

WAW GIWULK HA-MAMSCAMKUD CEKŞAÑ NEWSLETTER

Our Vision: Our students will be loved, encouraged, and prepared to take on the world by embracing our Himdag.



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A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DÍAZ

Dear Students, Families, Staff and Community Members,

Thank you for your support and collaboration as we work towards achieving our 3-Year Plan goals of:

- 1. Proficiency of 70% or higher
- 2. Attendance of 90% or higher
- 3. Standards-Based Instruction
- 4. Support & Challenge
- 5. Engagement and Culturally Relevant Lessons

Students.

Continue to show your best efforts to reach the goal of achieving 70% or higher to demonstrate your mastery of your learning and a daily attendance rate of 90% or higher. Your hard work now is the foundation for a stronger path of success. Empower your future by asking questions when you do not understand what is going on during class and find ways to stay active and engaged during the lessons.

Families,

Continue to monitor your children's education through the ParentVUE app. If your student is not demonstrating 70% (C or better) on their assessments and/or assignments, reach out to the student's teacher or administrator to collaborate on ways to support your child. A brighter future starts with monitoring their progress today and checking in with your child's teacher via email, telephone, and/or staff.

Staff.

Thank you for your commitment and efforts to ensure our students have access to standards-based instruction. Your dedication will be the foundation of success for the upcoming leaders of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Continue to find ways to increase the rigor and the engagement while supporting and challenging our students.

Community,

Thank you for your support in finding ways to stay connected with our BUSD schools by participating in the games, community days, or district-sponsored events. These events are intended to bring us together and reconnect for a strong community. Reach out to your school administrator and find ways you can volunteer to make a greater impact.

Thank you again for your support during the second quarter. Third quarter is extremely important since we only have 10 weeks before students take the state assessments. We need your support in ensuring that students who are short on credits are participating in one of our credit recovery classes and that they are in school, on time every day.

Have an amazing holiday season among your loved ones.

GOVERNING BOARD MESSAGES

Dear BUSD Families and Community,

I for one am thrilled to share and celebrate with you some wonderful news.

All BUSD schools have either improved or sustained their academic performance, now holding a letter grade of C or higher. This progress is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, educators, and families.

Additionally, our Primary School is officially out of "School Improvement Status," marking a major milestone in our commitment to providing a quality education for every child.

These achievements reflect our values and goals in action, especially as we continue to prioritize culturally responsive education that celebrates the strengths and contributions of our Native communities. We know that every step forward enriches the lives of our students and strengthens our entire community. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a bright future for all our students.

I am inspired each and every moment that we can come together and push the bar that much further for our students of the Tohono O'odham Nation and those that participate in our schools from all across different heritages. It has been such a long road but to see the light at the end and the possibilities expand is nothing short of heartwarming and fulfilling not just as a board member but as a member of our community and foremost as a father of students at BUSD.

Warm regards, Juan Buendia Governing Board President As the holidays fast approach, there are several things I would like to encourage everyone to do.

First take care of yourselves mentally, physically and spiritually! This time of year can be very overwhelming and stressful for many of us.

Secondly, take a moment to reflect and give thanks for all the blessings this year has brought so far!

With greatness comes hard work and dedication and as you know, it does not happen overnight; it takes time and effort to work continuously towards a common goal.

I don't know if there was ever a time when all our school sites were simultaneously at a "C" letter grade in the past, but I have to say, it's a wonderful feeling!!! We have an amazing family here at Baboquivari Unified School District. This is a combined effort from the Administration to Principals as well as from families continuously encouraging students to go to school, be on time and to work hard!

Congratulations across the board on your hard work and dedication!

As a school board member, one of the highlights is seeing the positive change in students. The models of instruction we are currently encouraging have had a positive impact on building their self-confidence as well as working together in small groups to solve problems! Each student gets an opportunity to give input and seeing students encourage one another is very inspiring!

I can't wait to see what the next few months hold!

