



Mingus Union
High School District #4

MAR '26

MINGUS MATTERS

PAGE 1

Every Student Celebrated | Every Student Prepared

Dear Marauder Families,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for parent teacher conferences last month. We appreciate your partnership and value your role in your student's education.

Baseball, softball, track and field, and tennis events are scheduled and ready to go. We invite you to join us for our school events and see our amazing Marauders in action!

Spring break is March 16th - 20th. I hope you all enjoy your break and have a fun time making memories. Once spring break is over, we return to the busiest time of year!

State Testing begins immediately after Spring Break, and we've adjusted our schedule to spend an extra day of Advisory on test preparation for grades 9-11. We know our students are learning and capable of performing well on these exams!

As we end the 3rd quarter, traditionally students lose a little bit of focus. For seniors, they are often looking at graduation and beyond. For freshman, sophomore and junior students, warmer weather often brings about more activities that take away from energy put towards academics. As the beautiful Verde Valley blooms, it is important to keep students connected to their education and school environment. Attendance is more important than ever this time of year and is the strongest predictor of student success in high school. Please continue to encourage and support your students' attendance and focused attention to their academic responsibilities.

Early 4th quarter brings important academic milestones and celebrations. Outside of academics, events like Prom, Spring athletics, and ATORT's Spring performance are activities that our students are excited for at the start of the quarter.

As always, we encourage you to reach out with any questions you may have or for any information you may need; we value your voice and want to hear from you.

Have a great March!



David D. Beery
Principal
Mingus Union High School

March Dates to Remember

February 27 - March 7
Project Prom Closet
*More Info on PG 3

March 5
Operation Graduation Meeting
5:30pm - MUHS Cafeteria
*More Info on PG 2

March 12
Jazz and Pops Choir and Band Concert
6:30pm - MUHS Auditorium
*More Info on PG 8

March 12
Governing Board Meeting
6 - 8pm - MUHS Library
*More Info on PG 2

March 16-20
SPRING BREAK ~ No School

March 24
School SITE Council Meeting
5pm - MUHS Library
*More Info on PG 2

March 25
Senior Cap & Gown Pickup
Lunch - MUHS Small Gym
*More Info on PG 3

March 30
Community in Bloom
6-8pm -200/300 Courtyard
*More Info on PG 3

April 3, 4, 10, 11 & 12
"Something Rotten: The Musical"
presented by Mingus A.T.O.R.T.
*More Information on PG 9



CAMPUS EVENTS & RESOURCES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

MUHS GOVERNING BOARD



Our governing board is comprised of five locally elected citizens. These individuals ensure the proper allocation of district funds and resources to best serve the needs and interests of our students.

Meetings are open to the community and are held at 6pm in the MUHS Library on the Second Thursday of every month
Unless otherwise noted

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AGENDA & MINUTES:
WWW.MINGUSUNIONDISTRICT.COM/ABOUT-US/GOVERNING-BOARD



MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

SITE COUNCIL

We value your opinion and welcome you to attend and participate in site council meetings

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
5:00 PM ~ MUHS LIBRARY

MUHS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Today's families are busy, and there's always something happening. Sync your family schedule with ours to avoid missing important testing dates and events when planning vacations and doctor appointments.



CLICK

Operation Graduation

IS A FREE, SAFE, ADULT-CHAPERONED EVENT FOR MUHS GRADUATES THAT TAKES PLACE AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY. OPGRAD IS SPONSORED BY MINGUS CONNECTION (MUHS FOUNDATION), AND IS MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

mingusopgrad@gmail.com



SCAN TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND LEARN MORE

JOIN US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THIS EVENT FOR OUR AMAZING 2026 MARAUDER GRADUATES!

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH
5:30PM | MUHS CAFETERIA

Mingus Union High School Nutrition Department

Scan the QR code to see our monthly menu and learn more about our cafeteria.



MARRAUDER

Seniors



Cap and Gown Pick Up

Wednesday, March 25th during lunch in the small gym. Seniors if you are not able to pick up your graduation order that day, the bookstore will have your orders available for pick up the next day.

Orders will only be given to the person they are for.

Friends cannot pick up your order for you.



Hosted by MUHS Student Council

Community in Bloom

Join us for an evening celebrating community with local vendors, games, and family-friendly fun!

