

Newsletter

April (Kwi Hiosik Mashath) 2018

GOVERNING BOARD

President, Ms. Jane Johnson
Clerk, Mrs. Elaine Moyah
Member, Ms. Anika Evans
Member, Mrs. Laurie Thomas
Member, Vacant

District Superintendent: [Cherryl Paul](#)

District Website: www.sacatonschools.org

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Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

The month of April is an extremely important time for students and teachers as there are numerous activities remaining in the last two months of the 2017-2018 school year. The final push is on with state testing, 8th grade promotion, and so many other school activities. We continue to greet students by name and welcome them to campus each morning with a smile and warm salutations. We read aloud to students daily (even if it's instructions), and we send home a positive note or make a positive phone call home weekly. This is the Sacaton way that leads to forming relationships and fostering confidence within our students.

Sacaton Elementary School District is a special place – one that provides a foundation on which our students, current and incoming, can overcome obstacles, realize their potential, and build a successful future. I want to commend our team of educators for their constant dedication to improving student achievement and thank our students for continuing to work and study hard as we head into the home stretch of this school year. The continued support of our school board, community, teachers, and families allows us to provide a truly exceptional learning environment for all of our students.

Our preschool program continues to add more students. We currently have 69 students actively attending and 5 students pending. Next year, we will be adding another preschool classroom to accommodate the needs of our community. Our preschool staff are doing an excellent job providing a high quality early learning experience for our students.

At Sacaton Elementary School District, we believe that no student should face barriers to learning. While in numerous classrooms this school year, I have consistently seen committed teachers and students engaging in important learning activities. It is clear that students are taking personal responsibility for their learning. We invite you to attend our end-of-the-year celebrations, award ceremonies, and recognitions. We are proud of our students and value the impact of sharing their successes with our community. As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and an important team member in building this community of learners. It is through strong relationships, communication, and shared values that our school district will continue to improve. Let us face the two months ahead with the renewed purpose of strong attendance and higher achievement.

Two Schools, One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!

Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent



[@cherryl_paul](#)

Sacaton Elementary School District Goals 2017-2018

Governing Board Approved August 8, 2017

1. Domain: Results

Performance Data

Goal: Support data collection, optimize instructional delivery, and enhance student engagement with programs and services that develop and nurture every student.

2. Domain: Leadership

Vision for Learning and Achievement

Goal: Participate in a Strategic Planning process designed to capture the voice of stakeholders to inform a meaningful and relevant Strategic Plan (2018-2023).

3. Domain: Systems Alignment and Integration

Safe, Orderly, and Engaging Learning Environment

Goal: Ensure the safety and security of all buildings; provide intellectually inspiring learning spaces focusing on the social and emotional growth of students.

4. Domain: Processes

Appreciative Inquiry Culture

Goal: Document, deploy, and monitor processes with fidelity demonstrating collaborative problem-solving techniques.

5. Domain: Capacity Building

Human Development

Goal: Provide opportunities to engage all employee groups in programs and initiatives.



Governing Board approved School District Motto, Core Values, Key Strategic Priorities, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement for 2018-2023

Motto:

Two Schools, One Voice
Home of the Braves - YES!

Core Values:

Empowerment, Compassion,
Respect, Vision, Community

Key Strategic Priorities:

Excellence in Student Learning
Excellence in Employee Engagement
Excellence in Organizational Improvement
Excellence in Community Relations

Vision Statement:

We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our himthag.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to engage students to take ownership of their learning, embrace their culture and contribute to the world around them.

Important Upcoming Events

AzMERIT Testing: Middle School—April 2nd-5th; Elementary School—April 10th-12th

Sacaton School District Indigenous Stem Robotic Competition—April 6th-7th

Seaperch Underwater Robotic Obstacle Course Competition—April 14th at Blackwater School

Governing Board Monthly Meeting—April 17th at 5:30 pm

Channel 3 (KTVK) Live Broadcast—April 19th at SEDS Community Orchard

Visit with the Superintendent Paul—May 3rd from 3:00-4:00 pm or May 4th from 10:00-11:00 am in Room D8 at the Middle School. Refreshments will be served.

SESD Sports

The Lady Braves softball team ended a great season with a 3-3 record. Their hard work and dedication helped improve their softball



skills as the season progressed. The girls battled hard each game and made some

spectacular plays! They caught line drives, fly balls, and showed no fear sliding into bases. This year's team consisted of 15 players, including two 6th, four 7th, and nine 8th grade girls. Congratulations Lady Braves on an awesome softball season!



Congratulations to the boys basketball team for a job well done this season, which they finished with a 4-2 record. The team consisted of five 8th, six 7th, and four 6th grade boys that played very well together. They always kept a winner's attitude, as



champions do, and look to be very strong for next season. The players learned more than just playing the game of basketball; they learned to better themselves overall as individuals. Way to go!

SESD Preschool: The Faces of our Future! YES!

Due to our restructuring, we have the highest enrollment of children in preschool that Sacaton Elementary School District has ever had! All preschool children attend for free. We are currently offering sessions based on age-level. We offer two morning sessions for children that are 4 years old. We offer two afternoon sessions for children that are 3 years old. We are also currently offering one full day class for our students

that will be attending Kindergarten in the fall. The first five years of life are critical to future success. Our children are our future and ensuring that they have an excellent beginning is our mission! YES!

Read Across America Day



The last week in February the District celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with many engaging activities to promote reading. At the Middle School each homeroom selected a book by Dr. Seuss to use as a theme. The teacher read the book to the students and the students then created a poster for a contest based on the selected book. The winners of the poster contest were from Mr. Utter's The Lorax classroom. The students were Carol Antone, Marcel Zavala, and Destiny Martinez.

Some of the activities the Elementary School took a part in included a door decorating contest and dress up days for crazy hat, socks, and character. On Friday each teacher had up to four guest readers from the community read to their class.



Finally, the culminating activity was a whole school read aloud in the gym before dismissal. Teachers and students all enjoyed celebrating a legendary author.

New Registration Processes are Coming!

Sacaton Elementary School District is currently working on revising the registration process for new and returning students. This is a joint effort between the Elementary School and the Middle School secretaries and district staff. We are revising our paperwork and processes to best meet the needs of our district and parents, but still remain compliant with required documentation and information. We are hoping that our new process will streamline the registration process for new students and eliminate redundant paperwork for returning families.

