

SPRING 2026
Quarter 3 Edition

CESAR CHAVEZ ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER



Principal's Corner

ROBERT GRANT

As we wrap up Quarter 3, thank you for your continued partnership and support. With state testing season approaching, it is essential that students are present on their assigned testing days and arrive on time so they can do their best.

As we head into Quarter 4, students often start to feel tired—this is the time to stay strong, stay focused, and keep up with schoolwork through the end of the year. We also need your help addressing an ongoing concern with 1st and 2nd period attendance. Too many students are arriving late or missing these classes. School starts at 7:30 AM, and being on time for the first two periods sets the tone for the day.

Thank you for supporting our Chavez Champions—let's finish the year strong!



Quarter 2 Celebrations

AASC OUTSTANDING COUNCIL OF DISTINCTION (12TH YEAR IN A ROW WINNING THE AWARD)



Our Student Government (STUGO) students continue to demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to serving others. This year, STUGO earned the State Student Council of Distinction recognition and the AASC Platinum Level Service Award for completing 300+ hours of community service—an incredible achievement that our students have earned for the **8th year in a row!**



We also want to give a special shout-out to our longtime STUGO advisor, **Mr. Sal Lopez**, for his unwavering dedication to Chavez students and our school community. His leadership, mentorship, and commitment to service have helped shape a program that continues to make Chavez proud. Congratulations to our STUGO students!



Quarter 2 Celebrations (continued..)

ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM ADVANCES TO STATE COMPETITION

Our Chavez Academic Decathlon team recently competed in the Regional Competition, earning an impressive **2nd Place overall** along with several individual medals. Their hard work and dedication have earned them a spot at the Arizona State Competition on March 6th and 7th. A special shout-out goes to our Academic Coach, **Mrs. Brooke Carlson**, for her outstanding leadership and support of our students. We wish our team the best of luck as they represent Chavez at the state level—go Champions!



Top Medal Winners

Honors Level

Ken Do

GOLD OVERALL!!!

GOLD Literature

GOLD Music

GOLD Science

GOLD Art

GOLD Economics

GOLD Interview

SILVER Social Science

BRONZE Essay

BRONZE Speech

Honors Level

Justin Chavez

GOLD Social Science

SILVER Art

Benita Rodriguez

BRONZE Economics

BRONZE Interview

Scholastic Level

Zoey Neblett

BRONZE Interview

BRONZE Essay

Sam Kenny Kwizera

GOLD Social Science

SILVER Art

SILVER Essay

Varsity Level

Victoria Araujo

SILVER OVERALL!!

GOLD Music

SILVER Essay

BRONZE Art

BRONZE Lit/Lang

Johan Garcia Gomez

BRONZE Essay

Quarter 2 Celebrations (continued...)

CHAVEZ 3DE STUDENTS FEATURED ON ABC15



Our 3DE students were recently featured on ABC15 News for their work on a real-world business case study with Arby's. Students collaborated with Arby's business professionals to analyze challenges and develop creative solutions, applying classroom learning to real business scenarios.

We would also like to continue to recognize our outstanding 3DE teacher team for making this work possible—**Ms. Corona**, our Lead Launch Teacher, **Ms. Sanchez**, our 3DE Science Teacher, and **Mrs. Hegstrom**, our 3DE Math Teacher.

This exciting project highlights how Chavez students are building critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills through authentic industry experiences. Click the link to watch the segment.

<https://www.abc15.com/news/education/watch-businesses-tap-students-to-help-solve-real-world-problems>

Quarter 2 Celebrations (continued..)

CHAVEZ STUDENT NAMED DORRANCE SCHOLARSHIP SEMI-FINALIST



Congratulations to **Izaiha Espericueta**, a proud member of our AVID program, for being named a Semi-Finalist for the Dorrance Scholarship in Arizona! This prestigious opportunity recognizes students who demonstrate strong academics, leadership, and determination.

We are incredibly proud of Izaiha and excited to see what's ahead as he continues through the selection process. Way to represent Chavez and AVID with excellence!

CULINARY STUDENTS ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING CERTIFICATION SUCCESS

Our Culinary 3–4 students have been working hard all year in preparation for the Always Food Safe Food Manager's Certification exam, a rigorous 90-question assessment that requires strong knowledge of food safety and industry standards.

We are proud to share that 33 out of 34 students passed this challenging exam, demonstrating their dedication, skill, and readiness for careers in the culinary industry. Congratulations to our Culinary students for this impressive accomplishment!



Quarter 2 Celebrations (continued..)

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN CHAVEZ GUITAR

Our Honors Guitar students earned 1st Place at the Capital ABODA Guitar Festival and received a Superior Rating, representing Cesar Chavez High School with pride. We also had 10 nominations for the Greater Phoenix Guitar District Festival, reflecting the strength of our growing program.

A special congratulations to **Ruben Jaime-Escalante**, who was selected for All-State Guitar—the first in school history! Ruben is now among the top 40 high school guitar players in Arizona and had the opportunity to work with Florida conductor Rex Willis. Huge shout-out to **Mr. George Ramirez** for the amazing work he does behind the scenes to support our students and elevate the Chavez guitar program. We're excited to watch it continue to grow!



CHAVEZ HOSTS FIRST LAVEEN GUITAR FESTIVAL

Cesar Chavez High School was proud to host the first-ever Laveen Guitar Festival, bringing together student musicians to celebrate artistry, collaboration, and musical growth. This exciting event showcased the talent of our guitar students while giving participants the opportunity to learn, perform, and connect through a shared love of music.

<https://championnews.org/cesar-chavez-high-school-holds-the-laveen-guitar-festival-p317-57.htm>

Honors Guitar:
1st- ABODA Guitar Festival
Award: **Superior!**



Important Information and Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Pre-ACT (10th grade)- March 17th
ACT (11th grade)- March 24
Prom- March 28th
AzSCI (11th grade)- March 31st
ACT Aspire (9th grade)- April 7th
Alice by Heart (theatre production)- April 10th
Chavez Annual Art Showcase- April 10th
NWEA Round 3- April 27-May 4
AP Exams (all grades/all AP classes)- May 4-15
Senior's Last Day- May 15th
Final Exams- May 18th-19th
Graduation- May 20th

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT "I-DAYS" AT CHAVEZ

I-Days (Independent Learning Days) are virtual school days that give students time to catch up and receive extra academic support. Students work from home and can connect with teachers on Microsoft Teams in the afternoon.

