

FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED School District NEWSLETTER

HAPPY Halloween

DISCOVER YOUR PATH

October 2024

Groundbreaking at Camp Colton: Building the Future of Outdoor Education

October 8, 2024

On November 7, 2024, Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) and Friends of Camp Colton celebrated a historic milestone at Camp Colton with a groundbreaking ceremony, marking the beginning of the construction of new facilities that will enrich outdoor education for generations to come.

This first phase of construction centers around a new lodge featuring a spacious main hall, kitchen, and staff accommodations designed to enhance the learning and living experiences at Camp Colton. Scheduled for completion by fall 2025, this phase also includes critical infrastructure upgrades, such as updated water, septic, and photovoltaic systems. Given Camp Colton's off-grid location, sustainable systems are crucial in fostering an immersive educational experience.

Friends of Camp Colton, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the camp's mission, has collaborated with FUSD for years to develop a community-driven master plan. The cost of the first phase is estimated at \$6.7 million, with \$3 million raised

through donations and grants, while \$3.7 million was sourced from the 2022 bond program approved by district voters.

Friends Executive Director Ari Wilder emphasized the legacy and importance of Camp Colton.

"The more than 50-year-old facilities are well-loved, having served more than 48,000 kids. Thanks to the generosity and support of many individuals, foundations, and businesses, we are in the process of constructing much-needed new facilities," said Wilder. "These new buildings, especially the new lodge, will ensure that future generations of kids will have the opportunity to build friendships, environmental literacy, and community at Camp."

Superintendent Michael Penca also expressed enthusiasm for Camp Colton's future and the project's significance.

"Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Camp Colton, we're investing in significant upgrades to our beloved camp. These improvements will ensure that Camp Colton remains a vital part of our students' education, providing them



with unforgettable experiences in nature while enhancing their personal growth," he said. "By making the camp more accessible and sustainable, we're creating a lasting legacy for generations of FUSD students."

City of Flagstaff Mayor Becky Daggett highlighted the impact of these upgrades, reflecting on Camp

Continued on page 2 / Camp

FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca and FUSD Governing Board Members pose with shovels during the groundbreaking ceremony of new facilities at Camp Colton on November 7, 2024. L-R: Michael Penca, Governing Board President Christine Fredericks, Governing Board Clerk Erik Sather, Member Aaron Cirzan, and Member Carole Gilmore.

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A message from our SUPERINTENDENT

The Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) thrives on incredible community support. We appreciate volunteers, partnerships, donations, and even support for voter initiatives. But today, we're excited to announce a new way to empower our students' futures!

Introducing CommunityShare:

This innovative platform connects inspiring parents and community members like YOU with dedicated educators. Together, we can create transformative real-world learning experiences within FUSD classrooms.

Why Real-World Learning

Matters: As Superintendent, I believe in fostering student engagement and building valuable

life skills. Real-world experiences, guided by community members from diverse professional, social, and cultural backgrounds are a powerful way to achieve this.

CommunityShare allows talented individuals to become a mentor, guest speaker, real-world project collaborator, internship host, and more for PK-12 students in our district. It's like a giant human library, matching your background, skills, and interests with the needs of students and educators.

Do you have experience in a job or industry students might be curious about? Do you have an artistic or athletic talent you could share? Do you have historical or



Camp / From Page 1

Colton as "a gift to generations of students, past, present, and future."

Future phases, estimated at \$4 million, will bring additional features,

including new cabins, a bathhouse, and outdoor activity areas, depending on available funding.

For more on the master plan and the Friends of Camp Colton, visit friendsofcampcolton.org. 🌲

cultural knowledge about your neighborhood? Do you speak multiple languages? Have you served as an elected official or in the military? Have you traveled to places students might be learning about? Would the challenges you've navigated in life help a child do the same?

CommunityShare and FUSD lets you support students in many different ways. Even an hour of your time will make a difference.

