

Sequoia Choice Times - Academic Center Edition

Sequoia Choice—
Arizona Distance
Learning



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December 2014

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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.

Dear Students and Families,

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. Be sure that your student(s) attendance hours are entered weekly, as well as checking email on a daily basis.

The end of the semester is right around the corner! 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.

Remember that teachers will be observing a two week break. Therefore, they will not be expected to respond to emails or grade submitted assignments. However, the office will be open to answer any questions you may have.

Best Wishes,

Cindy Chleborad
Principal

McKinney-Vento Information

Attention Students and Families!

Is your family living in one of the following situations?

- In a motel or campground due to lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- In a shelter
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

If so, we can help you. Please contact our homeless liaison, Ashlie Hancock at 480-834-7400 for help.

Student Spotlight

Stating on November 14, I had the chance to attend a Future Medical Leaders Conference hosted by the National Academy of Future Physicians in Washington D.C. It was a three day conference for high school students interested in careers in the medical field. People from all areas of medicine came to speak about their career and what they did to reach where they are today. On the second day of the conference, I watched a live surgery taking place in Chicago. The medical technology used for surgeries now is amazing! The two most important things that all of the speakers emphasized was dedication and perseverance. The trip was an awesome experience and I hope more students get the chance to experience it!

~Lauren G



State Tax Credit

Are you looking for a tax credit? If so, we can help! Single people can donate up to \$200.00 and married couples can donate up to \$400.00. If you would like more information, please contact Christin at [480-461-3222](tel:480-461-3222)

Mascot Contest Extended

Do you draw? Are you interested in drawing? Then, this is great news for you! The Mascot Competition has been extended until January 9, 2015. If you are interested in designing a mascot for our school please contact any of your teachers or advisors to get more information. Get creative and have fun!

Counselor's Corner

In Lewis Carroll's tale of *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice falls down the rabbit hole and becomes lost. She subsequently encounters the Cheshire Cat in the woods and stops to ask him a question:

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where—" said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Much like Alice, if you do not care or know where you are going, then it does not matter which road you take. But if you do care—and I certainly hope you do!—then you must choose your road to fit your destination.

Each high school student has a graduation plan. The graduation plan shows not only what you have completed, but what courses you need to take and when. If you follow your graduation plan, you will graduate in a timely manner. If you do not follow your graduation plan—by failing courses, not taking the courses you need, or taking a long time to complete your courses—then your graduation will be delayed.

Have you seen your graduation plan? Did you work with your advisor or coach to create it? Do you know when you will graduate? If you do not know the answers to these questions, then I suggest you contact your advisor/coach today and ask about your graduation plan.

Take ownership of your graduation plan! Your advisor/coach is there to do exactly as their job title says: advise and coach you. It is ultimately up to you to follow through and actually do the work. No goal can be achieved without effort and work. Ask your advisor for a copy of your grad plan. If you want to change something, talk to him or her about it. As you take responsibility for your graduation plan, you will feel better about yourself and your progress. When you do graduate, it will be all the sweeter of an experience because you will know that you achieved your goal that you planned for and set out to do.

Plan your destination, chart your course, and you will achieve your goal. Otherwise, you will be like Alice, wandering in the woods with no idea of where you are going or how to get there.

As a sidenote: The semester is winding to a close, so you should think about what classes you need to take next semester. Have you discussed them with your advisor? If you are taking college courses, have you registered for them and gotten your advisor's approval? The time to do so is now, before all the course sections you want are filled up!

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.

Ms. Newsom

Happenings in Tonopah

1. Lauren G. a 16 yr old jr - a full time college student - was invited to the National Academy of Future Medical Professionals & Scientist! She just returned from a wonderful week long trip to Washington DC!
2. We are taking a field trip on 12/4. We are dining at Caraba's before heading to Hale Center Theater for front row seats to 'A Christmas Carole'!
3. We are headed to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center in Tucson on 12/9! We will be planning, mapping & digging in the dirt for artifacts for 5 hrs! We our two college students are taking an archaeology course, we have one student that wants to be an archaeologist and another that wants to be a geologist!
4. We will be filling & sending Christmas boxes to soldiers to show our appreciation!