Upcoming I-Day Dates: March 20, and April 24

Attendance counts on I-Days! Students must submit their Advisory participation form with evidence of work completed.

- 9th: Make-up work or Edmentum Math
- 10th: Edmentum Math or make-up work
- 11th: ACT practice or make-up work
- 12th: Make-up work or college/career tasks

NWEA TESTING UPDATE: MEASURING GROWTH THAT MATTERS

Last quarter, we shared why NWEA testing is such an important part of our schoolwide improvement efforts—and we're excited to share that Round 2 of NWEA Winter Benchmark testing is now complete! NWEA allows students and teachers to measure academic growth in Math and English, helping us understand how students are progressing and where additional support may be needed.

This year, PXU adjusted final exam practices so students could fully focus on NWEA during finals week, reinforcing just how important this growth measure is for our campus. Students will take their third and final NWEA assessment at the end of April, giving us a clear picture of yearlong growth.

Families, we encourage you to ask your student about their NWEA scores—**How much did they grow? What goals are they setting next?** Growth matters, and every Champion's progress is worth celebrating!



Important Information (continued...)

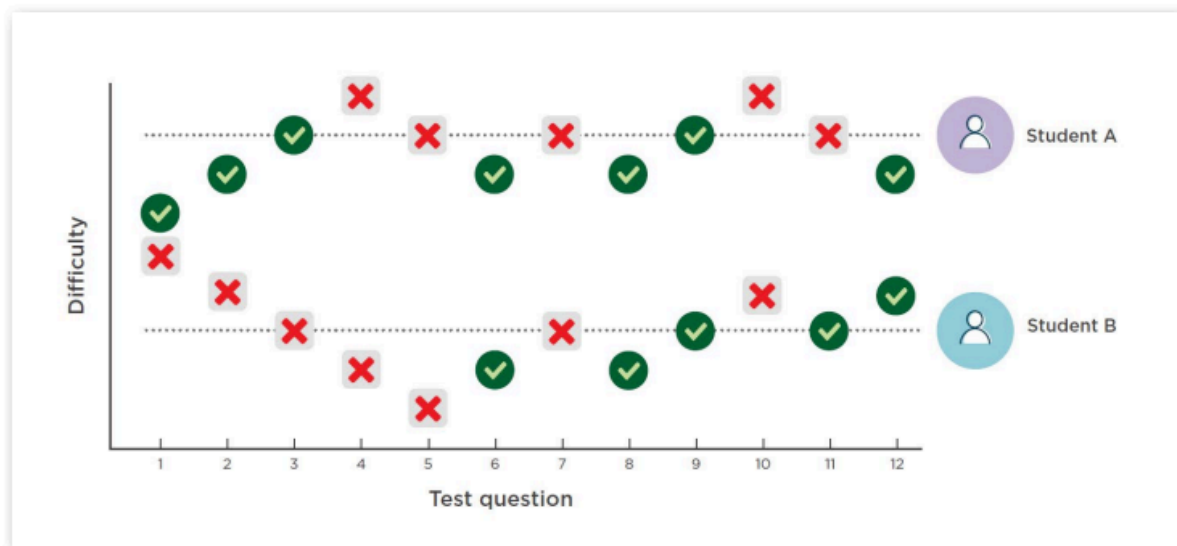
NWEA TESTING UPDATE: MEASURING GROWTH THAT MATTERS

A family guide to MAP Growth

You see a bright future for your child. So do we. It's why our assessments measure what students know and how they are growing academically—to help teachers maximize every learner's potential. MAP Growth is trusted by thousands of schools and districts to support 13+ million students across the United States and around the world.

How it works

The computer-adaptive MAP Growth assessment responds to every student individually. If a student answers a test question correctly, a harder question is provided. If a student answers a test question incorrectly, an easier test question is provided. Students demonstrate what they know, and teachers see specific areas where their individual classes may need more support.



What it measures

MAP Growth uses a Rasch unit (RIT) scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Once your child completes a MAP Growth test, they receive a RIT score.

“

MAP Growth is important because it allows my teacher and me to see how much I know and my percentile growth. In math, my score used to be 227 (72nd percentile), but it is now 240 (90th percentile). I didn't know I was capable of so much growth, but in the end I was.”

Kayla, 6th grade
Santa Ana, CA



Important Information (continued...)

NWEA TESTING UPDATE: MEASURING GROWTH THAT MATTERS

mopGROWTH
Shelley Jones
Spring 2023 Family Report

What is this report? A summary of how your child is performing academically, as measured by the most recent MAP Growth test.

What is MAP Growth? A test that adapts to your child's responses in real time to measure your child's skill level.

Why is my child taking MAP Growth? MAP Growth scores help teachers check student performance by measuring Achievement and Growth. Teachers use results to tailor classroom lessons and to set goals for students.

Page 1
ID: 510580 | Grade: 5
Mesa Verde Elementary School

What do Achievement and Growth mean?
Achievement—How well your child has learned skills in a subject compared to similar students nationwide.*
Growth—A measure of your child's personal progress over the year.

What is a RIT score? The overall score for a subject based on a Rasch unit (RIT) scale that indicates how your child performed in a subject.

*Similar students — kids with same starting RIT score, same number of weeks of instruction, and in the same grade.

Mathematics

Average Achievement 46th Percentile

Winter '22	Spring '22	Fall '22	Winter '23	Spring '23
199	212	204	207	217

Shelley's overall score (RIT score) was a 217 on a range of 100-350. Your child is in the 46th percentile, which means they scored better than 46% of their peers.

High Average Growth 62nd Percentile

Your child's growth from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023 is in the 62nd percentile, which means they made more progress than 62% of their peers.