Become Part of Our Human

Library: Join today online at <https://www.communityshare.org/flagstaff/>. Creating a profile on CommunityShare is easy. Simply share your skills and how you'd like to be involved. We prioritize student safety, so a background screening is required. If you need assistance with creating a profile, please contact Joshua Butler at jbutler@fusd1.org.

Together, let's unlock the potential of every FUSD student! 🌲

ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL PENCA
Superintendent

LANCE HUFFMAN
Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum & Instruction

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2025 Arizona Teacher of the Year Awards - Honoring FUSD Excellence

October 21, 2024

On October 19, 2024, the Arizona Education Foundation (AEF) held the 2025 Arizona Teacher of the Year Awards at the Madison Center for the Arts in Phoenix. Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) is proud to celebrate the achievements of our own honorees and the top educators across Arizona who were recognized for their contributions to education.

Mary Lara – 2025 Recipient of the Carolyn Warner Legacy Award: Mary Lara, a retired FUSD teacher, received the prestigious Carolyn Warner Legacy Award, recognizing her lifelong commitment to inspiring students and impacting the Flagstaff community.

Katie Krause – 2025 AEF Arizona Teacher of the Year Semifinalist: Katie Krause, a 4th and 5th grade teacher at Eva Marshall Magnet Elementary School, was named a semifinalist. Her dedication to fostering a love of learning and her commitment to her students earned her this honor as one of Arizona's standout educators.

Congratulations to the 2025 Arizona Teacher of the Year and the Ambassadors for Excellence. The five finalists, known as Ambassadors for Excellence, represent Arizona's top educators. They include: Emmett Burnton, Arizona Teacher of the Year Winner, teaches AP World History and U.S. History Dual Enrollment at Boulder Creek High School, Deer Valley Unified School District; Tori Anderson, teaches 10th-11th grade English Language Arts at Carl Hayden High School, Phoenix Union High School District; Jodian Brown, teaches 4th grade Reading, Math, and Science at Desert View Intermediate School, Page Unified School District; Ryan Donovan, teaches AP U.S. History

at Boulder Creek High School, Deer Valley Unified School District; and Jennifer Spector, teaches 5th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies at Desert View Elementary School, Washington Elementary School District.

The following educators were celebrated as Arizona Teacher of the Year Semifinalists, each making significant impacts in their classrooms and communities: Katie Krause – Eva Marshall Magnet Elementary School, Flagstaff Unified School District (Semifinalist); Noel Craver – Cottonwood Elementary School, Vail Unified School District (Semifinalist); Jenni Feidler-Aguilar – Gilbert Elementary School, Gilbert Public Schools (Semifinalist); Kayce Kahl – Clarendon Elementary School, Osborn School District 8 (Semifinalist); and Laura Pina – Homer Davis Elementary School, Flowing Wells Unified School District (Semifinalist).

The Honorable Mentions include: Martha Celia Alonso – Douglas High School, Douglas Unified School District #27; Lara Cox – Faith Mather Sossaman Elementary School, Queen Creek Unified School District; Kristy Davis – Madison Camelview Elementary School, Madison Elementary School District; Caitlyn Ferrell – Flowing Wells High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District; and Danielle Rutherford – Sahuarita High School, Sahuarita Unified School District

We are incredibly proud of Mary, Katie, and all the great educators whose dedication shines brightly in classrooms across Arizona. Congratulations to these exceptional educators! 🌲





Reflecting on Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 14, 2024

Flagstaff Unified School District celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 14, 2024—a time to honor Indigenous peoples' rich histories, cultures, and resilience.

