



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
2101 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718
(520) 209-7500 (520) 209-7570 FAX www.cfsd16.org

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 3.4

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

OPENING ITEM: Outstanding Achievements

SUBMITTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

PRESENTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD student and staff achievements:

Catalina Foothills High School Choir

Over the April 11-12 weekend, members of the Catalina Foothills High School Choir program traveled to California under the direction of Mr. Jeffrey Evans to participate in the 2026 Forum Music Festival. The trip included a choral clinic at the University of Southern California with Dr. Emily Sung, a backstage recording session at Disney with clinician and professional recording artist Vangie Gunn-Goodwin, and cultural enrichment activities, including a performance of Spamalot at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood and a visit to The Getty.

Both performing choirs (CFHS Choir and CFHS Change of Pace) were awarded gold at the festival.

In addition, two individual honors were presented by the adjudicators. Junior Abigail Carnahan and Senior Alexis Perry were recognized for their duet performance. Senior Carter Ferrell was recognized for his artistry in premiering an original composition for Chorus and Piano, performed by Change of Pace with collaborative pianist Jacqueline Foley.

The following students represented Catalina Foothills High School on this trip:

Sunita Adhikari, Jillian Bea, Owen Becker, Sophie Bian, Ivy Buffalo, Rylee Bush, Abigail Carnahan, Mariah Coats, Lily Coletta, Massimiliano Costa, Thomas Coss, Hannah Dominguez Angulo, Nora Fadel, Carter Ferrell, Addison Fluegel, Jacqueline Foley, Layla Fraser, Abigail Garcia, Isabella Garcia, Riley Goetsch, Charlotte Gordon, Zachary Green, Elliya Griver, Jay Groves, Sarina Herrington, Harper Hisey, Sophia Hudgens, Angela Jomey, Alexandra Kapke, Laney Lee-Hilton, Sebastian Mehl-Dominguez, Belladonna Melton, Emma Moseke, Carlos Navarro, Trillium Newcomb, Snowe Nguyen, Stephie Norvilus, Thomas Ogden, Sophia Maria Oliveira, Anna Palmer, Fernanda Partida Guillen, Alexis Perry, Azailea Peterson, Anakin Ramirez, Alex Riddle, Eli Schmidt, Janice Silva Florian, Aspen Sinclair, Louisa Stine, Kellen Tanner, Ada Tenbroeck, Joseph Towe, Luis Urtaza, Avisia Victory, Nathaniel Wiley, Victoria Wilson, Elise Woolley, Xavier Zazueta

Congratulations to them, Mr. Evans, and the entire CFHS Choir program on this achievement.

Arizona Science Teachers Association Spotlights Kevin Duong

Congratulations to physics teacher Kevin Duong, who has been spotlighted by the Arizona Science Teachers Association!

ASTA put it perfectly: "*Kevin's dedication to bringing complex concepts to life is sparking curiosity and shaping the next generation of scientists and engineers in Arizona.*" Kevin's love for physics is contagious, and his students are better thinkers, problem-solvers, and scientists because of him.

Thank you, Kevin, for the energy, expertise, and heart you bring to CFHS every day.

CFHS Science Olympiad Team Places Third in the State

On April 11, the Catalina Foothills High School Science Olympiad team competed in the State Science Olympiad competition hosted by Arizona State University, earning third place overall in the state. Several team members also medaled in individual events.

Four second place finishes: Emilee Shepard and Braeden Gracy in Circuit Lab, and Gabi Malo-Molina and Ava Terpning in Material Science.

Six third place finishes: Braeden Gracy in Robot Tour; Alex Wagenheim and Gabi Malo-Molina in Water Quality; Alex Wagenheim and Mackenzie Badie in Chiropterology; and Liz Povsner in Electric Vehicle.

The 20-member team is coached by CFHS teachers Kevin Duong and Kristin Vanderford. Team members are Alexa Amer, Mackenzie Badie, Isobel Cooper, Braeden Gracy, Lilliana Kalish, Alexander Lehrman, Gabi Malo-Molina, Fritz McGee, Quin Mekkelsen, Justin Newberg, Liz Povsner, Enoch Rogers, Emilee Shepard, Hailey Sircy, Isabelle Summers, Hugo Surdeanu, Ava Terpning, Faith Thomas, Caitlyn Trail, and Alex Wagenheim.

CFSD congratulates the Science Olympiad team, their coaches, and all of the students who represented Catalina Foothills High School at the state level.

CFHS Orchestras at the ABODA State Festival

Both Catalina Foothills High School orchestras took the stage at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) State Band and Orchestra Festival on April 30. State is the top tier of ABODA's adjudicated festival circuit, open only to ensembles that have already earned a Superior rating at the Area level. Serving more than 1,000 school music programs and over 30,000 students across Arizona, an invitation to State is itself a recognition of what these students have built.

Symphonic Strings earned a Superior with Distinction, ABODA's highest possible rating, for the second consecutive year.

Concert Orchestra earned a Superior at State. This was the first time in the history of the CFHS orchestra program that the Concert Orchestra has performed at the State festival, and the first State Superior the ensemble has ever brought home.

Both results reflect the steady, demanding work our students have done all year under the leadership of orchestra director Ryan Watson.