Shelley is likely to be:

- Better Prepared on the NWEA Generic Linking Study (if taken in Spring 2023)
- Not On Track on the ACT College Readiness (if taken in Spring 2023)
- Not On Track on the SAT (if taken in Spring 2023)

Frequently Asked Questions

How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?	Teachers can use the scores to identify learning areas that their class should focus on, as well as monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district.
Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?	Yes, but please note that MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a student is performing. Please discuss any questions that you have about your child's performance with their teacher.
How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?	Most schools give MAP Growth tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year (in the fall, winter, and spring). Some schools choose to administer tests only twice a year.
What are norms?	NWEA provides schools with norms by utilizing anonymous data from more than 13+ million students around the US. Knowing the top, middle, and bottom scores of all these students combined allows teachers to compare where your child is to other students and help them grow. In addition, NWEA provides comparison data for private, accredited, English-based, international schools using MAP Growth outside the US.
Is MAP Growth a standardized test?	MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year. Instead of asking all students the same questions, it adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly.
What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?	The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit Warmup.NWEA.org .



PROM 2026: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

SAVE THE DATE!

Prom is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28th as our Champions come together for one of the most memorable nights of the school year. We look forward to celebrating with our students and creating a fun and special evening for the Class of 2026.

Spring State Achievement Testing



SAVE THE DATES!



CESAR CHAVEZ 2026 STATE TESTING

We will administer four state tests over four consecutive weeks. Testing will occur one grade level at a time. If your grade is not scheduled to test on a testing day, you will have an iDay (stay home).

PRE-ACT: March 17th
SOPHOMORES only

ACT: March 24th
JUNIORS only

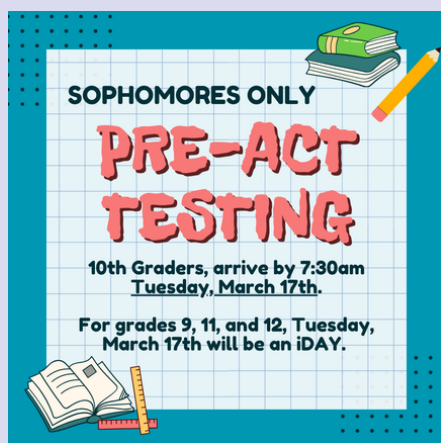
AzSci: March 31st
JUNIORS only

ACT Aspire: April 7th
FRESHMEN only



State Achievement Testing (continued...)

PREPARING FOR STATE ACHIEVEMENT TESTING



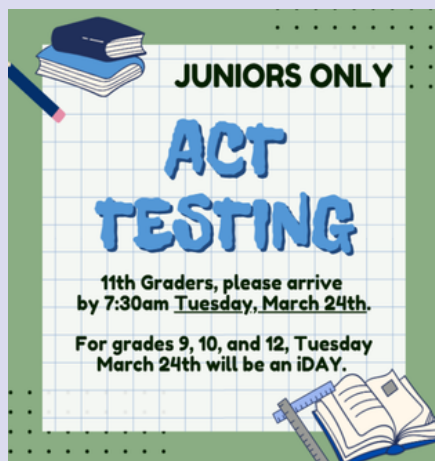
State Achievement Testing will take place immediately after Spring Break, and we want to emphasize how important it is for students to be present and on time on their scheduled testing days. These assessments provide valuable information about student learning and help our school understand how well we are supporting students academically. Doing your best helps showcase the hard work happening across our Chavez community.

On testing days, only students scheduled to test will report to campus. These will be I-Days for all non-testing students, and they will receive an Advisory assignment to complete for attendance.

To help students be successful, please plan ahead. Students should arrive early, get a good night's rest, and eat a healthy breakfast before testing.

We also want families and students to be aware that cell phones are considered a testing violation. Phones may not be out at any time during testing days, including during breaks, so students should plan to turn them off and keep them put away.

Thank you for helping us support our students so they can do their best and show what Chavez Champions can achieve!



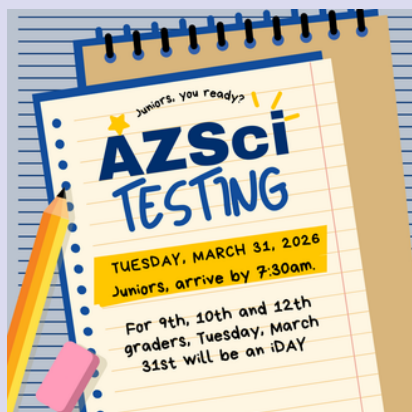
ACT Prep

RECOGNIZING OUR ACT PREP COMMITTEE

.We would like to take a moment to recognize our ACT Prep Committee for the incredible behind-the-scenes work they have been doing to prepare our juniors for the ACT this year. This team has dedicated many hours to ensuring our students feel confident and ready for this important assessment.

A special thank you to Committee Chair **Dr. Khay** and Co-Chair **Mr. Gonzalez** for their leadership and commitment to supporting our students. Over the past several months, the committee has organized strategic ACT tutoring during Tuesday and Thursday advisory, as well as four Saturday ACT Prep workshops focused on test-taking strategies, understanding the format of the exam, and strengthening skills in each content area.

We also want to thank the parents who have encouraged their students to attend and the students who have shown up and put in the extra effort to prepare. Your dedication reflects the strong culture of academic growth and support we strive to build at Chavez.



Important Information (continued...)

ATTENDANCE TODAY, ACHIEVEMENT TOMORROW!

As a continued reminder, Cesar Chavez High School takes pride in teaching and learning from bell to bell. Please help every Champion start the day strong by arriving on time—1st period begins at 7:30 a.m. (8:15 a.m. on Wednesdays). For safety and accountability, students are not released before 2:25 p.m. and are expected to wear their school ID every day. Thank you for partnering with us to support a safe, structured, and focused learning environment for all students.

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION FLOW CHART

Total absences by class period and/or
full-day absences per semester

Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 3
On Track	At-Risk	Trending	Chronic	Critical

1 - 3

Parent/Guardian will be notified at 3 unexcused all-day absences through the district communication platform (e.g., phone, email, text).