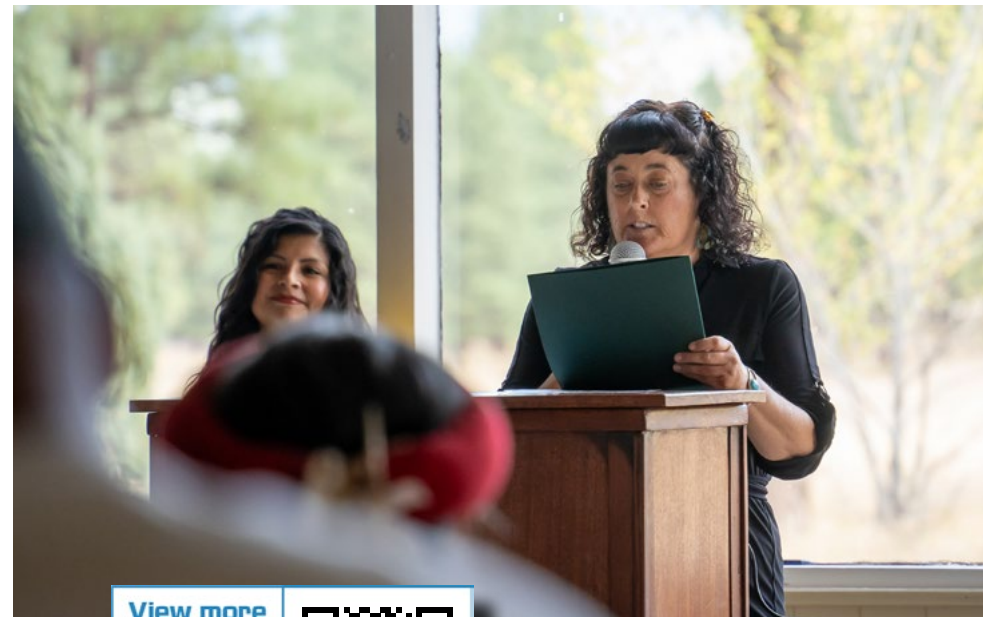
FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca, Governing Board Member Dorothy Denetsosie Gishie, and students from Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School attended the City of Flagstaff's Indigenous Peoples Day event, titled "Reflecting | Honoring | Resilience: Voices for Land and Community."

Held at the Elks Lodge, the event began with the reading of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation from Mayor Becky Daggett, read by Council Member Miranda Sweet. This was followed by presentations, such as "The Journey of Prayer to the Supreme

Court to Save Oak Flat" by Baase Pike, an NAU Indigenous Ambassador, and "Working Toward Healing from the Trauma of Uranium Mining" by Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, former Havasupai Tribe Councilmember.

The celebration also included cultural shares by the People of the Tall Pines Bird Dancers of the Hualapai Tribe, a light traditional meal, and an appreciation ceremony led by Rose Toehe, Coordinator for Indigenous Initiatives for the City of Flagstaff.

This meaningful day encouraged reflection on the ancestral lands we inhabit and fostered unity through the recognition of diverse traditions and perspectives. FUSD invites everyone to continue learning about the Indigenous communities around us and to explore ways to support and celebrate their heritage year-round. 🌲



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FUSD Celebrates a Successful 2024 College and Career Expo!

October 4, 2024

The Flagstaff Unified School District is thrilled to report the outstanding success of the 2024 College and Career Expo, held on October 2, 2024, at Sinagua Middle School. This vibrant event welcomed middle and high school students, their families, and community members, providing them with an invaluable opportunity to explore diverse career and educational pathways.

With over 50 representatives from various businesses and industries and 20 college representatives, attendees had the chance to connect directly with experts, explore FUSD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities. Adding to the

community spirit, Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School culinary students prepared and served delicious food alongside Fratelli's food truck, creating an enjoyable evening of food and learning.

Thank you to everyone who attended, as well as to the dedicated staff and students who made this event such a memorable success. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Expo!

For any follow-up questions, please reach out to: Patti Pastor (Career Expo): ppastor@fUSD1.org, Jenny Bland (FHS): jbland@fUSD1.org, or Giselle Viera Soto (CHS): gvierosoto@fUSD1.org. 🌟





Celebrating Digital Citizenship Week in FUSD

October 16, 2024

Flagstaff Unified School District celebrated Digital Citizenship Week from October 14-18, led by the Learning, Technology, and Innovation Department. To mark the occasion, students across the district were invited to participate in a sticker contest, showcasing their creative interpretations of what it means to be a responsible digital citizen. After an enthusiastic voting process, two outstanding designs were selected, printed, and distributed to students throughout the week. Congratulations to our talented winners, Isabella Soto and Liam Mescale, whose designs beautifully

capture the spirit of positive digital engagement.

