

Sequoia Choice Times

2nd Quarter
2018-2019

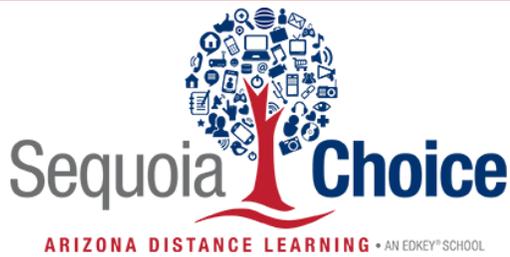
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In This Issue:

Principal's Letter	1
Counselor's Corner	2
Winter Break/Attendance	3
Important Dates/Elective Options	4
Thank You	5
IDs/Student Spotlight	6
Growing Up Healthy/Refer a Friend	7-8
Update Your Info / Calendar of Events	9



Dear Sequoia Choice Community,

What a fantastic first semester we've had! Students have been working extremely hard and turning in assignments left and right. I've heard from our teachers how consistently this work has been flowing in. With the end of the semester approaching, it's important to keep up this momentum as students resume their courses at the start of the spring semester. Be sure that all attendance hours are entered weekly, as well as checking e-mail on a daily basis.

The end of the semester is here! Our flexible schedule allows for students to work at their own pace year round. As a reminder, this upcoming holiday break is a great opportunity for your student(s) to get caught up or even more ahead. It's important for all students to stay on track for graduation, and to develop good habits for their lives ahead.

Please remember that teachers will be observing a two-week break. Therefore, they will not be expected to respond to e-mails, grade submitted assignments, keep open office hours, or participate in virtual classroom sessions.

Have a happy and safe break!

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

The weather has turned, the winter solstice is but days away, and soon our students and teachers alike will have a well-deserved break from school. I am sure that many of you are anticipating what gifts you will receive come Christmas Day. Even if you do not celebrate Christmas in your family, you know what this time of year brings.

Yet, when I think of Christmases past, what comes to mind is not presents I received, but rather gifts given, time with family, and service rendered. Think back yourself. What do you remember most of your Christmases and holiday celebrations from your childhood? (It was not so long ago, after all!) Was it that game you were eagerly anticipating and gleefully received on Christmas? Or was it instead the Christmas concert you attended as a family? Or perhaps the time you spent serving others?

May I share a memory of a Christmas from my own childhood?

When I was a child, my family occasionally went on vacation trips during the summer. One summer while we were away, lightning struck our house during a storm, and it caught on fire. The fire department came and quickly put out the fire, saving our home. Even so, everything in our attic was lost, including our Christmas tree and all of our ornaments, some of which had been handed down from my mother's grandparents. Additionally, our home became unlivable for a few months while repairs were being done.

Money was tight that Christmas, and we knew we would not receive many presents that year. We did not have funds to purchase a bunch of new ornaments for the tree, and the fact that we even had a tree was something! We were back living in our home by Christmas, for which we were thankful, but our tree looked so forlorn and bare with the lights we had been able to buy, along with the single star on top.

Thus, my parents decided that we would make our own ornaments. Since many of the makers of said ornaments were children ten and under, what we produced did not look very good, but a great deal of heart went into their making. It was our leanest Christmas ever, but it was also the most memorable because of the time we spent together as a family making those ornaments. And you know what? Those oddly shaped and inexpertly made ornaments are some of the most cherished in our family today, adorning the trees in my mother's and siblings' homes in places of honor.

What made that Christmas special was not the gifts, few in number that they were, but the memories of time spent together. In fact, I have no idea what gifts I received that year, yet I have a clear memory of sitting at the table carefully putting together ornaments with my family. I see in my mind's eye my mother and father and sisters all around me, working together and enjoying Christmas, even without many of the trappings to which we had become accustomed.

My mother volunteers at a food bank every week, and she arranges for a family service project at Christmas time each year. We all look forward to it. Service is important to her, and so it is important to her children. We have many cherished memories of our service projects as a family.

These are only two examples, but I have many others. You may say that you do not have many happy memories of the holiday season. You are young yet, so start now to create new memories that you can fondly recall in years to come. How, you may ask, do you do that?

It's simple. Over the break, I encourage you to look around you and see what service you can perform for others. Perhaps it's something simple, such as being intentionally kinder to your siblings and parents, or something more formal, such as volunteering somewhere. Start a habit now of serving, and it will last you a lifetime. Memories of your service will linger in the hearts of those you help. And through service, not only do you help others, you also help yourself. Perhaps someday, years from now, you will look back and see how you grew and became a better person through your service to others. Additionally, your service will bring warm memories to your own heart and mind in years to come. Believe me, you won't remember your presents, but you will remember the smiles of those whom you served.

And now, you wonder, what does all this have to do with preparing for college and a career? Well, not a lot, but it does pertain. Becoming a better person is always important, no matter what you do or where you go in life. Additionally, colleges and universities like students who spend time on community service. But that's not the point of service. The point is to help, in however small a way, a person in need.