Join us after the Varsity Baseball game VS. Rival Flag!

March 30th
6-8 pm
MUHS 200-300
courtyard
(near baseball field!)

- School clubs hosting interactive games
- Local community organizations offering informational booths and vendors

Bid to Support a Great Cause!
Silent Auction Baskets
Benefiting Challenge Day

project prom Closet

FREE

formal wear for ALL high school students!

- Friday, February 27 (3-5:30)
- Saturday, February 28 (10-1)
- Friday, March 6 (3-5:30)
- Saturday, March 7 (10-1)

Mingus Union High School
Enter West Parking Lot on Camino Road

Dresses in a variety of sizes and colors

- Menswear: Suits and Jackets, Slacks, Vests, Cummerbunds, Bow Ties & Neckties
- Jewelry & Accessories
- Dress Shoes

GRATIS

¡Vestimenta formal para TODOS los estudiantes de preparatoria!

- Viernes, 27 de febrero (2:30-5:30)
- Sábado, 28 de febrero (10-1)
- Viernes, 6 de marzo (2:30-5:30)
- Sábado, 7 de marzo (10-1)

Mingus Union High School
Entrar por el estacionamiento al oeste sobre Camino Road

Vestidos en varias tallas y colores

- Ropa para varones: Trajes y sacos, pantalones, chalacos, fajas, corbatines y corbatas
- Joyería y accesorios
- Zapatos de vestir

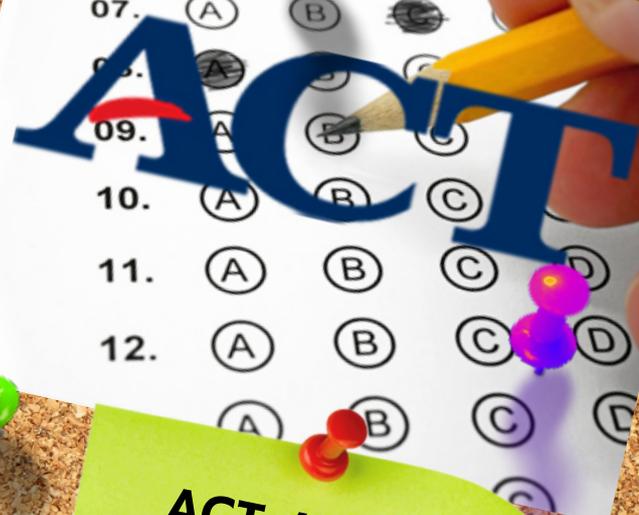




ACT Testing Schedules & Information

- **Tue & *Wed April 1st & 2nd:**
 - All freshman will take the ACT Aspire
- **Tuesday April 8th:**
 - All juniors will take the ACT
- **TBA*: March 25 through April 11:**
 - All juniors will take the AzSci

**If testing date falls on a Wednesday, the school day will still begin @ 9am*



ACT
ACT IS THE STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT TEST, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 11/COHORT 2026.

ACT ASPIRE
ACT ASPIRE IS THE STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT TEST, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 9/COHORT 2028.

TESTING TIPS!!!

- Get a good night's sleep before test day
- Turn off cell phones and leave out of sight until testing is complete
- Be on time
- Wear comfortable clothing and eat a healthy breakfast
- As you get started, take a few deep breaths to calm yourself and keep a positive attitude.
- Listen carefully to instructions and ask questions if you hear something you don't understand.
- Focus your attention entirely on your work.
- Pace yourself and occasionally check the time.
- If you finish before time is up, reread the questions and check your answers.



Mingus Union High School
Junior & Senior Prom

Olympian Dreams

Clark Memorial Clubhouse | 19 n. 9th St. | Clarkdale, AZ

Saturday, April 18th
7-11 pm

Tickets will be on sale in the Bookstore

Mar 2 - Mar 6	\$60 / each
Mar 9 - Mar 13	\$65 / each
Mar 23 - Mar 27	\$70 / each
Mar 30 - Apr 3	\$75 / each
Apr 6 - Apr 10	\$80 / each

Please see Ms. Bailey in the
bookstore for Guest Passes or
any Prom related questions!



