governing Board that **Denise Fisher** serve as our Head of School through the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Fisher is currently one of our Instructional Coaches and oversees Grades K-4. She has over twenty years of experience as a classroom teacher in both elementary and middle school. She is an active member of our Tri-Community and is well known as a sports photographer, club sponsor, wrestling mom, and positive role model for students. She will work alongside Mrs. Hendrix to continue the great programs we have in place, make sure students are safe and growing academically, and that our school continues to maintain our strong reputation that we have created and earned together. Like Mrs. Hendrix, if you do not yet know Mrs. Fisher, when you meet her you will immediately feel the warm sense of Cougar Pride that she has for herself as well as for our students, staff, and community.

This school year we introduced the new role of Instructional Coaches to our Mt. Vista staff. Mrs. Fisher has been our Instructional Coach for Grades K-4 and **Mark Parrish** has been our Instructional Coach for Grades 5-8. When we return from Winter Break, I plan to recommend to our Governing Board that Mark Parrish resume the responsibilities of Instructional Coach for Grades K-8, oversee all teacher evaluations, and curriculum this school year. Mr. Parrish has served as a Mt. Vista middle school teacher for several years and brings over twenty years of educational experience to our school. He recently earned his Master's in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University and is a certified principal in Arizona. When our graduating seniors visit Mt. Vista each Spring, they always want to spend time with Mr. Parrish, who has become a legend as a favorite teacher as well as a supportive mentor for students and staff alike. Together with Mrs. Hendrix and Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Parrish will help make sure our students and staff are on the right track and have the resources they need for a smooth and successful semester.

I believe that consistent, positive leadership is what our Oracle School District community deserves and needs. Together with our Governing Board, we have partnered with the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) to find our next school superintendent. This process will begin in November 2026 and it is our plan to have a candidate ready for approval by the end of the 2026-2027 school year. It is our plan that the next Oracle School District Superintendent ready to start and lead in July 2027. If you would like to know more about this process, you are encouraged to attend our Governing Board Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Mt. Vista Growth Room. A representative from ASBA will be present at the meeting and will share valuable information on the superintendent search process.



Although my last day on campus will be December 16, I will be available to support Mrs. Hendrix, Mrs. Fisher, and Mr. Parrish as a consultant until our new superintendent is named and joins the school district in July. I thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving our Oracle School District community. Leading the Oracle School District has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my life and I will always be grateful for the opportunity and the wonderful things we did together.

Crystle Nehrmeyer
Superintendent
Oracle School District
cnehrmeyer@osd2.org
520 896 3070





KEEP READING FOR MORE MT. VISTA NEWS INCLUDING:

- Mt. Vista Events Calendar
-November Breakfast and Lunch Menu
-Arizona Department of Education releases A-F school letter grades
-SaddleBrooke Community Outreach FREE Walk for Kids on November 14
-Boys' and Girls' Basketball Schedule for Winter Season
-Wrestling Schedule for Winter Season
-Press Release: Oracle School District receives BIG award (called the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting) for the 10th year in a row!

ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ESTABLISHED 1905

MOUNTAIN VISTA
K-8 School

Mt. Vista K-8 School – November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 2nd Grade Gifted Testing	3 Election Day, 2nd Grade Gifted Testing, 12:45 PM Dismissal	4 Biometric Screenings for Staff, all morning, 2nd Grade Gifted Testing	5 Nehrmeyer's 4th Grade Field Trip, 2nd Grade Gifted Testing	6 Student of the Month Breakfast, 7:00 AM, Carrillo's 4th Grade Field Trip	7 Community Schools Football, Cheer at Kearny
8	9 Winter Sports Pics, November Governing Board Meeting in the Growth Room and on Zoom, 5:30 PM	10 12:45 PM Dismissal	11 Veteran's Day No School and Offices Closed	12	13 Yearbook Picture Re-takes 	14 SBCOs Walk for Kids, 8:00 AM, Community Schools Football, Cheer at Superior
15	16 Winter STAR Testing begins Basketball vs. Cibecue	17 12:45 PM Dismissal	18 Basketball vs. Miami	19	20 Math Master Shirt Day, Kinder Field Trip, School Dance for Grades 6-8 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	21 Community Schools Football, Cheer at Oracle, Wrestling at San Manuel
22	23 Basketball @ Hayden	24 Winter STAR Testing ends, PTO Meeting at 1:15 PM in Growth Room 12:45 PM Dismissal	25 Thanksgiving Break – No School and Offices Closed	26	27	28
29 	30 December Cat Tracks sent home					 MOUNTAIN VISTA K-8 School

Calendar subject to change. Updates will be shared via your child's Class Dojo app and on our school Facebook page, Mountain Vista K-8 School.

