

Sequoia Choice Times

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In This Issue:

Principal's Letter 1

Counselor's Corner 2

Testing Information 3

Donate/Instant
Messenger 4

NHS Update/Youth
Leadership 5

Refer a Friend /
Immunizations 6

Fry's Rewards/
Calendar of Events 7



Dear Sequoia Choice Community:

Can you believe we are already enjoying spring of 2017, and summer is literally just weeks away? In just a few short weeks, Sequoia Choice will be teaming with Harkins Theatres to provide public service announcements about "Summer Brain Drain." Did you know that students who are not actively learning during the summer months will lose as much as 40% of what they learned the previous year? To me, that number is just staggering. What is even more alarming is the total amount of learning that is lost and repeated during a child's school career. By the time a student graduates, it is the equivalent of four full years of school.

Now is the time to start planning how your child will avoid the slippery slope of "Summer Brain Drain." While summer learning can look different and be much more relaxed, just a little time each day can keep your child's brain engaged. The easiest way is to keep actively learning through your school. For our elementary students, Sequoia Choice offers a different approach to learning during the summer. Talk to your teacher to determine what the best path for your student may be.

Junior high and high school students can take online courses to get ahead, recover credit, and earn college credit. Now is the time to talk with your child's advisor about the best approach to reach their goal. Many students who have used the summers to get ahead are the students who often graduate with several college credits. For college-bound students, this is an effective way to save thousands of dollars and increase future learning opportunities.

I encourage you to begin to think about summer, and how your children will fill their days. Refer us to your friends. We are a free summer school program that is available for elementary through high school children.

For more information about our summer offerings, please speak with any advisor, academic coach, counselor, or teacher. You can also call our office at 480-461-3222. Have a wonderful spring break!

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

Honors

Students will sometimes ask me how to obtain honors that they believe will pave the way to a prestigious college admission or receiving that elusive full-ride scholarship. While it is true that honors will help in these endeavors and will open doors to the recipient, there are things about honors you should know and understand.

Honors come in many shapes and sizes. Some honors are official awards, while others can be unofficial distinctions. There are honors for which you must apply, such as scholarships, but most honors come without application or prior knowledge. They come because you have achieved in a particular area, and someone wants to acknowledge your achievement. Some honors come without strings, and others require that you do something to retain them, such as service or maintaining a certain minimum GPA. There are honors that come with scholarship money, and other honors that simply mean you did well. There are honors for GPA/class rank, service, leadership, athletics, citizenship, music, dance, other performing arts, attendance, excellence in a particular subject area, and just for being a good person. There are honors that combine several of these attributes, and others that focus on just one. If you can think of a talent or achievement, there is likely an honor attached to it. There are even honor societies, fraternities, and sororities.

Some honors are more prestigious than others, though none should be disdained simply because it is more common. The honor of a perfect attendance award is of more interest to a potential employer than almost any other, for instance.

With any good thing, there is its mirror opposite. Watch out for honors scams! Keep this in mind always: **You never have to pay money to receive an honor!** Never, ever. If you receive a letter in the mail saying something along the lines of, "Congratulations! For the low fee of \$50 dollars, you will be a member of this honor society," don't believe it! Any true honor is priceless, in that you do not have to pay for it. It comes to you because of who you are and what you have done, not the money you have paid out.

That being said, sometimes things that come with honors are not free. You can become a member of an honor society, and that membership should be free, along with any certificate, plaque, or pin presented with the honor. But if you want a shirt with that honor society's initials on it, you might have to pay for it. There is a distinct difference between paying for the honor itself and paying to display that honor in the form of additional accoutrements.

Our school is starting its own chapter of National Honor Society, and we will shortly be inviting students to participate. This is an honor that is earned. You cannot campaign for it or solicit it. The honor is based on GPA, good citizenship, and service, and only juniors and seniors are eligible. Please do not ask your advisor to nominate you for membership, and do not feel slighted if you are not selected. Honors are meant to be limited, else they are not honors. If this particular honor does not come to you, there will be others.

Look at yourself. What are your talents? Where do you naturally excel? Do you hone your talents, or do you let them languish? The more you work, the more you serve, the more you improve, the more honors will come to you unsought and unsolicited.

I am not saying you should not seek out honors, but do not let that become a driving force in your life. A man or woman who seeks after honors above all else will have neither accomplishments nor honors. A man or woman who seeks after excellence in all that they do will have both accomplishments and honors beyond all expectation. The better person you are, the better you become, the more likely that honors will seek after you.

Please contact me if you have questions or need help.