MUHS Theatre 3 Presents:

Home at Last:

An

Odd

Little

Odyssey

A short play by Edith Freni

"Not so loosely based on Homer's The Odyssey"

Thursday, March 12 @ 9:30am

**This show is open to schools and to parents
who wish to attend. No charge!**

**OR Bring the show to your school at no charge!
Contact jball@muhs.com to book the tour today!**

**Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)**



MUHS Performing Arts Presents:

Jazz Pops

FREE CONCERT

Featuring Band, Concert Choir,
and Performance Choir

Thursday, March 12th, 2026
6:30pm

MUHS Auditorium * 1801 E Fir St * Cottonwood



Donations Accepted





featured on: **94.7 JACK fm**
playing what we want

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Isabel McKean



Isabel plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the Fall and earn a degree in Psychological Sciences. She wants to pursue a career that is deeply attuned to the emotions, needs, and guidance of others. In five years, she sees herself as a college graduate and continuing a career path in Occupational Therapy. She also hopes to travel and experience the world a bit before settling down. During her four years at Mingus, Isabel participated in Art Club, Link Crew, and Interact Club. Her favorite extracurricular was Link Crew, which gave her the opportunity to be a mentor and leader for younger classmen. Link Crew is an environment that values support, care, and a desire to help others grow. Guiding the underclassmen through the start of high school gave her a sense of fulfillment and meaning. Going to her Junior Prom last year was her favorite High School memory so far. In her spare time, Isabel loves painting, spending time in nature, reading, and writing. Anything centered around creating is what fills her cup up. A piece of advice she would give her freshman self would be to stay true to herself and find people that align accordingly. Instead of curating herself for the validation of others, Isabel would encourage herself to embrace her own authenticity.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Argaez

MUHS District Registrar



Jennifer is our MUHS District Registrar. In her position she works directly with families, processing enrollments for new marauders, maintaining student records and supporting the guidance counselors. She started working at MUHS in the 2021-22 school year as the Attendance Secretary and the following year moved to the registrar position. Jennifer's favorite part of working at Mingus is making families and students feel welcome to Mingus and encouraging them to take advantage of all the support and opportunities around campus. As the registrar her day is filled with processing paperwork so having the opportunity to work directly with students and helping them keeps her motivated. She is also happy to work with an amazing team in the Counseling Department. Mrs. Argaez grew up in Albuquerque, NM then moved to AZ. Prior to working at Mingus, she worked at Wal-Mart for 25 years. She has one son that graduated from Mingus. Her husband and son both work for the City of Cottonwood. In her free time she likes to spend time with her family, go for walks and hikes, or just relax and watch movies.





MARAUDER of the MONTH

TEACHERS AND COACHES ARE ASKED TO NOMINATE STUDENTS IN ALL ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS DEPARTMENTS. THESE STUDENTS ARE THEN VOTED ON AMONGST THOSE TEACHERS & COACHES TO CHOOSE FINALISTS TO RECOGNIZE EACH MONTH. THESE STUDENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN OUR NEWSLETTER AND INVITED TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION IN FRONT OF OUR COMMUNITY AT THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S BOARD MEETING.

