A NEWSLETTER OF THE TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS & VIEWS

SPRING 2026

TVUSD A RATED DISTRICT

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Embracing the rich history of Tanque Verde, a place where families have come together to learn, grow, and connect for generations.

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Celebrating America's 250th, TVUSD highlights the civics and service experiences of our students across all four schools.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Because of our community, the opportunities for our students continues to grow, and student excellence follows.

FULFILLING OUR PROMISE TO THE COMMUNITY



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD



Tanque Verde Unified School District (TVUSD) is the premier district in all of Arizona. That's not hyperbole. That's not opinion. That's a fact. Tanque Verde High School (TVHS) is the premier high school in all of Arizona that does not have an entrance exam for admissions. That's not exaggeration or opinion; that's an objective, documented fact.

The long list of accolades and achievements earned by the staff and students across the district over the past few years is astonishing. TVHS has a waiting list of families trying to get their students into the best high school in the state. TVHS has also earned multiple State Championships in the arts, athletics, academics, and career technical competitions. To add, students have earned many admissions to premier universities across the nation; multiple National Merit Scholarship winners; and, just this past month, TWO Flinn Scholarship winners! The talent of the students attending TVHS is just unbelievable!

Emily Gray Junior High School also has a waiting list of students wanting to attend. Our two outstanding elementary schools, Tanque Verde and Agua Caliente, are at or near capacity; filled with both in-district and open enrollment students whose parents recognize the great work Team Tanque Verde does every day, and they don't want to miss their chance to matriculate into TVHS. With the team of teachers and administrators leading and educating our students, we are accomplishing great things every day across the district.

This amazing growth has not happened overnight. It took years of deliberate planning and strategic leadership by the current and past governing boards. Tanque Verde Unified School District has asked for your support and time after time you have stepped up and helped our district build, grow, and improve in a way that has solidified the academic culture in the Tanque Verde community. This is reflected in our district vision to: Equip graduates for mastery, founded upon excellence and integrity. In everything we do, we expect excellence, we set high expectations, and demand integrity. Like you, we want to see our graduates master any challenge as they go out into the world.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without the strong and continued support of you, the constituents, the taxpayers, and the voters of the district. Over those past 30 years, previous boards have asked for additional financial support, and you have generously agreed. That financial support, in the form of general obligation bonds and maintenance and operations overrides, has directly and positively impacted the education of the students attending schools in our district.

In 2001, the community approved a bond to build the district's second elementary school, Tanque Verde Elementary School. In 2009, it was approved to construct Emily Gray Junior High School. In 2020, a bond was approved to improve and update the existing high school (the former junior high) and begin its development into a full-fledged high school. In 2022 the community recognized the state's failure to fund education adequately to keep pace with inflation and supported students by approving a maintenance and operations override. This critical override directly funded essential programs, including: Advanced Placement, Accelerated math classes, Gifted education, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), Librarians, Elementary physical education and the arts.

Through strategic fiscal management and aggressive grant advocacy, our district successfully maximized the impact of local bond funding while minimizing the cost to taxpayers in 2020. By securing a remarkable $27 million from the State of Arizona's Department of School Facilities and leveraging an additional $400,000 in Federal E-RATE funds, the initial $6.1 million in local bond funds was amplified to nearly five times its original value. This significant achievement is a testament to the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility, demonstrating our proactive work to secure crucial state and federal resources, thereby ensuring that we can deliver the high-quality facilities and technology our students deserve without overburdening our community. The results, as outlined in this newsletter, powerfully showcase our dedication to maximizing the educational experiences for every student in our district.

Your investments in our district have positively impacted your children, your neighbors, and your neighbors' children. None of what all the students and staff, past and present, have achieved would have been possible without YOUR help. On this, our 140th Anniversary, on behalf of the governing board of our district, I want to thank you for your previous support and for your continued support as we continue to lead and grow our students. We are not done yet!

