

Sequoia Choice Times

Sequoia Choice— Arizona Distance Learning



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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
Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning

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

An annual holiday tradition has begun! Performances of "The Nutcracker", by Ballet Etudes, are already enchanting audiences at the Chandler Center for the Performing Arts and the Mesa Arts Center. One special performer that will assist Clara on her magical journey is none other than Sequoia Choice student Mikaela W! She will be a featured soloist in the Arabian vignette and as the Snow Queen. This production also includes international ballet stars dancing side by side with other company members.

Tickets may still be available, but they're going fast! : <http://www.balletetudes.net/the-nutcracker-1.html>



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

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

23: Testing- Writing

24: Testing- Reading

25: Testing- Math

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

Remember that students may still access courses during staff training and holidays! It's a great time to get caught up or get ahead!!!!