November

Menu for Mt. Vista K-8 School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly Promotion
The Calzone and the Cougar Bowl are back for November!

Did you know?
American cheese is not American! This processed cheese is thought of as an American product, but it was actually invented in Switzerland in 1911 by Waltz Gerber and Fritz Stettler to extend the shelf life before it was shipped overseas.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar Served Daily!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Questions or Comments?
Karen Belknap, Food Service Director
520 896 3000, Ext. 3029 and kbelknap@osd2.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 **Breakfast** Frudel **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Sloppy Joe PBJ Sandwich Seasoned Green Beans	3 **Breakfast** Breakfast Sandwich **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Macaroni & Cheese Chicken Nuggets Steamed Broccoli	4 **Breakfast** Pancake **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Soft Chicken Tacos Chicken Parm Sandwich Refried Beans	5 **Breakfast** Biscuit and Gravy **OR** Cereal **Lunch** **CALZONE** Chef Salad Steamed Carrots	6 **Breakfast** Waffle **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Hamburger Crispy Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots
9 **Breakfast** Muffin **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Grilled Ham & Cheese Hot Dog Seasoned Green Beans	10 **Breakfast** Cheesy Omelet **OR** Cereal **Lunch** **COUGAR BOWL** Bean Tostada Seasoned Corn	11 **VETERAN'S DAY**	12 **Breakfast** Breakfast Burrito **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Spaghetti w/Meat Balls Chef Salad Steamed Carrots	13 **Breakfast** French Toast Sticks **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Cheeseburger Corn Dog Baked Beans
16 **Breakfast** Frudel **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Orange Chicken Pig in a Blanket Steamed Broccoli	17 **Breakfast** Breakfast Sandwich **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Beef Street Tacos Bean & Cheese Burrito Refried Beans	18 **Breakfast** Yogurt w/Grahams **OR** Cereal **Lunch** SPICY Chicken Sandwich PBJ Sandwich French Fries	19 **Breakfast** Biscuit and Gravy **OR** Cereal **Lunch** **THANKSGIVING DINNER**	20 **Breakfast** Waffle **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Chicken Nuggets Beef Quesadilla Seasoned Green Beans
23 **Breakfast** Muffin **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Green Chile Nachos Chicken Drumstick Seasoned Corn	24 **Breakfast** Cheesy Omelet **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Corn Dog Crispy Chicken Sandwich Seasoned Green Beans	25 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**	26 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**	27 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
30 **Breakfast** Frudel **OR** Cereal **Lunch** Meatball Sandwich Cheese Quesadilla Steamed Broccoli	Menu is subject to change.			

MT. VISTA K-8 SCHOOL IS A "B" RATED SCHOOL!

The Arizona Department of Education released A-F school letter grades on October 28, 2026 and Mt. Vista remains a "B" rated school, for four years in a row.

We are so proud of our students, staff, and so proud to "B" your child's school. We attached an informational FAQ on school letter grades in the November edition of Cat Tracks.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1700 W Washington St.
Executive Tower Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602.542.5057

FAQ: Statewide Accountability: School Letter Grades for School Year 2025-2026

NOTE: *This is the final year that Arizona will use the current scoring system to calculate A-F Letter Grades. The State Board of Education recently voted to implement key changes that raise the cut scores and expectations to earn each letter grade. These changes will be implemented for the 2026-2027 school year with the letter grade release in October 2027.*

The information in this document relates to **A-F Letter Grades for the 2025-2026 school year**, which were released at noon on Wednesday, October 28th, 2026.

What are A-F Letter Grades?

A-F Letter Grades are the State Accountability model used to annually measure school performance.

What goes into determining schools' A-F Letter Grades?

A-F Letter Grades use a combination of multiple measures, including performance on statewide tests for math, English language arts, and science; English learner test results; student growth as measured by statewide exams; attendance; special education metrics; graduation rates; progress towards graduation; and participation in honors, dual enrollment, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. For more detailed information, please see the A-F Letter Grade Technical Manuals on the Arizona Department of Education website here: https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/resources under "Technical Manuals & Codebooks."

Why does Arizona have an A-F system of grading schools?

Federal and state law require a school accountability system. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to measure school performance using valid, reliable and comparable information across all schools. State law mandates the A-F letter grade system, which is based on a range of measures.

What is the timeline for A-F Letter Grades?

According to Arizona State Statute, A-F Letter Grades must be released by November 1st following the school year they represent.

Once letter grades are released, schools have until November 16th to submit an appeal of their letter grade based on adverse testing conditions, school/community events or emergency, school tragedy, or incorrect data. Appeals are reviewed by the Board's A-F Appeals Committee and determinations will be made at the February 2027 Board meeting.

