

# Staff Report

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**Chandler Unified School District**  
*The Premier District of CHOICE*



**CUSD Administrator to Serve on State Board**

Brenda Vargas, director of counseling and social services has been selected to be a board member for Arizona American School Counselor Association (AZASCA). She is making a presentation to Greater Phoenix Education Management Council (GPEMC) on counseling in schools May 7.

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## Two Students Named Flinn Scholars

The Flinn Foundation announced the 22 Flinn Scholars for 2021, and two hail from Chandler Unified! **Ananya Lakhota** of **Arizona College Prep-Erie** and **Aryan Mathur** of **Chandler High**. Arizona's highest achieving high school seniors were selected for the highly competitive scholarship valued at more than \$115,000.



Ananya Lakhota  
Arizona College Prep-Erie



Aryan Mathur  
Chandler High School

## Chamber Announces Education Winners

The Chandler Chamber of Commerce on Thursday surprised Director of Health Services **Lyndsey Hartley** with the 2021 Administrator of the Year award, **Heidi Gass** from **Frye Elementary** with the 2021 Educator of the Year award and paraeducator **Pati Ramirez** from **Bologna Elementary** with the Support Staff of the Year award.



**Lyndsey Hartley MSN, RN**  
Director of Health Services  
Support Services



**Heidi Gass**  
Technology Teacher  
Frye Elementary



**Pati Ramirez**  
Paraeducator  
Bologna Elementary



## Casteel, Hamilton, Perry Lauded

the Arizona Thespians Association which oversees High School Theatre in the state, announced that three high CUSD schools within your have become shining lights in Theatre Arts. They returned to the stage in student performances, student competition and community service.



**Casteel** and **Perry** earned the Gold Honor Troupe award, which highlights not only service to other organizations within the school but service to the community.

**Casteel, Hamilton** and **Perry** received the Gold Performance recognition which is given to a school that has 50% or more of their students rank as a Superior performance.

Lastly, **Casteel** received the superior ranking, this goes to the schools who this year went out of their way to train their students in leadership abilities, technical and acting by virtual workshops or other training.



### Casteel Named RAMP School

**Casteel High School** has received the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation! RAMP is the highest accolade a school counseling program can earn, and Casteel is the first school in CUSD to earn this recognition.

## CUSD Retirees Class of 2021 Honors More Than 100

CUSD employees that have announced their retirement will get a clock of appreciation at their school site. The [class of 2021 is the largest yet with 102 employees retiring.](#)

Congratulations and thank you for your service to CUSD!



Does anybody really know what time it is?



### Social Media Post of the Week

Riggs Elementary principal Jamie Durgey posted a video with orchestra serenading students as they arrive at school. The kids did a great job and she also remembered to tag the District.

## A Look at What's Going on Around the District



- **Pictured on the Cover: Perry High School** band, under the direction of Benjamin Sampayan held an outdoor concert for parents.

- All **Basha High School** Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America students, under the direction of teacher **Melanie Alexander**, [qualified for the National competition after placing first or second in the state](#) in their competitive event. They will compete in the FCCLA Nationals in Nashville, TN this summer. Additionally, the FCCLA Basha Chapter received the GOLD Chapter Achievement Award and the Grand Prize in the PSA contest (bringing awareness to the consequences of impaired driving).



- **Frye Elementary** sixth graders faced the Frye staff in their annual kickball game. Although the staff won the game, the sixth graders put up a good fight and their defense was strong. Bonus, everyone had a blast!

- **Hull Elementary** showed appreciation for bus drivers on Friday with goodie bags and notes for bus driver appreciation week. Staff said "We have the best drivers taking care of our kids and we see them every day!! Thank you for all you Do! Hull Heroes appreciate YOU!"



- **Chandler High** Future Farmers of America students, under the direction of **Kari Williams**, won 26 medals from the Santan District FFA competition. Maya Schmerfeld for won first for her Agriscience Fair project on floral media. Abigail Dominguez (pictured right) won first place for her six-minute speech on misconceptions of agriculture on social media platforms. Jayden Miller won third place in Extemporaneous Public Speaking on her five minutes on the technology in the agriculture industry. Annabelle Williams placed first in the FFA Creed Competition; Hailey Hutchison placed second. Both Hailey and Annabelle will move on to the state competition in June. Conduct of Meeting team (Annabelle Williams, Jena Forshee, Kate Rogers, Natalie Valliere, Sherilyn Valladares, Natalie Cunitz, Mady Newell, and Porter Fitzpatrick) placed first and presented a 13-minute presentation on parliamentary procedure, they will move on to the state competition. Parliamentary Procedure Team (Kaylie Gross, Chandra Andazola, Emma Martin, Ilsa Gooch, John Hicks, and Mason Courtney. Parli Pro B included Riana Alexander, Nick Salas, Ben Kubicki, Michael Arias, Ricardo Tapia and Natalia Reyes) won first and will move onto the state competition.



