



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
2101 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520) 209-7500 (520) 209-7570 FAX www.cfsd16.org

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 3.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

**PRESENTED BY:** Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

---

I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD student and staff achievements:

### Teacher Excellence Award

Manzanita's Maura Baker, gifted specialist, was honored with the Tucson Values Teachers' (TVT) Excellence Award for May. TVT "shines a spotlight on individual teachers who bring that extra something special into the classroom." In addition to the award, Ms. Baker received \$250 cash, and a \$100 gift card for classroom supplies.

### Boys State

Juniors Zev Greenberg, Aaron Handler, and Kyle Senkerik will represent CFHS at Boys State 2024. They were nominated by teachers for their academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and demonstrated interest in government. The program is sponsored by the American Legion and is designed to teach students about how our government functions and to encourage them to become engaged citizens.

### 2024 KEYS Research Internship

Three CFHS students have been selected to participate in the KEYS Research Internship: Matthew Boylan, Logan Curley, and Brandon Mokhtarian. KEYS stands for Keep Engaging Youth in Science. KEYS interns will contribute to

interdisciplinary bioscience research using biotechnology and data analysis techniques while contributing to the development of new scientific knowledge. They will also develop science literacy skills and learn how to communicate their research to a varied audience.

### National Honor Society

The following CFHS students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement: Alejandra Albino Chapman, Gwendolyn Alviar, Cristina Angel, Valerie Armstrong, Ava Becker, Connor Beckett, Annalecia Benner, Zula Campbell, Owen Cantor-Goldner, Yash Chauhan, Alex Cramton, John Paul Dahm, Samantha Farbarik, Phaedra Farbrook, Skyler Finical, Audrey Fiore, Addison, Fleugel, Isabelle Franco, Mia Garcia, Janelle Garcia, Parker Goodell, Aaron Handler, Abigail Hanley, Sidney Hellbusch, Natalia Hoerig, Maggie Hornfeck, William Jacobsen, Darya Jani, Amelie Kaiser, Lilliana Kalish, Gordon Kim, Hannah Levin, Ethan Lin, Kyle Lo, Cindy Lu, Avery Maland, Sophia Mallino, Katherine McNulty, Laila Mizyed, Abigail Moulton, Ava Moltrup, Calista Morrison, Emma Murphy, Molly Murry, Daniela Oliver, Isabella Parks, Cole Pritz, Eoin Roberts, Antoinette Sarah, Thomas Scott, Ellie Seifert, Taryn Shah, Rex Shetlar, Tahlia Szoke, Sophia Toapha, Thomas Vamos, Zarya Vinal, and Zacarias Young. NHS is organized by CFHS teacher Kristyn Reneau.

### Junior Olympics

CFHS students Scarlet Perkins, Robbie Ponzo, and Sam Ponzo competed at the state level and based on their performance, were invited to compete at the Junior Olympics. Robbie earned gold in both men's air pistol and sport pistol at the AZ state match. Scarlett earned bronze in sport pistol and silver in air pistol at the AZ state match. Sam competed in the men's air pistol.

### Congressional Art Show

CFHS student Ellen Kim placed first at the Congressional Art Show held at the offices of Juan Ciscomani in Tucson. Her work is titled "Unspoken Crisis: The homeless in advanced societies." The piece will be displayed in the US Capitol for one year, Ellen will receive complimentary airfare and be invited to a Congressional Reception for all of the winners around the nation.

### Advanced Theatre

At the Southern Arizona Festival of Theatre (regionals), Advanced Theatre students took home 14 Superiors and 1 Excellent in Acting and Musical Theatre Performance categories, 1 Superior in Short Film, 1 Excellent in Playwriting, and 1

Excellent in Scenic Design. In the Tech Challenges, they received 1st place in cable coiling, 2nd place in knot tying, and 1st Place Overall. Actors: Vince Clark, Vivianna Colson, Sixx Elliott, Sofia Galina-Garcia, Wesley Geary, Charlotte Henderson, Haleigh Hinkle, Lance Jacobson, Kiera Kuehnle, Elise McFarlane, Robin Oxnam, Jaden Peterson, Miranndah Rivera, Keyanee Walls, and Jameson Westenskow. Technicians: Dorian Andrews, Vince Clark, Sixx Elliott, Saki Grobe, Elise McFarlane, Robin Oxnam, Jasper Rolfe, and Jameson Westenskow. CFHS teacher Amy Byroad is Theatre Arts Director.

### Choir

CFHS seniors Marcos Escudero, Julia Jonas, Anderson Peters, and juniors Fox Foster and Siena Mayfield participated as members of the Arizona All-State Choir. The group was led by Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, artistic director of the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers. The group performed on Saturday, April 13, at the U of A Centennial Hall. As part of the weekend, students were selected for the Tier III Solo and Ensemble Honors Recital. For the second year in a row, senior Julia Jonas was the featured female vocalist for the state of Arizona. Their choir director is CFHS teacher Jeffrey Evans.

### NCAA National Signing Day 2024

Thirteen CFHS student athletes signed letter of intent to attend and participate in sports next year: Pat Arenas (football, New Mexico Military Institute), Molly Burnell (volleyball, West Georgia University), Cailynn Cooper (pommel, University of Arizona), Dailyn Davis (football, Minnesota State Community and Technical College), Sammy Delgado (football, Michigan Tech), Julia Ford (volleyball, Pima Community College), Alden Foster (baseball, US Coast Guard Academy), Elly Gilbert (ice hockey, University of Arizona), Madison Hairgrove (softball, University of Jamestown), Loni Jorgensen (cross country/track & field, Colorado Christian University), Jayden Noperi (football, New Mexico Military Institute), Tori Staples (volleyball, Lindenwood University), and Genon Thomas (softball, John Jay College of Criminal Justice).

