

Quarterly Newsletter

August (*Shopol Es' big Mashath*) 2018

GOVERNING BOARD

President, Ms. Jane Johnson
Clerk, Mrs. Elaine Moyah
Member, Ms. Anika Evans
Member, Mrs. Laurie Thomas
Member, Vacant

District Superintendent: [Cheryl Paul](#)

District Website: www.sacatonschools.org

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Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year. We are excited to have this opportunity to work collaboratively with students, teachers, families and community members to guide the direction of Sacaton Elementary School District. As we engage in another exciting year of learning and growing together, the focus will include applying Standards-Based Practices (SBP) in classroom instruction and student assessment. We believe the primary goal of grading is to provide feedback to both students and families about a student's progress in the learning process.

What are Standards-Based Practices?

The purpose of SBP is to measure a student's performance and product against defined grade level expectations. In a SBP reporting system, grades reflect what a student knows and can do, as outlined in the Arizona State Standards. Teachers in Grades K-8 will base report card grades on academic achievement and effort.

What is the difference between Standards-Based Practices and traditional grading?

Traditional grading is easy to spot because it typically involves:

- Simple letter grades
- Assessments based on teacher-defined criteria
- A single overall grade per student based on a combination of related and unrelated assessments of skills, knowledge, performance, and conduct over a period of time

Traditional grading results in a very limited measure of a student's abilities; the A on a child's report card might thrill parents (families), but this grade does not convey precise information. SBP overcome this problem. The essential qualities of SPB involve:

- Rubrics with meaningful labels
- Assessments based on specific state, district or school-wide standards
- Multiple grades per student: one grade for each standard that reflects the student's achievement related to the standard

How do Standards-Based Practices work?

Traditional grading averages all of the work and other factors that a student has done over a quarter or

semester. This includes the practice of identified skills found in daily homework or the perceived effort a student may have demonstrated. SBP focuses solely on proficiency and removes extraneous factors such as effort, missing practice or attendance. SBP assesses a student's overall work and their most recent work, so it truly reflects what a student has learned and what they know.

We urge you to become actively involved in your child's education and a partner to our school. One way to help your child succeed in school is to know the four school-wide rules and procedures so that you can reinforce school expectations. Another way is to become familiar with the standards taught to your child. You can accomplish both of these tasks by attending **Meet the Teacher Night scheduled for August, 2nd**. Take these opportunities to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom, tour the campus, and meet the principal and other staff members who impact your child's education.

Together we will accomplish more and improve education at Gila River as Sacaton students are ready to [Be the Change](#). YES!

Two Schools, One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!

Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent

@cherryl_paul



SESD 2018-2019 District Goals with Alignment and Integration

ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION

From the Governing Board Room to the Classroom



**Sacaton Elementary School District
Goals 2018-2019**



1. Domain: Results

Performance Data

Goal: Support data collection, optimize instructional delivery, and enhance student engagement with programs and services that develop and nurture every student.

2. Domain: Leadership

Vision for Learning and Achievement

Goal: Participate in a Strategic Planning process designed to capture the voice of stakeholders to inform a meaningful and relevant Strategic Plan (2018-2023).

3. Domain: Systems Alignment and Integration

Safe, Orderly, and Engaging Learning Environment

Goal: Ensure the safety and security of all buildings; provide intellectually inspiring learning spaces focusing on the social and emotional growth of students.

4. Domain: Processes

Appreciative Inquiry Culture

Goal: Document, deploy, and monitor processes with fidelity demonstrating collaborative problem-solving techniques.

5. Domain: Capacity Building

Human Development

Goal: Provide opportunities to engage all employee groups in programs and initiatives.

Important Upcoming Events and Announcements

- Meet and Greet BBQ—August 2 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- GRIC Teacher In-Service—August 10th (No School)
- Lunch with Superintendent Paul—September 19 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in Room D8 at the Middle School.
- Native American Day—September 21st (No School)
- Fall Break—October 15th through 19th (No School)

New Staff Joining the Sacaton Family

Sacaton Schools would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Sacaton Braves!



