



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED

School District

NEWSLETTER

DISCOVER YOUR PATH

August 2024



First Day of School

August 7, 2024

The 2024-2025 school year is officially underway, and what a fantastic start it has been! Our 15 school sites and one distance learning program welcomed students back with excitement and energy on August 7, 2024, setting the stage for another

year of growth and learning. We put together a special slideshow of photos capturing moments from across the district to celebrate this unforgettable first day. Check it out and relive the smiles, enthusiasm, and positive vibes that filled our classrooms and hallways. Welcome back, FUSD family—here's to an amazing year ahead! 🌲



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A message from our **SUPERINTENDENT**

I am grateful to all the students, families, and educators who have helped get the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year off to a great start. As we close the first month of school, I want to take a moment to share information about the importance of regular school attendance.

Every day matters. Chronic absenteeism, missing 10% or more of a student's enrolled days for any reason (excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions), can have a significant impact on student learning and success. Since the

COVID-19 pandemic, schools have seen a concerning rise in chronic absenteeism nationwide. A student missing 2-3 days of school each month can lead to chronic absenteeism.

When students miss school regularly, they risk falling behind academically. This can lead to difficulties in reading, achieving in middle school, and even graduating from high school. But the problem

*Continued on page 3 /
Superintendent*



BOC Tours Coconino High School's Mini Auditorium Construction Project

August 1, 2024

On July 2, 2024, members of the Flagstaff Unified School District's (FUSD) Budget Oversight Committee (BOC) and governing board members toured the ongoing construction at Coconino High School (CHS), specifically the remodel of the school's mini auditorium and the surrounding outdoor plaza.

During the tour, Superintendent Michael Penca expressed his enthusiasm for the project's progress, emphasizing its significant upgrades and the positive impact it

will have on the school community.

"The committee toured the construction sites of the remodeled auditorium and plaza at Coconino High School," Penca said during his report to the FUSD Governing Board on August 13. "There's an outdoor plaza that could be a gathering space, and we addressed the drainage issues that have plagued that area. So, I think all of us are really impressed with that project and, again, really grateful for our

Continued on page 3 / BOC

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Superintendent

LANCE HUFFMAN
Assistant Superintendent of
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Justin DiNardi

Kyle Christian

Young Professionals of Flagstaff

Justin DiNardi, Director of Operations at Flagstaff Unified School District, and Kyle Christian, FACTS Coordinator, have both been recognized as part of the 2024 "Young Professionals of Flagstaff" by the Arizona Daily Sun. This distinction honors 20 individuals who are making significant impacts in their careers and within the community.

Justin DiNardi drives innovation and collaboration within FUSD, leading initiatives such as the FMX portal and partnerships that enhance emergency response and transportation. His work with national training standards and his role in search and rescue highlight his commitment to public safety and

community development. Outside of work, Justin enjoys camping and hiking with his wife and dogs.

Kyle Christian, known for his leadership in the FACTS program, has expanded its reach across all FUSD elementary schools. His dedication stems from his own experiences with before and after school care, and he remains passionate about supporting families and students. An avid triathlete, Kyle is currently training for his first Ironman in November.

Both Justin and Kyle exemplify the spirit of innovation and community service celebrated by the Young Professionals of Flagstaff distinction.



...Superintendent / From Page 2

goes beyond individual students. Chronic absenteeism can create a disruptive learning environment for everyone in the school community. Two-thirds of students in the U.S. attend schools with chronic absenteeism rates of 20% or more. At this level, the whole school is impacted, including students who attend every day.

Let's work together to ensure our students are in class every day. By collaborating with families and students, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) can create a supportive environment that prioritizes attendance and helps every child reach their full potential.

Thanks for choosing FUSD, and I look forward to continued success all year long. 🌲



...BOC / From Page 2

partners."

Penca explained that the partners involved in the renovation include the DLR Group as the architectural and engineering design team and CORE Construction as the general contractor. The design features large stone slabs that create a welcoming outdoor space and address previous drainage problems at the site. Inside the auditorium, the renovations have transformed the space into a professional-grade theater. The interior design incorporates the school's black and red colors, with new seats installed and substantial upgrades to the audio-visual equipment.

Superintendent Penca praised the enhancements.

