



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
*2019*



# THE PREMIER DISTRICT OF CHOICE

## CHOICE

The Chandler Unified School District is a premier district of choice. Parents are able to choose from a variety of personalized learning experiences to find the program that best meets the needs of their children. Options include Traditional Academies, Gifted Programs, Honors Classes, Advanced Placement Courses, an International Baccalaureate Program, Dual Languages, STEM, Bioscience, Cyber Security, College Prep Campuses, and the Early College Program.



## ACHIEVEMENT

Academic achievement is a high priority in the district as evidenced by test scores above the state and national averages. Our students consistently score among the top in the state on college-entrance exams.



## EXCELLENCE

As part of our effort to become the No. 1 district in the nation, we strive to ensure that our schools exceed standards, provide diverse paths for learning, encourage global understanding, and prepare students for life after graduation. We guide our students to be problem solvers and engaged learners, to think critically and creatively and to value diversity.



Never content to sit on our laurels, CUSD is always searching for ways to improve the education experience for our students. This year, the district has established three new departments and brought on three highly qualified and capable directors. We're excited to see how they guide our staff, students, and communities to new levels of prosperity!



## ADAMA SALLU

### **Director of Equity and Inclusion**

Dr. Adama Sallu has extensive experience providing equity and inclusive leadership in K-12 institutions. She has presented at conferences locally and nationally, focusing on creating learning spaces where all students are affirmed through intentional pedagogical practices. Dr. Sallu seeks to ensure that our teachers have the tools they need to enhance the learning outcomes for all our students, regardless of background as well as preparing them to be culturally ready to engage the 21st century global community.

## TANYA SMITH

### **Director of Security, Safety and Discipline**

With a degree in Criminology, and after 20 years of experience in law enforcement, including serving as Deputy Chief of Operations, Tanya Smith is well-practiced in the art of keeping children safe. The department is focused on strengthening existing security programs as well as strengthening partnerships with local law enforcement and fire departments.



## BRENDA RAMOS

### **Director of Counseling and Social Services**

With over 17 years of experience in education and degrees in Special Education, Counseling and Education Administration, Brenda Ramos is ready to help students take on the unique social and emotional challenges that modern society presents. The department's current biggest initiatives are to promote social-emotional learning and create a comprehensive approach to mental health.



# DISTRICT-WIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**ACP-Oakland VEX Robotics Teams A, C, and P**, won their state championship competitions.

**Basha High Future Farmers of America** won their nursery/landscape, floriculture, and wildlife team state competitions.

**Chandler High Future Farmers of America** won the State FFA Milk Quality Career Development Event. **The Agricultural Business Management Team** also won first place at their state competition.

**Miranda Vega and Natasha Zimmerman** from **ACP-Erie** won 1st Place in the Division II AZ State Speech and Debate Tournament.

**CUSD Students** took home almost half (47%) of the state's Arizona Science and Engineering Fair Grand Awards. Five students from **Hamilton High** and three from **Basha High** also won Best of Fair for the Senior Division.

**Erin Broas, Troy Gilchrist** from **ACP-Erie** and **Lakshmi Laasya Vallabhaneni** from **Hamilton High** were chosen by the Flinn Foundation to be Flinn Scholars.

**Elke Fajut** and **Kimberlyn Knight** from **CHS** earned 1st place in Collage and 3rd place in Photography at the Congressional Art Competition.

**Hamilton High's "We the People" Team** placed 12th nationally, besting their 15th place ranking from last year in the National We the People competition.

**Hamilton High's Academic Decathlon Team** placed second in the nation in the online nationals. They also garnered 16 individual medals in various categories.

**Ryan Elementary** sixth grader **Alexandra Adams** won the Sun Lakes Lions International Peace Poster State competition.

At the prestigious 2018 International Science and Engineering Fair, **Nikita Bharati** of **Basha High** won 4th place out of nearly 2,000 participants in the Chemical Energy category. **Elda Bengu** and **Shreya Tripathi** from **Hamilton High** also won the ASU New American University Intel ISEF Scholarship. **Nikita** also won the third place Algae Biomass Young Researcher Award at the Algae Biomass Summit 2018, ranking among a Duke University graduate student and a Los Alamos National Laboratory post-baccalaureate researcher.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named **38 students** from **CUSD** as finalists.

**CUSD Schools** received 26 A's, 12 B's and 4 C's from Arizona's State Board of Education, 20 of which were improvements over the previous year.



# DISTRICT-WIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

**Knox Gifted Academy** was one of 349 schools nationwide (one of only 5 schools in Arizona) to be recognized as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School.

Si Se Puede Foundation Winners: **Sasha Hunter** of **CHS**, **Enriqueta Quintero** of **WJHS** and **Jan Meyers** of **Sanborn**.

Arizona Health and Physical Education named **Travis Anderson** of **Bogle Junior High** the 2018 Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

**Deepa Iyer** of **Knox Academy** received the Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award from the NSTA.

**CTA Independence** Principal **Dr. Frank Hendricsen** was selected for the Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

**Basha High's Chris Evans** received the prestigious James Madison Fellowship for 2018.

**Carlson Elementary, Hancock Elementary and Basha High** were named A+ Schools of Excellence for 2018 by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

**Basha High's Melanie Alexander** has been named the Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona Teacher of the Year.