Content teachers will make a reasonable effort to conference with the student regarding their absences.

4 - 5

The **Content Teacher** will contact the Parent/Guardian at 4 unexcused absences in their class.

The **Advisory Teacher** will contact the Parent/Guardian by phone at 5 unexcused all-day absences.

Content/Advisory teacher may assign student to academic interventions.

6 - 7

The **Student Liaison** will notify the Parent/Guardian at 6 excused/unexcused all-day absences.

The **Student Liaison** will conduct a root-cause analysis to identify underlying factors contributing to absenteeism and will implement targeted, individualized interventions using Check & Connect strategies to support student re-engagement.

The **Student Liaison** may collaborate with the Engagement Team and/or Attendance Committee for ongoing support.

9+

The **Student Liaison** will notify the Parent/Guardian at 9 excused/unexcused all-day absences via regular posted mail and electronically by email or the District adopted communication platform.

A student's **Counselor** will be notified at 9 excused/unexcused all-day absences.

Admin will conduct a review of academic progress, interventions received, behaviors that may impact learning, and attendance.

Collaboration with the **Student Support Team (SST)** may be initiated to provide sustained or more intensive support, depending on the student's level of need.

Continued absences may result in a referral for an Attendance Hearing.

State Statute Reminder! Staying Engaged and Distraction-Free

STAYING STRONG AT CHAVEZ: PHONES DOWN, LEARNING UP!



As we progressed through Quarter 3, we remain committed to creating the best possible learning environment for all students. In alignment with Arizona state statute, cell phones are not permitted during instructional time in any class period. Students may use their phones only during passing periods and lunch.

We appreciate the continued support of our families, staff, and students as we reinforce this expectation. Research continues to show that limiting cell phone use during class has a positive impact on focus, engagement, and academic achievement, and we are seeing those benefits more consistently across our classrooms.

Thank you for partnering with us and for continuing to remind students of the why behind this initiative—because every minute of learning matters.

CHAMPION NEWS: STUDENT VOICES REPORTING OUR STORY

As a reminder from Quarter 3, our Champion News team continues to highlight the creativity, professionalism, and journalistic talent of our students. Through articles, videos, and news desk recordings, students work together to bring important campus stories and events to life while developing strong communication and teamwork skills.

We encourage everyone to visit the Champion News website to explore the latest stories and features created by our talented student journalists.

Champion News website: <https://championnews.org/>



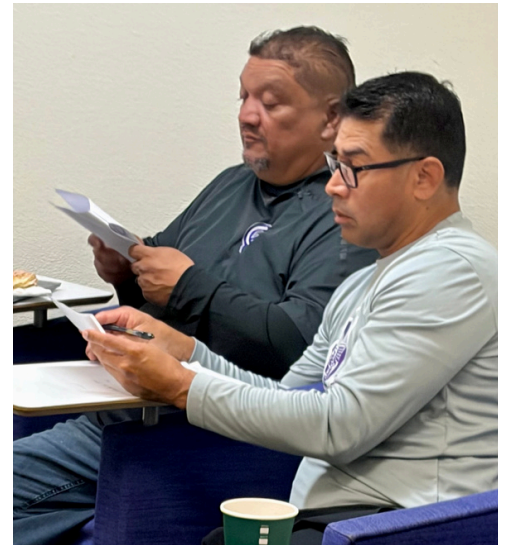
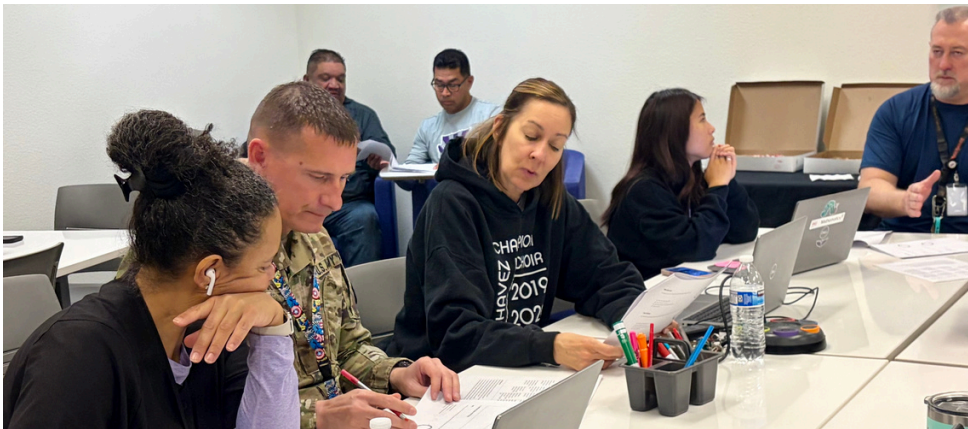
HOME WEEKLY NEWS DESK NEWS SPORTS HEALTH AND WELLNESS EDUCATION TRAVEL
ARTWORK PHOTOS AND CHAMP-TOK VIDEOS EVENT CALENDAR TECHNOLOGY ENTERTAINMENT OPINIONS EDITORIALS AND INTERVIEWS

Cesar Chavez Instructional Leaders

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS ANALYZING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FEEDBACK

We would like to recognize our Instructional Leaders for their thoughtful and thorough work analyzing the results of our annual Family, Student, and Staff School Improvement Survey. The team carefully reviewed the feedback, comparing perceptions across families, students, and staff to identify key patterns and areas for growth.

Through this detailed analysis, our Instructional Leaders helped identify important focal points for improvement, which will guide our campus as we continue strengthening our efforts next year. Their work reinforces our commitment to refining instructional practices and strengthening interventions to better support student learning and success. We appreciate their dedication to using data and community feedback to help move Chavez forward.



Counselor's Corner

FAFSA PROGRESS AND SENIOR SUPPORT

We're proud to share a 10% increase in FAFSA completion compared to this time last school year! We will continue providing ongoing FAFSA support, college application guidance, scholarship help, and next-steps planning to ensure our seniors stay on track for postsecondary success.