"It's really well done, and a huge upgrade to the technology and audio-visual equipment," he said. "I can't wait to hear some of our talented students read poetry in there, sing, do stand-up comedy, whatever our kids decide to do in this wonderful space."

The mini auditorium project was initiated after the FUSD Governing Board approved a construction contract with CORE Construction in December 2023, totaling \$3,075,447.

The project broke ground in January 2024 and is slated for completion by the fall. Funding for the project primarily comes from the 2018 and 2022 bond dollars, with additional contributions from district funds allocated through Medicaid, Capital, and Adjacent Ways.

In addition to the mini auditorium, the construction includes site upgrades designed to enhance safety, accessibility, and functionality. These upgrades extend to the South Commons area, site drainage near the south parking lot, and improvements along the Isabel Street frontage.

FUSD is also utilizing funds from the 2022 Bond, passed in November 2022, to support a variety of campus-specific projects. As part of these efforts, additional exterior improvements to the entryway of Coconino High School will be completed in tandem with the mini auditorium renovation.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new mini auditorium is tentatively scheduled for September 6, 2024. More information about the event will be released as the date approaches. 🌲



Flagstaff High Senior Inspires Team with New Helmets Amid Adversity

August 9, 2024

We are proud to share the inspiring story of Stephen "Budda" Dick, a senior at Flagstaff High School, who has demonstrated extraordinary courage, generosity, and selflessness in the face of adversity. Diagnosed with Stage Three Anaplastic Astrocytoma brain cancer in 2023, Stephen's high school football journey was interrupted by his health struggles. After experiencing a seizure during practice in the Flagstaff High School weight room, Stephen underwent medical evaluations that led to this life-changing diagnosis.

Despite the daunting challenge before him, Stephen's spirit remained strong. His teammates, too, showed their unwavering support when they drove to Phoenix to visit him in

the hospital, presenting him with a signed poster—a heartfelt gesture from the Flagstaff Eagles Football team.

When the opportunity came for Stephen's family to apply for a wish through Make-A-Wish Arizona, Stephen's humble nature shone through. Believing that others needed a wish more than he did, Stephen chose to use his wish not for himself but for his football team. In a stunning act of generosity, he decided to support his teammates by securing 55 custom Riddell helmets designed to provide enhanced protection and safety for the Eagles.

The special presentation of these helmets took place on August 3, 2024, at Flagstaff High School's auditorium. Surrounded by his family, teammates, and representatives from Make-A-Wish

Arizona, Stephen's contribution was celebrated with admiration. Former Arizona Cardinals star Larry Fitzgerald even sent a personal message via video, praising Stephen's incredible selflessness and the strength he embodies.

Stephen's act of kindness did not go unnoticed by the Flagstaff community. His bravery and determination have touched many hearts, showcasing the profound impact of compassion and unity. Not only have Stephen's efforts provided physical safety for his team, but they have also created a lasting legacy of perseverance and love for his community.

As the Flagstaff High School Eagles gear up for their upcoming season, starting on August 30, 2024, they will take to the field with Stephen's remarkable gift—a tangible reminder

of his enduring influence. Though his ability to play this season remains uncertain, Stephen's presence on and off the field will continue to inspire his teammates and community.

We are thrilled to share that Stephen is doing well and is on the road to recovery. He remains an integral part of the team, ready to support the Eagles in every way possible. Stephen "Budda" Dick's story is one of hope, resilience, and the incredible power of giving back.



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Kinsey Celebrates A+ School of Excellence Recognition

August 1, 2024

Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School has been recognized as one of Arizona's finest schools, earning the prestigious A+ School of Excellence Award from the Arizona Education Foundation (AEF). This award, one of the highest honors for public schools in the state, celebrates Kinsey's unwavering dedication to educational excellence and its profound impact on the community.

The school was one of only 37 public schools in Arizona to receive the A+ designation for 2024. The A+ School of Excellence Award

identifies and celebrates schools with exceptional practices and positive learning environments. According to the AEF, this recognition often paves the way for schools seeking National Blue Ribbon status.

On May 16, 2024, Kinsey celebrated the achievement by unveiling their A+ School of Excellence banner. Principal Ellen Herman, along with staff, students, and the larger Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) community, came together for the event.

