

NEWS & VIEWS

FALL 2025

TVUSD A RATED DISTRICT

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Scott Hagerman
highlights the elements of a
comprehensive education for
all students.

BUILDING A LEGACY ONE NOTE AT A TIME

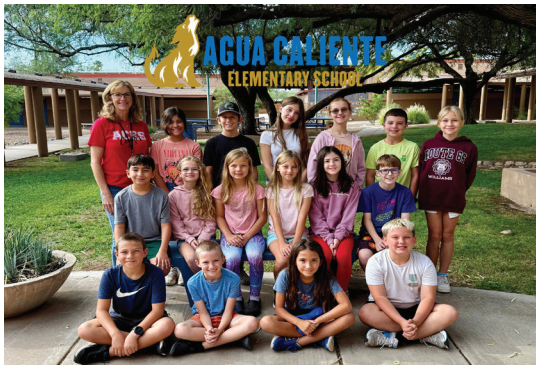
The music programs have
grown from a small group of
students into a district-wide
music community.

BRIDGE SUPPORTING FAMILIES

BRIDGE the new before &
after school care program
for students is now part of
our district community.

A CELEBRATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

TVUSD students in 3rd through 11th grade earn perfect scores on one or more
sections of the Arizona State Assessments



2
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2
5

Excellence in Academic Achievement



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DIVERSE PATHWAYS FOR EVERY STUDENT

While scores on state assessments are one measure of Excellence in Student Achievement, the Arizona accountability system also includes a College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRI). The CCRI score shows how well high schools prepare students for life beyond graduation and accounts for 20% of a high school's overall letter grade.

In the Tanque Verde Unified School District, our K-12 curriculum is intentionally designed to support these readiness benchmarks from the very start. Beginning with engaging, hands-on experiences in the early grades, students are encouraged to explore their interests and imagine their future.

At the elementary level, programs such as the K-2 Garden Program integrate math and language arts into the science of gardening, sparking curiosity that can grow into a future pathway in environmental or agricultural science. Weekly instruction in Music and Art provides a foundation in the performing and visual arts and opportunities like Orchestrata, beginning in 4th grade, and Art Animation in 7th grade, to deepen those interests.

As students transition to junior high, classes like Theater, Choir, and Yearbook allow them to explore creative expression and storytelling, pathways that connect naturally to high school programs in Performing Arts and Journalism.

By the time students reach Tanque Verde High School, the structure of our academic programs ensures alignment with today's college and workforce expectations. Exposure to industry based pathways through STEM, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Design programs provide students with employability skills to compete in the job market and succeed in internships and professional careers.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) instruction is embedded across grades K-8, so by high school, students can branch into specialized areas such as Agriscience, Ecology & Environmental Science, Computer Science & Coding, Engineering, Architecture & Construction, or Medicine & Healthcare.



Through coursework that emphasizes hands-on learning and real-world applications, students develop the confidence to pursue their interests and refine their goals. Early exposure to diverse learning experiences helps students discover their passions naturally, and allow their interests to evolve over time.

Proudly, our curriculum equips our graduates with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed in their next chapter while celebrating the diverse interests and talents that make our students exceptional.

Beth Peterson
TVUSD Board President

Weekend Eats Program

serving TVUSD Families and Staff

TVUSD, in partnership with the Tanque Verde Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of our Weekend Eats Program.

Each school will have bags of food (two breakfasts, two dinners, & snacks) available every Friday for students/families who can use a little extra food over the weekend.



TANQUE VERDE
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For more information
or any questions, contact:
Susan Fry at susan@spfconsulting.org



tanqueverde.org

Want to help ...
Weekend Eats Program is accepting
monetary donations via the
Tanque Verde Foundation.

There is no eligibility
requirement to receive food.
Parents are asked to complete a
confidential google form to
ensure enough bags of food
are available.

SIGN UP HERE

AN EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

As Superintendent of the Tanque Verde Unified School District, I am incredibly proud of the work we do every day to support our students. Our district's vision is a promise to our community to educate every student in an environment that promotes mastery, excellence and integrity.

While our primary focus remains unwavering, ensuring all students achieve at high academic levels, we also understand that true mastery and personal excellence extends beyond the classroom. We are committed to educating well-rounded individuals who are not only prepared for academic success, but encouraged to explore their passions and develop unique skills.

Annually over 90 TVUSD students participate in the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) with earnest solutions for solving real world problems. As an 8th grader at Emily Gray Junior High, **Luca McGill** not only tested his hypothesis for his science fair project, but he also designed the apparatus he used to gather the data. Luca's vision and research exceeded the standards for the project and eventually earned Luca national recognition as a *2025 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Finalist*.



Being well-rounded also means building a diverse set of skills, experiences, and knowledge areas as students are exposed to various situations that connect ideas across disciplines, and engage socially in multiple contexts.