Lilly Scott

ENGLISH & LITERATURE



Paige Culver

FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Daniel Etzel

MATHEMATICS



Gianna Hawley

SCIENCE



NO
MEDIA
RELEASE

Mila Caldwell

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Ali-Jah Woodhouse

SOCIAL STUDIES



MARAUDER of the MONTH

Carter Lynn



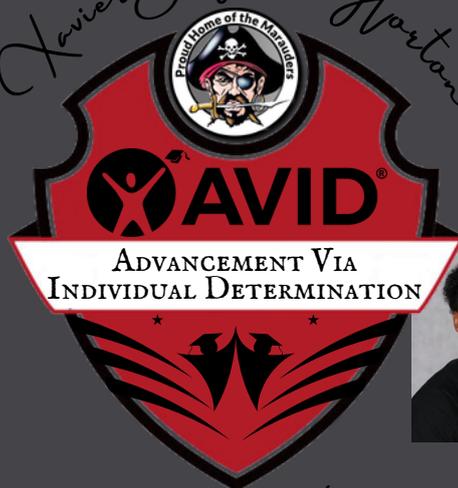
Nicholas Garcia



Johnny Castro



Xavier Ayala Horton



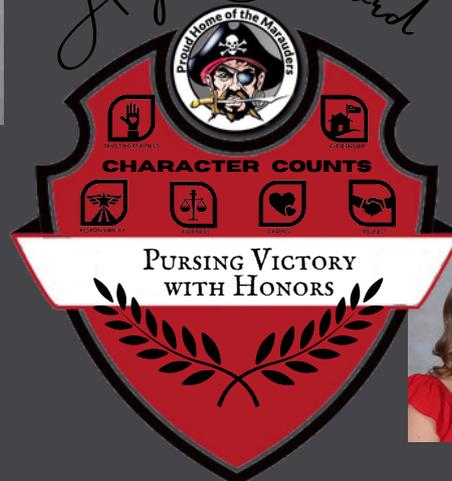
Ethan Baird



McKenna Cook



Alijah Bernard



Athletics Program - Mingus Union High School District

All current athletic events, team schedules and coaching information are posted to the athletics page for quick viewing. You can also subscribe to the calendar and receive daily emails by scanning the QR code below, then subscribe by clicking the RSS link (📡) in the top right corner.

*Schedules are subject to change, so check often or call the athletic department for more info!



BRAG BOARD

🎉 Postseason Kudos to Our Marauders! 🎉

We want to recognize two outstanding winter programs for making it into postseason competition and representing our school with pride!

⚽ **Girls Soccer advanced to the state playoffs and competed hard in the first round against #2 Salpointe Catholic. They concluded their season with a strong 9-3-1 record, showcasing resilience and heart all season long.**

🏀 **Boys Basketball competed in a postseason play-in game Wednesday night, falling to Cactus in a thrilling battle. The team wrapped up an incredible 22-win season, demonstrating grit, teamwork, and determination from start to finish. What a fantastic year!**



We are incredibly proud of both teams for their dedication, sportsmanship, and the excitement they brought to our campus this year. Thank you to our athletes and coaches for an unforgettable season! Go Marauders! 💙🔥

BRAG BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINGUS WRESTLING AT SECTIONALS & STATE



Xander Teel and Isaiah Ortiz both **DOMINATED** at Sectionals, taking 1st Place in their weight classes! Because of their incredible performances, they advanced and competed in the **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!** 🏆
We are extremely proud of them for not only qualifying for State, but for performing their best at State and gaining valuable experience on the big stage. Competing at that level is a tremendous accomplishment! We're excited for what's ahead as they head into their senior year next season. The future is bright for these Marauders! 💪🔥

🏀 GIRLS BASKETBALL ADVANCING TO STATE! 🏀



Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team on a huge victory over Lee Williams at the Play-In game on February 23! With an outstanding performance, the Lady Marauders secured the win and are now advancing to the State Championship Tournament! They will compete in the 1st Round of State February 26 at Paradise Honors. This team continues to show determination, teamwork, and heart every time they step on the court. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and can't wait to see them compete at the highest level in state postseason play. Let's rally behind them, pack the stands, and cheer them on! Go Marauders! ❤️🔥