STUDENTS EXPLORE HBCUS ON COLLEGE TOUR

Some of our students recently participated in an HBCU College Tour in California, giving them the opportunity to learn about postsecondary options firsthand and explore college life and admissions opportunities.



ECAP CONFERENCES: SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

We are continuing our Sophomore ECAP conferences and are now beginning Junior ECAP meetings to support intentional academic planning, career exploration, and goal-setting for the years ahead.

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND COURSE PLANNING

We have hosted workshops for sophomores and juniors focused on Pre-College and Summer Programs to help students explore enrichment opportunities and strengthen their resumes. We also successfully completed In-House Registration, meeting one-on-one with students to review course requests for next school year.



Counselor's Corner (continued..)

PREPARING FOR OUR JUNIOR/SENIOR COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

We are gearing up for our 2nd Annual Junior/Senior College, University, and Career Fair, which will connect students with a wide range of colleges, universities, career pathways, and industry representatives.



A WELCOMING SCHOOL COUNSELING ENVIRONMENT

Alongside our academic and career programming, we continue working to make the counseling office a welcoming space. Students enjoyed a recent coloring contest, and we invite students to join in on our themed puzzles during free time, before school, and at lunch.



ONGOING COLLEGE & CAREER SUPPORT —SPRING 2026

We're proud to offer year-round college and career readiness support for all Champions! Whether you're applying to college, completing your FAFSA, or exploring scholarship opportunities, there's help available every week. Please encourage students to take advantage of these great resources throughout the year!

Day	Program / Support	Details
Weekly (Ongoing)	FSA ID & FAFSA help, college/university applications, scholarship searches, Next Steps, and more	Available throughout the week
Every Other Monday	Scholarship Workshops	During Advisory
Mondays & Tuesdays	South Mountain Community College (SMCC) Support with Ms. Rachel Harrison	All day in the Counseling Office & Lab L during Advisory
Every Other Tuesday	First-Generation Group	During Advisory
Thursdays	Grand Canyon University (GCU) Support with Mr. Monte Thompson	During Advisory
Fridays (8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m)	Be A Leader / META	FSA ID & FAFSA help, college apps, scholarship guidance, and more

What Are Champion Learner Attributes?

What it takes to be a

CHAMP...

Communicate and collaborate positively

Honor through accountability and respect

Attentive and focused daily

Motivated to be the best version of myself

Problem Solver mindset

Departments nominate one student each month for the “Student of the Month” honor, selecting candidates within their content teams based on our criteria for what it means to be a CHAMP.

Q3 CHAMP Students of the Month

CHAMP Students of the Month 1/28/26		Jordynn Hernandez	English 7-8 CR
Candy Mendoza Garcia	Reading Dept	Eztli Cruz Olvera	Integrated Science
Brissa Ramirez Mares	AVID	Jaliyah Ruiz	Theatre
Shadia Mbaju	JROTC	Isabella Villarreal Berrelleza	AVID
Talia Graham	PE/Health	Dasaan Schaeffer	WL Spanish 1-2
Victoria Maldonado Cortez	Band	Ariana M. Campoy Camacho	English - Native American Perspective
Amari Suell	ESO English	Yariel De La Cruz Nater	English - Native American Perspective
Arleth Peralta	SST	Laura Flores Palma	English - Native American Perspective
Tyla Donnell	Counseling	Zayreth Z. Zarate	Freshmen English
Melany Aguilar Quintero	Algebra 3-4	Priscilla Villagomez	Performing Arts

We love our CHAMP students!

Each month, we celebrate our Champion Students of the Month to recognize students who demonstrate positive behaviors and contribute to our school community in meaningful ways. Students are nominated by their departments, and we host a special celebration where students and their families are invited to be recognized. We are proud to celebrate the Champions who lead by example and help make Chavez a positive place to learn and grow!



CHAMP Pride Drawing Winners for 2/2/2026!

Divine Ineza COMMUNICATES and collaborates positively!

Karen Robleda Rios has modeled great HONOR through accountability and respect!

Jorge Ramos Hermosilla is ATTENTIVE and focused every day!

Fabian Valdez is MOTIVATED to be the best version of herself!

Josue Manuel Aguilar has a PROBLEM-SOLVER mindset

Q3 CHAMP Students of the Month (continued...)



CHAMP Pride Drawing Winners for 2/20/2026!

Fabian Valdez...**COMMUNICATES** and collaborates positively!

Alexander Mancillas...has modeled great **HONOR** through accountability and respect!

Thomas Yond...is **ATTENTIVE** and focused every day!

Ti'inesha Harless...is **MOTIVATED** to be the best version of herself!

Jeremiah Walker...has a **PROBLEM-SOLVER** mindset

Department Highlights

DUAL ENROLLMENT SUCCESS IN ENGLISH

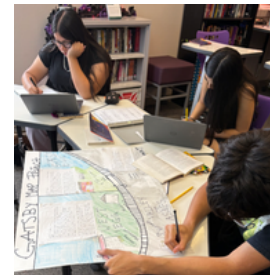
Humanities/elective credits were offered in English for dual enrollment this semester, creating an exciting opportunity for students to earn college credit while in high school. We are proud to share that 33 seniors are earning dual credit in ENH110: Introduction to Literature, and 90 juniors are earning dual credit in ENH111: Literature and the American Experience.

Department Highlights (continued...)

MAPPING THE WORLD OF THE GREAT GATSBY

Junior English students recently completed a Chapters 1–3 Great Gatsby Map Project, where they explored the key settings introduced at the beginning of the novel.

This project allowed students to connect with literature, deepening their comprehension of the novel while engaging creatively with the setting and characters.