Wanda Burton—ES Principal	Andre Gillespie—MS Principal
Briena Sundell—ESS Teacher	Sadie Tristam—Preschool Para
Arlisa Crank-Townsend—MS Guidance Counselor	Laura Dominguez—Kindergarten Teacher
Brooke Maracle—6 th Grade Teacher	Kevin Voit—MS Behavior Intervention Specialist
Christa Rees—Financial Operations Manager	
Pascale Lim-Monot—6 th Grade Teacher	Kelly Fry—Preschool Para
Sonya Prince—2 nd Grade Teacher	Emily Aros—ES Physical Education Teacher
Rachel Andrasek—Preschool Teacher	

SESD Welcomes New Elementary and Middle School Principals

Mrs. Wanda Burton and Mr. Andre Gillespie are the new principals at the elementary and middle school, respectively. They will serve the Community and families as instructional leaders in improving education in Sacaton and Gila River!



Mrs. Burton has been a nurse at CIGNA Healthplan in pediatrics, urgent care, and an allergy office. She also taught nursing at the Bryman School. When her first child entered kindergarten, she became a stay at home mom and homeroom mom. This is where she found her passion for teaching in elementary education. She took online classes to become a teacher when her youngest child started pre-school and completed her student teaching during her youngest child's first grade year. Mrs. Burton became a first grade teacher when her child promoted to second grade. After seven years of teaching first grade, she moved to third grade to help students pass math and science on state tests. She became National Board Certified in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts to further improve her skills to meet the needs of her students. Mrs. Burton remained in the classroom for 13 years teaching ELL, gifted, after-school enrichment classes and volunteered as a leader and coach for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, softball, soccer, and basketball. She believes experience and exposure is critical to education, so she encouraged her children and the children she works with to embrace opportunities. This is her true passion as a teacher, leader, and mother...to make opportunities available to children to learn and grow through obstacles and failures as they strive to reach personal success to build and sustain a better world.



Mr. Gillespie is an experienced building level administrator who has served as an administrator in several large metropolitan school districts across the country. He has nearly twenty years of experience as an administrator at both the elementary and middle school levels. Before earning a promotion into administration, Mr. Gillespie began his educational career as an elementary physical education teacher and a teacher of Spanish. He has served in the United States Army Reserves within the engineering division. During his military service, he deployed to several Central American countries where he continued to serve and learn more about leadership, teamwork, and Spanish. Through his experiences, he has become a systematic and passionate educational leader who works to make a difference in the lives of those whom he serves.

Sports News



The new school year is upon us and we have exciting news to share from the athletics department for Sacaton Elementary School District! The Sacaton Braves will be participating in a new athletic conference, Signal Peak Athletic Conference, for the 2018-2019 school year. Members of this conference are: Sacaton School District, Cactus Middle School (Casa Grande), Villago Middle School (Casa Grande), Casa Grande Middle School, Stanfield, and St. Anthony (Casa Grande). In addition to our current sports opportunities, membership in the new conference gives our students an opportunity to showcase their talents in areas that were not available in the past, such as track and

field and cross country running. The sports season calendar has also been adjusted with membership in the new conference. Start time for all sporting events, both home and away, is now 4:30 p.m. The later start time will allow for increased attendance at the events to help support our marvelous student athletes as they pursue their passion of their chosen sport(s). See the listing below for sports that Sacaton Elementary School District has to offer.

Sport	Dates
Volleyball; Boys' Soccer	August 13 th – October 5 th
Girls' Soccer; Flag Football; Cross Country Running	October 18 th – December 17 th
Baseball, Girls' Basketball	January 8 th – March 5 th
Girls' Softball; Boys' Basketball; Track & Field	March 11 th – May 8 th

Schedules for the respective sport seasons are posted on the District website. We look forward to seeing you at the games supporting our student athletes...Go Braves!

School Uniforms

SESD has the following dress code:

DRESS CODE

Any attire that detracts from the learning environment is not acceptable. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of self and others. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to assure compliance with the dress code. All students must be in uniform unless otherwise notified. Students without uniforms will be required to call home. Students are given a two-week grace period to comply with the dress code from the time that they enroll. (District Policy: JICA, JK-R and A.R.S. 15-341)

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Light blue (Polo shirts, t-shirts or collared shirts) School logo permitted. Navy blue pants, blue jeans, or blue shorts (no rivets, studs, chains, splits/slits) are permissible.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Light yellow or gold (Polo shirts, t-shirts or collared shirts) School logo permitted. Navy blue pants, blue jeans, or blue shorts (no rivets, studs, chains, splits/slits) are permissible.

