

Sequoia Choice Times

April / May 2017

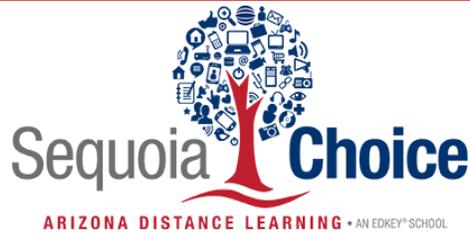
Volume 3
Issue 7

Mailing Address:
2331 N. Horne
Mesa, Arizona 85203

Phone: 480-461-3222
Fax: 480-890-4106
E-mail:
records@edkey.org

In This Issue:

Principal's Letter	1
Counselor's Corner	2
Youth Leadership Day / Comic Con	3
NHS Update / Testing	4
Student Spotlight	5
Refer a Friend / Field Trip	6
Fry's Rewards / Calendar of Events	7



Dear Sequoia Choice Community,

May is one of my favorite months. The month of May brings an opportunity to honor our teachers. As an administrator, it is a pleasure to work with teachers who are always trying to find new ways to improve the learning experience for each student. For each of our students, this may look very different, since each student is unique. One thing that sets Sequoia Choice apart from other distance learning schools is our teachers are also innovators, creators, and stakeholders. Each core class is developed by the teacher. The teachers are constantly trying to do new things in an online environment that may not have been done before. As you can imagine, this keeps our programmers very busy as they try to actualize each teacher's vision.

While the temperatures outside heat up, the teachers become excited about what they can create to improve their courses for the next year. It is always exciting to see what will roll out in the fall to improve each student's learning experience.

May is also a time to honor MOMS! We know that the success of many of our students is because of the effort of a parent who works with us to provide education to their child. We are thankful for the partnerships we have built, and the new ones that will come during summer and fall. We know it takes the effort of many to help a student be successful in an online environment. So "Thank you" for your partnership, support, and dedication in your child's educational journey.

May is GRADUATION month. We are so proud of our students who will be graduating in just a few weeks. All have worked hard, and many have conquered what may have seemed as impossible roadblocks. Our graduates have inspiring stories, and we are proud and honored to have known each one!

Lastly, May is when many of the new partnerships we have been working on throughout the months become a reality instead of a possibility. I am excited to announce our new partnership with Coder Camp. This new partnership will give our high school students the opportunity to become coders with Full Stack knowledge. Watch for information in the next few days announcing our introductory meeting.

Warm Regards,

Cindy Chleborad, M. Ed.
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

Graduation



I invite all of our students and parents to attend graduation and celebrate with us our graduates' achievements. **Graduation will be held in our South Horne campus gym, located at 1460 S. Horne in Mesa on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 7 PM.**

Graduation Preparation

All potential graduates have access to a Graduation Preparation mini-course in myedkey.org, which gives essential information regarding graduation and graduation practice, including date, times, location, FAQ, and so forth. Additionally, there are some small assignments that graduates must complete in the course. These assignments take less than 30 minutes altogether to finish, but they help us make our graduation ceremony memorable for all involved.

Graduate Profiles

As part of the Graduation Preparation course, we ask that potential graduates upload a picture of themselves, answer some survey questions about their future plans, and provide some details about their accomplishments. We use this information to create profiles of our graduates, which we display at graduation. Graduates who attend graduation may then take a copy of their profile home with them.

If you are the parent of a potential graduate, please check with your students to ensure they've completed these activities. If students have already completed an assignment and then have additional information to add, they can certainly do so. A student may have recently received a scholarship, completed a cool project, or participated in an event. If so, that information should be added to the Graduation Preparation course. Please help us honor our graduates and their accomplishments by encouraging your students to be detailed in their responses and to add new information as needed.

Attending Graduation

I imagine that some potential graduates responded No to the RSVP assignment months ago. But as we get closer to the date, hearts and minds may change, and parents may interject that they would really like to see their son or daughter walk across the stage and receive a high school diploma.

We strongly encourage parents and potential graduates to discuss attending graduation. Remind your students that graduation is not just for them, but for their parents, grandparents, families, and friends. We honor our graduates *and* their families, without whom they may not have been able to succeed in high school.

No graduate I've spoken to has ever expressed regret at attending graduation. In fact, the sentiment I most often hear is astonishment, such as, "I'm so glad I came! This was much better than I thought it would be." While we are glad to exceed such modest expectations, we cannot do so if our graduates do not actually come to graduation. The ceremony is generally short, as we are a small school compared to the big district schools. We do not graduate 500 students at a time. Rather, we graduate 20 to 30 students, so it's a smaller, and dare I say, more enjoyable ceremony.

Musical Numbers

We also want our musically inclined students to seriously consider performing at graduation, either in a musical number or the national anthem. Every graduation we've held in the last seven years has had a musical number, and sometimes multiple musical numbers. Last year we even had a dance routine! (It was great!) There is a place in the Graduation Preparation course in which students can indicate their willingness to perform. Please talk with your musical students about performing at graduation. If a graduate has a sibling who is musically talented, we invite them to also consider submitting an audio file for consideration. Details are in the Graduation Preparation course.

National Honor Society Induction

This year, we will be incorporating our National Honor Society induction ceremony into graduation. The induction ceremony will only take a few minutes of the program, but we felt it important for our seniors to be included in NHS. This is our first year hosting an NHS chapter, and we are still finding our way. Graduating students who are accepted into NHS will be inducted and honored, and they will have a special NHS stole that they may wear as part of their graduation regalia.