The Arizona State Board of Education recognizes that A-F Letter Grades contain important information for families and communities and make every effort to make A-F Letter Grades available as timely as possible.

What does each letter grade mean?

Letter Grades: The letter grade received by a school is a combination of the school's performance across multiple measures, including how many students are proficient on the statewide exams for

math, English language arts, and science; the rate at which students are progressing towards proficiency on the statewide exams (student growth); the performance of students identified as English language learners; graduation rate; and participation in honors, dual enrollment, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. These measures combine into one summative letter grade for school performance.

A (excellent): A combination of distinguished performance on the statewide assessments for math, English language arts, and science; significant student growth; high four-year graduation rates; high and/or improved test scores for students identified as English language learners; and/or high student participation in honors, dual enrollment, or CTE courses.

B (highly performing): A combination of above average performance on statewide assessments for math, English language arts, and science; high and/or improved student growth; above average four-year graduation rates; and/or above average student participation in honors, dual enrollment, or CTE courses.

C (performing): Adequate performance in multiple measures, but with needs for improvement on key indicators, such as proficiency, student growth, and/or graduation rate.

D (minimally performing): Inadequate performance in the majority of key measures, such as proficiency, growth, and/or four-year graduation rate.

F (failing): Systematic failures across all or the majority of measures, with a performance in the bottom 5% of the state.

How are the grades assigned?

Statewide assessments, growth scores, graduation rate, and other measures are compiled and submitted to the Arizona Department of Education. The State Board of Education sets "cut scores," which are the number of points required to earn an A, B, C or D. The Department then calculates the letter grades using the cut scores and the data submitted by schools.

What do the grades measure?

Five quantifiable factors go into the grades.

- Student growth from year to year. Individual students are compared year to year, rather than comparing one class to the previous year's class. For elementary schools, growth measured in grades 3-8 accounts for 50% of a school's grade. For high schools, growth measured in grades 9-11 accounts for 20% of a school's letter grade.
- Proficiency on the statewide assessment, AASA or ACT.
- English language proficiency and growth (as measured by the AZELLA exam).
- Indicators measuring if an elementary student is ready for success in high school and high school students are ready for success in post-secondary settings.
- High school graduation rates.

What changes have occurred in the A-F Letter Grades?

No major changes have been made to how school or LEA A-F letter grades are calculated for the 2025-2026 school year. However, significant changes to the system have been approved by the State Board and will be implemented for school letter grade release for the 2026-2027 school year. The most significant changes include the removal of Bonus Points from the system and raising cut scores for all indicators. These changes have raised the bar for how many points are required to earn each letter grade for each measure.

Can I compare a school's 2025-2026 letter grade to prior years?

Prior year letter grades may be accessed at https://azsbe.az.gov/parents/a-f-school-letter-grades.

Can a school appeal an A-F Letter Grade?

Once letter grades are released, schools have until November 16th at 5:00 P.M. to appeal their letter grade based on incorrect data; adverse testing conditions; school tragedy; or school/community events or emergency. A Committee of the State Board of Education hears appeals and makes recommendations to the full State Board of Education. For information on the appeals process, please visit: https://azsbe.az.gov/parents/a-f-school-letter-grades/f-appeals.

What are local education agency (LEA) letter grades and why are they being reported?

State Statute requires that local education agencies receive letter grades based on the measures of school performance. Local Education Agencies are school districts and charter holders that operate public schools. The LEA letter grade captures performance across every school the LEA operates.

This model calculates a grade point average (GPA) for all schools in an LEA that have been assigned a letter grade. This model converts all letter grades to a corresponding number from 0 (F) to 4 (A), then calculates an average of these numbers across each LEA, rounding to the nearest whole number. LEAs with only one school will receive the grade of that school.

LEAs may appeal their LEA letter grade by appealing any of their underlying school(s) letter grade(s).

What do these grades mean for parents and families?

The letter grades measure critical areas key to students' success in school and career – mastery of math and language arts standards and the students' readiness for the next educational level or career. These are important considerations when choosing a school, but they are not the only indicators of a school's performance. Other measures, including the programs/extracurriculars, which will vary in importance from family to family, should also be considered. Some students thrive in a small school, while others seek the wide range of options a larger school offers. If art or music programs are important to a family, they should consider those factors when choosing a school. Information on a school's characteristics can be found on the school's report card at https://azreportcards.azed.gov/. Parents and families are encouraged to have letter grade conversations with their student's school administrator and staff members.

Walk for Kids



5K • 1 Mile Fun Walk

Hosted by
SaddleBrooke
Community Outreach

Do you enjoy the Mt. Vista Hope Walk? Do you want to participate in another fun, community walk? Join us for the annual SaddleBrooke Community Outreach Walk for Kids!