AP LITERATURE STUDENTS ENGAGE IN OXFORD-STYLE DEBATE

Our AP Literature students have been reading *Frankenstein*, and this week they participated in a rigorous academic debate around the resolution: “By the end of Chapter 15, the Creature is rendered more fully ‘human’ than Victor.” Students worked in teams and were assigned pro and con positions, spending a day preparing their arguments before participating in a formal Oxford-style debate. Each class rose to the challenge, presenting high-level, college-ready arguments while practicing the respect, listening skills, and restraint needed to keep the discussion thoughtful and productive. Activities like this help prepare students for the academic discourse they will experience at the selective universities many of them will attend, while strengthening their skills in critical thinking, analysis, and communication.

Department Highlights (continued...)

VISUAL ARTS

ANNUAL CHAVEZ ART SHOW – APRIL 10

Each year, our Chavez Art Show gets bigger and better, showcasing the incredible creativity of our students. Chavez is known for its longstanding tradition of having one of the strongest art programs in PXU, and this event highlights the talent and dedication of our art students and teachers across all levels. We encourage families to mark their calendars for April 10 and join us for this special event. Bring siblings, friends, and family members to enjoy an evening of art and celebration while exploring the amazing work our students produce each year. It's an event you won't want to miss!



ANNUAL CESAR CHAVEZ ART SHOWCASE

April 10th, 2026
4:30 - 7pm

Come check out what our artists have been up to this year!
We will have live musical and dance performances from performing arts students.
Food Trucks will also be on site for your enjoyment! See you there!

FROM 2D TO 3D: CERAMICS MONSTER COLLABORATION WITH DESERT MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

Our Ceramics students will soon begin an exciting collaborative sculpture project! Ceramics teacher Ms. Nieradka-Hurst is partnering with elementary art teacher Ms. Stacy Hedrick from Desert Meadows School for a cross-campus creative experience! Elementary students will design and draw original monsters of their own invention.

Those drawings will then be passed on to our Ceramics students, who will transform the 2D designs into fully realized 3D clay sculptures. Both the original drawings and the finished ceramic sculptures will be exhibited side-by-side at our Art Showcase on Friday, April 10th from 4:30–7:00 PM. We look forward to celebrating this imaginative collaboration and the creativity of students across grade levels!

Department Highlights (continued...)

CHAVEZ STUDENT ARTISTS EARN TOP HONORS AT THE NEW HORIZONS ART EXHIBITION

We are proud to celebrate two of our talented student artists who were selected to participate in the New Horizons High School Art Exhibition at the Shemer Art Center. New Horizons is a prestigious exhibition that invited high schools across Maricopa County to submit two works of art by exceptional student artists. This year's exhibition featured 46 high schools and 89 outstanding works, highlighting some of the most promising young artists in our region! At the New Horizons Award Ceremony held on Saturday, January 24th:

Annalya Coleman received the Encouraging Youth Award and a \$100 prize in recognition of her artistic excellence.

Vanned Acuna Ruiz not only sold her exhibited artwork, but also earned multiple honors, including the Inspiring Youth Award, Carito Art Award, and Creative Potential Award, for a total of \$275 in awards.

We are incredibly proud of Annalya and Vanned for representing our school with such creativity, professionalism, and artistic strength. Their accomplishments reflect the dedication and talent of our student artists and the vibrant arts community here at our school!



Department Highlights (continued...)

PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH: LEARNING HEALTHY COPING STRATEGIES

In Health class, students explored the important topic of mental health and the value of developing healthy coping strategies. One of the key techniques students practiced was deep breathing, a simple but powerful tool for managing stress and supporting overall well-being. Students learned that deep breathing can help lower blood pressure and heart rate, decrease stress hormones like cortisol, improve oxygen levels, reduce muscle tension, enhance mental focus, and even support immune system function. By practicing these strategies in class, students are building skills they can use to support their mental and physical health both in and out of school.

101 Coping Skills For Teens

1) Bake	45) Make a collage	82) Tell yourself something good will come from this
2) Blow bubbles	46) Massage your neck and shoulders	83) Tell yourself what can I learn from this situation?
3) Brainstorm solutions	47) Meditate	84) Tense and relax your muscles
4) Build something	48) Paint outside	85) Think of a peaceful place
5) Call a friend	49) Pet an animal	86) Think of three things you are grateful for
6) Clean or organize your bedroom	50) Play a card game	87) Unplug from electronics
7) Close your eyes and relax	51) Play a sport	88) Use a relaxation app
8) Color	52) Play music on an instrument	89) Use a stress ball
9) Compliment someone	53) Practice mindfulness	90) Use essential oils
10) Cook dinner for your family	54) Practice tai chi or qi gong	91) Visualize yourself calming down
11) Count to 100 or 1000	55) Practice yoga	92) Volunteer
12) Cry it out	56) Read inspirational quotes	93) Watch an inspirational movie
13) Dance	57) Replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts	94) Watch funny YouTube videos
14) Daydream	58) Ride a bike	95) Watch the sunset
15) Do a puzzle	59) Rip up newspaper	96) Write a letter
16) Do a word search puzzle	60) Say YES to social opportunities	97) Write a list of your top ten coping skills
17) Don't be so hard on yourself	61) Sing a song	98) Write a poem
18) Draw	62) Spend time in nature	99) Write down current and future goals
19) Drink hot tea	63) Squeeze ice	100) Write in a journal
20) Eat healthy foods	64) Stargaze	101) Yell into a pillow
21) Engage in a hobby	65) Stretch	
22) Exercise	66) Take a break	
23) Feel your pulse	67) Take a cold shower	
24) Forgive someone	68) Take a nap	
25) Garden	69) Take a warm bath	
26) Get a drink of water	70) Take pictures	
27) Get a good night's sleep	71) Take three deep belly breaths	
28) Get a hug	72) Talk to someone you trust	
29) Get out in the sun	73) Tell yourself I can be patient in this moment	
30) Get up and move around	74) Tell yourself I can find the humor here	
31) Go fishing	75) Tell yourself I can handle this	
32) Go for a brisk walk	76) Tell yourself I got this	
33) Go for a hike	77) Tell yourself I have faith this will work out	
34) Go for a jog	78) Tell yourself I'm in control of myself	
35) Go swimming	79) Tell yourself I'm letting this one go	
36) Go to a movie	80) Tell yourself I'm not going to let this get to me	
37) Go to a park	81) Tell yourself relax it's okay	
38) Go to the library		
39) Laugh		
40) Learn something new		
41) Limit caffeine		
42) Listen to birds		
43) Listen to music		
44) List your positive qualities		