Thomas Trask, Governing Board Member, Tanque Verde Unified School District

HONORING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE



It is with tremendous pride that we celebrate a remarkable milestone this year: 140 years of the Tanque Verde School District serving our community. Since 1886, our district has been a constant part of the rich history of the Tanque Verde Valley, a place where families have come together to learn, grow, and connect for generations.

Our long history is proof of the community's deep-seated commitment to education. As we look back on our origins, it's clear that keeping a connection to our valley's heritage remains a crucial part of the Tanque Verde experience. Programs like our Agricultural Science and our K-2 Garden Program do more than just teach farming; they foster an appreciation for the land and the service-oriented history that shaped this area. These hands-on experiences literally root our students in the same soil from which our community sprang.

However, a 140-year legacy also requires us to constantly look ahead. Our goal is to prepare students not just for the world that was, but for the fast-paced, ever-changing economy of today and tomorrow. The skills needed for success in the 21st century are continually shifting, and TVUSD is dedicated to delivering strong, relevant instruction that sets every graduate up for a successful future.

We are proud of the strong academic paths we offer, making sure students gain the critical thinking and technical expertise employers are seeking. Our focus on STEM classes, a wide selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and specialized Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs reflects this forward-thinking mindset. Whether a student is engaged in the precision work of machinery, tackling the challenges of computer science, or excelling in other high-demand fields, we are making sure they acquire the practical knowledge and conceptual understanding needed to thrive in college and career.

As we recognize the generations of students, teachers, and community members who have built this incredible district over 140 years, we are excited by the possibilities of the future. By maintaining a strong bond with the historical values of our valley while rigorously pursuing modern academic achievement, Tanque Verde School District continues its tradition of developing capable citizens ready to take on the world's challenges. Happy 140th Anniversary, TVUSD!

All my best,

Scott Hagerman



AS OPPORTUNITY GROWS, EXCELLENCE FOLLOWS

Communities often invest in their schools with the understanding that strong facilities help create strong opportunities for students. In the Tanque Verde School Community, that investment has helped shape learning environments where students can grow, explore their interests, and pursue excellence.

With the support of the community, the district has been able to make meaningful improvements across its campuses which enhance both the academic and extracurricular programs that define the district's long-standing reputation as a strong public school option in the Tanque Verde area.

At **Tanque Verde High School**, the addition of the Commons, and dedicated buildings for Science, Agricultural Science and CTE classes created room for the continued expansion of these programs. With more space to offer these courses, more students have access to advanced learning opportunities. The development of the high school courtyard has also become a focal point of campus life; serving as a welcoming space where students gather for both formal events and informal connections throughout the school day.

At **Emily Gray Junior High**, new Orchestra, Theater, and Choir rooms were designed to support the district's vibrant performing arts programs. These spaces provide students with dedicated environments to practice, perform, and collaborate, reinforcing a tradition of artistic excellence that continues to grow each year.

At **Tanque Verde Elementary School**, the addition of a dedicated Kindergarten building created a learning environment specifically designed for the district's youngest learners. The space allows kindergarten students to explore, discover, and build foundational skills in an environment tailored to their developmental needs.



At **Agua Caliente Elementary School**, a full scale grading and drainage project across the campus created a fortuitous opportunity to rebuild and expand the ACES Garden. The ACES Garden has been transformed into a unique outdoor classroom and hosts our science-based Garden Science & Outdoor Learning Program. This program at both elementary schools promotes science learning, healthy lifestyles, leadership, and career pathways through hands-on exploration in an outdoor setting.





Together, these projects reflect the impact that thoughtful investments in school facilities can have on student experiences. The spaces created continue to serve thousands of students each year, supporting learning, creativity, and connection across the district.

In many ways, these improvements demonstrate a simple idea: when our Tanque Verde Community builds spaces designed for students, opportunities grow and student excellence follows.













