

Sequoia Choice Times

August/September

Volume 3
Issue 1

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Dear Sequoia Choice Families,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! We are off to a great year as we have continued to improve and grow as a school. One of the best indicators of school success is student retention. This fall we are experiencing our highest retention rate ever. Last year Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning remained one of the highest letter grades of all the distance learning schools in the state. Each student's gifts and talents combined with the dedication of the school staff and the support of our parents will allow us to continue to strive for excellence. It is an exciting time to be a distance learner!

This year we will continue to focus on each individual learner. Our courses have been developed with the future in mind. Students are gaining the skills they need to be prepared to attend college or pursue their desired career choice.

I feel honored to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff. The teachers have spent most of the summer refining their courses, and developing measures to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of our students.

Strong parental involvement is cornerstone to a successful distance learning experience. I encourage all parents to get involved their child's learning. Your child's teachers, advisors, and academic coaches are ready to assist you in helping your child. Never hesitate to contact us to help your child succeed.

Best Wishes,

Cindy Chleborad
Principal- Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning

Our mission is to provide a caring environment of high expectations, individualized attention, and great teaching via a distance learning delivery system that is sufficiently adaptable to help K-12 students in traditional and non-traditional educational settings achieve their maximum academic potential and life goals.

Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to school!

Here's a quick rundown of what students in each high school grade level should be doing:

Freshmen:

1. Get good grades. Your GPA matters now more than ever. Grades of C or D now may inhibit you from getting that great scholarship later.
2. Start thinking about college and career options. Use your Journey course to explore the possibilities.
3. You have the time to cultivate the talents and extracurricular activities that scholarship committees and college admissions officials look for. Get a job, volunteer your time, learn a musical instrument, polish your essay-writing skills, apply for an internship, play a sport, acquire an interesting or unique hobby, or get involved with a church or scouting group. Whether you do one or several of these things, it's important that you do something. Grades are important, but life (and scholarships and college admissions) is not based on grades alone.

Sophomores:

1. Everything that applies to Freshmen applies to you as well.
2. Sign up to take the PSAT. Sequoia Choice is offering the PSAT at our sister school's South Horne campus on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. The fee is \$15. If you cannot come to Mesa to test, call your local high school to see if they will allow you to test with them. If you do want to test in Mesa, please contact me. Either way, when you take the test, be sure to put our school code on the test: 030609. Do not delay in registering for the PSAT.
3. Start thinking now about specific colleges or other post-secondary options you may be interested in. Remember that your freshman, sophomore, and junior years count more than your senior year as far as grades go, so keep your grades up. (Senior-year grades will not yet be available when you apply to colleges and for scholarships.)

Juniors:

1. Everything that applies for Freshmen and Sophomores applies to you as well.
2. An extra word on the PSAT: I cannot emphasize its importance enough, especially to juniors. Not only is it good practice for the SAT, it is also the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship if you are a junior. If you do well on the PSAT when you take it as a junior, you could receive up to \$12,500 in yearly scholarship money from ASU or UA. If you think you qualify for a fee waiver, please shoot me an e-mail or give me a call.

3. College-bound juniors should plan to take both the SAT and the ACT in the spring. I have fee waivers for eligible students.

4. Start narrowing down your potential colleges and universities to between three and five. Plan to visit a campus or two over the summer or during your junior year.

Seniors:

1. Scholarship season has begun! Deadlines generally run from September to March. There are many good scholarship search engines online. Check out azdl.org's scholarship tips and links pages for more information. You can find these pages by hovering over the drop-down menu in the upper right-corner of the page and selecting Counselor's Corner. From there, go to the Scholarship Tips and Scholarship Websites sections.
2. If you have not yet taken the SAT or ACT, sign up right away! If you have taken one or both of them and have your scores back, sign up to re-take the test you did better on. You have a better than 50% chance of improving your score.
3. Now is the time to start applying to colleges. If you need letters of recommendation, give your recommenders plenty of time to write their letters. Also, give any personal statement that you submit plenty of thought and polish. Make it distinctive. When you read it, could it apply to anyone else besides you? If so, you should redo it. Add a personal story that applies to the overall focus of the statement. And keep it short; it should be no more than one page typed and double-spaced (300-500 words).
4. Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in early October. I will send out a reminder e-mail to all seniors when it's time.