Herman, reflected on the journey. "This recognition isn't just a badge

of honor. It's a testament to Kinsey's unwavering commitment to its profound impact on the lives of its students and community."

Superintendent Michael Penca expressed his pride in the school's accomplishment, acknowledging the remarkable efforts of the entire Kinsey community.

"Being recognized by the Arizona Educational Foundation as an A+ School of Excellence is a truly remarkable honor, and it speaks volumes about the dedication and passion you pour into your work at Kinsey each day," Penca said.

Penca also highlighted how this achievement reflects the collaborative spirit at Kinsey.

"From teachers and administrators to support staff and volunteers,

everyone plays a crucial role in creating this extraordinary school and fostering its partnerships with families and community."

Penca also emphasized the continued excellence that Kinsey represents.

"I have no doubt that you will continue to inspire and empower your students and push the boundaries of place-based and project-based learning," he added.

Congratulations to Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School on this outstanding achievement! The entire FUSD community is proud of Kinsey's commitment to fostering educational excellence and looks forward to the school's continued success in the years to come. 🌲



FUSD Breaks Ground on New Marshall Magnet Elementary School

August 8, 2024

On August 5, 2024, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) marked a historic moment for the community with the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Marshall Magnet Elementary School. The ceremony, held at the lower field of the former Flagstaff Middle School site, symbolized the start of construction on a state-of-the-art facility that will serve the students of Marshall Elementary for generations to come.

The event brought together parents, students, staff, and community members to celebrate Marshall Elementary's new beginning. The school has been a cornerstone of the community since its original

construction in 1952. The ceremony featured remarks from Marshall Elementary School Principal Janelle Reasor and FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca, followed by a community barbecue that fostered a sense of excitement and camaraderie as the new chapter for the school began.

Standing on the sacred land that has long been home to educational institutions, Principal Janelle Reasor shared her vision for the future.

"Today is an absolute honor and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stand before you on this sacred land to explain the unique design of our new school that captures Marshall's rich history while supporting the learning environment of our 21st-

century scholars," she said.

Reasor highlighted the school's evolution from its foundation in 1952 to its transformation into an art and science magnet school in 2000, emphasizing Marshall's deep roots in the Flagstaff community.

"As we break ground today, we carry with us the torch of our rich history, preserving many artifacts and valued traditions that have made Marshall a cornerstone of our community for 72 years," Reasor said, reflecting a sense of pride in the past while looking forward to the future. "This new facility will be a beacon of learning for the generations ahead."

Reasor went on to detail the unique design of the new school, which will integrate the diverse

landscapes of Arizona as part of its "Trek of the West" theme.

"Our pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten students will begin their journey in the Sonoran Desert. As they progress through their elementary years, our school design captures the biomes as they increase in elevation," she explained. "Students will journey through the Labyrinth Canyon, experiencing the Great Basin, High Chaparral, Havasupai Falls, the Mogollon Rim, and end their 5th-grade journey at the highest elevation of the Tundra biome—our sacred Humphreys Peak."

Continued on page 7 / Marshall

ANTI-BIAS & ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Anti-Bias & Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Recruiting Members

August 21, 2024

The Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Advisory Committee is seeking new members to join its efforts in addressing issues related to bias, racism, and inequity within the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). Established by the Governing Board in August 2020, the committee plays a vital role in providing feedback and recommendations on projects focused on these critical issues.

The committee was intentionally designed to center a diverse set of community perspectives and encourage inclusive dialogue on equity concerns. It focuses on four key areas: 1. FUSD staff diversity; 2. Professional learning for FUSD staff; 3. Curriculum; and 4. Student behavior and social-emotional learning.

The committee's Diversity Statement reads, "The Flagstaff

Unified School District values the diversity of our community, staff, and students and is committed to equity, inclusion, dignity, and respect for all. We believe that to be prepared for today's global society and workforce, students and staff must be able to understand, appreciate, work with, and learn from people with cultures and backgrounds different from their own."

If you are a community member within the FUSD boundaries and are interested in contributing to this important work, contact Susan Smith, Director of Equity, Inclusion and Support, at ssmith2@fUSD1.org.

Learn more about ABAR and its initiatives by visiting <https://www.fUSD1.org/Page/18768> or scan the QR code below.