## A Look at What's Going on Around the District



- **Perry High** graphic design students, under the direction of **Caryn Butler** won awards in the Arizona State SkillsUSA competition. Derek Unger won the silver medal in Employment Application Process. Caitlin Salanga won the gold medal in Advertising Design and, the team of Brooklyn Braaten, Savannah Phan, and Caitlin Salanga won gold medals in Promotional Bulletin Board. Additionally, seniors Victoria Le and Savannah Phan each were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



- Preschool students at **Riggs Elementary** school in **Jennifer Horton's** class have been learning about creepy crawly insects. They are watching their caterpillars transform into butterflies and have a ladybug habitat they are observing. They love watching the life cycles happen before their eyes! They will release the ladybugs into the school garden to help eat the aphids when they are ready!

- **Hull Elementary** third graders in Lori August's and Rona Sorce's class learned all about sound and vibration. To test out what they learned, students conducted sound test! The kids had a great time testing out their telephones! Additionally, students in Cara Fenton's third grade class were learning how to use the Sphero Robots with our amazing Tech Teacher Brenda Gerson!



- Mollie Evans was named the **Santan Elementary** "Kind Kid of the Month." Mollie was nominated by one of her peers. The nomination read: *Mollie is a kind, respectful friend in the classroom and on the playground.* The recipient of this award receives a certificate, her picture on the wall and a gift card to Duck Donuts and Menchie's Frozen Yogurt.

## CUSD High School Art Show Runs Through Thursday

The opening reception for the [CUSD High School Art Show](#) was held April 14 and will be displayed through May 6. at the Chandler Center for the Arts [Vision Gallery](#). The CCA Gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students from all CUSD high schools submitted work in eight categories including ceramics, dark room photography, design, digital photography, drawing, jewelry, painting, and sculpture.

The judges selected 102 pieces of the 143 submitted to display in the show, and a first, second and third place award were selected for each category. The show also recognizes two top winners, Best of Show for 2D and Best of Show for 3D. These students receive a bag of art supplies and a plaque recognizing their achievement. [Check out the Virtual Celebration here.](#)

This year, the Best-in-Show winners were **Ella Butler** from **Hamilton High School** (3D) and **Hailey Schramm** from **Casteel High School** (2D).



## CUSD Trip Reduction Winners



Thank you for busing, biking, walking, telecommuting, and riding to work. Winners received a giftcard for \$25 or \$15.

### \$15 Gift Card Winners

**Emily Call** – Basha El., Applebee's  
**Jennifer Roebke** – Chandler Online, Kohl's  
**Jaclyn Neuheisel** – Casteel, Chipotle  
**Susan Dunham** – IRC, Jack in the Box  
**Ed Hermanski** – Hamilton, Kohl's  
**Lourdes Nieto** – Chandler Online, Applebee's  
**Sherri Schripsema** – Casteel, Chipotle  
**Kacy Irvine** – Willis, Applebee's  
**Ray Hesser** – Transportation, Taco Bell  
**Rabia Bithi** – Hamilton, Kohl's  
**Vanessa Randall** – Hamilton, Whataburger  
**Lorrie Calvert** – Casteel, Chipotle

### New Participant Winners – \$25 Gift Card

**Lynne Jacobs** – Basha El., Texas Roadhouse  
**Debra Bender** – Carlson, Red Robin  
**John Krob** – Casteel, Kohl's  
**Gregory Franklin** – Hamilton, Panera Bread  
**Morgan Wallace** – Hamilton, Buffalo Wild Wings  
**Gail Summers** – Hamilton, IHOP  
**Whitney Byrd** – Hamilton, Red Lobster  
**Rabia Bithi** – Hamilton, Chili's  
**Colleen Roberts** – Knox Gifted Academy, Cracker Barrel  
**Jennifer Burks** – Perry, Applebee's  
**Pamela Murray** – Tarwater, Cabela's  
**Charles Cardillo** – Transportation, Macy's