Ms. Jeanine Newsom

jnewsom@edkey.org

480-461-3222 ext. 10644

AzMERIT Testing Information

	If your student is enrolled in		State test requirements
Grade Level	Kindergarten	K	No state testing
	First Grade	1	No state testing
	Second Grade	2	No state testing
	Third Grade	3	2-3 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2)
	Fourth Grade	4	3-4 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2, AIMS Science)
	Fifth Grade	5	2-3 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2)
	Sixth Grade	6	2-3 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2)
	Seventh Grade	7	2-3 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2)
	Eighth Grade	8	3-4 Days (Writing, Reading 1&2, Math 1&2, AIMS Science)
	Ninth Grade	9	Depends on enrollment in certain B semester courses, see below
	Tenth Grade	10	AIMS Science; enrollment in certain B semester courses, see below
	Eleventh Grade	11	Depends on enrollment in certain B semester courses, see below
Twelfth Grade	12	Depends on enrollment in certain B semester courses, see below	
EOC course enrollment	English 9 B		1 day (ELA 9 parts 1&2)
	English 10 B		1 day (ELA 10 parts 1&2)
	English 11 B		1 day (ELA 11 parts 1&2)
	Algebra I		1 day (ALG1 parts 1&2)
	Geometry		1 day (GEO parts 1&2)
College course enrollment	Algebra II		1 day (ALG2 parts 1&2)
	College English 101		1 day (ELA 10 parts 1&2)—unless this test has already been taken
	College English 102		1 day (ELA 11 parts 1&2)—unless this test has already been taken
	College MAT 100-110		1 day (ALG1 parts 1&2)—unless this test has already been taken
	College MAT 120-154		1 day (ALG2 parts 1&2)—unless this test has already been taken

AzMerit and AIMS Science State testing is scheduled for the week of March 27th. On average, each section of the test is expected to take 60-90 minutes to complete, and your advisor or elementary teacher will provide more specific information regarding times and locations as they are finalized. It is always an adventure to secure testing locations and school employees to proctor tests across the whole state of Arizona! Our district testing coordinator makes every effort to make sure all students are assigned to a testing center that is a reasonable distance from their homes. Please communicate regularly with your advisor or elementary teacher if there are any questions or concerns regarding scheduling.

FAQ

Q: What if I already took this AzMerit test last semester?

A: The Spring AzMerit list is pulled directly from the student's course enrollment. This means that regardless of your course progress or whether or not you took the AzMerit last semester, if you were enrolled in the class this semester at all, you are required to test.

Q: If I'm enrolled in a college class, why do I need to take an AzMerit test?

A: Part of how we can fund our early college program is by following state laws, such as state testing and high school graduation requirements. It has been determined that if your English or Math college course is being used in the place of those grade-level classes in your high school graduation requirements, we are required to have you test. However, if you have already taken the AzMerit for this particular grade level and are able to provide documentation that you've passed, we can remove you from this testing requirement.

Q: What if I'm in 7th or 8th grade and taking high school classes? Do I need to take AzMerits for my grade level AND the high school EOC tests?

A: Any high school EOC AzMerit test will replace the grade-level exam for that subject. For example, a 7th grader in Algebra I would only take AzMerit tests for EOC Algebra I and English 7.

See Newsletter Calendar of Events for specific date information.

Donate to us!

EDUCATION IS THE FOUNDATION TO
A BRIGHTER FUTURE!



Give 5% Back to Sequoia Choice! Simply make a purchase of qualifying school supplies at Office Depot/Office Max, provide your school ID at checkout and your designated school will receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies! It's a small act that can make a huge difference.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.officedepot.com/a/content/back-to-school/5percent/>

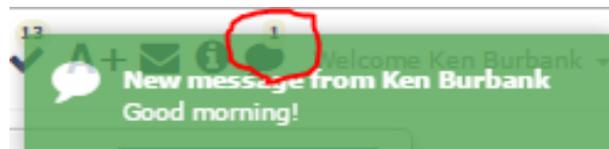
New Instant Messaging app available in ELMS

Have you ever thought of a quick question you'd like to ask your teacher, but dread having to leave your class page to write an email? Well, now there's an app for that!

You will see this icon on the top right of your ELMS screen.

You can click on it to see which of your teachers are online and are ready to receive IMs from you. Even if you just want to say "Hi," your teacher would love to hear from you and see how you're doing in the course.

If your teachers send you an IM, it will show up for you on your ELMS window.

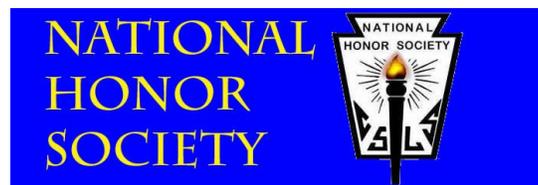


Clicking on it will give you a box to answer instantly. It only stays there for a few seconds, but if you miss it, you will see a number next to the icon for you to retrieve your message and reply. You should glance at it every once in a while to see if your teacher sent you an IM.

We hope you find this new tool helpful in building closer working relationships with your teachers.

NHS Update

The Nomination process is now underway for Sequoia Choice's first National Honor Society Induction. Academic Coaches, Advisors, and Teachers will be submitting names of Juniors and Seniors to the National Honor Society Faculty Council for review. This is truly a wonderful opportunity for our school and—more importantly—our students. This opportunity has the potential to open many doors as they embark further on their Academic Journey!



