

The Wolf Howl



Chandler High School || August 2024

Senior Sunrise: The Tradition Continues

by Bella Dana, Editor in Chief



Taryn Schupe, Emily Chao, Kendall McCollum, Alina Nguyen, Seniors



Class of 2025

This year, the sun rises upon Chandler High’s 2025 Senior Class on July 26th. For many seniors, Senior Sunrise is the main event to look forward to every year for many reasons. One of the major reasons why Senior Sunrise is such an important event is because of the symbolism of the sun rising on the last first day of high school. Another reason is the effort and dedication put into keeping up this tradition. Every year, Student Council sponsors Senior Sunrise and dedicates a week to the event. Amanda Austermann, adviser for Student Council and

English teacher, talks about how much effort and planning is put into this tradition, “Seniors in Student Council plan this entire event, I sit on the side and guide them. We reach out to BoSa Donuts, announcements, and our social media account to prepare for Senior Sunrise to advertise for such a big event.” Many students and teachers who are either attending or setting up for Senior Sunrise typically wake up between 4:00 to 5:00 in the morning. Mrs. Austermann can relate to waking up extra early as she “usually wake[s] up at around 4:30

AM to set up the bleachers, speakers, donuts which BoSa Donuts opened early for, and photo decorations for the students.” Many Student Council members show the same dedication of waking up early and trooping through the morning every year to make sure this event is going smoothly. Senior Sunrise can mean a lot to students, for example, seniors such as Andrew Frank say that they “have been looking forward to senior Sunrise after hearing about how nice it was last year.” Senior Sunrise can symbolize a lot of meanings, for Andrew Senior Sun-

rise symbolizes “a time to talk and reflect on our past three years here at Chandler High,” in other words, it is a time to dote on others and look forward to our last year together. To future seniors attending Chandler High School, make sure to plan for this specific event at the beginning and end of your senior year, it is a day to remember for everyone. All students and teachers who attend this event will talk about it for years to come which is more of the reason to participate in it yourself.



Zaria Gunn, Student Council President



by Lily Eaton, Editor

Opinion: Fewer lunches means more headaches for students

As you are all aware, the bell and lunch schedules have undergone a significant change this year. Many CHS teachers are cheering the change from three lunch periods each day to two, eliminating the dreaded split 3rd and 4th class period and increasing the passing period time from seven minutes to eight. While the idea of having only two lunches may seem efficient, it has led to a wave of discontent among the stu-

dent body. According to an informal poll on the Wolf Howl’s social media, the negative responses were almost unanimous when asked how students felt about having two lunches instead of three. Many students complained about the exceptionally long lunch lines and crowds in the cafeteria. Some students even said after waiting in line for lunch, they only had 8 minutes to eat before class. The crowds are so bad that many students need help finding places to sit and enjoy their lunch with the bit of time they have. Another problem caused by the crowds is how hot it gets in the cafeteria. Many students choose to eat in the cafeteria to es-

cape the heat, but now, it is just cramped and unpleasantly warm. Administrators have provided an alternative lunch option for students via the North Campus cafeteria and pop-up cafe, but this is highly inconvenient for many students as the North Campus is quite far away, especially if all of your classes are on the main campus. Many students want to avoid having to walk in the heat for food they should be able to get at the main campus cafeteria. To avoid long cafeteria lines, some have resorted to going off campus. This can cause a financial burden for some and encourage irrespon-

sible spending habits. Ironically, this still doesn’t seem to save most students any time. Devin Manasan, a senior at Chandler High, estimates that it takes about 25 minutes to walk to a restaurant, order your food, and return to campus, leaving you only five minutes to eat your lunch. He says, “This isn’t enough time,” and he would be 100% correct. So, going off campus isn’t a helpful solution either. One supposed benefit of switching to two lunches for students was receiving a longer passing period between classes, but many students say that it was unnecessary and honestly unhelpful. Because of this extra minute, the informal

two-minute grace period that was previously given to students with classes on the North Campus is now gone. Almost all of the students I heard from prefer the old schedule, as the negatives of this new schedule outweigh the few positives. If students are having to eat their lunches in 5-8 minutes, regardless of whether they leave campus or stay on, we need to come up with a solution suitable for everyone because this new schedule isn’t working for our students. Although this new schedule may be popular with teachers and staff, the students who need this time to eat and rest amidst a busy school day aren’t getting the lunchtime they need.