This balance is exemplified in the work of **Lisa Nielsen**, STEAM Teacher at Tanque Verde Elementary School, who led our very first Odyssey of the Mind team to a 1st place finish at State. "Having never competed before, I was so impressed with how confidently our students solved both the long-term and spontaneous problems. It was rewarding to watch the students apply their learning outside the classroom," said Ms. Nielsen. From designing a vehicle to writing a script and performing it, Ms. Nielsen's students coordinated their technical and creative talents to succeed as a team, a true reflection of well-rounded learning in action.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of preparing students for the evolving demands of the modern workforce. That's why we are dedicated to developing strong Career and Technical Education (CTE) options, offering meaningful career-oriented certifications and real-world experiences.

Both **Santino Celani** and **Brooklyn Johnson** have reached their senior year at Tanque Verde High School, building impressive resumes filled with job-related experiences, industry certifications, and top academic honors. Brooklyn is enrolled in the Sports Medicine program, where she is developing transferable skills that align with her future aspirations in healthcare and medicine. Santino is a dual CTE student, exploring both Precision Manufacturing and Agriculture. From interpreting blueprints and calculating machine speeds to managing agribusiness finances and earning recognition in FFA competitions, Santino has found his interests fully engaged and enriched through his chosen coursework.

Beyond academics and career readiness, we believe in the power of extracurricular activities to build character, teamwork, and leadership. We encourage all students to participate in our wide array of sports and clubs, where they can discover new interests, forge lasting friendships, and develop essential life skills.

In Tanque Verde, we are not just educating students; we are cultivating future leaders, innovators, and engaged citizens. By embracing this approach to education, we are empowering every graduate to achieve mastery, pursue their dreams, and make a positive impact on the world.

All my best,

Scott Hagerman

BUILDING A LEGACY, ONE NOTE AT A TIME

The Tanque Verde Unified School District (TVUSD) music program represents a long-standing commitment to excellence in arts education and the development of student leadership. Over the past two decades, the program has grown from a small group of students into a thriving, district-wide music community.

When Tanque Verde High School opened in 2005, the band program began with a single class of 20 students. Through consistent district support and community engagement, the program steadily expanded. A pep band and marching band were soon added, followed by orchestra, jazz band, choir, and color guard.

Since 2016, TVUSD has offered the full complement of music classes, including Band, Orchestra, Guitar, Choir, ensembles for Jazz and Percussion, and established a strong foundation for musical growth that continues through high school. Today, all students from Kindergarten thru 6th grade receive general music, and more than 400 students in grades 5–12 participate in the district's elective music programs, demonstrating the success of sustained investment in the arts.

Participation in competitions over the years has earned the TVUSD music programs well-deserved recognition at the local, regional, and state levels. Building on this success, the strong connections within the music community have enabled the program to recruit and retain talented staff while maintaining meaningful relationships with alumni who continue to support instruction and performance opportunities. These partnerships enhance program quality and foster a lasting sense of continuity across generations of students.

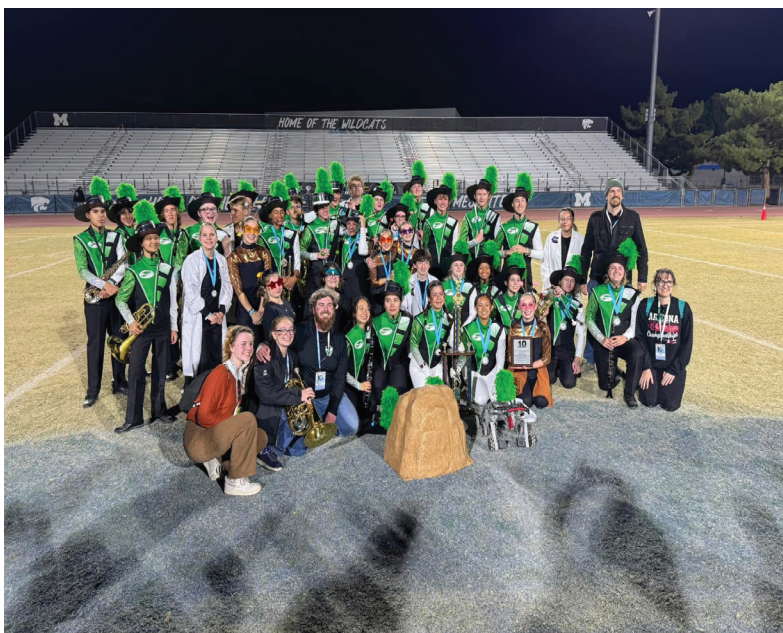
This fall, Ben Johnson, a Tanque Verde High School graduate who now serves as the school's Band Director, joined Marching Band Director Matt Harris and Orchestra Director Alicia Hagerman in hosting "Legacy Night." The event was envisioned as a musical homecoming, bringing together alumni, students, and community members to celebrate the shared legacy of Tanque Verde's music program. "Legacy Night" highlighted student performances and marked the beginning of a new tradition that honors the enduring impact of TVUSD's music program and its ability to build lifelong connections and leadership.





