

Marshall Students Shine at Annual Suzuki Violin Performance

May 6, 2025

Earlier this month, downtown Flagstaff was filled with the joyful sounds of violins as 170 Kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students from Marshall Magnet Elementary School performed in the school's Annual Suzuki Violin Concert. The event, held on May 8, 2025, at Heritage Square, celebrated the musical accomplishments of the school's youngest learners and marked the 25th year of this beloved tradition.

Dressed in a vibrant sea of Marshall-blue T-shirts, students showcased the skills they've developed through Marshall's unique in-school Suzuki violin program, which provides all K-2 students with two 30-minute lessons each week. Each student is assigned their own violin, fostering a strong sense of responsibility and pride in their progress.

Marshall Magnet Elementary, a K-5 Title I arts and science magnet



school, continues to offer robust enrichment opportunities through its "Magnet Monday" program for students in grades 3-5. Electives include Lego Robotics, Ballet Folklorico, Garden Club, Disc Golf, Advanced Suzuki Violin, and more—providing students with diverse and engaging learning experiences at no cost to families.

These programs are made possible through the generous support of the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff, the Burton Family Foundation, the Flagstaff Unified School District Foundation, the Debbie Grogan Memorial Fund, and Arizona tax credit donations.

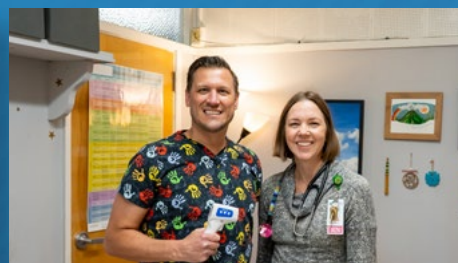
Thank you to all who joined us in celebrating these talented

young musicians and the dedicated educators who make this exceptional program possible. 🌲

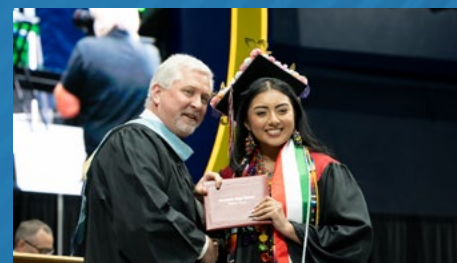
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A message from our SUPERINTENDENT



FUSD Superintendent Michael Penca conducts the Presentation of the Graduating Class to FUSD Governing Board President Erik Sather during the Coconino High School graduation on May 23, 2025, at the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome.

What a year it has been! I am so proud of our students' growth and the collective achievements of the Flagstaff Unified School District during the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to our supportive families for your partnership, and to our dedicated staff who consistently create engaging and nurturing school communities.

We have much to celebrate with the memories, learning, and character development we have witnessed over this school year. A heartfelt thank you to our staff

retirees for your service to our District, and congratulations to the students in the Class of 2025 who are ready for what comes next in their futures. I hope our returning students enjoy a restful summer with family, friends, and take advantage of the many extended learning opportunities offered in our communities.

Our team eagerly anticipates welcoming everyone back on August 4, 2025, for the start of the 2025-2026 school year. 🌲



Trading Places: Aimee Stone Serves as Superintendent for the Day

April 28, 2025

In a unique twist made possible through the annual United Way Campaign fundraiser, Puente de Hózhó school nurse Aimee Stone traded scrubs for a suit as she stepped into the role of Superintendent for the Day on April 29, 2025. As part of the district's charitable giving initiative, Stone was selected for the experience after participating in the United Way raffle—offering her the rare opportunity to lead the Flagstaff Unified School District for a day.

The experience kicked off at the Administrative Center, where Stone was greeted by Executive Assistant



to the Superintendent Kurt Steele for a building tour and orientation. She was introduced to district department staff and given insight into the broad range of work carried out daily behind the scenes.