All High School Students:

If you have questions or need help with scholarships, financial aid, college applications, or anything else to do with your current and future schooling, please call or e-mail me at 480-461-3222 ext. 10644 and jnewsom@edkey.org.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jeanine Newsom

School Counselor

Refer a Friend Program



Throughout the years Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning has offered our Refer a Friend Program to our students. We are excited to be offering it now! Referring a friend to our school makes you eligible for a \$50 Amazon or Walmart gift card! Claiming a gift card is easy. Just visit our website at azdl.org. Find the drop-down menu in the top right corner and completed the required form.

There are many reasons why your friends may want to attend AZDL for FREE:

We offer credit recovery to students who may have previously failed a course at their home school.

We offer college courses to students who meet the requirements.

Some students enroll to take elective courses with the intent of transferring the credit back to their high school to improve their GPA or class rank for scholarship purposes.

We serve students who quit school, but need an option for continuing school while working full-time. We accept students up to their 21st birthday.

Many of our students are trying to get ahead in their high school credits.

We offer an elementary program that allows parent to be very involved. Our approach is unique to the industry.

We are a small school with a great staff who care about each student. We are not a national conglomerate.

Many students do not realize that being enrolled in more than one school is an option in Arizona. Students may attend as many schools as they wish. We currently have several students who attend one school during the day, and work in their AZDL courses at night and on the weekends.

Testing Information

Benchmarks

This year we are working harder on achieving accuracy and effectiveness within the Galileo system. In order to do this, benchmarks will now be housed in the actual class that the student is enrolled. Near the beginning of the course, there will be a marker placed within the class that informs the student to take the pre, CBAS #1, or post benchmark.

For those families that are returning, you will see that Galileo has a new interface. There are many improvements to allow you and your student to review assigned Galileo assessment on the Dashboard and ease of obtaining your scores. Please review the introduction to the new student page.

Video: Access the K-12 Student-Parent Center: http://www.ati-online.com/video/PD_K12/Student_Access/Student_Access.html

The student username will be the same as your "myedkey" information. On occasion, a student may have a different username due to prior students having the same one. If you have any questions about your username and password contact your advisor.

AzMERIT

In order to prepare your student for AzMERIT, instructions to the sample test have been provided. The sample test is open to all individuals and can be accessed on <http://azmeritportal.org>. Also provided are support materials such as calculator guidance, ELA Writing Guides, and Math Blueprints. AzMERIT will be administered in the Fall for students enrolled and receiving High School credit for EOC courses. More information will be released in future newsletters.

Testing information can currently be reviewed on the ADE website. <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>

Instructions to access an AzMERIT sample test:

<https://cms.azed.gov/ContentCache/54e7666daadebe103c500934/index.htm>

Civics Test

New this year!!

We will be working in accordance with the Arizona Department of Education to implement the high school graduation requirement. The Civics test does need to be proctored and scores will be recorded at the school level. There will be more information to come as the year progresses.

ADE Information:

In 2015, the Arizona legislature passed the Arizona Civics Test Law (House Bill 2064). This bill will require students, beginning with the graduating class of 2017, to pass a civics test based on the United States Immigration and Naturalization civics questions. Students will be required to score 60% or higher in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high school equivalency certificate.

Arizona Civics Test Law: <http://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00701-01.htm>

Several links have been provided to prepare your student for the Civics test.

Study Materials for the Civics Test:

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test>

Flash Cards:

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/see-all-section-items-title-right/Civics%20Flash%20Cards%20for%20the%20Naturalization%20Test/55239?destination=node/41140>

Hearing and Vision Screening

Attention all AZDL Parents:

WANT TO GET YOUR STUDENT'S HEARING



AND VISION



CHECKED??

Please contact Sandy Meek at smeek@edkey.org or call 480.461.3222 x10652 to set up an appointment and take this opportunity to have your student(s) screened.

Vision and hearing play an extremely important part in your child's ability to learn, make progress and be successful in school.

As your child continues to grow, changes often occur with their eyes and ears. It is important for children to be screened to determine whether a more conclusive test by a medical professional should be done.

Service Learning for You!



Service Learning combines volunteer work with real world reflection to give students a full new view of their impact in society. This semester long course involves logging 60 hours of community service and personal reflection of your experience. If you are the type of person that loves working in your community, this is the elective class for you! For more information on how to enroll contact your academic coach of Mrs. Smith (jsmith@edkey.org)

This math is driving me crazy! How can I get help?