SCAN ME!



NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024



...Marshall / From Page 6

The new building's design has been meticulously crafted to ensure that the school remains a safe, flexible, and community-centered space for innovative learning. Reasor expressed her gratitude to the community and to the partners who have made this new chapter possible.

"The DLR design team and CORE Construction teams have been phenomenal partners throughout this journey," she said. "They have exceeded our expectations in every way."

The construction of the new Marshall Elementary School is funded through the Proposition 448 Bond, approved by voters in November 2022. This bond allocated \$25 million of its \$100 million total to the replacement, rebuild, and relocation of Marshall Elementary. It is a necessary investment to bring the school up to modern standards and better serve its students, particularly in its magnet and special education programs. The new site at the former Flagstaff Middle School addresses key safety concerns and provides ample space for the school's future.

Superintendent Michael Penca echoed Reasor's sentiments in his address to the gathered crowd.

"This is a momentous occasion for our district, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share this milestone with our students, families, staff, elected officials, and community partners," Penca said, expressing his appreciation for the

community's support and leadership in making this project a reality. "Thanks to the overwhelming support of our voters in the 2022 bond election, we are able to make this dream a tangible reality."

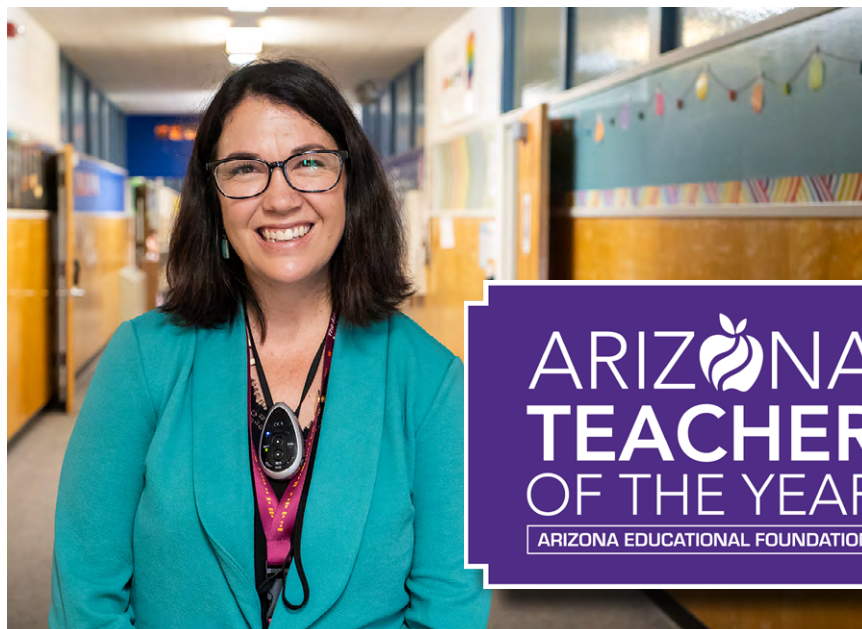
Penca also acknowledged the collective efforts of the FUSD Governing Board and the Bond Oversight Committee, whose leadership and guidance have been critical throughout the planning and design process.

"To CORE Construction and all your trade partners, we commend your commitment to excellence and safety as you embark on this exciting project, and we look forward to watching your progress until the new school opens next Fall," he said.

The ceremony concluded with the ceremonial turning of the soil, marking the official start of construction for the new Marshall Magnet Elementary School, slated to open in October 2025. The event served as a powerful reminder of the community's commitment to education and to the future of Flagstaff's students.

"Together, we are building a brighter future for our students," Penca concluded.

The spirit of optimism and progress was palpable as the community came together to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new era for Marshall Magnet Elementary School—a school that will continue to foster a love of learning and creativity for generations to come.



ARIZONA
TEACHER
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Katie Krause – 2025 AEF Arizona Teacher of the Year Semifinalist!

August 20, 2024

We are excited to announce that Katie Krause from Eva Marshall Magnet Elementary School has been named a Top 10 candidate for the 2025 AEF® Arizona Teacher of the Year® Award! This prestigious honor recognizes her outstanding commitment and contributions to education within the Flagstaff Unified School District.

Katie shared her thoughts on the nomination.