Kathleen Vance Governing Board Clerk

3-Year Strategic Plan

GOAL #1

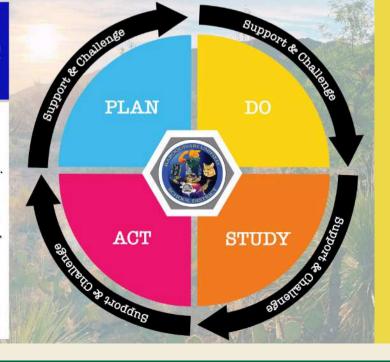
80% of students will demonstrate 70+% mastery on standards.

GOAL #2A

90% attendance by school, grade, teacher, and content level.

GOAL #2B

90% of families will consistently utilize ParentVUE.



Working together will result in accomplishing our mission of:

We create:

<u>H</u>ealthy,

<u>Inspiring</u>,

<u>M</u>otivating,

<u>D</u>eveloping,

<u>A</u>chieving,

<u>G</u>raduates

23-24 BUSD LETTER GRADES

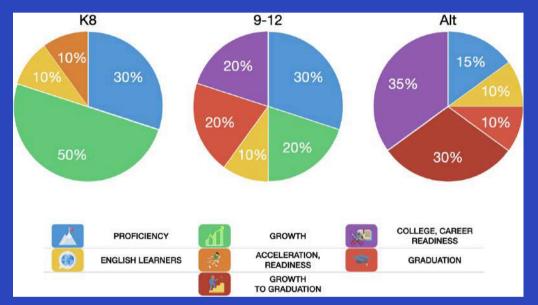
The Arizona State Board of Education, under Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-241, requires that the Arizona Department of Education develop an annual achievement profile for every public school using an A through F scale. The A-F letter grade system is a measuring tool to monitor the schools' progress over time. Below is a pie chart showing the indicators used when factoring a school's letter grade.

BUSD is proud to announce that on October 25, 2024, the Arizona State Board of Education published the schools letter grades for the 2023-2024 school year and thanks to the students, families, teachers, and administrators' support, all of our BUSD schools that are eligible to receive letter grades are officially received a "C"!

While we celebrate this great achievement, BUSD also recognizes the need to continue to stay focused, strategic, and aligned with our BUSD 3-Year Plan's main goals:

- 80% of our students will score 70% proficiency or higher
- Students will reach 90% attendance

Let's continue to work together and achieve excellence one student, one family, one grade level, and one school at a time.



For more details on school letter grades, please visit https://azsbe.az.gov/schools/af-school-letter-grade

https://www.azed.gov/account ability-research/resources and click on Technical Manuals and Codebooks.

BUSD HISTORICAL LETTER GRADES

	18-19	19-20*	20-21**	21-22***	22-23	23-24
IOES - Primary	TBD	TBD		Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated
IOES - Intermediate	С	С		Not Rated	D	С
Baboquivari Middle School	F	F	No Grades	Not Rated	С	С
Baboquivari High School	D	D	Issued	D	С	С
Indian Oasis Middle School	-	-		Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated
Indian Oasis High School	-	TBD		F	D	С

^{* 2019-2020} letter grades were carried over from 2018-2019 due to COVID-19

** K-8 were not rated in 2021-2022 due to COVID-19

^{**} No letter grades were issued in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Being present in school every day increases the chances of being successful. One of BUSD goals is to reach 90% attendance by school, by grade level, by teacher, and by student.

A student is considered chronically absent if they have 4 or more absences per quarter. One way you can monitor your student attendance is by using the ParentVUE app or by contacting the school.

Congratulations to the following schools that reached 90% attendance:

Indian Oasis Elementary School - Primary Campus

Indian Oasis Elementary <a>School - Intermediate Campus



Congratulations to the following grade levels that reached 90% attendance:

Kindergarten 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade

Thank you, BUSD families, for your support in making sure that your student(s) make it to school! We are about to get into the holidays and cooler weather. Your support is needed more than ever to ensure students gets up and show up.