Happenings in TRC

Adopt A US Soldier is a non-profit organization that seeks volunteers to help show the brave men and women fighting for our freedom that their sacrifices will not go unnoticed. It connects supportive civilians with deployed troops and offers a channel by which to communicate encouragement and express gratitude to those brave men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

TRC students have choose to adopt one soldier throughout is deployment (SGT John Mack). We have started to send out letters this week and will be sending out a care package soon. We are collecting any **hygiene products, trail mix** and **candy** since these items are limited where he is located.

If you have any of these items to donate please send them to:

Thunderbird Resource Center

15650 N. Black Canyon Highway Suite B245

Phoenix, Arizona 85053

Breakfast with the Mayor

Sequoia Choice - Havasu students had the opportunity to prepare, cook and serve a meal to 92 of the Lake Havasu Yacht Club members on Friday, [November 14th](#). The five students prepared Roasted Pork Loin with cranberry sauce, fresh yams, green bean casserole, raspberry spinach salad and a delightful Pumpkin Crisp dessert. Everything was cooked from scratch and the results were outstanding. The Yacht Club has asked for us to prepare another meal in December.

Students in the picture L to R: Bryon John, Dalton Tuttle, Kevin Maddox, Destini Martin, Jacob Saiz and Commodore Peggy Lawler.



Myers, Briggs, Jung Personality Test: A bit of Discovery for All of Us

Understanding who we are, and what motivates us is one of the most important and rewarding puzzles to piece together! Whether we're students or experienced teachers, we're constantly changing and growing and learning more about ourselves, and the world around us. One thing that is unique for each of us is how we personally interact with the world around us – the more we understand that, the more we can embrace the learning and changes we're constantly experiencing.

One free assessment that may guide you in this discovery is the **Myers, Briggs, Jung Personality Test**. It is found on the website below – choose the “**Jung Typology Test**”. You're of course welcome to explore as much as you want! Best of all – you can do a lot of exploring for free!

<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/itypes1.html>

After you complete the Jung Typology Test, explore the website a bit more to understand what each of the four letters really mean. If you come out almost equal between two traits, be sure to learn about each. Judging, for example, has nothing to do with judging other people – it's about how you process information. You can further explore and get ideas on how understanding your profile can impact many areas of your life, including in relationships with others and in your future career.

Whether you do this as a family activity, with some friends, or alone during some quiet time during vacation, you may find this a very enjoyable and productive way to invest (not just spend!) time during your Christmas break!

Merry Christmas!

Lucy Hamblin – ECAP Coordinator

Accreditation Update

In November of 2014, Sequoia Choice – Arizona Distance Learning was re-accredited by AdvancED and passed with flying colors! Accreditation is a five year cycle which involves intense data collection, self-assessments, and culminates in a site visit from representatives from AdvancED. During their visit this November, the accreditation team was especially impressed with the diversity of our students. AdvancED recognizes that Sequoia Choice – Arizona Distance Learning is dedicated to continual improvement as a school and in meeting the needs of individual students and families. Thank you to the students, parents, and staff that participated in the 2014 Accreditation!

AzMERIT Parent Information

With the announcement last month of the AzMERIT test, you may have some questions regarding how it will impact your student(s). The state is continuing to develop policies regarding this newest assessment. We're anxiously awaiting to hear more details from the Arizona Department of Education to see how this will affect us as an online school, as well as your family.

Please visit the ADE website to stay up to date:

<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>

To read the ADE letter to parents, see:

English version: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/parent-letter.pdf>

Spanish version: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/parent-letter-spanish.pdf>

Calendar of Events

December

22-January 2: Holiday Break— **NO SCHOOL**

January

5: School Resumes

19: Civil Rights Day – **NO SCHOOL**

February

16: President's Day – **NO SCHOOL**

27: Staff Professional Development Day (Students may still access courses during staff training)

March

16-20: Spring Break— **NO SCHOOL**

April

3rd: April Break- **NO SCHOOL**

May

1: Staff Professional Development Day (Students may still access courses during staff training)

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