Congratulations to the following Falcons:

Symphonic Strings Andrea Adler, Connor Beckett, Sophie Bian, Brayden Carroll, Braeden Gracy, John Kettelle, Gordon Kim, Evangeline Kolonelos, Lucas Leonard, Gabi Malo-Molina, Elena McKaig, Quin Mekkelsen, Oliver Moeller, Vivi Nguyen, Milo Peters, Azailea Peterson, Tomas Salazar, Vivienne Shehab, Joseph Wang, Kaelen Wilt

Concert Orchestra Momoko Abe, Alpha Joyce Blanco, Johnathan Cadenhead, Michael Carrasco, Zayleigh Clark, Hope Craig, Violet Eider, Lydia Gendel, Leah Ghotmi, Lina Green, Molly Guarrera, Nathaniel Hance-Terrazas, Joshua Holden, Oreana Johnson, Jason Liu, Marcodario Luzania, Julie Marrs, Analia Matias, Emily Meagher, Ariadna Moreno Hernandez, Samuel Nasser, Elliot Orchard, Leonardo Osorio Torres, Ana Laura Passos, Ava Raymond, Bailey Redmond, Quinn Rogan,

Isabella Rowe, Sergius Sakali, Stella Schenten, Tiana Simmons, Mason Sloss, Storey Staples, Nora Stevens, Cortez Tam, Evan Velasco Resendiz

We are so proud of your hard work and what you accomplished this year.

KEYS Interns

Three Catalina Foothills High School students have been selected for the University of Arizona BIO5 Institute's Keep Engaging Youth in Science (KEYS) Research Internship 2026 cohort. Isobel Cooper, Bailey Moffett, and Alex Wagenheim are among 60 students chosen from a pool of more than 500 applicants statewide. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the KEYS program places high-achieving Arizona students alongside university researchers in Tucson, at UA's Phoenix campus, and virtually. The cohort will present their work at the KEYS Research Showcase on July 17th at the Health Sciences Innovation Building at the University of Arizona. Congratulations to Isobel, Bailey, and Alex on this remarkable distinction.

Two Esperero Canyon Middle School Educators Selected for Recognition at Evening to Empower Ed

Esperero Canyon Middle School counselor Garrett Wilton and special education teacher Lyndee Jones were recognized by the Southern Arizona Education Council at the 2026 Evening to Empower Ed, at the official education awards celebration of Pima County and the City of Tucson on May 1st at the Pima Community College Aviation Technology Center.

Mr. Wilton has been named the 2026 Counselor of the Year, an award that recognizes an individual whose work has set a standard of excellence and inspired lasting impact in supporting students. He was selected from nominees across Pima County school districts.

Ms. Jones has been selected for recognition as an outstanding educator for her work in special education at Esperero Canyon.

The Evening to Empower Ed builds on the 35-year legacy of the Crystal Apple Awards and celebrates outstanding educators, students, and community leaders from across the region.

CFSD congratulates Mr. Wilton and Ms. Jones on this well-deserved recognition.

Orange Grove Middle School Wins Arizona State Championship in Personal Finance & Economics

Orange Grove Middle School has been named the Arizona State Champion in the middle school division of the National Personal Finance Challenge and National

Economics Challenge, hosted by the Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE).

Competing against nearly 2,000 students from public, charter, and private schools across Arizona, the OGMS team advanced through regional rounds to the state finals, where they tackled real-world challenges including Arizona's semiconductor industry, public land use to support education, and long-term financial planning for a multigenerational family. ACEE President and CEO Elena Zee describes the competition as "the spelling bee of finance."

Congratulations to the OGMS State Championship Team: Jenna Appel, Josh Bowden, Molly Bowden, Casey Casper, Sullivan Cohn, Graham Cooper, Ryan Curley, Miles Goodrich, Gabriel Grandner, August LeRoy, Calum Newman, Hannah Regan, Isabelle Richardson, Haylin Rock, Giuliana Trombetta, and Paige Warfield, and to advisors Ms. Dawn Willman and Mr. Collin Flynn for their outstanding preparation and dedication.

CFSD Schools Shine at the 2026 Arizona Scholastic State Chess Championship

Two CFSD elementary schools brought home top honors from the 2026 Arizona Scholastic State Chess Championship, held April 25–26 at Harelson Elementary School and hosted by the Southern Arizona Chess Association. After a weekend of intense competition, with seven matches played over two days for our youngest competitors, Ventana Vista and Sunrise Drive both finished among the top teams in the state.

Ventana Vista — K–3 State Co-Champions

Ventana Vista Elementary School has been named 2026 Arizona Scholastic State Co-Champion in the K–3 division. The VV team finished tied for first place with Fruchthendler Elementary, with Fruchthendler taking home the 1st place trophy on tiebreaks. Both schools share the title of state co-champion.

This victory is especially meaningful because it spans the entire K–3 field, bringing together students across four grade levels into a single competitive division. It builds on Ventana Vista's strong showing in the fall, when VV teams claimed first place in their individual grade-level competitions.

Congratulations to the Ventana Vista K–3 State Co-Champion Team: Ian Moore, Nik Jain, Varden Pokhrel, Angelos Kyriacou, Evan Harvey, Liam Anderson, and Ethan Hudlow.

Sunrise Drive — Team and Individual Honors

Sunrise Drive Elementary School earned 2nd place in the K–1 division, with team members Gavin Levin, Jackson Benson, and Arthur Lam representing the school over two days of competition. Sunrise Drive also brought home two individual honors a 3rd and a 6th place. Third grader Aiden Liu finished 3rd place in the K–3 division, and Gavin Levin earned 6th place in the K–1 division.

A heartfelt thank you to Coach Ken Larson, who guides the chess players at both Ventana Vista and Sunrise Drive. The dedication it takes to sit across a chessboard for seven matches in two days is no small thing, and our students rose to the challenge.

Congratulations to all of our CFSD chess competitors!

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item