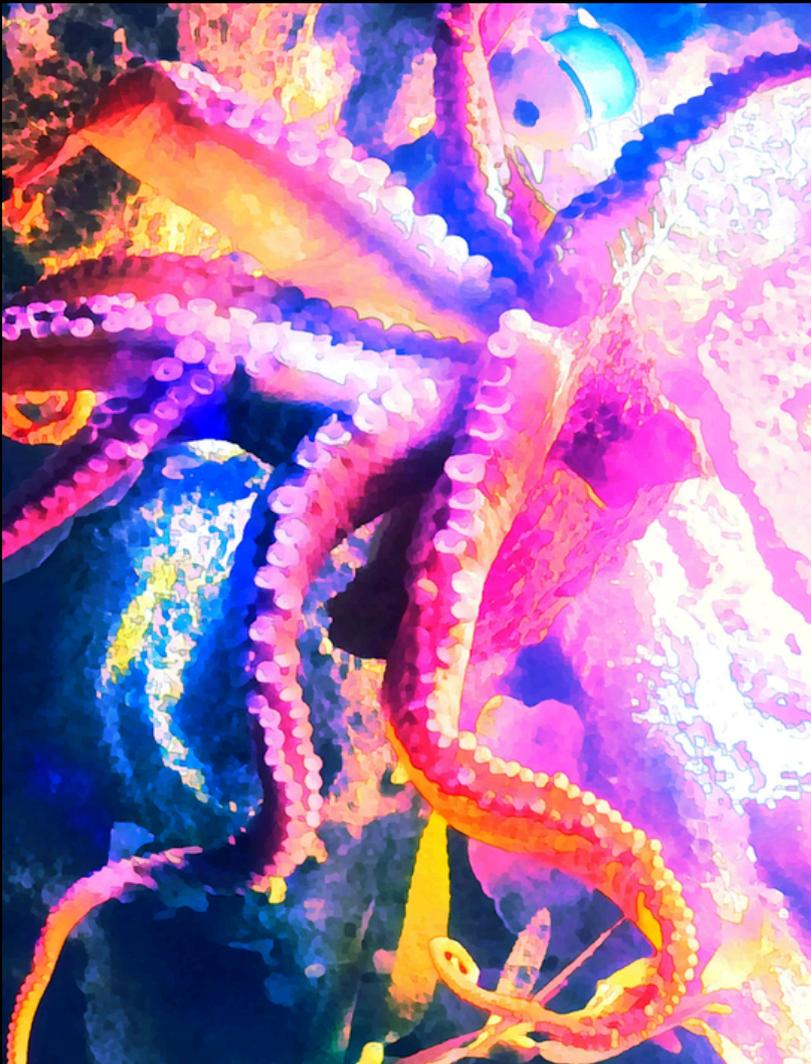
The Winners are in!

Verde Valley Young Artists' Showcase

In January, our Visual Arts students participated in the Verde Valley Young Artists Showcase Art show, sponsored by the Yavapai College Art Department on the Verde Valley campus. This is a juried art competition that is open to all of the high school art students in the Verde Valley. Each student has to select and submit their best work of art in order to be invited to participate in the show, meaning that this is a selective Art show that is meant to showcase the best of the best in student artwork in the Verde Valley. The students were competing for Scholarship Awards from Yavapai College to continue their artistic journey at the college level and were judged by the Art Teachers at Yavapai College.

We MUST thank our amazing Art Educators that work on our campus! Without the guidance of Jason Teague, Beth Detwiler, Oouida Dorr and Ashley Lomeli, our students would not be finding such success!

WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE ARE OUR WINNERS:



"OCTOPUS"
DIGITAL PAINTING PRINTED ON SILK
ALISSA AMUNDSON, 12



"MOUNT FACTORY"
LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINT
CAIRO COOK, 11



"DIVING IN MOTION"
PAPER MACHE SCULPTURE
JESSE BOGGS, 10



VALLEY
ACADEMY FOR
CAREER AND
TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION



VACTE - The Valley Academy of Career & Technology Education would like to highlight our COSMETOLOGY PROGRAM

The VACTE Cosmetology program is excited to begin their fourth year.

We have a group of 20 students returning to the year 2 of the program and will be getting ready to test for The Arizona Barbering and Cosmetology State Board to receive their Hairstyling License.

Second year students can take clients Monday through Thursday from 1pm to 4pm and two Saturdays a month. Call the Cosmetology salon to schedule an appointment, (928) 642-0153.

VACTE has openings for 20 new juniors to begin their first year in the Cosmetology program for the 2026/2027 school year. Make sure to get your applications in to your Counseling office or VACTE by the middle of March. In April all applicants will be interviewed for a chance to be accepted for one of the twenty positions.

This course will introduce and train students on the basics of the art and science of beauty care (Cosmetology) and advance the skills necessary to pursue a career and becoming a professional in the industry. Students will be introduced to the physical structure of hair and how it grows, as well as applying guidelines for proper safety and sanitation when working with clients. They will also learn practical application of procedures and techniques needed to be successful with all services in the salon including coloring, perming, haircutting, and men's grooming. Students receive a brief overview of many different salon services, which they demonstrate on manikins, then move on to family and friends, and finally offer services to the public.



This course explains the basics of hair design, including styles, client consultations, speaking professionally and receiving a better overview of what is expected of them as a stylist.

Students will learn all procedures, technical and practical, including managing the customer service front desk, inventorying product, maintaining client records, and how to own and manage their own salon.