"I am beyond honored even to be nominated," she said. "I was nominated by a parent of mine... I had one of [their] students for two years... To find out it was the parent... a former student of mine is the greatest honor a teacher can receive."

Reflecting on the process and her selection as a semifinalist, Katie explained she was extremely shocked and humbled.

"Finding out that there were

so many applicants that had been nominated this year... I was completely blown away and so excited to take on this opportunity," she added.

Katie is preparing for an in-person interview in Phoenix later this month, where she hopes to advance to the final top five.

"I am extremely humbled to take on this opportunity and ready to showcase what I believe in as an educator and how I can support education and make changes, especially in Flagstaff and beyond in our state of Arizona," she said.

Katie's passion for advocating for education is deeply personal, as her mother was named Teacher of the Year in 1993.

"She's always been my mentor and role model," Katie shared about her mom, recalling the pride she felt when her mother was recognized.

For Katie, teaching is a calling rooted in a love for learning and community.

"Everybody's story includes a teacher. That's the motto for the Arizona Education Foundation, and I

*Continued on page 9 /
Krause*



Project Momentum Training Inspires FUSD Educators

August 16, 2024

On Friday, August 2, 2024, Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) hosted its first Project Momentum training, marking the district's commitment to improving student outcomes through enhanced professional development and teacher collaboration. Dr. Dan Mulligan, a national expert in instructional strategies, led the day, which aimed to provide FUSD teachers with valuable tools to increase their effectiveness in the classroom while reducing workload.

"Dr. Mulligan's job was to improve teacher effectiveness and decrease their workload," said Superintendent Michael Penca. "He gave them tools that they could edit and make better."

To support this effort, Dr. Mulligan created an extensive online resource for teachers, which includes over 500 instructional resources to aid classroom teaching.

Penca explained the event was divided into two sessions, each attended by over 300 teachers. The morning and afternoon sessions occurred at the High Country Conference Center, which offered a professional and collaborative atmosphere. The sessions were not just lectures but interactive workshops where teachers learned new strategies, tried them out, and discussed ways to implement them in their classrooms.

"It wasn't just listening to a great speaker," Penca remarked. "Our teachers were learning strategies, trying them, and collaborating with partners about how to use them in their classrooms. There was laughing, hugging—it was truly a productive day."

In addition to Dr. Mulligan's training, Assistant Superintendent Lance Huffman and Director of Research and Assessment Mike Vogler led discussions on site-specific

*Continued on page 9 /
Momentum*



FUSD Foundation Launches Teachers Supply Closet

August 19, 2024

The FUSD Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its new Teachers Supply Closet. This dedicated resource center provides Flagstaff Unified School District educators with classroom supplies, teaching materials, and other essentials. This initiative is part of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to ensure teachers have the tools they need for a successful school year.

The Teachers Supply Closet, located at Summit High School, officially opened on August 5, 2024, and is accessible to all FUSD teachers for the school year. Educators can visit the space to select the supplies they need to support their classrooms. The Foundation asks that teachers only take what they require to ensure that resources are available for everyone.

FUSD Foundation President Jennifer Grogan shared the positive impact of the Teachers Supply Closet since its inception.

"We are thrilled to report the ongoing success of our Teachers Supply Closet program! Since its launch, we've had 29 teachers from 11 schools take advantage of the resources we provide. The demand for supplies has been high, and we've recently restocked, adding even more essential items like Kleenex to support our educators and their classrooms," said Grogan. "We remain committed to continually replenishing our supplies to ensure that every teacher has what they need to foster a successful learning environment."

The Foundation held a successful Supply Drive on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at Staples. Community members donated needed items, and volunteers later helped unload and organize the collected supplies at Summit High School.

For more information or to donate to the Teacher Supply Closet, contact the FUSD Foundation at FUSDFoundation@gmail.com. 🌲

...Krause / From Page 8

take that to heart because we think about all the great educators that are out there and how every student, every person's story always revolves around a great educator," she added.

Katie's journey in education has been long and impactful. Currently a fourth-grade teacher, she has been with the district for 14 years, previously teaching fifth grade for 12 years. She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Northern Arizona University, and throughout her career, she has also served as a case manager for students in her classroom.