Isabella Soto, a junior at Flagstaff High School and a member of Ms. Cochran's Graphic Design class, has pursued her passion for art since childhood, with a focus on digital drawing and colored pencils. Outside of her artistic pursuits, Isabella enjoys literature, especially anime books, and aims to use her creative talents in a career in graphic design. Known for her commitment to promoting kindness online, Isabella exemplifies what it means to be a Digital Citizenship Champion and serves as a role model in fostering a supportive digital environment.

Liam Mescale, a fourth grader

in Mrs. Teodosio's class at Thomas Elementary, also stood out for his artistic skill and creative approach to problem-solving. His winning design emphasizes the importance of being safe, kind, and smart online, capturing the essence of responsible digital behavior. Liam is recognized among his classmates as a leader in kindness, actively encouraging positivity both in person and online—a true Digital Citizen Rock Star.

As part of its commitment to digital preparedness, FUSD ensures that all students in grades K-12 receive at least two lessons each year from the district's digital citizenship and wellbeing curriculum. Tailored to

each grade level, these lessons provide essential guidance on responsible online practices.

Additionally, FUSD continues to support families with monthly digital citizenship tips delivered through ParentSquare, the district's mass messaging tool. To further promote productive screen time and limit distractions, the FUSD Technology Department reminds families that, according to the 2024-25 FUSD Student Technology Responsible Use Agreement, FUSD-issued iPads are intended as the primary devices used during the school day. 🌲



Flagstaff and Coconino Face Off in Historic Flag Football Game

October 8, 2024

Flagstaff and Coconino High Schools met for an exciting new addition to their rivalry—a spirited flag football showdown at Cromer Stadium. Traditionally known for their tackle football competitions, this recent flag football game marked a fresh, engaging chapter in the teams' cross-town history, giving both schools a chance to shine in a growing sport.

The game delivered thrilling moments as players exhibited impressive skill, strategic plays, and strong teamwork. Fans from both

schools brought energy to the stands, cheering on the athletes who took the field with determination and pride. Beyond the competition, the event celebrated the close-knit community shared by the two schools, where many players compete as friendly rivals and supportive teammates from Flagstaff.

With this game setting a memorable precedent, the district looks forward to more spirited flag football matchups that showcase sportsmanship and local pride. Here's to many more memorable games ahead! 🌲

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Celebrating National Principals Month



Ginni Biggs,
DeMiguel Elementary



Rochelle Bronson,
Summit High School



Ryan Chee,
Leupp Elementary



Katrina Collins-Hernandez,
Thomas Elementary



Pete Galvan,
Knoles Elementary



Joe Gutierrez,
Killip Elementary



Ellen Herman,
Kinsey Elementary



Chris Koenker,
Sinagua Middle School



Libby Miller,
Flagstaff High School



Heather Overton,
Sechrist Elementary



Robin Pete,
Puente de Hózhó



Tadd Ragan,
Coconino High School



Janelle Reasor,
Marshall Elementary

October 2024



Jessica Reeder,
Cromer Elementary



Tammy Nelson,
Mount Elden Middle School

National Principals Month

October 28, 2024

As we conclude National Principals Month, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional principals across the Flagstaff Unified School District. Throughout October, we celebrated the vital role they play in shaping our schools. Principals are the cornerstone of our school communities, setting the tone,

fostering positive environments, and ensuring everything runs smoothly—from the cafeteria to the classrooms and playgrounds.

Thank you to each of our FUSD principals for your leadership, resilience, and unwavering commitment to student success. We are grateful for the positive impact you have on our schools and community every day.