Mrs. Archibeque inspires curiosity in history

by Pon Peterson, Kenadie Chee, and Seth Welch, Reporters

Mrs. Rikki Archibeque has always felt a calling to teach, a passion that runs in her family as both of her parents were teachers. She has had a deep love for history ever since she was little. She aims to have her students come up with ideas about how historical and present-day events affect our world. She describes herself as a “nerdy person”: she loves history books and documentaries. When Mrs. Archibeque was in school, she played volleyball and basketball and also ran track.

Across her career, Mrs. Archibeque has worked at several schools, including Blue Ridge High School, Estrella Foothills High School, and Canyon Day Jr. High School on the Apache reservation.

Archibeque said she chose Chandler High School because it consistently stood out as a great environment for teachers and students. After moving down to Phoenix for better opportunities for her son, she knew Chandler was the right fit: “A great place to work and a great place for kids.”

“When I had my interview here I just felt like it was a great place to be, I felt like it was a home to people, to teachers, and to students,” she explained.

Mrs. Archibeque describes her classes as engaged and hard-working. She loves to see

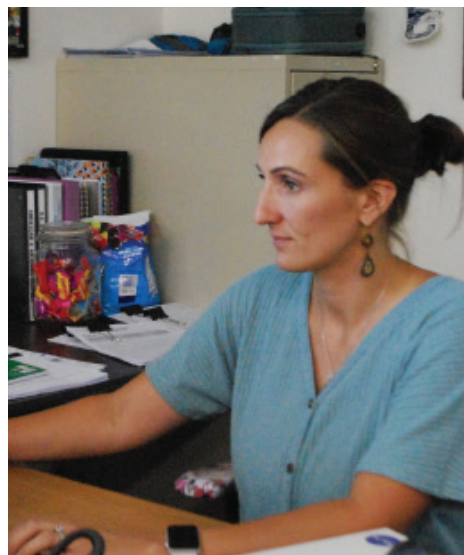
her students grow from freshmen to whatever they become after high school. She makes connections with her students by learning their walk of life and understanding how events make the world evolve. She sees herself as a coach to guide her students to think about the world around them.

When she’s not working, Archibeque enjoys an active lifestyle with her family. She loves running, reading, and playing basketball with her husband and son, who plays on a travel basketball team. She also enjoys hiking, swimming, and visiting the library with her family: “Pretty much doing anything we can do to get outside and to hang out together.”

Archibeque’s music taste is very eclectic: from country music when she’s running to her family’s love of old-school rap and hip hop. She’s hardworking and compassionate towards others and has a passion for history. If she weren’t teaching, she says she could see herself working at a YMCA to work with kids and be in touch with the community.

Mrs. Archibeque’s advice to high school students is to discover what they love and pursue it: “Be who you are, because you are the only one. You’re the only you, and who you are matters.” She encourages students to embrace change, find supportive friends, and remember the importance of being true to themselves. Her goal for her students is to succeed in the course material and feel safe and supported in her class.

Mrs. Archibeque is thrilled to be a part of Chandler High School. She looks forward to making a positive impact on her students and the school community.



Meet Ms. Vollaro, from Hollywood to High School

by Peyton Postovit, Tristan Ortega, and Abby Ogles, Reporters

Millions of people worldwide watch movies and TV shows every day, but very few can say that they have worked on them.

After Mr. Mejia’s well-deserved retirement at the end of the last academic school year, Chandler High welcomed one of our own to fill the new role. Meet Ms. Julia Vollaro, the newest multimedia and film teacher here on campus.

While attending Chandler High School, Ms. Vollaro always loved film and decided to become a film editor for her future profession.

“I started doing film stuff in junior high school and going into high school. I wanted to work in film, and Chandler High allowed me to pursue that passion,” she stated in a recent interview.

