



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

Volume V, Issue VIII September 2008

A Message from the Superintendent

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REQUEST FOR TEACHERS' COMMENTS ON AIMS

We expect that there will be controversy at the legislature next year with respect to the requirement that students pass AIMS to graduate.

Please [click here](#) for my Open Letter to the Legislature regarding this issue.

In short, I do not believe it is fair to hold schools and teachers accountable if students are not also accountable. Before passing AIMS became a graduation requirement, some teachers told me that they begged students to their best. Students said "why should I?" The students had leverage over the teachers, rather than vice versa.

I would very much like to hear from teachers with their views on this issue. Please send your comments to TheDeskofTom.Horne@azed.gov, and let me know your views on whether passing

AIMS should be a graduation requirement and whether, in your experience, the requirement that students pass AIMS has been a motivator for students.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Constitution Day

September 17, 2008

Dear Friend of Liberty:

Our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights. Those documents set forth the principles upon which our government is based. We as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through the founding documents that our founding fathers created. Informed and participative citizens exhibit that responsibility and civic competence which will insure the preservation of our form of constitutional self-government. The civic culture that defines the United States can be sustained as long as each generation develops a deep understanding and commitment to the principles of our founding documents.



As Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Arizona, I believe it is a high priority that all Arizonans, with a focus on our youth, study and learn the contents of these founding documents. The Liberty Day organization, a national voluntary effort to educate all Americans about the contents of our founding documents, along with the Lions Clubs of Arizona are prepared to deliver Liberty Day booklets with Q&A cards to 5th graders throughout the state. Quantities are limited, so if you are interested in obtaining these FREE materials for your students, please contact Liberty Day at: 1-866-718-3434 or libertyday@aol.com.

~Tom Horne

Wild EDVENTURES at the Phoenix Zoo!

Night Camps www.phoenixzoo.org/educators/night_camp.html

Nearly 10,000 kids from all over the state sleep at the Phoenix Zoo every year. Make sure your students get in on the action! The Phoenix Zoo's Night Camp programs align over 50 Arizona State standards at the primary level. These overnight adventures include up-close interactions with animals, hands-on activities, night hikes, snacks, breakfast and more. Each program is packed with fun and informative games and activities about plants, animals, biology and conservation. From 6:45 pm to 9:00 the following morning, you will have an unforgettable experience!

Day Trips www.phoenixzoo.org/educators/field_trips.html

A field trip to the Zoo is an excellent way to complement your lessons in the classroom. Use the Zoo as an introduction to a unit, an enhancement during the unit, or a culminating event. Whichever you choose, we hope to make it the best experience possible for you. Ask about our guided tours, Wild Workshops, and Animal Discoveries.

ZooToYou and Zoomobile Outreach Programs www.phoenixzoo.org/educators/outreach.html

Let us bring the Zoo to you! Our Outreach programs are perfect for groups who cannot visit the Phoenix Zoo or for groups looking to complement a zoo visitor to introduce, reinforce, or culminate classroom curriculum. Our Outreach Specialists strive to engage audiences about the wonders of our earth and the animals with whom we share it. Students will enjoy an educational, exciting, and up-close experience with several animals from the Phoenix Zoo. We travel throughout the state of Arizona and all our outreach programs align with Arizona State Standards.

Intersession Camp Zoo www.phoenixzoo.org

Are you looking for something fun and educational for your Fall Intersession Programs? Camp Zoo can help! We offer fully customizable programming for Kindergarten - 8th grade students. Full or Half day programs are available starting at \$30 per student/per day.

For more information about any of the Phoenix Zoo Educational programs, contact reservations at 602-914-4333

Set the Stage for a Successful School Year By Shelly Pollnow and Oran Tkatchov

Classroom management is the foundation for student achievement. Researcher Robert Marzano (2005) observes "a classroom that is chaotic as a result of poor management not only doesn't enhance achievement, it might even inhibit it." Carolyn Evertson and Alene Harris (1995) state in their article, "What We Know About Managing Classrooms," that "Teachers whose students demonstrated high on-task rates and academic achievement implemented a systematic approach toward classroom management at the beginning of the school year." The educator must set the stage to allow for the deepest, most rigorous learning possible for each of their students. Consistent classroom procedures and the physical arrangement of the room play significant roles in establishing a learning environment which increases academic achievement, social growth, and instructional time.

The amount of rules and procedures in a classroom should be limited. Teachers should have approximately seven rules for secondary classes and five to eight for elementary classes (Emmer, Evertson, and Worsham, 2003). Although some rules are non-negotiable, rules are more effective when students have input and take ownership. Rules are meant to guide behavior whereas procedures deal with the day to day processes in the classroom. Harry Wong (1991) offers "The Three-Step Approach to Teaching Classroom Procedures" to be taught at the beginning of the year.

The Three-Step Approach to Teaching Classroom Procedures

1. Explain: State, explain, model, and demonstrate the procedure.
2. Rehearse: Rehearse and practice the procedure under your supervision.
3. Reinforce: Reteach, rehearse, practice, and reinforce the classroom procedure until it becomes a student habit or routine.

The physical arrangement of the classroom is just as important as classroom procedures. Wong (1991) predicts that the very first thing a teacher will ask of a student is for the student to find their assigned seat. According to Evertson and Harris:

- Seating arrangements should support the purpose of the lesson format; therefore it is important that the room configuration be flexible.
- Students should rehearse and practice a limited number of room configurations that will support a few basic learning structures just as students practice and rehearse procedures.

