

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Families:

The 2017-18 school year is almost here! Each summer brings a time to reflect on the successes of the past and to focus on the promises of the future.

I would like to highlight examples of some major initiatives and accomplishments over the course of the last year, as we head with excitement to the new school year.

- Thanks to the generosity and local investment of the Sahuarita community, we are currently working hard to design and build our **newest K-8 school**.
- Our local community has also passed a capital outlay override, to assist in compensating for some of the large-scale State cuts in this area. This will provide mission **critical instructional and operational resources**. Again, we are grateful for this gesture of trust and support, and we will work daily to honor that investment.
- Over 100 eighth and ninth grade students voluntarily took the **PSAT-8/9 exam**. This was our first year of offering this opportunity.

We are proud of these intentional steps to further build quality and rigorous academic experiences for students.

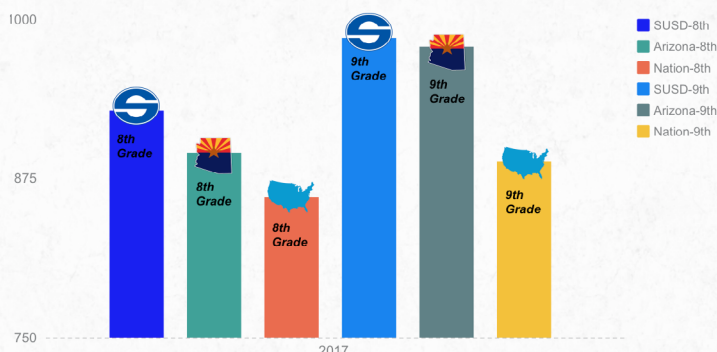
- Over 700 Advanced Placement (AP) examinations were administered in 2016-17. The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) program is being sustained for a fourth academic year!
- A brand new Career and Technology Education (CTE) program in **heavy equipment operations** is launching at Walden Grove HS. This is a central campus



program, in partnership with the Pima County Joint Technology Education District (JTED).

- We are initiating a new professional preparation partnership with the University of Arizona, College of Education. It is called **iCats** and will provide professional training, right here in our Sahuarita community. These professional educators in training will be embedded in our schools and receive educational preparation and training in cooperation with our faculty and school

PSAT 8/9 Spring 2017



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leadership teams. The innovative **Sahuarita Teaching Fellows (STF)**, another professional preparation partnership with the University of Arizona, is beginning its second year, with five (5) new fellows.

- The **elementary gifted education** program is expanding in scope and structure. It will include an authentic, hands-on, weekly component for all qualifying students, specifically at Sopori Elementary School.



- The Concussion Management program, called Cortex, is further expanding. It will include baseline testing, education outreach, and piloting the use of the **new MVP robotic** football tackling dummies. This program has helped over 180 students with valuable health and wellness support after sustaining a head injury.
- We are implementing the **Saxon Phonics** program at the elementary levels, as the next component of the District Reading Foundations Framework.
- Last spring, Walden Grove HS was named our fifth (5th) Arizona **A+ School of Excellence**.

As you can see, this is a time of great excitement and promise in our school community. I believe that the most critical ingredient in our recipe for success is the spirit of community and teamwork that binds us together in common commitment to deliver an excellent education for each student and to make our community the absolute best that it can be. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Manuel O. Valenzuela'.

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Governing Board Meeting Schedule

July 12, 2017	January 24, 2018*
August 9, 2017	February 14, 2018*
August 23, 2017	February 28, 2018*
September 13, 2017	March 21, 2018*
October 11, 2017	April 11, 2018*
October 25, 2017	April 25, 2018*
November 8, 2017	May 9, 2018*
December 6, 2017	May 30, 2018*
January 10, 2018*	June 13, 2018*

The Governing Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month with the exception of March, July, September, November and December at the Sahuarita Unified District Auditorium Pod B, 350 W. Sahuarita Rd., Sahuarita, AZ 85629.

**Pending Board Approval*