Vollaro attended Scottsdale Community College to earn a degree in filmmaking and then Arizona State University to continue her studies in the art of film with a bachelor’s degree. She built an impressive portfolio of her time in Hollywood as an editing assistant for the Warner Brothers marketing group, working on hit shows such as “Young Sheldon,” “The Big Bang Theory,” and “Ted Lasso.” During her time in Hollywood, Vollaro also worked on a lot of promotional content for HBO Max, as well as collaborating with international partners for Warner Bros. Her favorite project she worked on was the Warner Bros. 100th anniversary event, given all the rich history of television and movies produced by that studio. In addition to her commercial film work, Vollaro was also simultaneously working on indie projects such as the award-winning short film “Breakfast at the Saloon” and many more as an editor.

“Film was my life, and it still

is my life. Whether I’m behind a camera or a computer screen working on a film, you will always find me doing something with film,” she told us.

As the new Multimedia and Film instructor, Ms. Vollaro teaches the ins and outs of filmmaking, ranging from recording to editing and everything in-between. She also manages the production of Wolf News and its studio. Outside of school, she continues to edit on the side and is currently working on a hush-hush project that she cannot disclose to us just yet! She also loves to edit films for non-profit organizations or film festival features.

On a more personal note, Ms. Vollaro’s favorite films of all time are ‘Inception’ by Christopher Nolan, ‘Eight and a Half’ by Federico Fellini, and ‘The Shining’ by Stanley Kubrick, which she considers cinematic masterpieces. She also told us that her favorite celebrity interaction was with Frankie Muniz, the star of ‘Malcolm in the Middle,’ while she was working on an indie film at the former Arizona attraction Big Surf.

Vollaro has these words for students who want to work in film one day: “It’s tough to be an artist, and sometimes you just have to push through things.” However, she reminds us, “Don’t do it by yourself. You have got to find your crew. Nobody can do it all by themselves.”

You can find Ms. Vollaro in the CTE building; she always encourages students to take her Multimedia and film classes.



Mr. Quamo urges students to follow their passions

by Roselyn Johnson, Kennedy Glover, and Owen Mendoza, Reporters

Jeff Quamo, the new band director at Chandler High School, was born and raised in New York. He taught in Mesa Public Schools for 18 years before joining us at CHS.

As a kid, Jeff Quamo’s interest in band was sparked when he was “tricked” into playing the clarinet in the third grade. When all the students were sent down to the music room to be assigned an instrument to learn, he was planning to choose trumpet, drums, or saxophone. But the band director had other ideas! Apparently, the director had already been forewarned about Jeff’s “hyperactive” behavior and was worried he would misbehave if left unsupervised in the percussion section. Quamo said the director gave similarly “weird” and “silly” reasons for not allowing him to play trumpet or saxophone, but offered to let Jeff try the clarinet, claiming it was “kind of like a black saxophone.” The director let Quamo blow into the mouthpiece while he moved the keys, and from that moment, Jeff was hooked. He even persisted through his friends’ teasing that the clarinet was “a girl’s instrument” and the awkwardness of being the only boy in the clarinet section for years.

Mr. Quamo has known he wanted to be a band director almost as long as he has loved

the clarinet. He told us about a memorable trip he enjoyed when he himself was a high school band student: “I was maybe 15 years old and got to go to Europe. It was for the concert band of about 120 of us, and we did 16 concerts in 14 different countries in the span of a month.” Although he had always enjoyed music before, he said this experience showed him his future career: “I felt convinced that that’s what I wanted to do for a living.”

Today Mr. Quamo is primarily a woodwind player who specializes in the flute, clarinet, and (finally!) saxophone families. However, besides the concert and marching bands, he is also responsible for teaching guitar at Chandler as well. Luckily, he has had quite a bit of personal experience. Mr. Quamo played in a rock band called The Freeloaders in the 1990s and 2000s: “We opened for a few national acts such as The Spin Doctors, Vertical Horizon, and Blues Traveler.”

Mr. Quamo’s excellent advice to students who may want to pick up an instrument but are nervous or embarrassed? “Never be scared of mistakes; never be scared of what you might sound like. Be scared of not trying.”



Mr. Sessions inspires on, off the court

by Ipshita Chowdhury, Hugo Ortega, and Nick Hernandez Romero, Reporters

Mr. Nicholas Sessions is a new government teacher at Chandler High School. His path to Chandler High seems almost meant to be. With an entire family of teachers—his dad and grandfather both taught—teaching was a natural choice for him. He ended up at Chandler almost by chance, knowing the principal and basketball coach from his high school days.

