



Tanque Verde District News & Views

The latest news and information from TVUSD!

SY 2022-23 Issue No. 1 ~ Building Community, September 2, 2022

Editor's Note ~ In this first 22/23 issue of the Tanque Verde District News & Views, we are pleased to present messages from the Governing Board President, Ms. Anne Velosa, and Superintendent Dr. Scott Hagerman, as well as the latest news and information from TVUSD. We will continue 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 continued work we are doing on community building throughout the district through Respect, Affirmation and Inclusion. We invite you to join us for this important community conversation. Thank you for your continued support and interest in TVUSD.

New School Year Message from the Governing Board President

Dear TVUSD Community,

Summer Break, that is somehow both too long and too short, is over and we are Back to School. I hope everyone found an opportunity (or twenty) to relax, enjoy time with friends and family over the break.

This summer, work continued on Tanque Verde campuses in order to be ready for this school year.

- Construction progressed, classrooms were refreshed, teachers moved into new classrooms, and reading libraries were prepared.

- Students took summer school classes and completed summer assignments, helped prepare learning spaces, practiced for their favorite extracurricular activities, and served as school ambassadors.
- Parent-teacher-groups and boosters continued their behind-the-scenes work of developing plans and events for their respective sites and student organizations.
- Teachers and staff trained in new curriculum and practices, developed deeper familiarity with technology tools, and continued their work in making campuses safe and welcoming, with respect, affirmation, and inclusion being the foundation of how we treat each other.

All this summer activity is evidence of the strong and continued support for education by our Tanque Verde community. This support is an example of what prompted my school volunteering when my children were at TVES, and in large part why I'm inspired to serve on the governing board.

As we step into a new year of learning and working together, I hope each of you feel inspired and ready to support our students in their educational journey. I invite everyone to join our larger Tanque Verde community as you are able - volunteer in the classroom, support fundraisers, attend site council and governing board meetings, join a parent teacher group or booster committee, attend school events to support and cheer on our teachers and students.

Together, we can create and share the Great Work that is happening in our schools and community.

Kind regards,
Anne

Mrs. Anne Velosa
TVUSD Governing Board President

Superintendent's Welcome Back Message SY 22/23



Welcome Back TVUSD Students, Families, Teachers, and Staff Members

We look forward to celebrating the opening of the 2022-23 school year with new classroom buildings on all campuses, and a fresh start with our new and returning students, families and staff members. Welcome All.

First, congratulations are in order to the students and staff whose hard work and dedication brought student achievement levels on the state test in 2022 higher than they were before the pandemic. You

are to be commended for persevering through a very challenging period and prevailing, even against all odds.

As a district, we have done a lot of work building instructional systems, and focusing on developing and sustaining our professional learning communities. While building on our successes, we are now focusing on achieving continuity in these areas to support student success.

“Successful schools create a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility among staff and students and with families and communities. These schools are safe, welcoming, and respectful to all. They establish teaching and learning as core values.” National School Boards Association

Given everything people have been through during the pandemic, we want to support our students, staff and families with a focus on building community. Our work will center on ensuring everyone is treated with respect, affirmation, and inclusiveness.

As you and your families enjoy the excitement of starting a new school year, we invite you to take part in all the activities intended to welcome and introduce you to our staff and schools. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. And be sure to check out the many exciting things planned by our wonderful Parent Teacher Groups, Booster Organizations, and the Tanque Verde Educational Enrichment Foundation for the upcoming year.

We are pleased to have our students, families, teachers, and staff members returning for the 2022-23 school year, and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

All my best,

Scott Hagerman, Ed.D
Superintendent

Respect, Affirmation & Inclusion - Building Community

The excerpt from our District Highlights (right) is included to set the scene as we reflect on who we were prior to the pandemic, move past the pandemic, and create a vision for the future of the Tanque Verde Unified School District. As we navigated the challenges of the pandemic, we became aware of the need to better support our students, families and staff members by consistently supporting our schools as safe and supportive learning environments. We are continuing our work in the coming school year, and expanding the conversation to include a larger stakeholder group.