- All students will wear the designated school uniform and or **approved shirt affiliated with a school club or activity.**
- Baggy or over-sized uniforms are not acceptable and will not be allowed.
- No undergarments should be showing. Girls may wear shorts under their skirts provided they do not show.
- No hats/caps of any type may be worn indoors.
- Students are encouraged to wear covered shoes for safety reasons (no slippers, sandals, open-toed shoes, or flip flops).
- Students who are not in compliance with Dress Code guidelines may be subject to discipline.
- Parents/guardians are notified in advance of Dress down days.

To help families comply with the dress code, uniform colored t-shirts can be purchased at the front office at each campus. The cost is 2 shirts for \$5.00.

Providing EXCEPTIONAL student services: Mission Possible for the ESS staff!

As we begin an exciting new school year, the Exceptional Student Services (ESS) staff will be focusing on ensuring that all of our students have access to appropriate services to enable them to make progress in the general education curriculum. Our department has worked closely with the principals to ensure that the master schedules are reflective of our students' needs and in the least restrictive environment. One critical component to any student's success is daily attendance. Our staff will be spending a lot of time preparing engaging, rigorous, and focused lessons and we don't want any student to miss a minute of instruction.

**The whole purpose
of education is to turn
mirrors into windows.**



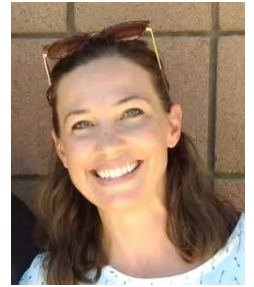
Sacaton Elementary School District will be teaming up with Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department Child Development and Education Support Services to offer multiple Child Find screening dates during the school year should any parent have a concern about their child that does not currently go to school. Information will be coming soon! Should you have any questions about this process, please contact the ESS Office at: (520) 562-8600 ext. 2030.



The Nurse's Corner



SESD is grateful for our school nurses as part of a partnership with Gila River Health Care. Mrs. Kari Zorad (right) and Ms. Gloria Lucas (left) are currently serving as our school nurses at each campus Monday through Friday during school hours to help ensure the safety and well-being of Sacaton Students.



The following are important reminders:

- All 11 yr. olds will need TDAP and MCV immunizations to start school. Immunizations are dependent on when a child turns 11 and not by grade level.
- Health screenings will occur on the following dates: Elementary School--August 27th through August 31st; Middle School--September 4th through September 7th. Please make sure your child is present and wearing their prescribed eyeglasses.

8 Habits of Highly Effective People

As a district, we want all of our students and staff to succeed in life. In May, our Governing Board Members adopted a set of core values for Sacaton Elementary School District: Empowerment, Compassion, Respect, Vision, and Community. To help us successfully teach these core values to our students, we are implementing the 8 Habits of Highly Effective People. Teachers will be modeling, learning, and teaching one of the 8 habits every month.

August--Habit 1: Be Proactive; September--Habit 2: Begin with an End in Mind; October--Habit 3: Put First Things First; November--Habit 4: Think Win-Win; December--Review Habits 1-4; January--Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood; February--Habit 6: Synergize; March--Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw; April--Habit 8: Find Your Voice.

Below is a list of books that you can read to your child to reinforce these habits:

- *The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Habit*, Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *Bread and Jam for Frances*, Russell Hoban
- *D.W. the Picky Eater*, Marc Brown
- *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Teasing*, Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *Sam Who Never Forgets*, Eva Rice
- *Good People Everywhere* by Lynea Gillian
- *Whose Hands Are These?: A Community Helper Guessing Book* by Miranda Paul
- *The Red Umbrella* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez



Digital Footprint: Your Digital Self



When we walk across the desert floor, we leave our tracks on the ground that shows where we have come from and where we are going. When we go on the Internet and visit various sites, we leave a digital trail of our Internet usage. The trail you leave is your digital footprint. Your digital footprint says a lot about how you navigate the Internet and also about you.