Stone then visited three FUSD schools: Sinagua Middle School, Flagstaff High School, and Sechrist Elementary. At each site, she toured nurse's offices and observed firsthand the variety of student

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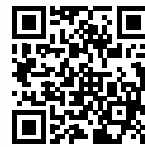
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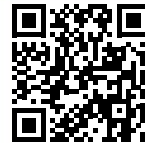


Coconino High School Graduation 2025

Congratulations to the Coconino High School Class of 2025! The graduation ceremony was held on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome, where students, families, and staff came together to celebrate this important milestone. 🌲



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Flagstaff High School Graduation 2025

Congratulations to the Flagstaff High School Class of 2025! The graduation ceremony took place on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome, where students, families, and staff gathered to honor this significant achievement and celebrate the beginning of an exciting new chapter. 🌲



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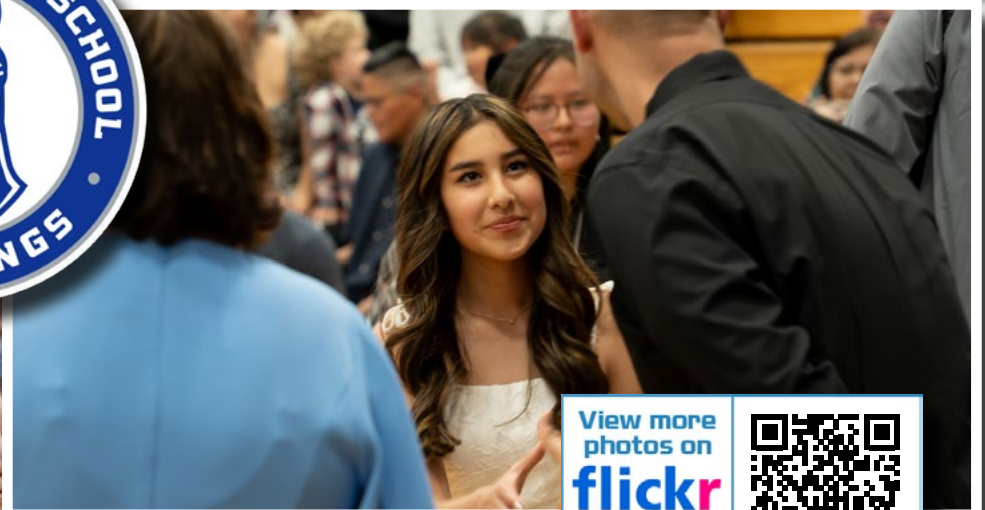


Class Of
2025



Summit High School Graduation 2025

Congratulations to the Summit High School Class of 2025! The graduation ceremony took place on May 22, 2025, at Summit High School, where students, families, and staff gathered to celebrate this meaningful milestone and recognize the accomplishments of the graduating class. 🌲



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Sinagua Middle School 8th Grade Promotion

Congratulations to the Sinagua Middle School 8th Grade Class of 2025! The promotion ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the Sinagua Middle School Gymnasium. Families, friends, and staff gathered to celebrate this important milestone as students prepare to begin their high school journey. 🌲





Mount Elden Middle School 8th Grade Promotion

Congratulations to the Mount Elden Middle School 8th Grade Class of 2025! The promotion ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at the Cromer Auditorium at Flagstaff High School. Students, families, and staff came together to celebrate this special milestone as students get ready to take the next step into high school. 🌲



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FUSD Helps Power the 2025 Flagstaff Community STEM Celebration

May 1, 2025

Families, students, and community members gathered on April 26, 2025, at Fort Tuthill Fairgrounds for the annual Flagstaff Community STEM Celebration. This exciting event showcased the power of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). As a proud sponsor and partner, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) helped bring this interactive and inspiring day to life.

This year's celebration was especially significant, marking the first-ever collaboration with the Lunar Legacy Invitational. The event welcomed robotics teams from across the Southwest who competed in space-themed challenges and live demonstrations, honoring Flagstaff's legacy in lunar and planetary science.