Negative Coping Skills

Things that Cost You in the End

- Procrastination
- Abusing drugs or alcohol
- Wasting time on unimportant tasks
- Blaming
- Isolating/Withdrawing
- Mean or hostile joking
- Gossiping
- Criticizing others
- Manipulating others
- Refusing help from others
- Lying to others
- Sabotaging plans
- Being late to appointments
- Provoking violence from others
- Enabling others to take advantage of you
- Denying any problem
- Stubbornness/Inflexibility
- All or nothing/black or white thinking
- Catastrophizing
- Overgeneralizing
- Tantrums
- Throwing things at people
- Hitting people
- Yelling at others
- Destroying property
- Speeding or driving recklessly
- Suicide
- Self Harm
- Developing illnesses
- Making fun of yourself
- Self-sabotaging behaviors
- Blaming yourself
- Spending too much
- Gambling
- Eating too much
- Setting dangerous fires
- Continually crying



HEALTH STUDENTS LEARN LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

Students in our Health classes recently learned and practiced CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)—an essential lifesaving skill that can make a critical difference in an emergency. During the lesson, students practiced proper hand placement, rhythm, and compression techniques using CPR training mannequins. Hands-on practice helps students build confidence and understand how they could respond in a real-life situation. We're proud of our students for taking their learning seriously and developing skills that could one day help save a life.

Department Highlights (continued...)

JROTC JLAB TEAM ADVANCES TO ROUND TWO!

Our JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) team recently advanced to Round Two, competing against schools from across the country. The team improved on their previous score and represented Chavez with determination and pride. They are now setting their sights on Round Three and the opportunity to compete in Washington, D.C. We are proud of their hard work and dedication and look forward to cheering them on as they continue their journey!

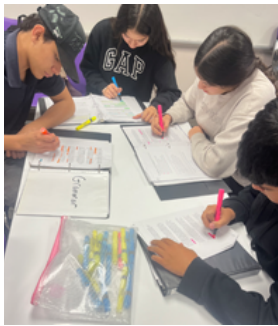


AZELLA PREPARATION AND TESTING: CHAVEZ ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS SHINE



Our language learners once again exceeded expectations as they prepared for AZELLA, a rigorous five-part assessment measuring listening, reading, writing, grammar, and speaking!

Students dedicated time on Saturdays, after school, and during the school day to prepare, showing outstanding commitment and perseverance. Testing took place over 3–5 days depending on students' levels and the time needed for each section. Many students shared that while the test was challenging, they felt confident and well-prepared by their teachers. We are eagerly awaiting results, which will be released in April.



A successful AZELLA season would not have been possible without the leadership and support of so many Chavez team members. Thank you to ELD IL **Mrs. Ivankovich** and the **entire ELD Department**, especially **Mrs. Sainz** and **Mrs. Fidelia** for their above-and-beyond support, ELD SPL **Emma Garcia** for keeping testing materials organized and accurate, and **Dr. Foreman** for ensuring students had what they needed—especially tutoring and the time required to do their best. A special thank you as well to **Ms. Aleyxiss** for being the “catch-all” during testing, library staff **Mrs. Irwin** and **Mrs. Blackson** for hosting speaking tests, and **Ms. Nieto** for providing sub coverage to ensure a smooth, supportive, and nondisruptive testing environment.

Most of all, we are proud of our Chavez students for taking this high-stakes exam seriously and putting in the work to succeed. Thank you, everyone!



Department Highlights (continued...)

FOLKLÓRICO STUDENTS SHARE CULTURE THROUGH PERFORMANCE

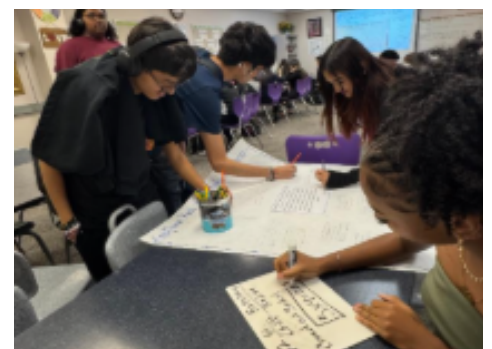
Our Folklórico students proudly represented Chavez with performances at Rancho Corona on February 23, 2026, and Legacy on February 24, 2026. Their performances celebrated culture, tradition, and the hard work of our talented dancers. We are proud of our students for sharing their passion and representing Chavez with pride.



DUAL COLLEGE MATH STUDENTS DESIGN REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

In our Dual College Math classes, students are moving beyond solving textbook problems and learning to design their own real-world scenarios through the project Crafting Real World Problem Scenarios: Counting Principles, Permutations, and Combinations. Students create authentic situations—such as organizing sports lineups, planning school events, or forming leadership committees—and apply advanced counting concepts to analyze possible outcomes.

Through collaboration and recorded discussions, students explain their reasoning, defend their solutions, and connect mathematical concepts to real-life decision-making. This project strengthens critical thinking, communication, and college-ready problem-solving skills while helping students see that mathematics is not just formulas—it is a powerful tool used in everyday planning and decision-making!



Department Highlights (continued...)

STUDENTS LEAD SUCCESSFUL VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE



On Wednesday, February 25th, students currently working on their Civics Seal of Literacy co-hosted a Voter Registration Drive with ACE/Lucha, one of our community partners. With some help from STUGO, the event generated lots of interest at both lunches where eligible students were invited to register to vote and to learn about civic engagement. We had a fantastic turnout, and 65 voter registrations were completed. The groups plan to do this again in September 2026 for National Voter Registration Day and again next year in February 2027 to continue to encourage our Champion students to be civic-minded and civically engaged!