### \$25 Gift Card Winners

**Melissa Williams** – ACP-Erie, Boston Market  
**Francisca Ibarra** – Auxier, Jack in the Box  
**Lynne Jacobs** – Basha El., Burger King  
**Rene Brandon** – Santan Junior High, Bath and Body Works  
**Brianne Aaker** – Rice, Chipotle  
**Lerina Johnson** – Perry, Lowe's  
**Doris Johnson** – Bogle, Marshalls  
**Adam Jacky** – Transportation, Subway  
**Karen Johnson** – Transportation, Taco Bell  
**Buffy Park** – Patterson, Target  
**Maria Aguirre-Acedo** – Chandler Online, The Cheesecake Factory  
**Tammy Wahla** – Chandler Online, TJ Maxx

Thank  
you!

## Trip Reduction April \$100 Winner

Transportation mechanic Leondus Johnson won a \$100 gift card to his choice of Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's, Yard House, Bahama Breeze, or Season's 52. He carpoled during the contest period to be able to participate.

He is the Maricopa County Trip Reduction April grand prize winner.



### Important Dates

#### April 14-May 6

2021 [CUSD Art Show](#) at the Chandler Center for the Arts [Vision Gallery](#).

#### May 3-31

CUSD 2021 [Senior Highlights](#) Campaign: Please like, post, share, retweet and engage with our senior spotlights on the district social media channels (Facebook and Twitter @ChandlerUnified, and on Instagram @cusd80).

#### May 4

Parent Presentation: LIKE - A Documentary viewing. [Register here](#).

#### May 12, June 8, June 30

Legal Documents Seminar for parents. [Register here](#).

#### May 27

Last day of school / high school graduations.

#### May 28

Teacher in-service workday.

#### June 1-18

[Chandler Online Summer Classes for Junior High / High School Session I](#).

#### June 1-July 20

Kids Express: [Summer Camp Adventures](#), 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

#### June 7-25

[Junior High School Recovery Courses](#).

#### June 1-July 6

Lil Explorers: [Summer Camp Childcare](#), 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

#### June 7-25

[High School Recovery Courses](#).

#### June 7-25

[Elementary Summer Academy](#) Enrichment and Recovery Courses Enrollment is for CUSD students only.

#### June 21- July 9

[Chandler Online Summer Classes Session II for Junior High/ High School](#).

### Board Contacts

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### Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chandler Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The Title IX coordinators are Dr. Craig Gilbert at 812-7630, and Jeff Filloon at 812-7640, and the Section 504 coordinator is Dr. Kym Marshall, 224-3732. Address: 1525 W. Frye Road, Chandler, AZ 85224

[Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)

[Notificación de Non Discriminación](#)

## Parent, Student Presentation for May

### Parent /Student Presentation on “Building Healthy Relationships”

"RELATIONSHIPS are an important part of any person's life. This is especially true for adolescents – they will often experience an increased desire to explore friendships and romantic relationships. This increased interest in friends and movement away from family is a normal part of adolescent development, but can nonetheless be nerve wracking and, at times, frustrating for parents. A way to help your teen navigate these relationships is by helping them be able to identify when these relationships are healthy and when they are not."

"Remember, teenagers still need more of our time, not less. They need our guidance, our advice, our understanding, and most importantly, our time and attention. When we don't make the time and devote the energy to maintaining the connection we had with them when they were small, our relationship with them becomes strained, our interactions get tense, and they seek out others to provide the support and understanding that they need from us. This is why it is so important to build and maintain a strong relationship with your teenager."

**Date:** May 5

**Time:** 6 – 7:15 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual - [Google Meet Link](#)

**Presenter:** Michael Klinkner, LCSW and Elizabeth Fedrick, PHD, LPC

**Facilitator:** Rajani Rastogi, LMSW (HHS Social Worker)

#### Student Presentation:

**Date:** May 5

**Time:** 6 – 7:15 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual - [Google Meet Link](#)

**Presenter:** Julianne Haddad, LMSW

*(REMINDER: all presentations are FREE to the community. Students must only attend the student presentation to receive 2 volunteer hours. For more details, contact Julianne Haddad at [haddad.julianne@cusd80.com](mailto:haddad.julianne@cusd80.com))*

## CUSD

*Dedicated to Excellence!*

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