Culture and Language Program

During January and February, SEDS elementary culture classes have been learning about the *Auppa* (cottonwood tree) and that they are located in *Aji* (Twin Buttes). Current and upcoming topics include learning about *Kwi* (mesquite tree), as well as discovering the ingredients for making chemath and how to start the fire in *O'Otham*. In addition, students have been learning and practicing songs such as *This Land is Your Land* and *God Bless America*. Preschoolers and kindergarteners are also singing songs, counting, and learning colors in *O'Otham*. Middle school 5th and 6th grade culture classes have been studying the Gila River Flag while 7th and 8th grade students are creating mini-books using PowerPoint about *The Body*. This is in collaboration with Mrs. Gallegos, the middle school technology teacher.

Positive Parenting Training Series

Open to ALL parents with children in Preschool through 8th Grade

4/13/18: The ABCs of Problem Solving

Meetings are scheduled for Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Sacaton Middle School, Room C8 Conference Room

Door Prize Drawing: \$25.00 Gift Card

Our Community Orchard Update



Phase 1 of the Community Orchard has been completed and is now being irrigated using solar-powered distribution systems. The trees are now in bloom with blossoms. Birds and bees are frequent visitors! Preparations are starting for phase 2 with the next 72 trees due to arrive and with a planting date of mid-April.

Also, Channel 3 (KTVK) will be doing a live broadcast on April 19, 2018 with their Gardening Expert Dave Owens. "Dave the Garden Guy" has long ties to the Community and is supporting us with technical advice. 7th grade students will be participating in the broadcast. YES!

Tailored Technology Report

Within the next couple of months, the Sacaton Elementary School District will be awash with robotic events and competitions. The first event will be the annual Indigenous Sacaton School District Stem Robotic Competition to be held at the Middle School on April 6th and 7th. A week later on April 14th, the Sacaton Schools Robotics STEM Club will be competing in the first Seaperch Underwater Robotic Obstacle Course competition hosted at the Blackwater Community pool in District 1. Sacaton Middle School, St. Peter Indian Mission School, Stanfield Middle School and Casa Blanca Day School will all be participating. Finally, May 10th through May 13th, the Sacaton Schools Robotics STEM Club will be traveling to Albuquerque, New Mexico to compete in RoboRAVE. As you can see the next couple of months are going to be busy ones for the Sacaton STEM Clubs.



Our STEM programs at Sacaton Elementary School District continue to be an important avenue for the education of our students. By studying and participating in robotics, students are not only learning about engineering and robotics, but they are learning important Math and Science standards too. In math they learn how to apply ratios and proportions to solve real world problems. They see and experience how diameter and circumference go together and they can use this knowledge to move their robots effectively across an obstacle course or through a maze. In science they work out experimentations to solve larger problems. Finally, students learn how to program. Programming

teaches students how to problem solve and forces them to reflect and apply systematic reasoning. All of these skills can also transfer to other areas of learning where students apply logical thinking and analyze information. Students are empowered to make decisions that make sense based on the available information at hand. Please join us as our students take on the challenges that are offered through robotics and turn their information learned into workable knowledge.

Congratulations Third Quarter myON Award Winners!



All students can access their Electronic Library at home by visiting: <https://www.myon.com/login/index.html>

2018 Mul-Chu-Tha Parade Photos



Summer School 2018

The Sacaton Elementary School District is pleased to share information about the upcoming Summer School program being offered to SEDS students in June 2018. It will consist of an intense and well-rounded three-week academic program that will focus on reading and math skills in small-group instructional settings. This will help your child improve, enhance, and retain the grade level standards that he/she will need in order to be successful now and in the future.

WHEN: June 4th through June 22nd
DAYS/TIMES: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 11:30 am daily
GRADES: All 1st through 8th Grade SEDS students are eligible
LOCATION: Elementary Campus

Breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided. Enrollment forms will be sent home soon. For questions, please contact Freddy Poitra at the District Office at 520-562-8600. Sacaton Elementary School District teachers and staff are excited to extend learning opportunities for your child during 2018 Summer School. YES!



“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”

Clay P. Bedford

District Newsletter

February (Aupa Hiosik Mashath) 2018

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Member, Ms. Judy Antone

Member, Mrs. Laurie Thomas

Member, Ms. Anika Evans

District Superintendent: [Cherryl Paul](#)

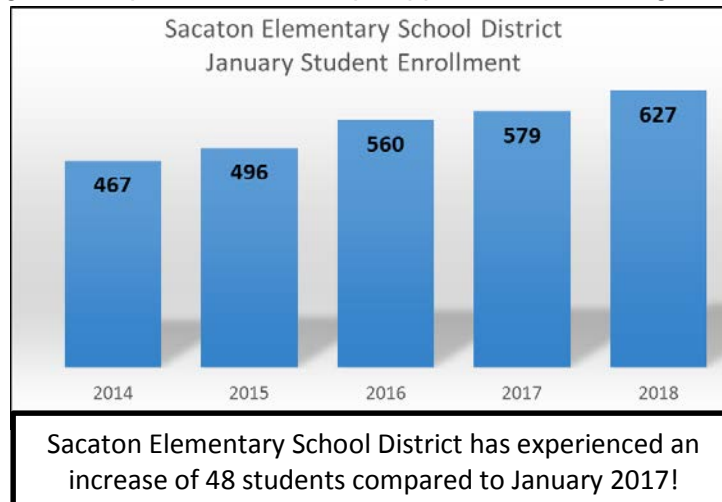
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Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

We are experiencing the highest student enrollment since 2013-2014! Our increase in student enrollment during the month of January includes ten additional students at the Elementary School and thirteen joining the Middle School. The Sacaton Braves' are rolling out a warm welcome for all new students while promoting learning activities, student programs, and events that will foster and maintain enrollment. In addition, staff are diligently reviewing registration procedures to help support families through the process for the upcoming school year.



Sacaton Elementary School District offers students many exciting educational offerings during and after school. We believe these additional opportunities provide students with a well-rounded educational experience as well as opportunities to inspire them to pursue personal learning goals and delve into topics of interest. Our full-day preschool, wi-fi on our school buses, gifted education, interventions, band, PE, and after school activities provide students with extended learning time to promote higher levels of academic achievement and increased individualized talents. Once your child(ren) find activities that they enjoy, succeeding in the activity could ultimately build their confidence and self-esteem.

As long as we continue to work together and support one another there are no obstacles that will impede our progress. Together we are making significant differences in the lives of our students. YES!

Two Schools One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!

Mrs. Cherryl Paul
Superintendent



@cherryl_paul

Sacaton Elementary School District Goals 2017-2018

Governing Board Approved August 8, 2017



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Human Development

Goal: Provide opportunities to engage all employee groups in programs and initiatives.