Youth Leadership Day

**Governor Doug Ducey's Youth Commission
Youth Leadership Day
May 5th, 2017
Grand Canyon University**

**This event is free for high school students and
lunch will be provided!**

The Governor's Youth Commission invites all Arizona high school youth to the 11th annual Youth Leadership Day (YLD) conference. This day provides an opportunity for students across the state to hear inspirational speakers, attend leadership development workshops and network with their peers. Our goal is to motivate Arizona's future leaders to recognize their inherent skills and gain the necessary tools to assist them in positively contributing to the development of a stronger, safer, and more prosperous state. In 2016, YLD was attended by over 600 youth, youth group leaders, and educators. We hope to see you there this year!

Workshops!

Last year we had 20 workshops that focused on anti-bullying, increasing the awareness of substance abuse, how to apply for a college scholarship, finding your leadership style, increasing your civic knowledge, reducing stress, effective communication, AmeriCorps 101, self defense, Native American History, marketing yourself for a job, and MORE!

A full list of workshops will be sent to each group leader in April.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jeanine Newsom at jnewsom@edkey.org or 480-461-3222 ext. 10644.



Friday, May 5, 2017

9:00	Check-in
10:00	Opening Session
10:45	Workshop Session I (50 Minutes)
11:45	Lunch
12:45	Workshop Session II (50 minutes)
1:45	Closing Address
2:30	End of Day

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 Walmart or Amazon 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 parents to be very involved. Our approach is unique in 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.



Growing Up Healthy/Immunization Reminder



Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning offers **FREE** hearing and vision screenings for those of you that would like to have a preliminary screening done on your child. This screening can alert the parent/guardian of possible issues leading to the need of a more thorough examination by their doctor.

Anyone that is interested in setting up a date and time for a hearing/vision screening, please contact Sandy Meek at 480-461-3222 ext. 10652. The screening takes about 10 minutes per child and will be given at our office located at: 2331 N. Home Mesa, AZ 85203. We will give you more specific directions when you set up a date/time.

VACCINATION REMINDER

Students that are going to be entering 6th grade or are going to be turning age 11, are required by the state of Arizona to have the Tdap and MCV (meningococcal) when enrolled in a public charter school.

◆ Statutes and Rules for Immunization Requirements:

[Arizona Revised Statutes 15-871 through 15-874](#)

◆ Arizona School Immunization Requirements: Kindergarten -12th Grade: <http://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/immunization/school-childcare/school-immunization-requirements.pdf>

◆ Please follow this website to locate a listing of clinics in your area:

http://www.mycommunitypt.com/arizona/index.php?option=com_cpx&task=search.query&code=LT-3400.0100

◆ Exemption forms are available from schools and at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/back2school.htm>

If we can help in any way, please feel free to contact us. We care about your children and want to do what we can to help you meet their health and safety needs.



Fry's Rewards



Enjoy shopping at Fry's Food Stores? Want to help raise money for your school? Sequoia Choice AZDL now has a Fry's Community Rewards number! All you have to do is link the number below to your Fry's VIP card and every time you shop, Sequoia Choice gets a percentage of the purchase.

Sequoia Choice AZDL Community Rewards number: 56215

PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P. card to an organization, you must have an email address.

STEP 1: Creating an Online Fry's Account

NOTE: If you already have an online Fry's account, skip to #2

- * Go to <http://www.frysfood.com/>
- * Select Register.
- * Under Sign-in information, enter your e-mail and create a password. **(Write down your e-mail & password; you will need it in step 2.)**
- * Select Use Card Number.
- * Enter your Fry's V.I.P. Card Number, last name, and postal code.
- * Under Select Your Preferred Store, enter your postal code.
- * Select Find Stores.

- * Choose your store then select Create Account.
- * You will then be prompted to check your e-mail for a confirmation e-mail.
- * Click the hyperlink in your e-mail to finish creating your online Fry's account.
- * Continue to step #2 to register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program of your choice.

STEP 2: Register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

- * Go to <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/community?activePage=community-rewards-2>
- * Select Sign in.
- * Enter your e-mail and password then select Sign in. **(This will be the e-mail and password you created in step 1.)**
- * Select My Account then select Account Settings from the drop-down menu.
- * Click Edit under Community Rewards. If prompted, enter personal information.
- * Under Find Your Organization, enter the NPO number (56215) or name of organization (Sequoia Choice), then select Search.
- * Under Select Your Organization, check the box next to your organization.
- * Then select Save changes.
- * If you have registered correctly, you should now see your organization information listed under Community Rewards on your Account Summary page.

Calendar of Events

March 2017

- ◆ 13-17th: No School – Spring Break
- 27th AzMERIT Testing: Writing / AIMS Science if time
- 28th AzMERIT Testing: ELA parts 1&2
- 29th AzMERIT Testing: Math parts 1&2
- 30th AzMERIT Testing: AIMS Science /Make-ups

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