Traditionally, Internet safety resources tended to focus on the negative and promoted a culture of fear. This isn't helpful for our children. Today's children are generally heavy internet users. In a recent survey, one in four children under the age of six has a smartphone and nearly half of these spend up to twenty-one hours per week on their devices. Encouraging students to avoid doing anything online isn't the answer. "When you write the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen." This quote from a Harley Davidson commercial really says it quite nicely when it comes to our digital footprints. We have some control.

Kathleen Morris is a primary school teacher. She has come up with "Ten things young people need to know about digital footprints."

1. When you visit websites, conduct searches and/or interact online, you leave a trail of information behind.
2. Elements of your digital footprints can be searched or shared.
3. Your digital footprint can be helpful or harmful to your reputation now and in the future.
4. Once online, things (i.e. posted pictures, comments) can exist forever, even if deleted.
5. Please, please think! Before you post online.
6. Information (even of a personal nature) or opinions sent to one person can be shared with a larger audience without your permission or knowledge.
7. Googling yourself can be a good habit to get into.
8. Old or inactive accounts should be disabled or deleted.
9. Keep personal details private. You can control the privacy setting on many of your online accounts.
10. We all need to be mindful of the digital footprints of others also. For example, ask before tagging others in photos.

Chris Betcher, an educational technologist, stated, "I can see a day in the not too distant future...where your 'digital footprint' will carry far more weight than anything you might include in a resume or curriculum vita." That day is here and we need to always remember that what we do online can impact us negatively or positively so take the time to think and walk carefully.

Legacy Community Orchard Update



Yellow, green, orange, and ruby are but a few of the myriad of colors you will soon be able to see at the SESD Legacy Community Orchard with the completion of the one acre 144 tree site. We expect a modest harvest this year. Stay tuned to the newsletter to find out when you can get the "fruits" of our project. We should soon have peaches, figs, plums, lemons, tangelos, grapefruits, oranges and pomegranates for your snacking pleasure.



Safe Schools

The Sacaton Elementary School District is committed to providing a safe learning environment for students and staff. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year we will work diligently to improve our safe school initiatives. Students are informed on how to be safe at school by learning classroom safety, what their roles are during an evacuation, lockdown, or modified lockdown. Additional safety information can be shared with students that they can utilize on their way to and from school, such as bike safety, driveway safety, parking lot safety (in and around cars, stop look and listen) and playground safety. Safety and security in our schools, home and community go hand in hand. What students learn at school can be brought home and shared with parents, siblings and neighbors. Ensuring students know how to react during emergency situations, how to be attentive and watchful on the way to school and home will benefit the community.

The following will be established throughout the school year to increase the safety at Sacaton for students and staff.

- Establish a safe school area within each classroom
- Install Safe School wall holders in every room to house Safe Schools Information such as: Safe School Handbook, emergency flipchart, evacuation maps
- Safe School Backpack and Safe School safety tub (in the event of prolonged situations)

SESD is proud of our partnership with the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) and appreciative of our School Resource Officers. As part of this collaborative relationship, SESD will be hosting an Active Shooter drill during the month of September.

GRIC Education Standing Committee Meetings

The Gila River Indian Community's Education Standing Committee has scheduled their 2nd Meeting of each month to be held at rotating school sites. Following are the dates of the scheduled meetings in which SESD will be hosting:

- August 29, 2018 – Sacaton Middle School
- April 24, 2019 – Sacaton Elementary School

The Education Standing Committee is a sub-committee of the Tribal Council and consists of several Tribal Council members and a Community member at large. They are tasked with the oversight and approval of various education programs and initiatives throughout the Community.

Standards-Based Literacy + Math Family Night



A student-planned, student-led Standards-Based Literacy + Math Family Night will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2018 at the Middle School starting with dinner at 5:00 p.m. Teachers will empower their students by providing gentle guidance, but mostly stepping out of the way as students step up. Don't miss out on this engaging evening focusing on reading, math, and our wonderful students.



LUNCH WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Come and enjoy some lunch and
join in the conversation with
Superintendent Cherryl Paul

Wednesday

September 19, 2018

November 7, 2018

January 16, 2019

March 6, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Middle School Room D-8



No personnel issues will be discussed during this. We value your input for these meetings and
discussions. Please send your topics of discussion directly to Mrs. Paul

Cpaul@sacatonschools.org