Strategic Planning Process

In Process 2017-2018	Proposed 2017-2018
Vision Statement: We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our HIMDAK	Motto: Two Schools, One Voice Home of the Braves - YES!
Mission Statement: To provide excellence in student achievement, community involvement & educational guidance for the future success of students.	Core Values: Empowerment, Compassion, Respect, Vision, Community
	Key Strategic Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellence in Student Learning• Excellence in Employee Engagement• Excellence in Organizational Improvement• Excellence in Community Relations

New Staff Joining the Sacaton Family

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to our newest Sacaton Brave!

Mr. Fredrick Poitra
Director of Federal Programs and
Organizational Improvement

Dr. Seuss/Read Across America Day

We are celebrating Dr. Seuss/Read Across America Day on March 2, 2018. In the past, we have had over 30 guest readers from various community services and organizations around the Gila River Indian Community. We are looking forward to exceeding that number this year! Please help us recruit volunteers who are interested in being a guest reader in our classrooms. Signing up is simple: use our school website link: <http://www.sacatonschools.org/> and click on the "Read Across America" volunteer link. If you choose a time right before or after lunch, please come to the cafeteria for a free lunch!

Guest Readers Visit Classrooms

On Tuesday, January 16, Sacaton Elementary welcomed Mr. Isaac Salcido, the Director of Tribal Education and Mr. Fredrick Poitra, Assistant Director of Tribal Education to read to our students. Mr. Salcido read *David Gets in Trouble* by David Shannon to a kindergarten class and Mr. Poitra read *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss to a 2nd grade class. The students were engaged in listening to the books and responding to questions about the story. They also enjoyed having a new voice read to them.

Research supports reading aloud as an effective way to deepen listening comprehension and expose students to higher level vocabulary and background knowledge on different topics. We are working with the GRIC Literacy Coordinator to bring in Guest Readers to all grade levels on a regular basis. The guest readers could consist of firemen, police officers, council members, and other community people.

Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Youth Conference

Fifteen seventh and eighth grade Sacaton Middle School students, accompanied by three teachers and one board member, attended the Second Annual Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Youth Conference at Grand Canyon University on January 16. Students, police chiefs, government officials, parents, and teachers came together to tackle ongoing issues involving bullying, depression, drug addiction, and other challenges facing today's youth. The conference opening session was fast-paced with a dynamic keynote speaker, video clips from area leaders, breakout sessions, and a powerful closing session that inspired students with a very important call to action. The conference was free to all schools which included: lunch, conference resources, and all materials to implement a post-conference school project. The Sacaton Middle School Theater Club, facilitated by Davina Lyons, will present a performance later in the school year to help convey the message learned from attending the conference.



Gila River Health Care Infection Prevention Poster Contest



Congratulations to Eleanor Lynch and Shoshanna VanHardenberg. They won an award from School Health Services for their posters submitted for the Infection Prevention Contest. Seven schools participated with over 500 poster submissions. Health care workers (doctors and nurses) selected three winners and two were from our district. Eleanor and Shoshanna were presented with a certificate and award by Rodina Jordan, a representative from GRIC School Health Services, at the school awards assemblies.



Tailored Technology Report

Each kindergarten classroom received a set of twenty iPads last month and their very own cart to store and charge them. The iPads provide opportunities for engaging literacy centers where students can sit and listen to a story, practice phonics skills, word recall, word building, and beginning sound vocabulary. According to the U.S. Department of Education statistics, twenty-six percent of children who were read to three or four times in a week by a family member or someone else, recognized all letters of the alphabet. Sixty percent could count to twenty or higher and fifty-four percent could write their own names. iPads also help expand student creativity through the use of apps that allow them to create their own stories and share them with others. Apps that allow for touch and manipulation of items on the screen provide students with immediate feedback and redirection for increased individualized learning. At this age, a touch screen is more developmentally appropriate as opposed to the traditional computer, keyboard, and mouse model. The use of the iPads strengthens kindergarteners' fine motor skills and allows them to use technology more independently. Sacaton Elementary School District continues to be a district leader in the provision of technology in all classrooms. Mrs. Paul, the district's superintendent, continues to promote high levels of technology integration and has moved forward with an initiative of providing one-to-one iPads in all preschool and first grade classrooms.

5 Everyday Actions To Prevent Flu and Fight Germs

1. Wash Your Hands with soap and water often
2. Cover Your Cough and Sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow
3. Clean and disinfect surfaces that may have germs
4. Avoid close contact with others that are sick
5. If you are sick stay home and especially with a fever stay home until 24 hours after your fever is gone

A friendly reminder: if your student will be taking medication at school, please have the parent/guardian bring the medication to the nurse office. Please do not send medications to school in your child's backpack.

Middle School Playground and Obstacle Course Project

Installation of the new middle school playground and obstacle course fitness equipment is scheduled to begin this month!





Orchard Progress

Students are working in the orchard to prepare it for fruit tree delivery!

Family Culture Night

On January 25th, Sacaton Middle School students shined as the district promoted their leadership skills while engaging families, students, staff and the community in activities based on Akimel O'otham culture. This event drew in approximately 125 adults (not including staff) and 220 preschool – 8th grade students! This resulted in one-third student attendance during this exciting event of which SEDS couldn't be more proud!



Middle School Student Council President, Syann Rocha, began the evening with the importance of culture and language immersion, which was followed by rotations of ten O'otham student-led activities, all under the direction of Mrs. Marcella Hall, Sacaton Middle School's Culture teacher.

Activities ranged from matching body parts, counting, to labeling districts and the tribal seal. In addition, four presentations included students taking on the role of a storyteller with an emphasis on words featured in the O'otham language. Fifth grade student, Emmettreio Enos Decora, proudly transitioned rotations with his singing. The SEDS band, led by Mrs. Kristin Kennedy, opened the event and the night ended with the elementary students singing Itsy Bitsy Spider in O'otham.



Sacaton Elementary School District takes great pride in highlighting and empowering the knowledge and presentation skills of our students. The night was a success due to the confidence, leadership, and knowledge provided by the children of Gila River Indian Community.