Here are the dedicated principals who lead our FUSD schools: Ginni Biggs – DeMiguel Elementary, Rochelle Bronson – Summit High School, Ryan Chee – Leupp Elementary, Katrina Collins-Hernandez – Thomas Elementary, Pete Galvan – Knoles Elementary, Joe Gutierrez – Killip Elementary, Ellen Herman – Kinsey Elementary, Chris Koenker – Sinagua Middle

School, Libby Miller – Flagstaff High School, Heather Overton – Sechrist Elementary, Robin Pete – Puente de Hózhó, Tadd Ragan – Coconino High School, Janelle Reasor – Marshall Elementary, Jessica Reeder – Cromer Elementary, and Tammy Nelson – Mount Elden Middle School,

Thank you for all you do to support and inspire our students, staff, and families! 🌲

Preparing for the upcoming winter months, information for school closure, delayed start

October 24, 2024

As we prepare for the upcoming winter months, the Flagstaff Unified School District wants to inform you of possible weather-related schedule changes for students so you can plan ahead. These alternative schedules were developed by FUSD staff to respond to winter weather conditions and plan for the safety of students and staff traveling to and from school. Additional factors considered in making the decision to delay or cancel school include weather forecasts, road conditions and closures, impact on instruction and scheduled activities, timelines for mobilizing communication, and changing bus routes.

FUSD will first post notifications of a **Delayed Start** or **School Cancellation** on www.fusd1.org and all of our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) when a decision is made. **Phone calls, e-mails, and text messages to FUSD parents and team members will be sent at 6:00 a.m. in the event of a schedule change.**

Delayed Start - School starts two hours later than the regular start time at each building. Morning buses run two hours later than normal on delayed start days. Afternoon dismissal time and school bus runs will be the same as a regular day. If a Delayed Start occurs on a scheduled Early Release Day (Fridays), the early release is canceled. Morning FUSD Preschool classes, if held at your school, will be canceled when a two-hour delay is in effect. We ask for your cooperation to not bring your students to school early on

Delayed Start Days unless they are already scheduled to attend FACTS.

School Cancellation - All classes and school activities are canceled for students. In the event school is canceled, snow make-up days have been designated on the 2024-2025 school calendar. Days will be made up in the following order: April 21, 2025, and May 9, 2025.

School Delayed Start Times: Please refer to the table to the right for the two-hour delayed start time for each school site.

Transportation: To view bus arrival information, sign up for Here Comes the Bus here: <https://herecomesthebus.com/parents/get-started/> (In order to register your student, you will need the District Code, 83662, and the 16-digit code found on the back of your student's bus pass.)

Breakfast: On delayed start days, breakfast will still be available for students two hours later than normal. If breakfast is typically served in the cafeteria at your student's school, breakfast will be available in the cafeteria as normal. If your student's school does not serve breakfast in the cafeteria (i.e. breakfast is served in the classroom), we ask that students go to the cafeteria to receive breakfast. Meals are not delivered to classrooms on two-hour delay days.

FACTS Program: The District's FACTS before and after school program will operate at each elementary school for FUSD students (ages 5-12) already

School	Delayed Start Time
Cromer Elementary	11:00 a.m.
DeMiguel Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Killip Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Kinsey Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Knoles Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Leupp Elementary	10:30 a.m.
Marshall Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Puente de Hózhó Elementary	9:50 a.m.
Sechrist Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Thomas Elementary	11:00 a.m.
Mount Elden Middle School	9:50 a.m.
Sinagua Middle School	9:50 a.m.
Coconino High School	10:00 a.m.
Flagstaff High School	10:00 a.m.
Summit High School	9:40 a.m.

scheduled for FACTS when we have a delayed start. On the delayed start days, the FACTS Program will open at 7:30 a.m. and stay open until the start of school. FACTS will be closed on all Snow Cancellation Days. For more information on FACTS, please visit their website www.fusd1.org/facts or call (928) 527-6180.

Alternate Bus Stops: Winter bus stop locations are subject to change in the Munds Park, Mountaire, Kachina Village, and Mt. Elden Lookout Road areas. Families that live in these areas will be notified of bus stop changes the night before or the morning of by 6:00 a.m. Any additional information will be shared with these families as needed.