Fred Jones (2000) in *Tools for Teaching* suggests using good masking tape to mark the position of the desks for the most often used arrangement. This will help reduce time when returning to the standard arrangement and keep desks orderly when teaching middle and high school. "Movement with ease is a strategy for arranging the physical space of a classroom to insure that both the teacher and the students can move through the room without difficulty" Evertson and Poole(2006).

The buzz overheard in the teachers' lounge for the 2008-2009 school year may be words like rigor, uncovering the content, background knowledge, differentiated instruction, and active engagement, but unless the learning setting is structured, all the good intentions for success may be thwarted. Rules, procedures, and a classroom set up to accommodate learning formats will help teacher and students to maximize instructional time and foster success throughout the school year.

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Arts Education Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 4 in Mesa

How do you make arts education a priority for today's decision-makers burdened with economic and accountability pressures? Join us for our 3rd annual Arts Education Conference on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the beautiful Mesa Arts Center to learn strategies and tools to answer this question... and hear Superintendent Horne play the baritone! For more information and registration, go to www.ade.az.gov/asd/arts/SaveTheDate.pdf.



Art Contest 2008

It's a family affair this year ~ the 2008 Grand Canyon State Games Art Contest has added two new age categories for adults! The art palette is blank and waiting for parents and students to free their imagination with an array of colors. Bring out crayons, paint, markers, anything you can use to put ideas into art. The Grand Canyon State Games Art Contest Sponsored by Ottawa University promotes creativity through art as an effective method for artist across the nation to express their dreams and ideas for a successful life and a better community. This contest provides an opportunity to compete as a means of building self-esteem.

Draw, paint, decoupage, be innovative artistically as the challenge is on to use creativity and imaginations to put this year's themes into art. Themes range from topics on Character Education, to the Olympics, being Tobacco and Alcohol free, to the importance of taking care of your bodies in a healthy manner and the importance of practicing peace in your everyday life. [Click here](#) to link to our website and view the specific themes and guidelines for this year's contest.

The contest is FREE and begins September 2nd. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded to the top winners from each grade k-12, and two adult categories (ages 19-49, and 50+). The deadline to submit entries is **October 31st**.

Sponsored by

Ottawa University
Live. Learn. Lead!

2008 Arizona Art Education Fall Conference

Come be a part of the Arizona Art Education Association 2008 FALL conference titled "Back to the Elements, but We Haven't Lost our Principles." The conference dates are September 25-28 at the United Christian Youth Camp in Prescott, AZ. The focus of AAEA is to promote arts education. We are committed to positively impacting students through the arts and by providing professional development for teachers.

Join us for informational presentations, hands on workshops, and presentations from vendors.

For more information and the registration form go to: www.azarted.org/2008_conference.asp



EXPLORE MARS

Dear Educator,

Come join us for an exciting professional development opportunity! NASA, ASU's Mars Space Flight Facility, and the ASU Mars Education Program invite you to attend the "Take Your Class To Mars" Conference, held September 20, 2008, at Arizona State University.

This conference will focus on how you can integrate STEM themes (science, technology, engineering, and math) into your classroom. We will show you how activities that focus on Mars exploration can inject these themes, plus inquiry-based learning, into your curriculum.

Find out how you can use NASA-based materials to enhance and reinforce concepts you are already teaching - scientific process, critical thinking, and analysis - while firing up your students' imaginations!

All conference attendees will receive Standards-aligned, ready-to-use classroom materials - and learn about unique student and teacher opportunities to come. Professional Development hours will be assigned in a certificate upon completion of this dynamic event.

For more information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, call (480) 965-1788 or e-mail marshmom@asu.edu

We hope you can join us for this great opportunity!

Sincerely,

Mars Education Program
School of Earth and Space Exploration
Arizona State University



Arizona Cardinals Community Quarterback Award

The Arizona Cardinals Community Quarterback Award recognizes outstanding volunteers in the state of Arizona ages 13 and up. A panel of community leaders including cardinals senior director of community relations Luis Zendejas and cardinals QB Kurt Warner will determine the award recipients and award a total of \$20,000 to the charitable organizations they serve. This program honors individuals who exemplify leadership, dedication, and commitment to improving the communities in which they live through volunteerism.

All applications must be postmarked no later than **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2008**.

To download the application, [Click Here](#).

Please forward to all who may be eligible or know of someone who is eligible.

Got a story idea, picture,
or celebration?
We'd love to hear from you!
Email us at: ADENews@ade.az.gov

Students Rewarded for Early Graduation!

The Arizona Legislature passed a bill in the 2007 legislative session implementing a new state grant program. The program, called the Early Graduation Scholarship Grant (EGSG), gives high school students a financial incentive to enter postsecondary education.

The EGSG program is designed to encourage early high school graduates to promptly transition into an Arizona postsecondary education program. The grant will provide up to \$2,000 towards tuition, books and fees over the course of two academic years. All Arizona public and charter high school early graduates who attend an accredited in-state postsecondary institution are eligible for these funds.

Details on the EGSG program (eligibility requirements, applications and contact information) can be found online at: www.azhighered.gov. Click the "Arizona State Grants and Scholarships" link under the "\$Dollars for College Students\$" heading.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Elliot Howard, Associate Director for the Early Graduation Scholarship Grant Program
Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

Phone: (602) 258-2435 ext. 114
Email: ehoward@azhighered.gov

Newsletter article from Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Honoring Outstanding Community Service By Young Americans



U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings helps announce the top ten National Honorees at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Flags.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the awards constitute the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteering. Over the past 13 years, the program has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

You can apply online for The 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards! [Click here](#) for details!