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



2025-2026 ENROLLMENT



BUSD has been working to make the student enrollment process quick, easy, and effective.

We are excited to announce that for the 2025-2026 enrollment process, BUSD is aiming to have the most automated and easiest enrollment process ever.

Because it will be a new way to enroll our students, we anticipate that families may encounter issues as we transition to an online registration process.

To support our families, BUSD will be posting instructions through all the social media platforms, scheduling enrollment workshops, and ensuring that support is available at each school site.

To expedite the process, please download the ParentVUE app and ask your school for the activation code.



Android App bit.ly/ParentVUEAndroid



Apple App bit.ly/ParentVUEApple



PROJECTED BUDGET **EXPENDITURES**

As a part of the District's 3-Year Plan, two of our goals are:

- 1. Proficiency scores of 70% or higher
- 2. Attendance rates of 90% or higher

To support our goals, starting next school year BUSD intends to invest the Impact Aid funding from the federal government in the following

- 1. Salaries
- 2. Buses
- 3. Safety Concerns Related to Buildings
- 4. Teacher Housing

By continuing to invest in replacing old buses for new ones, BUSD demonstrates its commitment in having reliable xa for our students, preventing crowded buses, and aims to reduce the time students spend on the bus.

Similarly, by investing in salaries for the staff and upgrading our current affordable housing, BUSD shows the commitment to recruit and retain staff.

Finally, by continuing to address any building, systems, or equipment to increase the safety of our staff, students, and community, our District demonstrates our commitment to create a safe learning and working environment.

By investing in our transportation, staff, infrastructure, and safety, BUSD will make sure our students have reliable transportation, highly trained teachers staying in our community, and safe schools to learn, resulting in maximizing our energies in increasing student achievement.

NOTE: These priorities are contingent on ongoing funding and subject to change based on any possible budget cuts from the federal or state government, as well as any directives from Arizona State Board of Education.





BHS CROSS COUNTRY PLACES 1ST

The mission for Baboquivari Unified School District is to: Create <u>H</u>ealthy, <u>I</u>nspiring, <u>M</u>otivating, <u>D</u>eveloping, <u>A</u>chieving <u>G</u>raduates. Additionally, two of our goals in our 3-Year Strategic Plan are Goal 3: Essential 3.9: Connect and Challenge and Goal 4: Support and Challenge.

With that in mind, it is a true privilege to honor our 2024-2025 BHS Cross Country team, their family members, and coaches for showing the result of creating healthy, inspiring, developing, and motivating role models for our school and community.

The Cross Country team and coaches were presented with the Himdag award at our November board meeting for placing FIRST as a team at the AIA Division IV Southern Sectionals while valuing education and extracurricular activities. The 2024-2025 Cross Country team demonstrated the power of commitment and leadership resulting in what our BUSD Mission stands for. Thank you for Being Brave, Being Bold, Being BUSD!



Photos by Susie Garcia

BHS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AND COACHES



BABOQUIVARI MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



It is with great pleasure that we re-introduce Ms. Constance Onsae as the Baboquivari Middle and High School Principal.

During our regular BUSD Governing Board Meeting on November 13, 2024, the BUSD Governing Board re-classified Ms. Onsae from Interim Principal to become the permanent Principal, effective January 1, 2025.

Ms. Onsae's twelve plus years of experience as a high school teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal, and interim principal will be an essential asset to support, coach, and challenge our students as well as our staff with our mission of "Developing Healthy, Inspiring, Motivating, Achieving, Graduates."

Ms. Onsae plans to increase BMHS capacity to reach the following three Integrated Action Plan goals:

- Goal 1: Baboquivari Secondary Campus will increase Math proficiency by 25% utilizing Beyond Textbooks and aligned instructional practices reflecting the district's model of instruction.
- **Goal 2:** Baboquivari Secondary Campus will increase ELA proficiency by 25% utilizing Beyond Textbooks and aligned instructional practices reflecting the district's model of instruction.
- **Goal 3:** Baboquivari Secondary Campus will support academic student success through targeted professional development for all.

