



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
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## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 1.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Margie Jones, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENTED BY:** Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

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

### Teachers of the Year

The CFSD Foundation has named its two 2022 Teachers of the Year and three Distinguished Educators. Teachers of the Year are Miriam Frieden, CFHS English, and Amber Robles, OG Spanish. Distinguished Educators are Shireen Behzadi, CFHS English, Bernadette Moreno, CFHS Chemistry, and Lee Tompkins, OG Spanish. The Foundation will honor these teachers in person at a special event in the spring.

### Valley View Early Learning Center (VVELC) Accreditation

Our VVELC program has achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The NAEYC announcement congratulated the school's administration, teaching staff, and families for earning the mark of quality.

### Pomline

The CFHS Pomline is headed to the state competition. On January 22, the team secured a spot by placing 4th out of 16 teams in Division 2 at the AIA Dance Qualifier in Phoenix. Team members are Olivia Bell, Courtney Brett, Haley Brett, Liliana Clevenger, Megan Connolly, Cailyn Cooper, Elizabeth Harlow, Kalia

Hoose, Caroline Kenerson, Maya Martin, Gisele Mendoza, Emily Mokhtarian, Presley Sarullo, and Lauren Thompson. Their coach is Camryn Conforti-Breese.

### Robotics

The CFHS FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team, *Pioneer 327*, captained the winning alliance in the robot matches at the Queen Creek Copper Invitational on January 22. They also won The Inspire Award, which is the top award for an FTC. The Inspire Award winner is a role model to other teams, acting with gracious professionalism both on and off the playing field and sharing their knowledge with others. Based on their results, the team secured an invitation to the state championship to be held later this year. Team members are David Berk, Henry Bonomolo, Eugenio Cambuston, Langston Campbell, Braden Cantor-Goldner, Danil Clayton, Zakary Gruber, Siena Mayfield, Samuel Moreno, Dale Nelson, Sage Newcomb, Seth Rojas, and Spencer Schiller. Their coaches are Charlotte Ackerman, STEM Integration Specialist, and Mark Haye, volunteer coaching assistant. The Pioneers took home the THINK Award at the FIRST Tech Challenge Desert Vista Qualifier on February 5. The THINK Award goes to the team that best removes engineering obstacles through creative thinking.

### Art and Writing

At the Scholastics Awards Regional Key Celebration, hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, CFHS art students were regional winners of the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards: Maria Cazzato - gold key medal, silver key medal, and 8 honorable mentions for her paintings. She will compete at the national virtual ceremony on March 10; Ariel Chung - silver key and 2 honorable mentions; Mallika Sunder - 5 honorable mentions. Their teacher is Ms. Zoe Reinhardt.

The Alliance's mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. In 2021, students entered nearly 230,000 original works in 28 different categories of art and writing. Students who compete at the national level are eligible to win college scholarships.

### Theatre Arts

On January 28, the Intermediate Theatre class held an annual English-Speaking Union, in-school competition. Two finalists, Rebecca Fischer and Karina Aronoff, were selected to represent CFHS at the University of Arizona for the local level of the competition that took place on February 5. Their teacher is Amy Byroad.

Rebecca Fischer won 1st place with her monologue from Two Gentlemen of Verona, playing the character Shylock. She has the opportunity to represent CFHS Theatre Arts at the national level of competition in New York City in April.

### Yearbook

How do you create a high school yearbook during a pandemic year? Students are online, events are cancelled, activities are remote. These challenges forced our 2020-2021 yearbook editors to come up with new ways to showcase the year--and they created a stunning 350-page book that covered what happened instead of what didn't They received a First Place from the American Scholastic Press Association and a First Class with 2 marks of distinction from the National Scholastic Press Association. The students who created the 2020-2021 yearbook: Sophia Aldana, Melanie Dasch, Alexa Dorf, Katrina Foley, Aleks Grodzki, Noor Haghighi, Maggie Hollingsworth, Ellie Johnson, Nicole Kinas, Maddie Schaffer, Eliana Siegel, Gwyn Stewart, and Cali Wilson. Their teachers are Shireen Behzadi and Kim Gassman.

### Coca-Cola Scholars Program

Senior Jonathan Martinez has been named a Regional Finalist for the 2022 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Two hundred and fifty one high school seniors were selected as Regional Finalists from a pool of 68,000+ applications from across the country based on their academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. The Regional Finalists are in the running for 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000. This is the second stage of a three-stage selection process for the scholarship.

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**Recommended Motion: Information Item**