We've all been there. We've read what were supposed to read, watched videos, tried the hints in Khan, but we can still be stumped. What now?

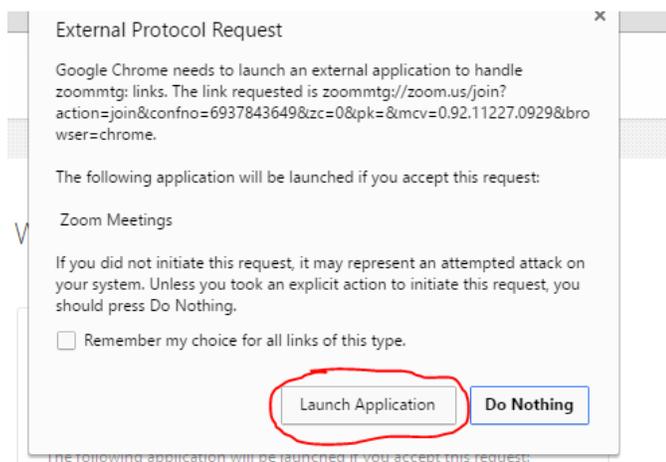
Here's what: Click the computer icon on your course page and get linked directly to your teacher in the virtual classroom:



Ken Burbank
 kurbank@edkey.org
 (480) 254-7698
 Available for math help every school day EXCEPT Tuesdays. Other times by appointment.
 Click the computer icon on the left to meet me online.

You don't need to make an appointment or put it off. Check your teacher's available times in their profile and, if you need help, click the icon. Make sure you have ear buds in so you can hear. If you also have a microphone hooked to your computer, that's even better.

You'll see these screens to click on:



External Protocol Request

Google Chrome needs to launch an external application to handle zoommtg: links. The link requested is zoommtg://zoom.us/join?action=join&confno=6937843649&zsc=0&pk=&mcv=0.92.11227.0929&browser=chrome.

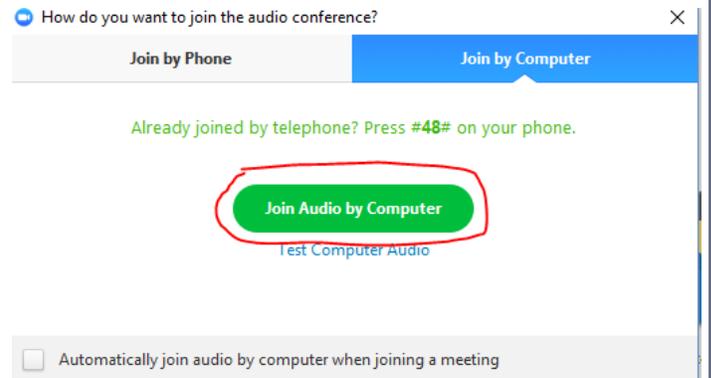
The following application will be launched if you accept this request:

Zoom Meetings

If you did not initiate this request, it may represent an attempted attack on your system. Unless you took an explicit action to initiate this request, you should press Do Nothing.

Remember my choice for all links of this type.

Launch Application Do Nothing



How do you want to join the audio conference?

Join by Phone Join by Computer

Already joined by telephone? Press #48# on your phone.

Join Audio by Computer
 Test Computer Audio

Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting

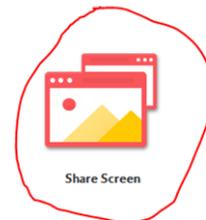
If you get a message that says "Waiting for moderator to start the session", just give it a few minutes and your teacher will join you online. It's just like raising your hand in class, but your fingers won't get numb while you wait.

You'll be able to share your screen with your teacher and you can meet together to get the help you need.

Meeting Topic: Ken Burbank's Personal Meeting Room
 Host: Ken Burbank
 Invitation URL: <https://zoom.us/j/6937843649>
 Copy URL
 Participant ID: 48



Join Audio
 Computer Audio Connected



Share Screen



Invite Others

Work Study Opportunity

Attention working students! Sequoia Choice is offering a new Work Study elective course for the 2016-17 school year. Students enrolled in the course will need to complete a minimum of 60 hours through an 18 week semester course as long as some course work regarding appropriate work behaviors. Why not double dip when you're already working! Contact your academic coach or Mrs. Smith (ismith@edkey.org) for more information.