In addition, Ms. Constance Onsae vision includes the continued integration of "The Seven Learnings" strategies highlighted in the "Restructuring Urban American Indian Education" work from Mr. Joe Hobot, Ed.D. and take our BMHS to the next academic and cultural level. The Seven Learnings include: Learning Out-of-Doors, Learning in Community, Learning Across Generations, Learning in Redefined Spaces, Learning Leadership & Advocacy, Learning Indigenous Language, and Learning Indigenous Cultural Practices.

On behalf of the BUSD Governing Board, the BUSD Team, and our community, we thank Ms. Onsae for her willingness to embrace this challenge and congratulate her in her new position!



MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET: COWBOY CHRISTMAS

The Baboquivari Unified School District (BUSD) Family & Community Engagement Department hosted the 14th Annual Miracle on Main Street: Cowboy Christmas on Friday, December 6, 2024. This cherished event brought together families, students, staff, and community partners to celebrate the holidays on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The day featured a delicious BBQ dinner, generously catered by the **Tohono O'odham Nation Executive Office** and **Southwest Foods Excellence**. Over 500 meals were served.

Families also enjoyed a **laundry detergent giveaway** sponsored by the Sells District and **free arts and crafts** activities led by BUSD teachers and staff.

Event highlights included:

- **Performances** by the 4th-grade student dance group.
- A **Zumba presentation** by HOPP's Yvette Ventura.
- Exciting activities from the Sticky Fingers Rodeo Team, including a bull-riding simulator and barrel racing.
 Special thanks to Kathleen Toro for coordinating their participation!

Special Guests:

- Miss Native American University of Arizona, Jasmine D.
 Lopez
- Miss Waw Giwulk Mascamakuḍ, **Kya Delores**, and 1st Attendant **Ariyaha Jones**
- Tohono O'odham Nation Rodeo Queen, **Daydrion Yazzie**
- Master of Ceremonies, KOHN Disc Jockey, Fred Lopez
- Four Winds Drum Group

The celebration honored past sponsors, including the **Chukut Kuk District Youth Council**, **Tohono O'odham Ki:Ki Association**, and **Schuk Toak District**, whose support made the 2023 Miracle on Main Street event possible.

With music, giveaways, live entertainment, and a strong sense of community, this event truly brought joy to all in attendance. A special thank you to the **Tohono O'odham**Nation Police and Rangers for ensuring safety and smooth traffic control.

BUSD's Community Days are a way to build relationships and celebrate as one community. Baboquivari Unified School District remains committed to serving families on the Tohono O'odham Nation.





CONGRATULATIONS TO INDIAN OASIS HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2024



A HUGE congratulations are in order for Indian Oasis High School's December 2024 graduates!

On behalf of the Governing Board, Superintendent, and BUSD staff, we would like to congratulate the following students:



Mark Blaine, Jr. Juana Juan

Alyssa Francisco Larae'e Rios

Adriana Harvey Noah Sanchez

Jaron Harvey Maximus Toro

Jazmin Harvey

FAMILY SUPPORTS



The primary mission of the Baboquivari Unified School District Family & Community Engagement Department is to improve educational achievement by coordinating district services and collaborating with community agencies to better serve our students.

Si'alig Ki: (Sunrise House)

Parent Coaching

Parent Coaching will be available through February 2025. If you are interested in additional support for your and your family, we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity before it goes away!

Counseling staff at each school site will be available to assist you with registration, if needed!