We recognize that our community is one of our greatest strengths. We will continue to be thoughtful in our efforts to nurture and strengthen our relationships with all stakeholders in our community, including students, families, staff members, and community partners, by ensuring that everyone is treated with respect, affirmation, and inclusiveness.



Excerpt from the District Highlights

Tanque Verde has long been recognized as an exemplary school district, with excelling, highly rated schools and an overall district grade of “A” as determined by the Arizona Department of Education (2014). With the addition of a comprehensive 9-12 high school in 2005, the District now serves approximately 2,100

With the insight and feedback from an initial stakeholder committee, the Governing Board selected Mr. Jimmy Hart to guide an initiative of developing Respect, Affirmation and Inclusion in a sustainable and enduring manner. Mr. Hart and his proposal are introduced in more detail in the following article.

Our hope is that our focus on building community in the 2022-23 school year will be a sustainable and natural outgrowth of the existing strength and resilience of our TVUSD community.

We invite you to join us in a larger community conversation.

If we work together to increase our understanding of who we are today, and our vision for the future of our school community, we will have a more authentic and meaningful outcome of our work to build that community.

If you are interested in participating in the **TVUSD Community Stakeholder Group for Respect, Affirmation and Inclusion**, please click on the RSVP button.

The deadline to respond is **Monday, September 19th.**

Thank you in advance for your participation.

students at four school sites, comprised of two K-6 elementary schools, one 7-8 junior high school, and one 9-12 high school. The Tanque Verde Community Preschool was founded at Tanque Verde Elementary School in 2019, making TVES a PreK-6 grade school.

The success of the District is attributed to a highly supportive community and an accomplished, dedicated, and caring staff of over 280 employees who work to provide the highest quality education and support services to all District students. The District endeavors to create pathways to success for all students and to ensure effective communication, collaboration, school partnerships, and facilities that provide a safe and supportive environment for students and staff members. [District Highlights](#)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

RSVP

An Introduction to Jimmy Hart, Ed.S.



Jimmy Hart, Ed.S.

DEI must be embedded into school system practices at all levels so that all students experience access, academic achievement, and a strong sense of social emotional well-being. While the language of diversity work continues to transform, the idea of Respect, Affirmation, and Inclusion (R.A.I.) transcends age, gender, and isms because we all need and deserve R.A.I. Hart Global Industries (HGI) approach to DEI begins with strengthening community using R.A.I. and the Eight Habits of Heart for Educators. In order to shift implicit bias practices, culturally responsive teaching, and inclusivity in the

Jimmy Hart, Director, African American Student Services TUSD, has spent the last 40 years working with people of all ages and backgrounds in the areas of education, leadership, and personal development. Growing up with parents who taught and volunteered as tutors and mentors in their community, his first experience as a tutor and helping others was at age 12 working with struggling readers while attending the newly desegregated Cragin Elementary School in 1978. That experience helped to shape his life work of serving and helping others to achieve their goals. Having completed his master's degree and Ed.S degree, his work to build future leaders began in 1993 when he chose to be a classroom teacher. He has been honored for his coaching and leadership work.

The TVUSD proposal from Jimmy Hart:

Education and school system diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a required condition for thriving School Districts.

curriculum, we must first start with creating the type of community we want for TVUSD, and plan for how we ensure all student and adult groups are respected, affirmed, and included.

Our approach is two-pronged: 1) provide a series of professional development trainings for staff including the TVUSD guiding coalition for DEI, and 2) provide on-site consulting and support for each of the four schools (and their leadership PLC) making up the TVUSD site-based learning communities. This includes instructional and non-instruction team members. When each of us (students, parents, educators, community) understand the positive impact of R.A.I., and live out R.A.I. each day, our organizations and PLCs thrive at a much higher level. This approach is based on the philosophy that shifts occur when participants fully engage in taking personal responsibility and ownership for their contribution and influence on the community culture known as TVUSD.