No matter the outcome of her

upcoming interview, Katie feels honored to be part of the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) family.

"Regardless if I don't move forward, I'm just so happy to become a part of the AEF family and just grateful for all these experiences and opportunities," she said.

The 2025 AEF Arizona Teacher of the Year® Awards ceremony will take place in Phoenix on October 19, 2024, where Katie and her fellow semifinalists will be celebrated. No matter the results, Katie remains committed to continuing her journey as an advocate for students and education in Flagstaff and across Arizona. 🌲



...Momentum / From Page 8

focus areas and the introduction of student data at Sinagua Middle School.

As part of the Project Momentum initiative, FUSD is prioritizing the development of Effective Teacher Teams through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and delivering high-quality Tier 1 instruction to support student learning. This collaborative effort will continue to evolve throughout the school year, with additional follow-up training planned for September.

"We're really focused on increasing our rate of progress and improving our students' learning in English-

Language Arts and mathematics," Superintendent Penca said.

The tools and strategies Dr. Mulligan shared will help FUSD ensure that students are thinking critically, engaging deeply with content, and meeting the high standards they will be tested on. This will help all learners gain the confidence and skills needed to pursue their chosen paths.

The success of the August 2 training sets the stage for future professional development opportunities within FUSD, demonstrating the district's dedication to continuous growth and improved outcomes for all students. 🌲

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Jonathan Corbus

Jonathan Corbus Joins the Coconino High School Administrative Team

Flagstaff Unified School District is pleased to welcome Jonathan Corbus as the new Assistant Principal at Coconino High School. He joins Principal Tadd Ragan and Assistant Principal Ninon Wilson on the school's administrative team. Jonathan brings a wealth of experience in education and leadership, making him a valuable addition to the Coconino High School and FUSD community.

Jonathan is no stranger to Flagstaff, having grown up in the area and graduated from Coconino High School in 2003. After pursuing his education in Tucson, he recently moved back to Flagstaff. He is excited to return to his roots by contributing to the school that significantly shaped his journey.

As the new Assistant Principal,

Continued on page 11 / Corbus



Cherise Hovis

Cherise Hovis Named Director of Student Support Services at FUSD

The Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) is pleased to announce Cherise Hovis as the new Director of Student Support Services (SSS). With nearly two decades of experience in the district, Cherise will lead a department that provides a variety of critical services to students and families. The Student Support Services Department offers support in areas such as Section 504, Health Services, Counseling Services, Crisis Management, Prevention, Restorative Practices, Student Discipline, and Homebound services.

Cherise, originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, lived in both Denver and Durango, Colorado, before making Flagstaff her home 21 years ago. In addition to her commitment to education, Cherise enjoys spending her time outdoors, engaging in

Continued on page 11 / Hovis



Chelsea Drey

Chelsea Drey: FUSD's New Project Momentum Coordinator

Chelsea Drey is the new Project Momentum Coordinator at Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). Chelsea brings a wealth of experience and a passion for education to her new role, making her an excellent fit for leading this important initiative.

Originally from Andover, Minnesota, just north of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chelsea moved to Flagstaff in 2007 to attend Northern Arizona University (NAU). Since then, she has made Flagstaff her home and has been a dedicated member of the FUSD community.

Chelsea began her journey with FUSD as a student teacher in 2011. She officially started her teaching career in 2012 at Coconino High School, where she taught Social Studies. Chelsea has spent her

Continued on page 11 / Drey



Christina N. Bowen

Cris Bowen, FUSD's New Learning, Technology, and Innovation Specialist

Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) welcomes Christina N. Bowen, who goes by "Cris Bowen," as the school district's new Learning, Technology, and Innovation Specialist. Cris hails from Colorado and began her teaching journey after graduating from the University of Colorado Boulder. Throughout her career, she has taught in various places, including Florida, Japan, and Arizona.

With 16 years of teaching experience, Cris is also a certified Apple Learning Coach and Apple Teacher. She most recently served as an instructional specialist at Thomas Elementary for two years, where she spearheaded the school's technology committee and provided valuable professional development for her fellow educators. Cris is passionate

Continued on page 11 / Bowen

...Corbus / From Page 10

Jonathan's responsibilities will include overseeing building maintenance and discipline and providing support to students, parents, and staff wherever needed. His previous experience includes roles as a high school biology teacher and MTSS Facilitator at schools in Tucson and as an Assistant Principal at the Academy of Math and Science.