### Political Advocacy: Lobbying Legislators

CFHS students Chantall Aguirre-Minjarez, Olivia Isaac, Hannah Levin, Desteny Maravills, Carson Ruiz, and Sage Wexler recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby Arizona elected officials on reducing food insecurity and expanding SNAP benefits. They are part of the Jewish Latino Teen Coalition of Southern Arizona.

## Personal Finance

Orange Grove students recently participated in the Personal Finance competition at Mesa Community College with the following results of their efforts: 1st place in the state for Personal Finance Case Study - Alexa Amer, Ashlynn Phillips, Alex Riddle, and Ava Ruggieri; 1st place in the state for Personal Finance Quiz Bowl - Gemma Cooper, Juju Ellis, and Alex Riddle; 3rd place in the state for Personal Finance Case Study - Gemma Cooper, Isobel Cooper, and Juju Ellis. Their coaches are teacher Dawn Willman and former teacher Collin Flynn.

## **Northwest League Middle School Championships**

### Track and Field

The Orange Grove boys and girls track team won the league championship. The girls team members: 8th grade - Lexi Appel, Alyssa Blanchard, Sophie Fiore, Jazzie Galaz-Thornwell, Adelyn Sommers, and Bella Uzumba; 7th grade - Lacy Crouch, Julia Moreno, Isa Perez, and Ishani Timbadia; 6th grade - Audrey Amer, Jenna Appel, Kylie Blanchard, Claire Cosgrove, Isabelle Richardson, Sarah Stingelin, and Gigi Trombetta. The boys team members: Jake Alexander, Brayden Carroll, Simon Crawford, Hayune Kang, Tommy Logue, Tenzin Luorong, Mateo Perez, and Matthew Yentzer; 7th grade - Taric Bruckner, Shadmehr Namazifard, Noah O'Sullivan, Liam Parrs, and Eli Le Peau; 6th grade - James Baum and Everett Wright-Smith. Their coaches are Ella Jackson, Adam Sommers, Josh Thornwell, and Lee Tompkins.

Esperero Canyon's girls team came in second place overall. In the 7th and 8th grade 4x400 meter relay, Lily Henderson, Chloe Herman, Shay Pittner, and Elise Wooley had a 1st place finish. Both the boys and girls 4x100 meter relays won 3rd place. Elise Wooley and Michelle Bime came in 2nd and 3rd place in the 400m. Kate Adams took 2nd in shot put, and Adeline Musil placed 3rd in discus.

### Volleyball

Orange Grove's 8th grade team won the division championship. Athletes are Alexa Amer, Alexis Brown, Bianca Cheung, Honor Ehrenreich, Grace Hairgrove, Cece Hustedt, Alex Kaetz, Abi Peterson, Ellie Peterson, Audrey Ruggieri, Suzi Russell, Ava Scheffman, Violet Sharp, Joey Waldrup, and Bryen Walls. Their coach is Mendi Brown. The 7th grade team ended their season with a hard fought game in the semifinals. Athletes are Elsie Bills, Harley Bowers, Veronica Cheung, Mila Copeland, Violet Eider, Leah Ghotmi, Molly Guarrera, Alex Harvey, Kallah Leyva, Ava Parson, Anna Romanoski, Margot Sbarra, and Diana Urtaza. Their coach is Danny Schrimpf.

## Baseball

Orange Grove's 7th grade team won the league championship. Athletes: Miles Anderson, Julian Bravo, Mason Clark, Lukas Gerlach, Charlie Gooding, Everett Hatch, Reese Morgan, Brycen Mulek, Luke Newman, Braydon Rehm, and Jones Stafford. Their coach is Griffin Loughran. The 8th grade team also one the league championship. Athletes: Luke Ardolino, Max Callahan, Kellen Cronk, Trey Dwyer, Ray Flores, Aden Goldin, Noah Marks, Connor Matalone, Jacob Schwartz, Simon Semonsky, Hagen Severson, Seamus Sullivan, Tanner Sultan, John Thomas, and Mason Wadleigh. Their coach is Ryan Cronk.

## "Best of the Best" Yearbooks

The CFHS yearbook from last year, *Falcon 2023* Volume 31, was selected once again to be featured four times in the Varsity Yearbook's *Portfolio* edition. The press release noted that there was a total of 612 schools represented from which 1,744 examples were curated and only 77 books chosen from across the country.

The student staff members last year were Sofia Ali, Tanner Aros, Molly Brunell, Mia Cesarek, Sophia Cho, Kathryn Edmondson, Julia Ford, Chloe Gonzalez, Lucky Le, Ashlee Mendola, and Allison Wilt. Their advisors were teachers Kim Gassman and Shireen Behzadi.

## Monte Awards

CFHS senior Lance Jacobson won Best Actor at the Monte Awards. The Monte Awards are the Southern Arizona Division of the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. The Monte's recognize the work that has been done in Southern Arizona by our schools and students during the 2023-2024 school year. As Southern Arizona's Best Actor, Lance will participate in a week-long intensive with Broadway professionals and compete in NYC for the winning titles on the National Level of the Jimmy Awards. Junior Kiera Kuehnle advanced to the top 5 nominees for Best Actress and senior Jaden Petersen was a top 10 Monte Awards finalist in the Best Actor Category. Freshman Nate Wiley was our Tucson Monte's Reporter. Their CFHS teacher is Amy Byroad.

---

**Recommended Motion: Information Item**