Conclusion

Graduation is a special time of year, and we strive to make it memorable for every graduate and attendee. While graduation is a milestone on the journey of life, it is a beginning, not an end. We wish all of our graduates success and happiness, and we hope that their time with our school has well prepared them for their future.

I look forward to seeing you at graduation!

Jeanine Newsom
School Counselor
jnewsom@edkey.org
480-461-3222 ext. 10644

Youth Leadership Day

On Friday, May 5th, English teacher, Mr. Jackson and History teacher Mrs. McFarland had the joy of attending Youth Leadership Day at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix along with AZDL students Megan Hall, Annastacia Sheppard, and Ryanne Sheppard. This conference didn't just include student-led workshops and a free lunch, but focused on a variety of important topics such as cyberbullying, being kind, and how to be a leader. Those were just some of the workshop topics. We hope that more Sequoia Choice students will join us next year!



Pictured Left: Students Stacia and Ryanne Sheppard



Pictured Right: Mr. Jackson attempts to participate in the dancing.

See You At Phoenix Comic Con!

If you happen to be going to Phoenix Comic Con, why not attend one of the panels being presented by Sequoia Choice staff member Christin Pike? Not only will you learn a lot of awesome information, but you'll be able to preview our new elective "Mental Health for Youth"!

10:30 am

[Saving Your World - Mental Health & Fandoms :: North 229AB](#)
Saturday May 27, 2017 :: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

12:00 pm

[Muggle Psychology & Wizardry - Mental Health in the World of Harry Potter :: North 231BC](#)
Saturday May 27, 2017 :: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

3:00 pm

[Light & Dark Side - Mental Health in the Star Wars Universe :: North 229AB](#)
Saturday May 27, 2017 :: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

NHS Update

**NATIONAL
HONOR
SOCIETY**

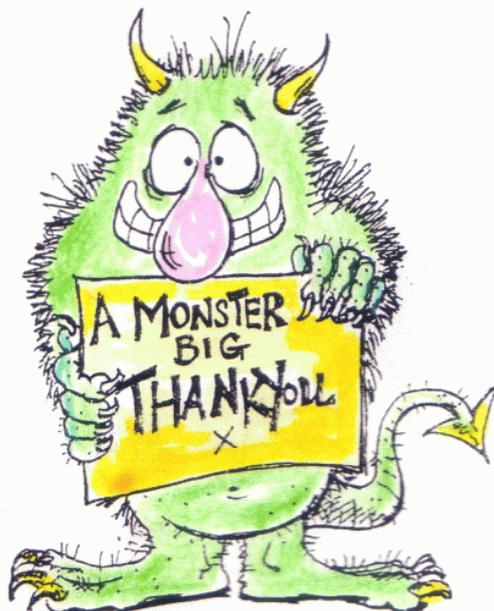


The nomination process is now underway for Sequoia Choice's first National Honor Society Induction. Graduating Seniors who have been nominated have been sent information packets by the chapter advisor, Mr. Tim Jackson. These packets are due back on May 12. Juniors and Sophomores will be nominated and inducted next fall (when they are Seniors and Juniors). This is truly a wonderful opportunity for our school and—more importantly—our students. NHS membership has the potential to open many doors as they embark further on their Academic Journeys.

Thanks for Testing!

Sequoia Choice would like to say thank you to all 430 students who tested and their families!

We're extremely grateful for the time and travel sacrifices made
by our families and our awesome staff!



Student Spotlight

Heaven Scent

By Anastacia Sheppard

*As I try to concentrate on the work I must do,
many voices are trying to push me through.*

*If I fall into the trap that has out laid, there will
but no one to be saved.*

*All through my efforts, the voices not cease, just
one person asking me to plead.*

*I listen not, and struggle hard, but I still end up
falling, as a broken shard.*

*The shard does not clatter, shatter, or break, but
simply keeps falling as sleep does not wake.*

Being mocked, scourged, lonely and rejected,

Dream has been much more than infected.

*I wake from my fallen state, and simply stare. I
try to call for help but there is no one there.*

The red horse whinnies and death is come, though

I still see, I have not won.

*My body stays untouched, but death is still near,
riding on the horse I mentioned by fear.*

*The tears are coming down and sobbing is the
spirit*

Knowing the Joker, I was longing to hear it.

*Am I a ghost? Am I in war? Does he know the
feelings I bore?*

*Yet I not fall, standing by the door. I can't help
but think there is something more.*

Knocking, desperately, the lock needs a key,

Instead, the door opens, and suddenly I see,

*The scent that notions is something like me, Yet I
feel different, like I am free,*

Because heaven has opened and the summit glee,

Dreaming he gave was meant to be,

Now I know Heaven's love from he.

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.



Field Trip to the MIMs!

On April 24th, our elementary students had the opportunity to explore the world of music on a visit to the Musical Instrument Museum. The students participated in a self-guided tour, traveling through five major world regions (Africa and Middle East, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Latin America, and United States/Canada). With more than 6,500 instruments on display the student were kept busy observing and listening to these fascinating, beautiful instruments from about the globe. Students even had the chance to pluck a harp, bang a gong, strum a guitar, and play other unique instruments in the Experience Gallery. What a fun, musical journey!



A couple of the beautiful instruments at the museum and just a handful of the students who attended the fieldtrip.

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 e-mail 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

May

15-25 – Final Exams for Spring Semester

17 – Deadline for graduating students to finish ALL courses and finals.

24 – Graduation: South Horne campus gym, located at 1460 S. Horne in Mesa at 7 PM.

25 – Last Day of School; End of Spring Semester

June

5 – First Day of Summer School

AzMerit score reports will be mailed over the summer.

July

21 – Last Day of Summer School

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