Mr. Johnson highlights the development of student drum majors as an example of the legacy of the music programs. “Each year, these students who serve as drum majors assume significant responsibilities within the band, modeling teamwork, discipline, and pride in performance. Their growth serves as a reflection of the mentorship and tradition that define the program”, Mr. Johnson explains.

From the very first band uniforms to the addition of the performing arts building at Emily Gray Junior High, the ever growing TVUSD's music program exemplifies the district's dedication to providing meaningful, high-quality educational experiences. This enduring legacy continues to inspire creativity, leadership, and excellence among Tanque Verde students and our school community.



HAWK ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



BENJAMIN JOHNSON

CLASS OF 2012

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At the Governing Board Meeting on September 24, TVUSD recognized 61 students who earned perfect scores on Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) or exceptional scores on the ACT. These achievements reflect the district's commitment to our core value of Excellence and High Expectations.

AASA is the statewide achievement test for Arizona students in Grades 3-8. All Arizona public school students in Grades 3-8 take the grade-level AASA assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The American College Test (ACT) serves as the statewide high school achievement test for students in Grade 11.

A "perfect or exceptional score" on the state assessment means a student scored at the highest possible level in a specific subject area, and represents superior mastery and a student's deep understanding of the subject matter assessed.

TVUSD recognized 50 students with perfect scores in Math, 12 students with perfect scores in ELA, Reading or English, and 7 students with perfect scores in Science.

The following students earned perfect scores on 2 or more of the assessments: **Katherine Beverage** (TVHS) - English, Reading, Math and Science; **Lily Green** (TVHS) - English and Science; **Aubrey Evans** (EGJH) - ELA and Math; **Evelyn Johnston** (TVES) - ELA and Math; **Finnegan McGill** (TVHS) - Math and Science; **Henry McGovern** (ACES) - ELA and Math; **Grant Orvik** - Reading and Science; **Alexandra Yoke** (TVHS) - Math and Science.

TVUSD is immensely proud of these students for their hard work and dedication, and recognizes the families, teachers, and staff who have supported them along the way. Their success not only highlights individual achievement but also reflects the strength of our school community and our shared commitment to academic excellence.





BRIDGE

TVUSD BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

Tanque Verde Unified School District (TVUSD) is excited to introduce the BRIDGE Before and After School Program a district-operated initiative designed to provide a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for students in grades K–6 before and after the regular school day.

The before and after school care programs are on the campuses of Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde Elementary Schools, ensuring greater consistency, affordability, and alignment with the district's mission of providing high-quality support services to families.

The BRIDGE program is a safe and supportive space for students offering opportunities for social and academic growth. Students participate in structured activities, homework help, free play, and enrichment that encourages creativity, collaboration, and learning.

"We want BRIDGE to be a place where kids can learn, play, and grow," said Stephanie O'Brien, TVUSD's Student Care Program Coordinator. "Our team is passionate about creating an after school experience that supports families and complements what students are learning during the school day."





TANQUE VERDE
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



BRIDGE

Before/after school
Resources In Development,
Growth & Engagement





4201 N. Melpomene Way
Building 10
Tucson, AZ 85749

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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TUCSON, AZ
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with a
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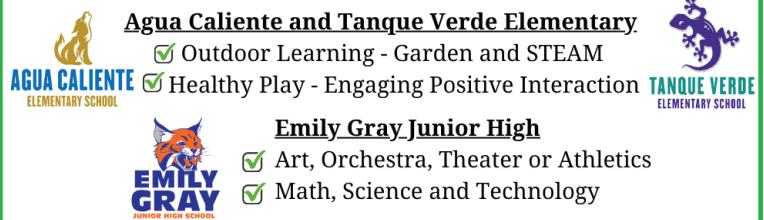


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schools or programs with
the Arizona Tax Credit for
Public Schools**

**Make your Arizona Tax Credit donation
by December 31, 2025
and it will count toward your 2024 taxes**
TanqueVerdeSchools.org



SCAN HERE and select:
"Area of Greatest Need"
or
the program and school
of your choice



Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde Elementary

- ✓ Outdoor Learning - Garden and STEAM
- ✓ Healthy Play - Engaging Positive Interaction

Emily Gray Junior High

- ✓ Art, Orchestra, Theater or Athletics
- ✓ Math, Science and Technology

Tanque Verde High School

- ✓ Athletics and Band
- ✓ Orchestra, FFA, Mock Trial and Theater