HIGHTLIGHTING CITIZENSHIP IN TVUSD
IN HONOR AMERICA'S 250TH

As the United States prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding this July, schools across the country are reflecting on how to deepen students' understanding of citizenship, civic responsibility, and service. In the Tanque Verde Unified School District, these ideals are not just topics in a textbook; they are experiences students live every day through learning, service, and engagement with the institutions that shape American democracy.

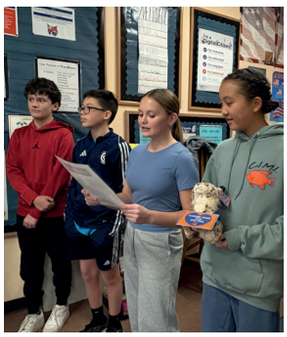
Learning citizenship through real-world experiences is at the heart of our curriculum. Students in Advanced Placement Government classes recently had a unique opportunity to witness democracy in action at the federal courthouse in Tucson. During visits to observe naturalization ceremonies, students watched as individuals from around the world took the oath to become citizens of the United States. In a powerful moment connecting classroom learning with real life, the students helped welcome these new Americans by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and performing the national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner.*

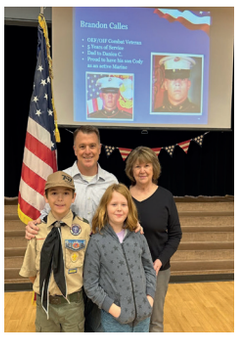
Civic learning also comes directly to campus through special events and annual celebrations. At Tanque Verde Elementary and Agua Caliente Elemetnary, first responders and military personnel are honored on Patriot Day with tributes that include student poetry, choir performances, and moments of remembrance. Ben Franklin has come come to visit in a traveling theater group to show off his printing press, and students dressed up as famous figures as they presented thier reports. Both schools recognize local veterans, including family members of students, at its annual Veterans Day Breakfast and each year the sister schools host a friend debate between the 6th grade classes.

In the fall, it has become an annual tradition for the students in U.S. History classes at the high school to have the opportunity to engage directly with organizations dedicated to preserving the nation's heritage. Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution visit campus to share insights about the founding of the United States and the enduring significance of that era.

Civic responsibility extends well beyond the classroom, and service opportunities allow our students to practice citizenship by supporting the local community. Members of the Junior National Honor Society at Emily Gray Junior High and the National Honor Society at the high school have contributed more than 3,600 hours of community service this school year, supporting a wide range of organizations and causes in our region.















The National Junior Honor Society at Emily Gray raises awareness with the annual Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, and the Student Council works weekly shifts to help pack food supplies for the district's Weekend Eats program. At the high school, Student Council members prepare meals for families staying at Ronald McDonald House Charities and host blood drives to support community health.

While some civic learning takes place through special events, much of it happens every day as students explore American history, institutions, and values through their coursework. Tanque Verde High School students also participate in a number of competitions that challenge them to explore and articulate the principles that define the nation.

English classes participate in an essay contest hosted by the United States District Court, inviting students to reflect on the meaning of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Their essays examine how these ideals shape modern American life and the responsibilities that come with them.

Students involved in Mock Trial and public speaking continue to develop their civic knowledge and communication skills through the Optimist International Oratorical Contest. Tanque Verde High School student Rene Cruz won the state championship last year and went on to place second in the international competition.

Mock Trial students also participate in the Arizona Law Day Contest, where they create presentations exploring laws and rights that have evolved over the past 250 years. Their learning is further enriched through field experiences at the Pima County Superior Court, where students meet with judges and observe trials, gaining firsthand insight into how the legal system works and how constitutional rights are applied.

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, Tanque Verde Unified School District continues to emphasize that citizenship is not only something students study, it is something they practice. Through civic education, community service, engagement with our democratic insitutions, and opportunities to raise their voices in thoughtful dialogue, students are developing the knowledge and character needed to learn, serve, and lead as they embrace the responsibilities of citizenship.















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