Update Your Information

Please take a moment to fill out an Update Information form for your students for the new school year. Using the link below, you can update your Primary Contact information for the new parent portal in MyEdkey, read up on our new Photo/Video Permissions Policy, and help us maintain compliance for school funding programs (like Title I) and grants.

<http://www.sequoiachoice.org/enroll/update-information/>

If you've moved, please also send an updated proof of residency document matching the new address so that we can update our records in order to send you report cards, transcripts, state test scores, and other important school notices. If you have any questions, please contact the school registrar at 480-461-3222 x10649

Introducing Mr. Jarvis



Hi, my name is Jesse Jarvis and I am the new teacher for social studies and economics. I have a long history of teaching in many different environments from public schools to mental health facilities. I completed my undergrad degree at ASU in history and received a degree from GCU in counseling. I am excited to be a part of the AZDL team.

Calendar of Events

September 2016

- ◆ 5: Labor Day= NO SCHOOL

October 2016

- ◆ 10– 14– Fall Break= NO SCHOOL

November 2016

- ◆ 11 Veterans Day — school offices closed
- ◆ 24–25 Thanksgiving Holiday — school offices closed

For a complete view of our school calendar, please visit our website at <http://www.sequoiachoice.org/>



ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED

A Parent's Guide for K-12 Student-Parent Center

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To use the *Galileo K-12 Student-Parent Center*, you will first need access to an Internet-capable computer that has the appropriate browser and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Consult the system requirements on Assessment Technology, Incorporated's web site (www.ati-online.com) under the System Requirements' link located on the Galileo K-12 Online tab.

ACCESS

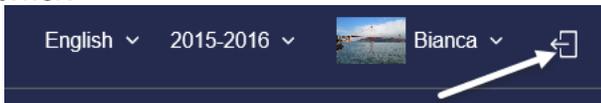
1. Click the K-12 Student-Parent Center link under **User Login** on ATI's website, www.ati-online.com.



2. Type the **User/Login Name** and **Password** provided to you by your child's teacher.
 - a. **User/Login:** _____
 - b. **Password:** _____
3. Click the *Sign On* button.

EXIT

Click the Logout link in the upper right hand corner.



DASHBOARD PAGE

Your child's **School** and **Class**, if enrolled in multiple schools and/or classes, displays.



LANGUAGE



SCHEDULED TESTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND QUIZZES

EVENTS SECTION

Click the desired **Option** – All Events, Today's Events, or Upcoming Events -- to be displayed in the Events section. The selected Option displays the **Scheduled Events**. The events also display in the **Calendar Section**. Each event is color coded; the event legend displays under the Options section.

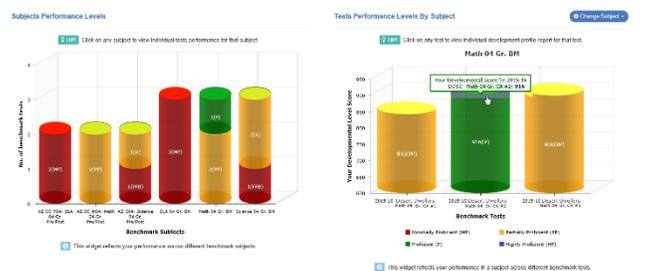
ASSESSMENT RESULTS

If your child's teacher has published the test results, you will see them from the **Dashboard** page.



BENCHMARK PERFORMANCE SECTION

Click the **Change Subject** drop-down field allows you to change the displayed subject.



TEST SCORES SECTION

Change the number of displayed scores using the **Show x entries** drop-down menu. You may search for a test from the **Search** field. The **Subject**, **Test Name**, **Date**, and test **Type** are sortable columns.

Subject	Test Name	Date	Score	Percentage	DL Score	Percentile Rank	Type
Misc. Test	Created an Online Test on a Grid Test	2/24/2015	14	20%	NA	NA	Formative
Misc. Test	2015-16 ATI CC Math 01 Gr. 01 Pinned T1ELM	7/23/2015	4/45	9%	No Measurement Yet	No Measurement Yet	Benchmark
Misc. Test	2015-16 ATI CC Math 01 Gr. 01 Pinned T1ELM	7/23/2015	4/45	9%	No Measurement Yet	No Measurement Yet	Benchmark