

Sequoia Choice Times

1st Quarter
2017-2018

Volume 4
Issue 1

2331 North Horne
Mesa, Arizona 85203

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

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Dear Sequoia Choice Families,

The 2017-2018 school year is in full swing. The last few weeks have been filled with students learning, teachers teaching, and computers humming. There is no question about it—school success begins at home. Teachers and administrators recognize the important contributions parents make towards a child's success in school. Parents are their child's model, advocate and cheerleader.

The partnership between parents and the school is an important component of a student's success. Our school recognizes the exceptional strength of our parents and their commitment to their child's education. It is the intention of our school to have a partnership between the home and school that works together in the best interest of the child.

Strong parental involvement is cornerstone to a successful distance learning experience. Sequoia Choice – Arizona Distance Learning has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents. It is important to children that their parents are involved in their education. We hope that throughout this year we can continue to strengthen this relationship in a variety of ways.

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 25, 2017. The fee is \$16. 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 to 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. Also, check out my [Financial Aid](#) page on the [Counselor's Corner](#).

All High School Students:

Check out the [Counselor's Corner](#) on the school website. I have lots of great information online for you. 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.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jeanine Newsom

School Counselor

jnewsom@edkey.org

480-461-3222 ext. 10644

Testing Information

Benchmarks: Galileo



New to the 2017-2018 school year, we are adding a Science benchmark for students in 4th, 8th, and 10th grade, regardless of current enrollment in a science course. The purpose for this benchmark is to help identify content areas that need remediation prior to the Spring 2018 AIMS Science test, which is a state requirement for students in these grades.

Students in grades K-6 as well as special programs (independent study/Williamsburg) will be expected to take English and Math benchmarks according to the following schedule:

- CBAS #1: 8/28 - 9/15
- CBAS #2: 1/16-1/26
- CBAS #3: 4/30-5/11

Students in grade 7-12 English and Math courses will find benchmarks embedded into certain points of their class. This will allow teachers to better monitor student success as they progress through the course. In general, CBAS#1 takes place at the beginning of semester 1 (A) courses, while CBAS#2 takes place at the beginning of semester 2 (B) courses, with CBAS#3 at the very end.

The website for benchmarks is www.ati-galileo.com and the username/password under the K-12 Student-Parent Center should be the same as your MyEdkey login. 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.

State Testing: AzMERIT & AIMS Science

Information regarding AzMerit and AIMS Science, including study guides and sample tests, can be found at the state website for Assessments: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/>

Who will test:

- ⇒ Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 will be required to take the AIMS Science exam for their grade level. Students in 9th grade can choose to test early if they are taking a high school Biology course.

- ⇒ Students in grades 3-8 will be required to take an English and Math AzMerit exam that corresponds to their grade level.
- ⇒ Students enrolled in the following “B” or second semester courses will be required to take the corresponding AzMerit in the semester that is expected to be completed. Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English 9, English 10, and English 11. These tests are called “EOC” for End of Course.
- ⇒ Students taking a special programs class (College, Williamsburg, etc.) which will replace one of the above EOC courses on their high school transcript.
- ⇒ Students enrolled in both grade-level and EOC AzMerit (such as an 8th grader taking high school courses for Math or English) will only have to take the EOC AzMerit.

When will we test:

Fall 2017: Computer-based window for EOC AzMerit ONLY

- ◇ November 6 – December 1. Writing must be completed by November 17.

Spring 2018: Computer-based window for 3-8 and EOC AzMerit, and AIMS Science 4, 8, & 10

- ◇ April 2 – April 13 Writing
- ◇ April 2 – April 20 Math, Reading, and Science



Civics Test

In order to graduate, students must pass a proctored Civics test with at least 60%. This test is administered through Galileo, and can be taken at any time between 8th grade and graduation. Study materials, including all the questions and answers, can be found here:

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

Hearing and Vision Screening

Attention all AZDL Parents:

WANT TO GET YOUR STUDENT'S HEARING



AND VISION



CHECKED??

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 their child. This screening can alert the parent/guardian of possible issues leading to the need of a more thorough examination by a doctor.

Anyone who is interested in setting up an appointment for a hearing/vision screening, please contact Sandy Meek at 480 -461-3222 ext. 10652. The screening takes about ten minutes per child and will be given at our office located at 2331 N. Horne, 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 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 this link: <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.

Refer a Friend



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 Wal-Mart 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 complete 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.

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 your new address so that we can update our records. This way, we will be able 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



New Electives for You!

Do You Currently Have a Job?

Sequoia Choice offers a Work Study class for students who are working part- or full-time. To be eligible for credit, students must work a minimum of 60 hours during an 18-week semester. You can earn a maximum of one elective credit per school year. If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact your advisor or the Work Study coordinator Mrs. Smith (jsmith@edkey.org).



For students who are not currently employed, an Introduction to the Working World class is also available for elective credit.

Introducing Ms. Crawford



Hi ! My name is Ms. Crawford and I'm very excited to be teaching middle school science at Sequoia Choice distance learning school! I started working here around three months ago and I'm loving it! I'm looking forward to a year of learning, fun, and working with all of you! Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in

India and then I came to the U.S for higher studies after I had completed my two Bachelor degrees in India and had worked there for some time. I grew up in different metropolitans in India and had traveled to a few foreign countries while I was growing up.

I completed my Master's degree at Southwest Texas State University. I worked in Austin, Texas for a few years and then moved to Arizona. I love dance and have performed the Indian classical dance form for many years. I also love the Latin dances and I do the two-step too! I am a makeup artist in my spare time and my other passion is to help our four-legged furry friends (cats and dogs) by rescuing them.

Calendar of Events

October 2017

- ◆ 9-15: Fall Break= NO SCHOOL

November 2017

- ◆ 6: Computer-Based AzMERIT Testing opens through December 1st. Writing must be completed by November 17.
- ◆ 11: Veterans Day — school offices closed
- ◆ 23-24: Thanksgiving Holiday — school offices closed

December 2017

- ◆ Next Newsletter

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