- Load bus at Mt. Vista K-8 School at 8:00 AM
- Walk starts in SaddleBrooke at 8:30 AM
- Return to Mt. Vista K-8 School following the walk



November 14, 2026

FREE for Mt. Vista students, families, staff!

25 Mt. Vista students are already signed up!

CJHL MASTER BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
2026-2027

4/5/6/7 game times except for Eloy and Mt. Vista home games

Monday, November 16th
Cibecue @ Mt. Vista
Superior @ Eloy
San Manuel @ Hayden
Miami @ Ray
HDMS @ San Carlos

Wednesday, November 18th
San Carlos @ Superior
HDMS @ Cibecue
Hayden @ Ray
Eloy @ San Manuel
Miami @ Mt. Vista

Monday, November 23rd
Ray @ Eloy
Mt.Vista @ Hayden
San Manuel @ San Carlos
Superior @ HDMS
Cibecue @ Miami

Wednesday, December 2nd
Eloy @ San Carlos
Mt. Vista @ HDMS

Monday, December 7th
Eloy @ Mt. Vista
HDMS @ Miami
Hayden @ Cibecue
San Carlos @ Ray
Superior @ San Manuel

Wednesday, December 9th
San Manuel @ HDMS
Ray @ Superior
Cibecue @ Eloy
Miami @ Hayden
Mt. Vista @ San Carlos

Monday, December 14th
Superior @ Mt. Vista
Eloy @ Miami
San Carlos @ Cibecue
San Manuel @ Ray
HDMS @ Hayden

Wednesday, January 6th
Mt. Vista @ San Manuel
Ray @ HDMS
Miami @ San Carlos
Hayden @ Eloy
Cibecue @ Superior

Monday, January 11th
HDMS @ Eloy
San Carlos @ Hayden
San Manuel @ Cibecue
Superior @ Miami
Mt. Vista @ Ray

Wednesday, January 13th
Hayden @ Superior
Ray @ Cibecue
Miami @ San Manuel

Thursday, January 14st
CJHL Seeding Meeting

Saturday, January 16rd
CJHL Championship Tournament @ _____
Will be determined by top 6 seeding

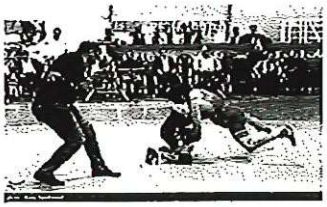


- Eloy start time 3 pm home games
- Mt. Vista start time 3 pm home games
- San Carlos games at Rice Gym

Participating Member Schools *(10 teams)*

CIBECUE WILDCATS*ELOY BLUE DEVILS* HIGH DESERT TIGERS* HAYDEN LOBOS*MIAMI VANDALS
MT. VISTA COUGARS*RAY BEARCATS*SAN CARLOS BRAVES*SAN MANUEL MINERS*SUPERIOR PANTHERS

Central JH League Wrestling



2026-2027

Date	Opponents	Place	Time
Sat. – Nov. 21st	San Manuel Pre-Season Tournament	*San Manuel*	9:00 am
Tues. – Dec. 1st	San Manuel, Eloy, Mt. Vista Miami, Hayden, HDMS, & Cibecue	*Eloy*	4:00 pm
Tues. – Dec. 8th	Miami, Mt.Vista, San Manuel Hayden, HDMS, Eloy & Cibecue	*Miami*	4:00 pm
Tues. – Dec. 15th	Eloy, Miami, Mt.Vista, San Manuel Hayden, HDMS, & Cibecue	Hayden	4:00 pm
Tues. – Dec. 29th	Hayden, San Manuel, Mt. Vista HDMS, Eloy, Miami, & Cibecue	*Eloy*	4:00 pm
Tues. – Jan. 5th	Hayden, San Manuel, Mt. Vista Eloy, HDMS, Miami, & Cibecue	*Mt. Vista*	4:00 pm
Fri. – Jan. 8th	Eloy, Hayden, Mt. Vista, Cibecue Miami, San Manuel & HDMS	*HDMS*	4:00 pm
Tues. – Jan. 12th	Central JH League Championship	*Eloy*	3:00 pm

Participating Schools

** San Manuel * Eloy* HDMS * Miami*Hayden*Cibecue*Mt. Vista*San Carlos*

Government Finance Officers Association

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:
Monica McNaughton
Assistant Director, Financial Transparency
Phone: 312-977-9700
Email: mmcnaughton@gfoa.org

Oracle Elementary School District Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

(Chicago, Illinois, 10/28/2026)

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 28,000 members and the communities they serve.

GFOA has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Oracle Elementary School District for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.