The STEM Celebration continues to serve as a unique opportunity for attendees of all ages to engage in hands-on exhibits, meet professionals in STEM careers, and

Stone / From Page 2

health needs across grade levels. One stop that stood out for Stone was at Flagstaff High School, where she witnessed the incredible efforts of the nurse working with medically fragile students.

"That nurse is doing amazing things," said Stone. "It takes a high skill level of nursing to be able to care for not only one but nine children with high-level needs."

After her morning visits, she joined Superintendent Michael Penca for lunch before returning to the district office to attend the regularly scheduled Superintendent's Cabinet meeting. There, Stone participated in discussions ranging from department updates to Governing Board planning. She also had the opportunity to meet with FUSD Governing Board President Erik Sather to review board agenda items and learn more about board leadership.

Throughout the day, Stone was welcomed as the acting superintendent, asked for input, and given a glimpse into the scope of responsibilities that come with leading a school district.

"Everyone was very welcoming—just calling me the

superintendent, introducing me as the superintendent, having me sit in his office and chair, and asking my opinion on things—it was all very flattering and warming," she shared.

Stone, who has been with FUSD for three years, brings a wealth of healthcare experience to her current role. She holds degrees in social work and public health, and later earned her nursing credentials along with a recent certification in school nursing. Just one day before stepping into the superintendent role, she was honored as the Arizona School Nurse of the Year.

"It really showed me the broader picture of how every department's work impacts students—and how our work as school nurses impacts them in return," she said as she reflected on her experience.

Superintendent Penca, who had shadowed Stone at Puente de Hózhó the day prior, expressed deep appreciation for her leadership and care.

"It was a privilege to learn from Nurse Stone," said Penca. "Her dedication to student well-being reflects the best of who we are as a district."

With a smile, Stone concluded the experience by saying, "I'll give Mr. Penca his job back tomorrow." 🌲

learn how STEM plays a vital role in everyday life. From robotics to environmental science, and space exploration to transportation innovation, the event captured the imagination of future scientists, engineers, and thinkers.

More than 60 exhibitors participated, including FUSD schools such as Marshall Magnet Elementary, Thomas Elementary, Cromer Elementary, Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School, Mount Elden Middle School, Coconino High School, and Flagstaff High School's CTE Engineering program. In addition to local organizations, higher education institutions such as Northern Arizona

University and Coconino Community College also hosted engaging displays.

Guests enjoyed live demonstrations, food trucks, raffle prizes, and opportunities to connect with community partners dedicated to expanding STEM access and education. With activities for all ages, the event reflected Flagstaff's proud designation as America's First STEM Community.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this year's STEM Celebration. FUSD is honored to help lead and inspire the next generation of innovators. 🌲



Reminders for the 2025-2026 School Year

Arrival and Dismissal Times for the Upcoming School Year

The Flagstaff Unified School District made adjustments to the arrival and dismissal times for the 2025-2026 school year.

Go to <https://bit.ly/FUSDArrivalDismissalTimes> or scan the QR code below to view the new times.



FHS Hosts School Participatory Budgeting Vote Day

May 1, 2025

Flagstaff High School hosted a School Participatory Budgeting (SPB) Vote Day on May 2, 2025, providing students with a hands-on experience in civic engagement and collaborative decision-making. The event took place in the FHS Commons and was organized in partnership with the Coconino County Elections Office, with guidance from the Center for the Future of Arizona.

SPB Vote Day provided students with the opportunity to vote on actual campus improvement proposals developed through student surveys and feedback. This year's ballot included four project options:

- Resurface the tennis courts and add pickleball lines for shared student use
- Add new student lounge furniture with built-in charging ports near the library and commons
- Upgrade locker rooms with mirrors, shelving, improved showers, air fresheners, and free sanitary products
- Repair and update broken bathroom stalls throughout campus

The event also featured civic engagement tables hosted by the Coconino County Recorder's Office, Arizona Student Association,

RAZE Leadership, and the Center for the Future of Arizona. These organizations shared nonpartisan resources and information about voter registration, civic participation, and student-led advocacy.