The class then reinforces techniques and expands upon them in their second year, being more hands-on with the public by using advanced skills such as texturizing, razor cutting, and more in-depth coloring methods. Industry partners also come in to teach specialized services. Students can then move on to regional and state competitions.

The cost of the program is \$850, split between 2 years. Students earn 3 credits per year for the two-year program





Baseball. Barbeques. Birthday celebrations.

Pax, Program of Academic Exchange, is a nonprofit organization that places students in American high schools on a scholarship that is sponsored by the State Department. The goal of FLEX (Future Leaders from former Soviet Union countries) is to promote peace and diplomacy worldwide. Students come from Kazakhstan, Armenia, Poland, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia, just to name a few. These students are chosen for their high academics, friendly personality and leadership skills. The State Department provides a monthly stipend and full insurance for all sponsored students. This is a great way to bring cultural diversity into your family's life. Families can be single parent or retired and the student can share a room with a closely aged sibling. Families are asked to provide a bed, quiet area to study, meals and love and support for a teen. Student profiles are coming into our system and the teens are anxious to know if they have a family.

This program creates Global Citizenship which we so badly need.
Step out of your comfort zone and gain a daughter/son for life.
Make a Positive Difference in the World.

Khurshida is 16 and is from Uzbekistan. She enjoys volunteering, drawing, debate and volleyball. Her teacher describes her as outgoing, respectful, hard working and curious. She would be great with younger kids since she loves spending time with her nieces and nephews. Khurshida speaks 3 languages and was chosen with other students like her from a highly competitive process. She describes herself as open minded, caring and wants to learn from others.

For more information contact
Marcia Goebel

Coordinator for PAX and FLEX for 30 years
Marciagoebel@yahoo.com
(928)301-9868

Please call with questions or interest in hosting.





Community Events & Resources

There's no doubt that our Verde Valley community knows how to come together to support those who live here! This page will list some of those amazing Community Resources and let you know some of the events and happenings they have planned this month.

Inspiring CHANGE  *Providing HOPE*

Old Town Mission
115 E. Pinal Street
Cottonwood
928-634-7869

Mission Thrift Store
810 W Mingus Ave
Cottonwood
928-634-1644

Sharing God's LOVE

FOOD PANTRY
Wednesday: 9 am - 2 pm & 4 pm - 6 pm
Thursday: 9 am - 2 pm

COMMUNITY MEALS
Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Monday: 5 pm - 6 pm
Wednesday: 4 pm - 6 pm (**Served to-go only**)

RESOURCE CENTER
* Available for those without residence:
Showers, breakfast, clothes, hygiene & resources
Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9 am - 11 am

THE KIDS SHOP
Monday - Thursday 9 am - 2 pm
Monday 5 pm - 6 pm
or call for an appointment 928-634-7869

HAIR SALON
Monday 4 pm to 5:30 pm
Tuesday: 9 am - 12:30 pm pm

VISION 1st Tuesday/month 10 am - 11 am
LEGAL Call: 928-634-7869

MISSION THRIFT STORE
Clothing vouchers can be used Tuesday - Friday 9am to 4pm
Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm
810 W. Mingus Ave. in Cottonwood

The Mission is a **SNAP Community Partner**

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



LISA
Low Income Student Aid

Supporting Student Success
Through Community Compassion

Some ways LISA can assist your student:

- Medical bills, prescriptions, therapy, etc
- Clothing, shoes, coats
- Hair cuts & personal hygiene items
- Outstanding cafeteria balances
- Book purchases & class tuition
- Admission to school events
- Graduation Expenses
- School supplies & special needs devices
- Childcare costs & pre-school tuition
- Fees for extracurricular activities
- College deposits & testing fees
- Birthdays & Holidays



Qualifying students include those who attend Oak Creek School, Dr. Daniel Bright School, Cottonwood Community School, as well as their graduates currently attending Mingus Union High School or Verde Tech High School. We also assist students attending West Sedona School, Red Rock Jr. High and Sr. High School.

LISA is a 501c(3) charitable organization that provides aid to public school students in the Verde Valley.
Request aid at azlisa.org

 **Manzanita Outreach**



Check the Manzanita Outreach Facebook page for updates on their food share dates and what items could be available.

Our mission is to share the abundance of resources within our communities with dignity and joy.



406 S 6th Street,
Cottonwood
manzanitaoutreach.org