The Chandler Chamber of Commerce awarded **CHS** Assistant Principal **Karen Martin** the 2018 Administrator of the Year award, **Anne Marie Filiere** from **ACP-Oakland** the 2018 Educator of the Year award and bus driver **Alex Ruiz** the Support Staff of the Year award.

**ACP-Erie** science teacher **Rachna Nath** was awarded the Lemelson-MIT Excite Award.

**CUSD** ranked as the top school district in the Phoenix area by Niche.com. CUSD was also one of only three districts in the state to receive an overall "A" grade based on academics, teachers, clubs, activities, diversity, college prep, health, and safety.

**All CUSD high schools** earned an "A" grade and were ranked in the top 50 schools in Arizona. All 41 CUSD schools that were graded earned either an A+, A, A-, B+ or B grade, and 63% of those were an A+ or A.

**ACP-Erie** was recently named the top public high school in Arizona by MSN.com.

**Amy Komitzky Henning** of **CHS** was named as an Arizona Educational Foundation Ambassadors for Excellence semifinalist.

**CUSD's Education Television and Community Relations Program** this year won four Rocky Mountain Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

**Meg Ganesello**, retired CUSD Executive Director of Educational Programs, won 2019 Association for Career and Technical Education National Administrator of the Year.

The National Association for Music Education named **Lori Lyford** of **CHS** as the 2019 Educator of the Year.



# DISTRICT-WIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

## ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**Chandler High** captured its third straight 6A state football championship.

The **Casteel High Girls Soccer Team** captured its first title by winning the Arizona 3A soccer championship.

The **Santan Junior High Cheer Team** won the U.S.A. Championship in the "Show Cheer Advanced" category.

The **Hamilton High Varsity Cheerleaders** won 1st place in the All Girl division at the Arizona State Cheerleading/Pom Tournament.

The **Hamilton Dance Company** became five time State Champions in the Varsity Jazz division, and placed 2nd in the Varsity Hip Hop division.

**Casteel Pom** won the AIA State Championship in the Division III Pom category. They also won first place in the same category at the 2018 State Cheerleading and Pom Tournament.

The **Puma Girls Beach Volleyball Team** captured Perry High School's second team championship of the year bringing home the beach volleyball state title.

The **Casteel High Boys Track Team** won their first state title, bringing home the Division III state trophy.

The **Chandler High Girls Track Team** won the 2018 Division I state championship. They have won 12 of the last 13 state titles.

The **Perry High Girls Badminton Team** won its second athletic team championship.

Chandler Online Academy student **Camden Pulkinen** won gold at the National Junior Ice Skating Championships.

In wrestling, **Ramon Ramos** of Casteel wrapped up a 51-0 season by winning the individual wrestling championship Div. IV title, **Yousuf Halik** of ACP Erie was the champion of Div IV, and Chandler High's **Zach Espalin** and **Gator Groves** won Div I state championships.

CHS sophomores **Nathaniel Deasey** and **Zachary Espalin** gained All-American status wrestling at the Freestyle National Tournament.