CELEBRATING OUR THRIVE STUDENTS AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS PARTICIPATION

We are excited to share a few photos highlighting the wonderful work happening in our THRIVE classroom, where students are actively engaged in learning activities and therapy sessions that support their growth and development. We are also proud to include photos from our students participating in Special Olympics events, where they demonstrated determination, teamwork, and school pride. We are incredibly proud of our students and the great things they continue to accomplish!



ARCH Micro-school (Advanced Readiness at Chavez High)

ARCH STUDENTS GIVE BACK AT ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK

ARCH students recently volunteered their time at St. Mary's Food Bank, giving back to the community through service. Students helped support the food bank's efforts while working together to make a positive impact for families in need. We are proud of our ARCH students for demonstrating leadership and a commitment to serving our community.



ARCH ALUMNI RETURNS TO SHARE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

We were excited to welcome back an ARCH alumni, Adora Castro, who is currently attending Davidson College in North Carolina as a Posse Scholar. During her visit, she shared insights about her college experience and answered student questions about everything from dorm life to coursework, workload, and the college application process. Her visit provided valuable perspective and inspiration for our students as they begin thinking about their own college journeys.



Performing Arts Spotlights

PXU ONE ACT FESTIVAL HOSTED BY CESAR CHAVEZ THEATRE

Our Theatre Department proudly hosted the PXU One Act Festival. Schools from across the district brought their top drama students to participate in a day filled with performances, creativity, and collaboration. It was an incredible celebration of student talent and a wonderful opportunity for our campus to showcase its commitment to the arts.



Congratulations to **Jaliyah Ruiz**, our most recent Theatre Student of the Month! Jaliyah serves as stage manager for both *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* and *Alice by Heart*, and she has been nothing short of exceptional. As the organizational heartbeat of our productions, she keeps rehearsals running smoothly, manages countless moving pieces behind the scenes, and ensures that every cast and crew member feels supported and prepared. Her leadership, reliability, and calm presence make an enormous difference in the rehearsal room. Jaliyah consistently goes above and beyond, handling challenges with professionalism and maturity well beyond her years. She is detail-oriented, proactive, and deeply committed to the success of the entire team.

Simply put — our shows would not be the same without her.

We are incredibly proud of Jaliyah and grateful for the dedication, positivity, and excellence she brings to our Theatre Department every single day!



Performing Arts Spotlights (continued...)

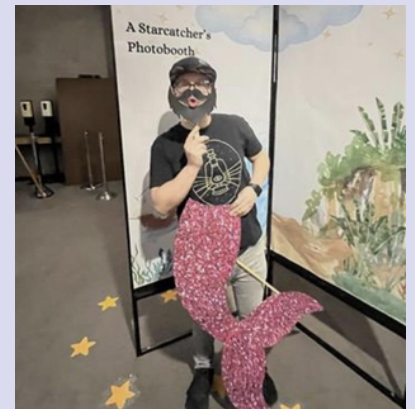
THEATRE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MADAMA BUTTERFLY LIVE AT THE OPERA

In January, our Theatre students had the incredible opportunity to attend the opera and experience Madama Butterfly live. This powerful performance gave students firsthand exposure to professional staging, vocal performance, and storytelling at the highest level.



THEATRE STUDENTS ATTEND ASU PRODUCTION OF PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

In February, students traveled to Arizona State University to see a production of Peter and the Starcatcher. The experience allowed students to see creative staging, ensemble storytelling, and theatrical magic in action — inspiring ideas they can bring back into our own productions.



Performing Arts Spotlights (continued...)



It has been an exciting and busy season for our Theatre program!

Our students recently completed auditions and have officially cast this year's spring production of *Alice by Heart*. Rehearsals are now underway, and the cast and crew are already hard at work bringing this imaginative and heartfelt story to life. We can't wait to share it with our community! Our single night performance will take place on **Friday, April 10 at 6:30 PM.**



Performing Arts Spotlights (continued)...

CHAVEZ MADRIGAL SINGERS EARN “EXCELLENT” RATING AT NAU FESTIVAL

The Cesar Chavez Madrigal Singers recently competed at the NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival in Flagstaff, where they earned an “Excellent” rating for their performance. Congratulations to our talented singers for representing Chavez with pride—way to go, Champions!



CCHS CHORAL DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: REACH OUT – THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN

The Cesar Chavez High School Choral Department proudly presented Reach Out: The Magic of Motown on Thursday, March 5, 2026. It was an evening of incredible music as our talented singers celebrate the timeless hits and soulful sounds of Motown.





CCHS Library Resources and Tips

BLACK HISTORY VIRTUAL LIBRARY: READ, LEARN, AND BE INSPIRED

We're celebrating the powerful voices and stories of African American authors and social leaders with our Black History Virtual Library! Explore incredible YA novels, inspiring reads, and more! Grab the PDF with live links at pxu.org/chavez/library

Don't forget to sign in to Destiny Discover using your PXU Microsoft 365 login to check out our newest eBooks and audiobooks. Happy reading and listening!

Accessing our library is easy—just scan the QR code to explore digital books, databases, and other helpful resources anytime. Take advantage of everything our library has to offer!

	PXU & CCHS TEST PREP ONLINE RESOURCES 2025-2026	
	Roxie Ruiz Blackson - 44056 blackson@phoenixunion.org	Teacher Librarian
Media Tech	Amy Irwin - 44057 airwin@phoenixunion.org	
CCHS Library Website: https://www.pxu.org/chavez/library CCHS Library Catalog: https://www.pxu.org/chavez/library/catalog In the catalog, scroll down to the "Plan for Your Future" ribbon.		CCHS Library
CCHS Virtual Library	Use this College, Careers, & Test Prep Virtual Library to give your students access to digital books, online resources, Discover Collections, and more.	
College, Career, and Life for PXU Collections include eBooks from the PXU digital library, CCHS print books, and databases. Use the login information for PXU Libraries Databases to access those resources remotely.		CCHS Discover Collections
PXU Libraries: College, Careers & Test Prep		PXU test prep/career exploration databases, other related online resources, and promotional materials are available on this webpage. https://www.pxu.org/library/testprep
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Black History

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Black History Month

BOOKS TO READ FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH
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