Voting booths and official-style ballots were provided by the Elections Department, simulating an authentic voting experience

for students. The effort was led by FHS Counselor Emily Kerr and staff sponsor Libby Askew, with support from Elections Outreach & Training Coordinator Sharon Sifling.

SPB Vote Day reflects how schools can empower students to shape their environment while learning about civic processes in a meaningful and practical way. 🌲



Pictured top row, L-R: Sena Barreras (Sinagua Middle School), Corban Simmons, Meniah Robbins, Holly Jones, Amelia Jenkins, Shelby Southern (DeMiguel Elementary School), Belinda Rose Monteverde, Tania Martinez, FarrahLee Muller, and Jasmin Perez (Thomas Elementary School). Front row, L-R: Victoria Montechello (Mount Elden Middle School), Adeline Travis (Coconino High School), Anyisia Vargas (Thomas Elementary School), Adelina Calvo-Moreno (DeMiguel Elementary School), Ariana Casturita (Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School), Paisley Shorthair (Killip Elementary School), Amy Roman (Thomas Elementary School), Destiny Vargas (Thomas Elementary School), and Rebekah Ross (Coconino High School).

Baton Twirlers Shine at Arizona State Championships

May 1, 2025

Congratulations to the FUSD Baton Twirlers for their outstanding performances at the Arizona State Championships held Saturday, May 3, in Phoenix. Representing schools across the district, these talented students earned numerous top honors, including several state titles.

Notable champions included: Sena Barreras of Sinagua Middle School – Grand State Strut and Artistic Twirl Champion; Shelby Southern of DeMiguel Elementary School – Arizona Miss Champion, First Place Artistic Twirl and Duet; Tania Martinez – Arizona Miss Champion; Adeline Travis of Coconino High School – First Place Solo, 2-Baton, and Artistic Twirl Champion; and Rebekah Ross of Coconino High School – Grand State Solo Champion and State 2-Baton Champion.

Additional top finishes were awarded in solo, duet, presentation,

and strut categories to students from Thomas Elementary School, Mount Elden Middle School, Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School, Killip Elementary School, and Flagstaff and Coconino High Schools.

All students are coached by Tamara Abeyta, who leads The Movement Baton Twirlers and also coaches the CHS Panther TwirlCats, FHS Eagle Pride Twirlers, and NPA Spartan Twirlers.

The competition was hosted by the USTA Baton Council of Arizona, a division of the United States Twirling Association (USTA). USTA is a national nonprofit organization committed to youth development through baton twirling. It provides recreational and competitive programs, educational resources, and certification for coaches and judges, and serves as the official U.S. representative to the World Baton Twirling Federation.

Congratulations to all the twirlers!



Photo by Hattie Loper/Arizona Daily Sun

Coconino High School Softball Team Wins First-Ever 4A State Championship

May 20, 2025

The Coconino High School Panthers Softball Team made school history on May 17, 2025, by winning the 4A Conference State Championship for the first time. The Panthers defeated Salpointe Catholic 2-1 in an extra-innings thriller at Arizona State University's Farrington Stadium in Tempe.

After seven scoreless innings, Salpointe broke through with a run in the top of the eighth. Coconino responded with determination and composure. Seniors Danica Kern, Sophie Monsman, Destiny Villas, Kaitlyn Tso, and Aryanna Dominguez played key roles in the comeback. The winning moment came when junior Katellynn Yazzie delivered a walk-off single to right field, scoring the game-winning run and sealing the Panthers' historic victory.

Pitcher Kaitlyn Tso led the

defensive effort with 11 strikeouts over eight innings. Destiny Villas recorded three hits, and solid contributions came from Kern, Tso, Dominguez, and others. Senior Mia Pozar made several critical plays in right field to stop Salpointe scoring threats and keep Coconino in the game.

The championship marks a milestone achievement for the Panthers softball program, capping off a strong season defined by resilience, teamwork, and competitive spirit. Coconino High School recognized the team's success with a school-wide assembly on May 19.