Positive Parenting Training Series

Open to ALL parents with children in Preschool through 8th Grade

2/23/18: Making the Home-School Connection

4/13/18: The ABC's of Problem Solving

Meetings are scheduled for Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Sacaton Middle School, Room C8 Conference Room

PRESENTER: Mrs. Julie Niven, Pinal County ESA, (520) 450-4508

Door Prize Drawing: \$25.00 Gift Card



Sacaton
Elementary School District #18

Newsletter

March (Kwi l'ivakidak Mashath) 2018

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Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

Students learn best in an environment that emphasizes understanding their unique learning styles and adaptation of the curriculum and teaching methods to meet those needs. Our dedicated teaching staff is working diligently to become more intentional in regards to using data to drive the content taught during the instructional time -- truly every minute counts! In the age of accountability, a focus on data is more evident than ever. Our team of hardworking, dedicated employees uses data to identify methods to meet the needs of all students.

Assessment is an important aspect of teaching, and learning. We are responsible for maximizing every moment for students. The Arizona state-wide testing requires students to demonstrate proficiency in standards for reading, writing, mathematics, and science. These tests combine criterion-referenced and performance-based assessments. Assessment results need to drive the instruction and should be embedded into the instructional program. Our goal is to provide students with specific, timely feedback which will assist them in self-assessment and goal setting. Teachers will continue to support testing for all students in an environment conducive to success. Parents can help by establishing a "take it seriously and do your best" attitude while helping students understand that parts of a test may be difficult.

It is especially important for children to arrive at school ready to be successful during testing week. Some steps that can be taken at home to promote success include a balanced dinner, a good night's sleep, and most important, attending school during the testing week. Please take the opportunity to meet with teachers during family/teacher conference week (week of March 12) to discuss your child's educational goals and learn more about the AZMerit. Testing dates for the upcoming assessments are Elementary April 10-12, Middle School April 2-5, and 4th/8th Grade Science March 28-29.

Have a safe, healthy and restful Spring Break (March 19-23)!

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Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent



[@cherryl_paul](#)

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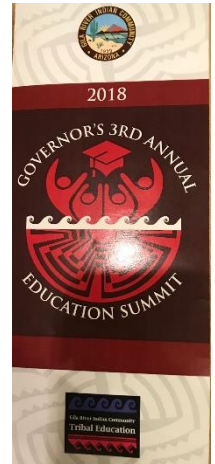
- Excellence in Student Learning
- Excellence in Employee Engagement
- Excellence in Organizational Improvement
- Excellence in Community Relations

The obstacle course at the Middle School is complete!

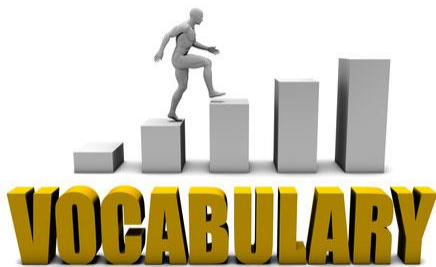
SESD Staff Attend 3rd Annual Governor's Education Summit



The Gila River Indian Community hosted its 3rd Annual Governor's Education Summit on February 10 at the Sheraton Grand in Wild Horse Pass. SEDS was well-represented at the summit with 30 staff in attendance! The intent of the summit was to bring stakeholders together to share information, discuss current issues, and plan future initiatives to improve education throughout the Community. Participants had the opportunity to rank and prioritize overarching topics, such as student achievement, social/emotional well-being, and current school building conditions to name just a few. This year's Summit had a record overall turnout of 187 participants, of which 127 were Community members. Through the dialogue that took place from all in attendance, an action plan will be put together by the Tribal Education Department and will be presented and shared with the Community in the near future.



Building Vocabulary at Home



Understanding the concepts your children are learning in school can help you support them at home. Vocabulary is just as important as learning to read. A reader must know how to read the word correctly, say it correctly, and understand its meaning. Here are some tips to help build vocabulary at home:

- Use higher level words in everyday conversations; use words they may not know/use regularly and interchange them with a word of the same meaning they would know such as frightened/scared, huge/enormous.

- Let your child tell you a story; you could give a problem in the story and have them create a way to solve it; ask questions in the story.
- Play word games with your child; some words games include Scrabble, Boggle, Hangman; if you have access to the internet some apps available for download are 7 Little Words, What's the Word, and Word Stack.
- Label household items to introduce a collection of words that children will associate with the item.

Ronald Marx, Professor of Educational Psychology and Dean of Education at the University of Arizona, recently said, "Exposure to books, exposure to language, explanations for things, all give kids opportunities for language growth and success at reading." Spending a little time each day focusing on vocabulary will improve your child's reading and writing skills.



Spring Parent/Teacher conferences will take place March 15th at both the elementary and middle school campuses. We encourage parents and/or guardians to stop in and visit with their child's teacher to discuss the progress made this school year. Teachers and staff are looking forward to sharing with you the successes your child has made as part of the SEDS family!

Also, a parent survey will be available at each school during Parent/Teacher conferences. We need and value your input in how we can improve our processes and what we do at SEDS to best meet your child's needs. Please ask your child's teacher about this survey.

SESD Students Create Signage For Community

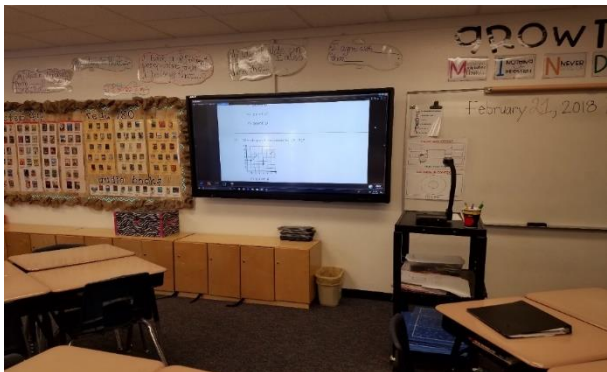
The Sacaton Middle School students of Ms. Chamblin and Mr. Utter's class began a street sign project two years ago as they realized there was a need in the Community for street signs. The students made 17 street signs and the GRIC Department of Transportation installed them all. The project was a success! All 17 street signs remain in place today.



This school year students decided to once again reach out to GRIC DOT and ask if they could create more street signs. They happily agreed and reviewed the list of 33 new street signs for proper labeling and spelling. In the end, the students completed 35 street signs adding "Rhodes Rd." for the Late Governor Rhodes and "Skill Center Rd." Way to go Ms. Chamblin and Mr. Utter's students!



Tailored Technology Report



Sacaton has just completed upgrading the ESS meeting room with a 75" LED Monitor and a new, Windows 10 Professional workstation with webcam for live, interactive meetings. All of our teaching staff were upgraded to the Windows 10 Pro platform. As for our next technology project, we will be upgrading support staff and District Office workstations from Windows 7 Pro to Windows 10 Pro with Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016. Sacaton is a state-of-the-art technology-driven District.