Building Leadership & Community Within Our Schools

Band & Orchestra Splash

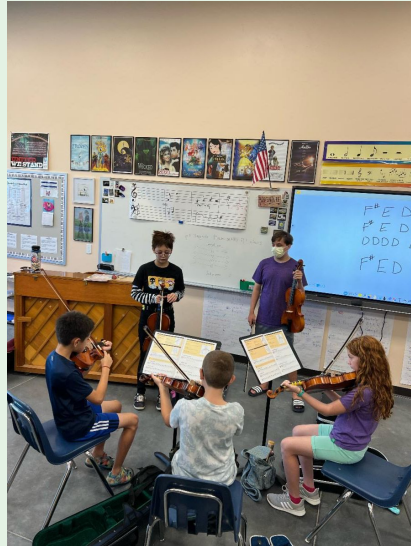
The last two weekends, our TVHS band and orchestra students have taught beginning band and orchestra students the basics on their instruments. Students learned to put instruments together, proper position and even a few songs. All students even performed their first concert. We are so proud of all the students who participated in Band and Orchestra Splash.

The band and orchestra students who participated were from Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde Elementary Schools. They were coached by band and orchestra students from Tanque Verde High School. Teachers at the events were Lisa Brown and Seth Murzyn - Orchestra, and Matt Harris



and Ben Johnson - Band. The band event was held at TVHS and the orchestra event was held at EGJH. We called the event "Band and Orchestra Splash," so students could "dive into their music ensemble and MAKE A SPLASH."

Contributed by Ms. Lisa Brown



Emily Gray Junior High School STUCO



Emily Gray's Administration Team - Principal Beth Egan, Assistant Principal Jean McKnight and Dean of Students Andrew Kent - was honored to meet with the amazing student leaders of STUCO led by wonderful Teacher Lead Stephanie White. STUCO students openly shared ideas and gave admin valuable feedback to help build campus climate and culture. STUCO has been hard at work this summer creating an impressive list of leadership traits they hope to use this year,

and they created colorful and Bobcat spirit-worthy signage for Student Orientation Days. Emily Gray's students and staff are working overtime to make the Bobcat experience amazing, positive and memorable for all Bobcats.

--Contributed by Mrs. Elizabeth Egan

Elementary and High School Student Councils join forces in STUCO leadership mentoring program

ACES and TVHS Student Councils joined forces. The high school students welcomed the elementary school 4th - 6th grade students into class today to see a live club meeting. The Coyotes got hands-on experience voting, listening to discussions, planning campus events, and asked questions about their specific officer positions. Next month, we will be collaborating on how to run and execute campus assemblies.



Contributed by Ms. Kathryn Tompkins and Ms. Stacey Thomas, facilitators for STUCO at ACES. And Ms. Kari Lovering, STUCO facilitator at TVHS



Legendary
Teacher Day

Legendary Teacher Day Nominations

Legendary teachers are everywhere! In fact, it is likely that all of our teachers serve our students with legendary virtues each and every day. The Tanque Verde Unified School District Governing Board has **proclaimed** September 22, 2022 as Legendary Teacher Day, joining other districts throughout Arizona.

Please join us in celebrating your legendary TVUSD teacher by nominating someone today.

The Concept of a Legendary Teacher: The first step in celebrating a legendary teacher is to reflect on your education with the three tenets of a legendary teacher in mind:

- Building relationships
- Engaging deeply with students
- Creating high expectations

A Legendary Teacher:

- Engages students in creative learning activities
- Connects learning to the past, present, and future
- Adapts their methods and assessments to meet diverse learning styles
- Creates and maintain dynamic learning environments
- Continues to improve their content knowledge base and teaching skills

All submissions will be vetted by a committee from the Teachers Change Brains Foundation, and an honoree will be selected from each participating district. The chosen honoree from each district will receive the following: A \$200 honorarium, A certificate of recognition including the tribute from the submitter, and a signed copy of Legendary Teacher Stories - How to Catch a Swamp Frog.

Who is your legendary teacher? Nominate them here today: [Tribute - Legendary Teacher](#)



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