MS. ANN CORDEN

Director of Social & Emotional Learning

(520) 719-1240 acorden@busd40.org

MS. K. FLANNIGAN

Guidance Counselor Intermediate/IOMHS Campuses

(520) 719-1240 kflannigan@busd40.org

MS. ALYSSA BEE

School Counselor Primary Campus

(520) 719-1230 ext. 3100 abegay@busd40.org

MR. SKY ANTONE

Behavior Specialist Intermediate Campus (520) 719-1240 sfantone@busd40.org

MS. MEGAN HALEY

School Counselor BMS/BHS Campus

(520) 719-1250 mhaley@busd40.org

MR. B. YABYABIN (MR. Y)

Behavior Specialist BMS/BHS Campus

(520) 719-1250 trbyabyabin@busd40.org BUSD Counseling Team

ON THE HORIZON

Date	Event
December 23rd - January 3rd	Winter Break - NO SCHOOL & BUSD Closed
January 6th	School Resumes
January 13th	Governing Board Meeting at the BUSD District Office at 5:30 p.m.
January 15th	100th Day of School. Help us reach our 100% Attendance Goal!
January 20th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
January 31st	Professional Development Day for BUSD Staff - NO SCHOOL
February 10th	Governing Board Meeting at the BUSD District Office at 5:30 p.m.
February 17th	Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
March 7th	Community Partnership Day at Primary Campus - NO SCHOOL
March 12th, 13th, 14th	Parent/Teacher Conferences - Half Days for Students
March 14th	End of 3rd Quarter
March 17th-March 21st	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL



DISTRICT OFFICE

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- Or, by appointment, if after hours.
 Phone Number: (520) 719-1200

INDIAN OASIS ELEMENTARY -PRIMARY CAMPUS

- Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1230





INDIAN OASIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1240

BABOQUIVARI SECONDARY CAMPUS

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1250





INDIAN OASIS MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS -ACCELERATED CAMPUS

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1260

TRANSPORTATION

- Office Hours: 4:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1220





SI'ALIG KI: - SUNRISE HOUSE

- Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.
 Closed Fridays, Holidays & Breaks
- Phone Number: (520) 719-1210

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

DISTRICT OFFICE

(520) 719-1200

Superintendent - Rubén Díaz
District Affairs Manager - Tanya Suydam
Chief Financial Officer - Clementina Carlyle
Federal Programs & Grants Director - Alison Cornell
Human Resources Specialist - Darolyn Mease
Exceptional Student Services Director - Valerie Valdez
District School Psychologist - Janice Pettigrew
Language & Culture Director - Angelina Saraficio
Family & Community Engagement Director - Aggie Hart
IT Director - Aaron Bates
Maintenance & Operations Director - Russ Rohloff
Food Services Director - German Nunez

TRANSPORTATION

(520) 719-1220

Transportation Director - Keith Bee **Office Manager -** Miles Ignacio

BABOQUIVARI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our students will be loved, encouraged, and prepared to take on the world by embracing our Himdag.

IMPORTANT DATES

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New Teacher Induction		Teachers Return	Staff In-Service	First Day of School	Labor Day	7 Parent/Teacher Conferences	4 Fall Break	Indigenous People's Day	All Soul's Break	Veterans Day	9 Thanksgiving Holiday	Winter Break	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Presidents Day	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Spring Break	O State Testing Window	Easter Break	Last Day of School	Memorial Day	Juneteenth	
	7/15-21/7	7/18	7/18-7/24	7/25	5/5	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/4	10/14	I/II	II/II	11/28-11/29	12/23-1/3	1/20	2/17	3/12-3/14	3/17-3/21	3/24-4/30	4/18-4/21	5/22	5/26	61/9	

Holiday (No School) PD (No School for Students) Break (No School) Half Day for Students Community Partnership Day (No School for Students) New Teacher Induction
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1st Quarter: July 25 - Sep. 27 (45) 3rd Quarter: Jan. 6 - Mar. 14 (46) 2nd Quarter: Oct. 7 - Dec. 19 (47)

4th Quarter: Mar. 24 - May 22 (42)

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

BUSD Governing Board Approved: 12/12/23; Amended on 5/14/2024