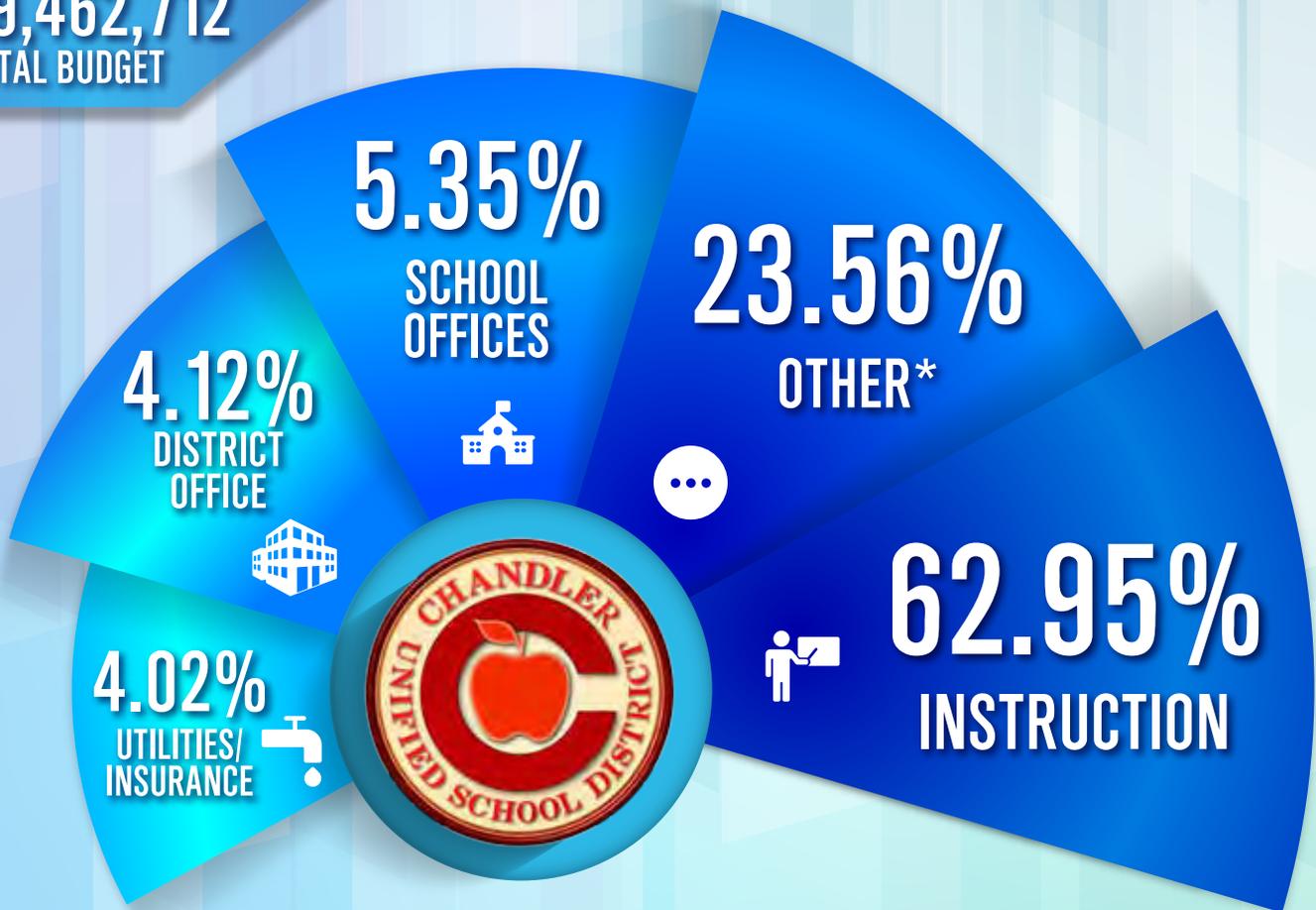
Carlson 5th Graders **Parker Rahn** and **Ryan Sanchez**, as part of the Chandler Stars, are the undefeated 10U Division XDS World Series Champions.



# FINANCIALS

This year, Chandler Unified has once again ranked No. 1 among Arizona's large districts in the percentage of funds spent in the classroom, according to The Arizona Auditor General. CUSD continues to lead the way in efficiency which allows us to focus on the students, and it shows in our attendance rates, graduation rates, and state assessment passing percentages in all three categories consistently outperforming our peer group and state-wide averages.

**\$289,462,712**  
TOTAL BUDGET



\*The Other category includes: librarians, counselors, attendance, nurses, speech therapists, teacher training, student assessment, maintenance, security custodians and transportation.

## BOND EXPENDITURES

Thanks to community support of a \$196 million bond election in November 2015, a number of important projects were implemented in 2018:

### Technology Upgrades - \$2.9 million

District wide distribution of computers, printers, copiers, document cameras, network equipment, etc.  
Wireless upgrade for all elementary sites

### Transportation Needs - \$3.25 million

20 buses

### Safety Updates - \$682,000

Fencing at AJHS, Andersen, BHS, Haley, Hancock, Patterson, and WJHS

### School Enhancements - \$4.7 million

Flooring at Galveston, Hartford, and San Marcos  
District wide furniture and equipment  
Gym floor recoating at ACP Oakland, BJHS, PJHS, SJHS, and WJHS  
Knox Academy renovation  
Marquees at elementary and junior high schools  
District wide sand volleyball complex

### Building Additions to Accommodate Growth - \$59 million

Classroom additions to CCHS, BHS, CHS, and HHS  
SPED School and Transportation Facility

# CUSD LEADERSHIP

## SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Camille Casteel has dedicated her professional career to the success of Chandler schools. Beginning as a first grade teacher, she advanced to become the first principal of Weinberg Elementary, and then associate superintendent, before being appointed Superintendent in 1996. Since then, she has led CUSD through its greatest period of growth and expansion, all the while improving and increasing partnerships with key advocates, community groups, municipalities, and businesses.

Dr. Casteel is a former Arizona Superintendent of the Year, Tech-Savvy Superintendent and Chandler Education Foundation Woman of Greatness, as well as recipient of leadership awards from the Si Se Puede Foundation, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Tribune Newspapers, and East Valley Partnership. In 2014, the Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Association honored her with the Dr. Raymond Sterling Kellis Leadership Award. In 2015, the Governing Board voted to name the newest high school in her honor. She also received the Diversity Award from the Chandler Chamber of Commerce and was recognized in 2016 as the Extraordinary Superintendent of the Year by the Maricopa County Education Service Agency.



## GOVERNING BOARD

Governing board members are elected by the public, serving four-year terms. The board sets all district policies and has final authority over all district business. The public is welcome to attend Governing Board business meetings and study sessions, generally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. Study sessions are held as needed.

The district relies on the vision and stability provided by the Governing Board. Their 10-year plan titled Journey 2025 provides the vision for CUSD to be the top district in the nation. Metrics are established annually in the categories of Outstanding Students, World-Class Employees, Organizational Culture and Effective Resource Management.



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