We have also upgraded our PA system to a District-Wide 'All-Call Emergency Broadcast' network system that gives us the ability to simultaneously notify each campus classroom of a

potential threat with the touch of a button. Also, all morning announcements on both campuses can now be made from any office or classroom IP phone.

We have purchased new laptops for all of our District Admin staff, our 2nd thru 8th grade students all have Chromebooks, and now we are looking at distributing a 1:1 ratio of iPads to our Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students - YES!

Mul-Chu-Tha Preparations



Mrs. Marcella Hall's students prepare float decorations for the 56th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Parade that will take place on March 10th, 2018. This year's theme is: "Honoring our History and Everyday Heroes." Come on out to help support and celebrate this important Community event!



7th Grader Trinity Hoover working on her entry for the Mul-Chu-Tha Art Contest.



7th Grader Jonathan Lewis working on his written rough draft for the Mul-Chu-Tha Essay Contest.

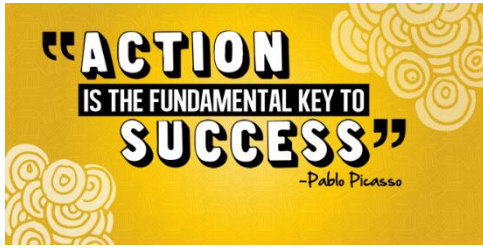
Orchard Progress



72 Trees have now been planted...72 more to go!
YES!



New Director of Federal Programs and Organizational Improvement



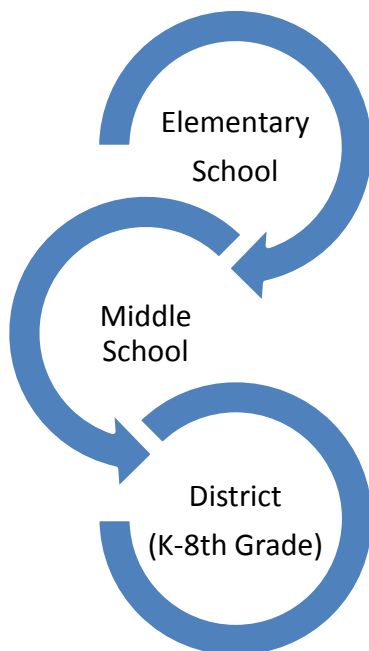
Mr. Freddy Poitra has hit the ground running in assuming his new role as Director of Federal Programs and Organizational Improvement. His many years of experience in serving Native children as a teacher aide, elementary teacher, coach, and school administrator provides him a perspective and passion that ALL students can be successful with proper supports. His current role and duties include oversight and compliance of activities/programming that are supported with Federal funds, as well as assisting in creating and improving District processes for

effectiveness and efficiency. Freddy is excited to be part of the SEDS team and family in "moving the needle" to positively impact student learning and making our sites a school of choice for Community members. He has a firm belief that student learning defines a school's success, and that SEDS is in process of creating a "new norm" for education in the Gila River Indian Community. YES!

myON Electronic Reading Platform

Results gathered February 26, 2018

With the district's launch of myON's Electronic Reading Platform, students are captivated by literacy exploration! This platform provides opportunities at home and at school to access thousands of book titles that are age-appropriate and selected by the child. With the District's participation in *Read Across America Day*, let's "check in" with myON to see what's happening in SEDS!



Elementary Totals (K-4th Grade)

Books Read: 23,802
Pages Read: 423,000
Minutes Read: 156,000

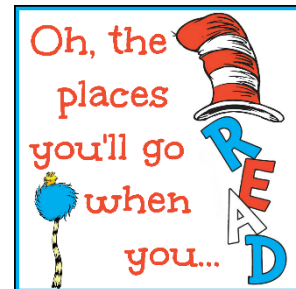


Middle School Totals (5-8th Grade)

Books Read: 13,931
Pages Read: 316,000
Minutes Read: 178,000

District Totals (K-8):

Books Read: 37,733
Pages Read: 739,000
Minutes Read: 334,000



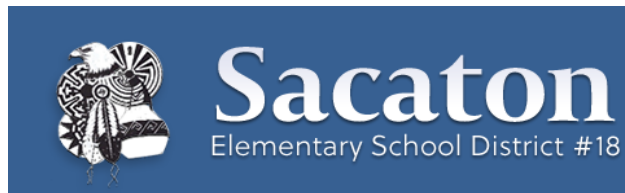
Positive Parenting Training Series

Open to ALL parents with children in Preschool through 8th Grade

4/13/18: The ABC's of Problem Solving

Meetings are scheduled for Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Sacaton Middle School, Room C8 Conference Room

Door Prize Drawing: \$25.00 Gift Card



Newsletter

May (Pilkañ Biadag/Kai Chuk'lik Mashath) 2018

GOVERNING BOARD

President, Ms. Jane Johnson
Clerk, Mrs. Elaine Moyah
Member, Ms. Anika Evans
Member, Mrs. Laurie Thomas
Member, Vacant

District Superintendent: [Cherryl Paul](#)

District Website: www.sacatonschools.org

Follow us on Twitter: [@SESD_YES](#)

Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

A very productive school year is drawing to a close. Before we launch into summer break, it is fitting to take a moment or two to reflect on our accomplishments. First, I want to recognize each and every staff member for the dedication, talent, energy and care you bring to school each day. Educating our students for a successful future is important and influential work. We continue to focus on improvement and finding ways to leverage our resources—people, time, dollars and relationships—toward boosting success for students and creating the system of strong and excellent schools of which our community can be justifiably proud. Together, we are making a visible difference for our students, families and community.

Due to the joint efforts of staff and community, Sacaton Elementary School District experienced an extraordinary 2017-2018 school year as you will note when you read all of this year's accomplishments on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming promotion as we celebrate our 8th graders' accomplishments and next steps in their personal journey towards excellence.

When positive education is provided to students, they have opportunities to learn how to become independent decision makers who take responsibility for their own lives and their communities. Sacaton students are motivated and responsible learners who maintain positive relationships with each other, the staff, and the surrounding community.

I greatly anticipate the future of our schools and I look forward to leading more initiatives for the benefit of all students and the community. Have an incredible summer spending time with your child(ren). We look forward to all of the new opportunities that next year will bring ~ YES!

Two Schools, One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!

Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent

[@cherryl_paul](#)



2017-2018 District Achievements

Categorized by the District's Adopted Key Priority Areas

Excellence in Student Learning

- ✓ Free full-day PreSchool
- ✓ Highest student enrollment in 10 years!
- ✓ SEDS Band: Bronze at the Pageant of Bands Festival
- ✓ Literacy Initiative and TRE training to support instructional practices
- ✓ AzMERIT Student Achievement
- ✓ iPads in all preschool - 2nd grade classrooms
- ✓ Perfect Attendance Awards
- ✓ Indigenous Robotics Competition Awards
- ✓ Chief Azul Scholar - Finalist
- ✓ First Lego League Regional Tournament Ranking Outcome: 15th out of 28 teams
- ✓ Completion of Phase I and II of the SEDS Community Orchard Legacy Project
- ✓ myON Electronic Reading Platform
- ✓ Student Recognition: myON Top Readers
- ✓ PBIS Az Film Festival 2017 Video Winner
- ✓ Middle School Gallup Survey Results
- ✓ 98% of Certified Teachers Trained in TRE
- ✓ Wi-Fi on buses
- ✓ Increase in Academic-based Field Trips
- ✓ Twenty-two unique programs offered based on student interest
- ✓ Obstacle Course
- ✓ Middle School Playground
- ✓ Implementation of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in morning announcements
- ✓ Theater Club performance

Excellence in Employee Engagement

- ✓ Strategic Plan: Governing Board Adoption of: Mission, Vision, Core Values, Key Priority Areas, Motto
- ✓ Certified Teacher Evaluation Tool, Improvement Plan, and the Classified/ Administrative Evaluation Tool
- ✓ DEQ Grant for \$150,000.00 to purchase two new buses
- ✓ Governing Board Staff Recognition for Service:
 - 10 -19 years: Certificate of Appreciation
 - 20+ Years: Plaque of Appreciation
- ✓ Aligned District Committees
- ✓ Staff Exposure to Google Docs
- ✓ Every employee 15-minute meetings with the Superintendent
- ✓ Superintendent Weekly Messages to support communication and improve alignment
- ✓ Thinking Map Training: Trainer of Trainers
- ✓ The hiring of staff for after-school tutoring
- ✓ The hiring of staff for summer school
- ✓ Behavior Coaches attended PBIS Conference
- ✓ Implementation of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- ✓ All staff will receive a pay increase for the 2018-2019 school year
- ✓ Contracts for the 2018-19 school year revised to meet legal guidelines
- ✓ Weekly leadership meetings to improve communication
- ✓ Monthly meetings with the nurses and GRHC

Excellence in Organizational Improvement

- ✓ Governing Board Adoption of: Mission, Vision, Core Values, Key Priority Areas, Motto
- ✓ Standard operating procedures for addenda, hiring process, and registration
- ✓ First Aid and CPR Certification Courses
- ✓ Restructured Preschool Program
- ✓ Student tracking on the school bus
- ✓ Adoption of Two-Year School Calendars; Payroll Calendar
- ✓ Tyler Technologies System, Employee Web Portal and Time Clock Plus integration to drive effectiveness
- ✓ Facilities utilized to promote SEDS: murals
- ✓ Application for continuous grant opportunities
- ✓ Completion of 2017 Audit and follow-up processes
- ✓ District-wide lockdown: safety procedures
- ✓ Revised procedures for notifying families of excessive absences
- ✓ Personalized nameplates on doors

Excellence in Community Relations

- ✓ Mul-Chu-Tha Art Contest winners
- ✓ Arizona Diamondback's \$2500 STEM Grant
- ✓ Yes, 2 Life! Poetry Contest Winners
- ✓ Reading + Math = Fun! Night
- ✓ Student-led Culture Night!
- ✓ Astronomy Night
- ✓ First Lego League Community Support
- ✓ Parent Focus Groups
- ✓ 50+ Volunteers for Interview Panels and other District Needs
- ✓ Electronic Access available to District Newsletters
- ✓ 30 Participants at the Governor's Summit
- ✓ Twitter accounts established to support the branding of SEDS
- ✓ Mul-Chu-Tha Parade Participation
- ✓ Superintendent involvement in GRHC
- ✓ Hosted annual ASBA meeting and SB coalition meeting
- ✓ Continuous participation in GRIC activities
- ✓ GRIC Light Parade Best Entry Award—Transportation Department

Governing Board approved School District Motto, Core Values, Key Strategic Priorities, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement for 2018-2023

Motto:

Two Schools, One Voice
Home of the Braves - YES!

Core Values:

Empowerment, Compassion,
Respect, Vision, Community

Key Strategic Priorities:

Excellence in Student Learning
Excellence in Employee Engagement
Excellence in Organizational Improvement
Excellence in Community Relations

Vision Statement:

We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our himthag.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to engage students to take ownership of their learning, embrace their culture and contribute to the world around them.

Sacaton Elementary School District Goals 2017-2018

Governing Board Approved August 8, 2017

1. Domain: Results

Performance Data

Goal: Support data collection, optimize instructional delivery, and enhance student engagement with programs and services that develop and nurture every student.

2. Domain: Leadership

Vision for Learning and Achievement

Goal: Participate in a Strategic Planning process designed to capture the voice of stakeholders to inform a meaningful and relevant Strategic Plan (2018-2023).

3. Domain: Systems Alignment and Integration

Safe, Orderly, and Engaging Learning Environment

Goal: Ensure the safety and security of all buildings; provide intellectually inspiring learning spaces focusing on the social and emotional growth of students.

4. Domain: Processes

Appreciative Inquiry Culture

Goal: Document, deploy, and monitor processes with fidelity demonstrating collaborative problem-solving techniques.

5. Domain: Capacity Building

Human Development

Goal: Provide opportunities to engage all employee groups in programs and initiatives.



Important Upcoming Events and Announcements

Spring and Kindergarten Cap and Gown Photos -May 4th

Visit with Superintendent Paul—May 3rd from 3:00-4:00 pm or May 4th from 10:00-11:00 am in Room D8 at the Middle School. Refreshments will be served.

Middle School O'otham Himthag Thash (Native American Studies) -May 3rd and 4th

Governing Board Monthly Meeting—May 8th at 5:30 pm

Elementary School O'otham Himthag Thash (Native American Studies) -May 10th and 11th

Summer School Hours: The District office will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, beginning June 4th through July 20th, 2018. **The District office will be closed on Fridays.**

PRESS RELEASE

Pinal County School Superintendent Jill Broussard has decided not to appoint a Governing Board member to the vacant seat on the Sacaton Elementary School Board. The seat will remain vacant until the election in November, 2018.