Since joining Chandler’s faculty, Mr. Sessions has found his experience to be positive. He appreciates the supportive administration, its policies, and the lovely campus. Comparing it to his past job at a golf course, he finds teaching more challenging but much more rewarding.

In addition to teaching government, Mr. Sessions will coach the JV boys basketball team. He started working with them over the summer and is excited for the season beginning in November. “I’m excited to be able to coach the JV team and help with the Varsity, and hopefully we can grow the program,” he says.

Basketball is a big part of Mr. Sessions’ life. His parents were both involved in the sport, with his mom playing Division 1 basketball and his dad coaching. This lifelong exposure to basketball fostered his passion for the game. While he finds playing and coaching somewhat similar, he

says shifting from player to coach has been an exciting transition.

Mr. Sessions sees teaching and coaching as similar processes. Both involve taking complex ideas, breaking them down, and helping others understand and improve over time. He enjoys guiding students and players alike, helping them grow and succeed.

When asked what he’s looking forward to this school year, Mr. Sessions jokes about the two-week fall and spring breaks but quickly adds that he enjoys high school events like football games and assemblies because of their fun atmosphere.

Reflecting on his journey to today, Mr. Sessions admits he didn’t always know he wanted to be a teacher. As a child, like many of us, he dreaded the question of what he wanted to be when he grew up. It wasn’t until a few years ago that he realized that teaching was his true calling.

In teaching and coaching, Mr. Sessions is happy with his new role at Chandler High and eager for the year ahead. His enthusiasm and dedication is sure to make a lasting impact on his students and players.



Football Season is Upon Us: How is the Team Preparing?

by Kiley Jacobson, Editor

Football is one of the most exhilarating seasons here at Chandler, and that's because it's the sport everyone looks forward to the most. We are on the brink of this season starting, and the students are anticipating this year's season opener.

The pictures, the people, and the memories are just some of the things that make football season the most fun for students. The game day themes are easily one of the most captivating aspects of the game, where students go all out, and rival games are more anticipated by the day. A Chandler junior, Maggie Miller, expounds, "The Hawaiian theme is my favorite because the outfits are super easy to put together, but still end up looking amazing."

Chandler has always been known to dominate their competition, and according to maxpreps.com, Chandler is the number one football team in Arizona. This year will be no different as they are preparing

to annihilate the fierce competition again. Coach Garretson, the head football coach at Chandler since 2019, spoke about how the Wolves are getting ready for this upcoming season. The program always increases in intensity, but until the season officially starts on August 5, the champions are focusing on weight training, their football skills, and conditioning to fine-tune each athlete's skills. When asked what the most important things the team does to prepare for the season is, Coach Garretson says, "We work on getting things in place physically, schematically, and mentally." The mental game is just as important as the physical one. Every athlete has to assert a sharp, clear mindset to focus on the game while playing to their peak physical ability. This is a focus for Coach Garretson, who strives to ensure each program member is ready for the season and whatever comes with it.

Leadership is vital in many aspects of life, from school to

sports and also jobs. Here, we need leaders who will step up and take charge when it's needed the most. For the football team, these people are typically designated as captains and strive to ensure they and their teammates are the best versions of themselves. The team participates in leadership sessions, creating a strong bond between teammates and coaches. The team must have a tight bond to trust one another whenever and wherever. The coaches establishing these bonds do a fantastic job coaching their athletes to be outstanding football players while being leaders and warriors off the field. These great coaches are responsible for shaping the minds and actions of the young adults on this team.

Overall, the football team is a force to be reckoned with, and we expect no less this season. Staff and students alike cannot wait to see how this season progresses.



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CHS welcomes students, families to Open House on August 1, 2024

photos by Kiley Jacobson and Abby Ogles



Tristan Kordell and Junior Moser, captains of the Swim and Dive team



Leslie-Ann Celestiano Perez, Sofia Iglesias Cortez, and Allison Garcia at the Los Lobos Ballet Folklorico booth



Zoe Garza and Violeta Alvarado at the Chandler Young Life booth



Ava Houghmann and Madeline Percell volunteering for Wolf Crew



Teagan Tollefson and Alyse Oxenhandler at the Model United Nations booth



Venice Lee and Jose Vasquez at the International Baccalaureate booth