Jonathan holds a Secondary Education Biology and Principal certification in the state of Arizona. He earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Biology from Prescott College and his master's in education from Grand Canyon University.

Beyond his work in education, Jonathan enjoys a variety of hobbies, including fishing, camping, hunting, video games, D&D, watching movies, and spending time with his family. His deep connection to the Flagstaff community and his dedication to supporting student success make him a valuable asset to the Coconino High School team.

Welcome, Jonathan Corbus, to Coconino High School and FUSD! We look forward to seeing the positive impact you will have on our school community. 🌲

...Hovis / From Page 10

activities like hiking, gardening, skiing, paddleboarding, and enjoying the lake.

"I cherish the time I get to spend with our young adult children," she said. "I also enjoy daily time with our dogs and cats."

Cherise brings a wealth of education and experience to her new role. After earning her Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Denver University, she became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Before moving to Flagstaff, she worked in outpatient mental health and served as a school social worker for many years. During her 19 years with FUSD,

Cherise held positions as an ESS Therapist, Behavior Specialist, and ESS Coordinator. She also achieved certification as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in 2012. For the past two years, she has taught at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in the Department of Social Work.

"I plan to use my past experience to support the variety of services found within the Student Support Services Department," she added. "My goals within this role are to continue to grow and strengthen the many support services we offer FUSD students, as well as encourage and work alongside the amazing SSS staff who go above and beyond for students daily."

"I look forward to this new position, collaborating with staff and families, and being a part of the FUSD team!" she said. 🌲

...Drey / From Page 10

entire teaching career with FUSD, demonstrating her commitment to the district and its students.

Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with a major in History and Social Studies Education. She also earned a Master's of Education in Secondary Teaching and Learning and a Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership with a Principal Certification endorsement, all from Northern Arizona University.

In her new role, Chelsea is responsible for implementing the Project Momentum grant district-wide. This initiative aims to support all 15 FUSD schools in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and in achieving high-quality and rigorous teaching and learning standards. Chelsea is excited to contribute to the continuous improvement of the district's educational programs.

"My goal is to support all 15 schools in their work towards their continuous improvement goals so we can collectively support our students to gain the confidence and

skills needed to pursue their chosen paths," she said, aligning with the FUSD Mission.

Chelsea's dedication to education extends to her family, with her daughter Melanie set to start middle school this year within FUSD. Outside of her professional life, Chelsea enjoys practicing Tae Kwon Do, where she holds a 4th Degree Black Belt, and exploring the great outdoors through hiking. 🌲

...Bowen / From Page 10

about finding creative ways to make learning engaging and enjoyable for students.

In her new role at FUSD, Cris will collaborate with teachers to integrate technology seamlessly into their classrooms, build digital confidence, and help them successfully teach the AZ Technology standards.

Cris enjoys teaching yoga, exploring the outdoors, and spending time with her husband and their three doodles when she is not at work. 🌲



SEPTEMBER 2024

- 9/2: Labor Day - No School
- 9/3: Bond Oversight Committee Meeting
Cromer Elementary School Open House - 4 p.m.
- 9/5: Thomas Elementary School Open House 5:30 p.m.
- 9/10: Governing Board Meeting
- 9/14: FACTS Lights On Carnival
- 9/16: In Service Day - No School for Students
- 9/24: Governing Board Meeting

Early Release - All Schools
All Fridays this month

VIEW THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT CALENDAR



Come Join Us!

Indian Education Committee

2024-2025 IEC Meeting Schedule

5:30 — 7 PM | FUSD Board Room

August 12, 2024

September 9, 2024

October 14, 2024

November 19, 2024

December 9, 2024

January 13, 2025

February 10, 2025

March 10, 2025



April 14, 2025

May 19, 2025

June 9, 2025

The IEC's purpose is to plan for the development of programs designed to meet the specialized and unique educational needs of eligible Native American students.

Be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the JOM program.



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Check your registration status or register to
vote in the upcoming General Election on
November 5, 2024. For assistance, contact
the Coconino County Election Administration.



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SCHOOL
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