If anyone is interested in running for the Sacaton Elementary School Governing Board in the November, 2018 election, please contact Brenda Katterman at the Pinal County School Office for an election packet at 520.866.6565 or visit our website at www.pinalesa.org to download a copy.

Band Competition



On Saturday April 7th, 2018, the Sacaton Braves Concert Band attended the Pageant of Bands at Deer Valley High School and competed against seven other elementary and middle school groups. The bands were adjudicated by three judges, who categorized the groups with either gold, silver, bronze or a participation rating. At the end of the performance, judges gave the group a master class with suggestions for improvement. This was Sacaton's first band competition and they received a bronze rating!

What is Bullying?

According to the SEDS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, the definition of bullying is "repeated acts over time that involve a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical in form, verbal, or psychological. Cyber-bullying includes bullying through the misuse of technology."

Although acts of name calling, threats, or physical contact are not acceptable behavior, they may not fit the definition of bullying if it happens during a single and/or isolated incident. Please keep in mind that bullying behavior occurs repeatedly over time. Regardless, always notify an adult immediately if either type of behavior occurs so it can be resolved by school district staff. When adults respond quickly and consistently to inappropriate behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

SESD Preschool: The Faces of our Future! YES!

Our preschool program is currently participating in the Quality First evaluation process. This has been a very exciting time for our staff. Our Quality First evaluator randomly selects preschool sessions to conduct observations and uses a rating scale with multiple indicators. Once the entire evaluation process is completed, the results will be received and reviewed by preschool staff. This evaluation will identify areas of strength and areas to target for professional development. This will help our preschool staff identify a goal for the upcoming school year.

We continue to be at the highest enrollment that the Sacaton School District preschool program has seen! We truly believe that our children are our future and ensuring that they have an excellent beginning is our mission! YES!

Providing EXCEPTIONAL student services: The mission of the ESS staff!

As we close out the year and look towards the 2018-19 school year, the ESS staff will be reviewing program structures, staff needs, student needs, and master schedules to ensure that all of our needs are being met. We want to ensure that students have access to appropriate services to make progress in the least restrictive environment. We will be working with the site administration to ensure that the master schedules align with our students' needs and all ESS staff have access to the full array of district curriculum. We want to ensure that the school environment is inclusive of all of our students, which in turn, will promote greater learning. We are all in this TOGETHER!



Head Lice

Parents are the key for prevention and treatment of head lice.

- A.** Spend 15 minutes once a week looking for head lice or nits. Set a day and time aside to carefully look.
- B.** Teach your child not to share hats, scarves, brushes, combs and hair fasteners.
- C.** If you see nits or lice within ¼ inch of the scalp, then treat your child.
- D.** Follow 14-day treatment plan and mark your calendar to help you keep track.
- E.** If after 14-day treatment crawling lice are still present, contact your healthcare provider.



New Registration Processes Are Coming!

Sacaton Elementary School District is currently working on revising the registration process for new and returning students. This is a joint effort between the elementary school and the middle school secretaries and district staff. We are revising our paperwork and processes to best meet the needs of our district and parents, but still remain compliant with required documentation and information. We are hoping that our new process will streamline the registration process for new students and do away with redundant paperwork for returning families. We will be rolling out our new forms for the 2018-19 school year soon. Families will be using our new forms and process during the summer for newly enrolling students/families. We also plan to combine the enrollment process with our Meet the Teacher activities that will occur in August. If you need any information regarding enrolling your child, please feel free to call the district/school offices.

Culture and Language Program

The month of May is Kai Cu:klig Mashath and is also known as Pilkin Baithag Mashath (ripping of the wheat month). Students will learn about the Pilkan harvest with our Tohono O'otham relatives, and will also learn how important it is to honor Je'e on Je'e Thash (Mother's Day). Students will then reflect on the importance of Memorial Day.

Our theme for the month is on desert animals. Students will learn about the common insects and animals that we see around our homes at this time of the year including the pesky va:mug (mosquito). We will also learn about the monsoon season. Students will draw pictures of elements associated with the monsoon including the Jegos (dust storm). In addition, they will be informed of the O'otham New Year celebration in June and also the picking of the has:shan baithag, or cactus fruit.

The number one song in O'otham during our classes this month was "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," followed by a close second, "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Preschool and kindergarten students enjoyed singing "Ring Around the Rosie" in O'otham.

We all had a fun and exciting school year, and so much was learned by both students and staff! We are looking forward to next school year. Thank you Mrs. Martin for assisting in the Culture Classroom. Have a safe and restful summer! Thova epom nei (We shall see you again). Sapo.

Our Community Orchard Update



On April 19th 3TV (KTVK) on-air personality Dave the Garden Guy made two live television broadcasts appearances featuring our Community Orchard. He interviewed students and teacher Mr. Alberto Alaniz. During the broadcast, many individuals and organizations were recognized, including the Gila River Indian

Community for providing the funds via the Tribal Allocation Grant for the purchase of the 144 trees. The Community Orchard Project couldn't have happened without the support and blessing of the SEDS Governing Board, Superintendent Paul, and Principal Bonds. Under their leadership and vision, the Community Orchard is now complete and will be maintained by the students in the future. The varieties have been expanded to include Fig, Blood Orange, and Blood Grapefruit trees. The state-of-the-art Solar Irrigation System ensures adequate water distribution. This system was installed with support from our vendor partner Ewing Irrigation and Supply. The tree supplier, Greenfield Citrus, did a wonderful job in establishing and preparing for the replanting. Community members are invited to visit the orchard at any time, and will ultimately be able pick fruit from the trees. Please check out the videos of the live broadcast below.

<http://www.azfamily.com/story/37996517/garden-guy-helps-sacaton-school-plant-an-orchard>



Tailored Technology Report



Augmented Reality is the adding of graphics, sounds and/or touch feedback into our natural world to create an enhanced user experience. Augmented Reality is unlike Virtual Reality. Virtual Reality requires you to inhabit an entirely virtual environment. An example of a virtual reality environment is "Second Life". AR uses your existing natural environment and simply overlays virtual information on top of it. Applications of AR can be as simple as a string of text or as complicated as an instruction on how to perform a life-saving surgical procedure. AR can highlight certain features (a painting in a museum), enhance understanding (a physics experiment) and/or provide accessible and timely data (digital games like Pokémon Go). In the classroom, Augmented Reality apps can run on a multitude of different devices and platforms such as Chromebooks, iPads and smart phones.