To end, I would like to quote from Dr. Suess's immortal classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. As the Grinch realizes that the Whos down in Whoville are still celebrating Christmas despite having lost every Christmas gift, decoration, and food item, he comes to a startling conclusion, to him at least:

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store."
"Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!"

May you have a merry Christmas and happy holiday season. May it be filled with love and laughter, warm memories created and shared, and above all, may you learn to give service freely and unselfishly.

Jeanine Newsom, School Counselor
Sequoia Choice – AZDL
480-461-3222 ext. 10644
Fax: 480-890-4106
[Counselor's Corner on the Website](#)
[How to Request a Transcript](#)

Winter Break

Just a reminder that Winter Break is Friday, December 21 through Friday, January 4. Please keep in mind that the Choice office will be closed between Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1. The office staff will return on Wednesday, January 2, and the spring semester will start on Monday, January 7.



Submitting Attendance Regularly

Update on Attendance Submissions for Home-based Families

Important Update: We receive funding from Arizona based on our enrollment numbers. However, the Arizona Department of Education collects our attendance submissions, and later the state takes back funding for missing attendance! This causes a lot of troubles and disrupts what can be done for students!

As we are nearing the end of each month, it is critical that ALL attendance be completely up-to-date. Please take a moment now to update any missing attendance from this month, and set a reminder to submit attendance for each week. Please do what it takes to ensure your attendance is in on Fridays, or if it can be reliably done, by Sunday.



Ballet and Dance at the Community College



High school students can also take electives with the colleges. There are always modern dance classes available, but now Chandler Gilbert has a ballet teacher that is classically experienced as well. Look for the teacher Stacy Wisniewski. Check with your advisor about doing early college classes!

Important Spring Dates to Remember!

Here is a list of the dates that students may sign up to take the ACT or SAT this semester:

ACT

- ◆ Test Date: February 9 (registration deadline is January 11; late registration deadline with added fee is January 18)
- ◆ Test Date: April 13 (registration deadline is March 8; late registration deadline with added fee is March 25)
- ◆ Test Date: June 8 (registration deadline is May 3; late registration deadline with added fee is May 20)
- ◆ Test Date: July 13 (registration deadline is June 14; late registration deadline with added fee is June 24)

SAT

- ◆ Test Date: March 9 (registration deadline is February 8; late registration deadline with added fee is February 27)
- ◆ Test Date: May 4 (registration deadline is April 5; late registration deadline with added fee is April 24)
- ◆ Test Date: June 1 (registration deadline is May 3; late registration deadline with added fee is May 22)

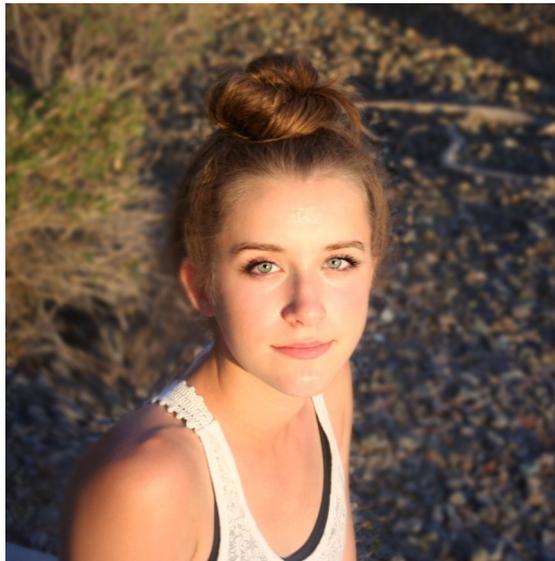
The **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens for the 19-20 school year on October 1. All college-bound seniors should submit one.

Need a School ID?

Do you need a new student ID for this school year? Send a picture of yourself to your advisor and they will have one printed for you in the office.



Student Spotlight



Audrey Wells was nominated by her CIS105 instructor and selected for the Outstanding Student Award, Fall 2018 at Glendale Community College. It is an award of recognition for Excellence, Effort, and Achievement. She earned the distinction for the fall semester out of the 3000+ students at Glendale Community College. This was a tremendous honor. This was also Audrey's first semester participating in Sequoia Choice's Early College Credit program. Her family moved to Arizona from Oregon the summer of 2018.

Growing Up Healthy



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 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 5-10 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 who 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.

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Health Services website below for information on the Arizona School Immunization Requirements for K-12 graders, Immunization Exemption Forms and Arizona State Statutes and Rules for Immunization Requirements:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/immunization/index.php#schools-immunization-forms>

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

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/immunization/index.php#get-vaccinated>

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 and families. 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 22nd 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 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



Calendar of Events

December 2018

- ◆ 21: Last Day of Fall Semester; main office will close at 1 PM

March 2019

- ◆ 9: SAT Test Date
- ◆ 11-15: Spring Break

January 2019

- ◆ 2: Main office reopens for normal business hours
- ◆ 7: Spring Semester Begins
- ◆ 11: ACT Registration Deadline
- ◆ 21: NO SCHOOL

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

February 2019

- ◆ 8: SAT Registration Deadline
- ◆ 9: ACT Test Date
- ◆ 18: NO SCHOOL