Congratulations to the 2025 Coconino High School Panthers — 4A State Champions! 🌟

(Some game details and statistics were referenced from coverage by the Arizona Daily Sun, published on May 18, 2025.)



New Carpooling Pilot Program Launches at Four FUSD Schools

May 21, 2025

The Flagstaff Unified School District is excited to announce a new partnership with Carpool.School, a carpool coordination platform designed to make school commutes easier, safer, and more sustainable. Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, FUSD will pilot this program at four schools: DeMiguel Elementary School, Marshall Elementary School, Puente de Hózhó Elementary School, and Mount Elden Middle School.

Carpool.School helps families connect with others at their school to coordinate shared transportation. Whether you're looking for help with morning drop-offs, afternoon pickups, or managing busy extracurricular schedules, the app offers a convenient and secure solution.

Benefits of joining the carpool program include: Reducing traffic congestion and lowering environmental impact; Saving time and money by sharing rides; Streamlining complex daily routines; and Building community connections among families.

How to get started:

Families who wish to participate must first complete a short opt-in form — scan the QR code below.

After submitting the form, families will receive an email with a school-specific access code. From there, participants can download the Carpool.School app or visit carpool.school to complete their profile and begin connecting with other families.

This pilot initiative supports FUSD's ongoing efforts to improve school operations, support families, and foster stronger community engagement.

For questions, please contact: support@carpool.school

We encourage eligible families to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to seeing how this innovative program supports our school communities. 🌲



CHS Teacher Nadège Neta Honored with Statewide Community Partner Award

May 6, 2025

The Flagstaff Unified School District is proud to celebrate Nadège Neta, Structured English Immersion (SEI) teacher at Coconino High School, for receiving the Outstanding Community Partner Award from the Arizona Trail Association. This recognition honors her exceptional contributions to the Seeds of Stewardship program and her commitment to outdoor education.

Nadège was surprised with the award during a recent three-day camping trip to the Grand Canyon with her students. Through her partnership with the Arizona Trail Association, she uses outdoor experiences to enrich English language learning. Her classes explore the Arizona Trail to build vocabulary, environmental awareness, and a deeper connection to the land and their community.

The Seeds of Stewardship program empowers students to experience public lands firsthand, fostering a sense of place and inspiring stewardship. Nadège's

creative integration of the Arizona Trail into her teaching has provided meaningful learning opportunities for English learners, helping them build confidence and develop a stronger bond with the Northern Arizona landscape.

Over the past two years, her work has gained national and international attention. The partnership between Coconino High School and Seeds of Stewardship has been featured at major gatherings, including the Bureau of Land Management's National Training Symposium, the National Trails Workshop, the Summit for Arizona Trails, and the International Trail Summit.

Trail professionals from across the country have praised Nadège's work for its impact on students and communities—connecting young people to nature, each other, and potential future careers in conservation and outdoor education.

Congratulations to Nadège Neta on this well-deserved honor, and thank you for your continued dedication to student growth and environmental learning. 🌲



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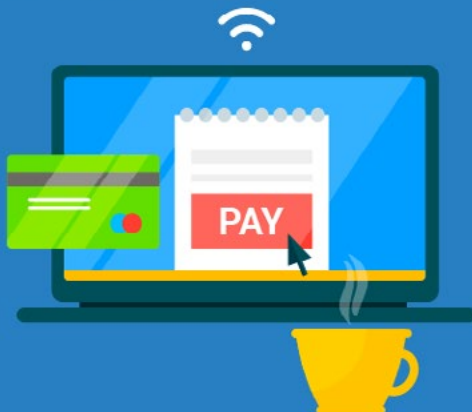
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JUNE 2025

6/3: Bond Oversight Committee Meeting

6/10: Governing Board Meeting

6/19: Juneteenth

All FUSD Sites Closed

6/24: Governing Board Meeting

5/23 - 8/1: **SUMMER BREAK** - No School

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