After-School Activities: When necessary, after-school activities may be canceled due to weather predictions that could impact the safety of participants. Communication will be shared with

families when after-school activities are canceled.

We understand changes to the school schedule require parents and community partners to make alternative arrangements. Please plan ahead now for childcare in the likely event school is delayed or canceled during this winter season.

If you have any questions, please contact your school office. 🌲

Goals for AZ Grads

We want to hear from you!

Please complete this quick survey about skills and goals for Arizona high school graduates.

<http://bit.ly/4eDtJJc>



Arizona Institute for Education and the Economy
Northern Arizona University

We Need Your Voice!

October 24, 2024

Flagstaff Unified School District, in partnership with NAU's Arizona Institute for Education and the Economy, is seeking valuable feedback from our families and staff to help shape the future for Arizona's high school graduates. Your insights will guide us in identifying the skills and goals necessary for students' success beyond graduation.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey by November 4, 2024. Your responses will contribute to developing a statewide Profile of an Arizona Graduate.

Take the Survey: Goals for Arizona

Graduates: https://qualtrics.nau.edu/jfe/form/SV_9TgtaqWobD8k3f8
Thank you for your support and input! 🌲

COMPLETE SURVEY BY NOVEMBER 4, 2024

NOVEMBER 2024

11/5: Bond Oversight Committee Meeting
11/7: FUSD Wellness Committee Meeting
11/11: Veterans Day - No School
11/12: Governing Board Meeting
11/27-29: Thanksgiving Break - No School

Early Release - All Schools
All Fridays this month



Family Resource Center at FUSD

October 29, 2024

The Family Resource Center, located at 4000 North Cummings Street, provides a variety of free services to support FUSD families. Open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the center offers K-12 tutoring by certified teachers (3:45-5:00 p.m.), computer and internet access, parenting materials, community resources, and notary

services. For those needing CPR/First Aid training, classes are available for a \$55 fee. Additional resources, including books for children and adolescents, are also available.

For more information, visit www.fusd1.org/frc or call (928) 774-1103. Additional services are available for families who qualify under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. 🌲



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MEMS Celebrates Cultural Heritage at First Global Diversity Assembly

October 28, 2024

On Friday, October 25, 2024, Mount Elden Middle School (MEMS) held its inaugural Global Diversity Assembly, a vibrant celebration of cultures represented in our community. The event, held in the MEMS gym,

brought together students, staff, and guests for a lively morning showcasing diverse traditions and talents.

The assembly opened with Navajo student basket dancers led by Lisa Billie, followed by a captivating series of performances. Highlights included

presentations from Mrs. Ling Liu, a spirited Ballet Folklorico routine, and an insightful address by Abdulrazak Abubakari, a Northern Arizona University professor from Ghana. Tim McKay's band students delighted attendees with Mariachi songs, and MEMS students wrapped up the

event with an energetic Jamaican dance. The program closed with a powerful bagpipe performance.

The Global Diversity Assembly is part of MEMS's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusivity and appreciation for cultural heritage within the school community. 🌲



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www.fusd1.org

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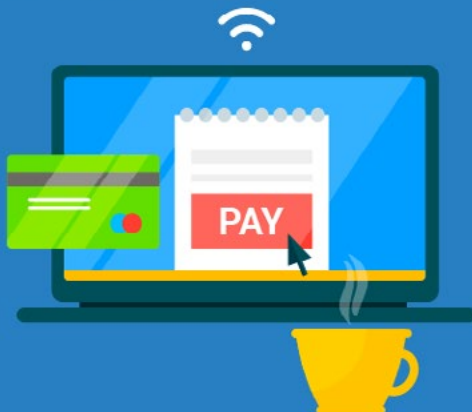
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SCHOOL
BUCKS**



General Election | Tuesday, November 5, 2024

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

#YourVoteIsYourVoice

2024 General
Election Voting
Locations



Polling locations can be accessed by scanning the QR code above. Please note that no Flagstaff Unified School District schools or facilities will serve as polling locations on Election Day.

Now Hiring!

For all positions district-wide

FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED
School District