Teachers are constantly challenged to find ways to keep students' attention in the classroom when their outside world is full of all kinds of highly compelling and visually stimulating media. In today's world it isn't the television set that captures a child's fancy rather it's YouTube, Snapchat or Instagram. Augmented Reality is a great way of engaging our students and at the same time allow learning to occur.

Student Recognition



Gila River Indian Community Lieutenant Governor Robert Stone showed his support at April's regular Governing Board Meeting as he shook hands of students being recognized for their efforts and achievements! Go Braves!

STEAM Day Activities

32 seventh grade students attended STEAM Day activities on April 13 at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. The students were invited to take part in several classes that included **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math**. After beginning the event playing several games (Foosball, Connect Four, ping pong), students took part in science experiments, coding exercises, making pottery, and several math games. Sacaton Middle School was one of three schools in attendance.



Poetry Helps Support Literacy

April is National Poetry Month. Reading and writing poems helps support literacy and enhances language acquisition and supports writing skills. The following list outlines why children should write, listen to, and create poetry:

- Develops understanding and perceptions about the world
- Find unusual connections between things
- Develops creative expression and to frame thoughts, feelings, and ideas
- Learn to listen and appreciate the ideas of others
- Learn to share ideas and hear feedback
- Develops a wide vocabulary

Listening to poetry also helps children become fluent readers and creative writers, while writing poetry helps children learn to revise their ideas and develop a precision with language. Learning a collection of poems gives children and adults shared memories, a shared heritage, and shared understandings.

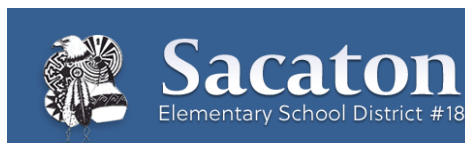


The Sacaton School District #18 Governing Board, Administration, and Staff wish the following 8th grade students the very best as they continue their educational journey into high school and beyond!

Lilliyn Allison
Mandy Anton
Alicea C. Apkaw
Alaynia Austin
Anthony Braveheart
Brysen R. Brown
Belen Burnette
Jasmine Carreno
Kaylee J. Case
Seth A. Corella
Kayla D. Delowe
Alyssa G. Enos
Ivan L. Enos
Daymon J. French
Ayana Hernandez
Lightfoot Howard
Andrew Jackson
Cordell Jackson
Daniel J. Johns
Davian R. Johns
Brian Kelly
Alexander Kyyitan
Randall I. Kyyitan
Dwayne Leos
Kevin Lewis
Monique D. Madril
Adan Makil
Alexander Manuel
Jaylynn Mark
Illianna Miguel
Deseray Miles
Lindsy Miller

Marisol S. Monarrez
Simone Natani
Graciella Niedo
Destiny Ochoa
Omyra A. Osife
Justalene Paul
Aniya Quiyo
Summer Ramirez
Nikki Randall
Heather Raphael
Estrella Rascon
Jerilyn E. Rhodes
Caitlin Rivers
Caroline Rivers
Shae R. Rivers
Sianna Rivers
Ethan A. Rocha
Syann A. Rocha
Jose R. Rodriguez
Miguel Rodriguez
Nicole L. Romero
Israel I. Rose
Damien Stewart
Miranda Sullivan
Azule A. Thomas
Pandonlyn Thomas
Jordan J. Ute
Angel C. Valenzuela
Aliya T. White
Nathan A. White
Deona Wilson
Cierra Yazzie

You are cordially invited to attend the 8th grade promotion ceremony on May 23, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Gymnasium.



Sacaton Elementary School

Preschool - 4th Grade

395 students

40 Teachers and Support Staff

3 classrooms per grade

Highly Trained Teachers in Reading

Special Classes: Pima Culture, PE,

Technology, Music

Additional Support provided by

Instructional Assistants

Exceptional Student Services

K-1st Grade: iPads

2 - 4th grade – Chromebooks



Sacaton Middle School

5th - 8th Grade

259 students

26 Teachers and Support Staff

Departmentalized by Content

Highly Trained Teachers in Reading

Special Classes: Pima Culture, PE,

Technology, Health/Library

Exceptional Student Services

Computers to Students (1:1)

High School Tours

Field Trips

Sacaton Elementary School District #18

Superintendent

Mrs. Cherryl Paul

520-562-8600 x1000

Elementary School Principal

Ms. Leslie Rychel

Middle School Principal

Mr. Philip Bonds

Follow us on Twitter

@SESD_YES

@cherryl_paul

Check out our Current Events!

www.sacatonschools.org

P.O. Box 98

92 S. Skill Center Rd.

Sacaton, AZ 85147

Governing Board Members:

Board President

Ms. Jane Johnson

Board Clerk

Mrs. Elaine Moyah

Board Member

Mrs. Laurie Thomas

Board Member

Ms. Anika Evans

Sacaton Elementary School District #18



Mission Statement

Our mission is to engage students to take ownership of their learning, embrace their culture and contribute to the world around them.

Vision Statement

We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our himthag.

**TWO SCHOOLS
ONE VOICE!
SACATON BRAVES!**

Sap-en thak kem ne!
We are glad you are here!

The staff at Sacaton Elementary School District daily bestows red carpet service to all who pass through the doors of the school. This gift of service exudes throughout the breezeways permeating the campus. Students and families are always greeted with respect and valued as they are welcomed on campus with the feeling of "I'm glad you are here!"

Teachers care deeply about their students and school success. Throughout the year, staff encourage parents to become integral partners in their child's education. Support is provided during Family Curriculum Nights, Family/Teacher Conferences, and parenting classes to address any concerns and needs of the family.

Students and staff display pride that is contagious and generous throughout the school. Both schools have been recognized for their implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) and the district recently received their fifth Student Film Festival Award.

It is the heart of the staff that truly drives the passion of the district leading to student success.



Student Programs Offered

Curriculum Enrichment
STEM and STEAM
College & Career Exploration
Theater Club
Community Orchard Project
Math League
Student Council
First Lego League
Baseball
Flag Football
Soccer
Softball
Basketball
Robotics
Band
And Many More...

**NOW ENROLLING
STUDENTS!**

**Visit our office to find out how
your child can become a
SACATON BRAVE!**

Gila River Indian Community



O'otham Himthag

Sacaton Elementary School District is located in District 3 of the Gila River Indian Reservation in south-central Arizona. The district partners with Tribal Education to assist with community support while servicing the state as a public school. The staff support collaboration among GRIC educators and attend many tribal events to best promote the culture and community of the students.

