

Every Student Celebrated | Every Student Prepared

Dear Marauder Families,

It's hard to believe how quickly this school year has gone! Mingus students and staff have been busy working hard this Spring to complete state testing, prepare for AP exams, the Verde Valley Fair, and all of the end of the year activities and projects for completing courses. The musical production of Mamma Mia was phenomenal, with state finalists in 9 of 13 categories! Our Spring sports are finishing up with AIA State competitions for tennis and track in addition to team sports completing their seasons. Prom was, once again, a huge success and our Student Council has once again excelled- Go Marauders!

Our most anticipated event – the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 – is almost here! We have been planning and prepping and look forward to celebrating our graduates in true Mingus fashion. You will find important graduation information included in this newsletter. Congratulations, Class of 2025! Once a Marauder, always a Marauder.

Among our graduates this year, we are so proud to recognize individual accomplishments, ranging from FFA awards to Dorrance scholarships to Harvard acceptance; please join us for Senior Honors Night on May 19th at 5:30 pm in the auditorium! Our YC Early College program has continued to thrive for seniors completing their final year on a college campus. Mingus Union earned Site of Distinction honors as an AVID school this year. We have added Unified Volleyball to our campus, which combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same teams, and has been a wonderful addition. Amazing things are happening here, and we are so proud of our Mingus community!

A special congratulations to our athletes and coaches. With another successful year of Mingus athletics in the books, it is a thrill to see strong Marauder competition and sportsmanship on display. State playoff appearances were highlighted by our Girls Basketball program making the Final Four! Thank you, coaches, for all you do to speak into the lives of our young people.

We celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 5th-May 9th. Please take the time to thank our Mingus teachers for their care and commitment to the young people of our community. We appreciate our teachers and staff and thank them for the impact they have on the lives of our Marauders. As we bring this year to a close, I want to thank you all for sharing your student with us; it is an honor to

serve your family. Thank you for your continued support of Mingus Union High School. Go Marauders!

May Dates to Remember

May 1 & 15 Operation Graduation Meeting 5:30pm - MUHS Cafeteria *More Information on PG 5

> May 2 NO SCHOOL Fair Day

May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7 National School Nurse Day

May 6 BLOOD DRIVE 8:00am - 5:00pm in the Small Gym *More info on PG 3

> May 8 Governing Board Meeting 6 – 8pm - MUHS Library Regular Session

May 8 MUHS Band Performance 6:30pm Auditorium *More Info on PG 13

May 9-10 One Act Play Festival 7pm Auditorium "More into on PG 13 May 13 School SITE Council Meeting Spm - MUHS Library *More info on PG3

> May 13 Choir Concert 6pm Auditorium *Mare info on PG 13

May 15 & 16 Senior Final Exams Normal Bell Schedule All periods - both days

> May 19 Senior Honors Night 5:30pm Auditorium *More mis on #5:13

May 20 ATORT Senior Showcase 6pm Auditorium *More March PG 19

May 21 & 22 Underclassmen Final Exams 22nd: Periods 1 3 5 23rd: Periods 2 4 6

May 23 NO SCHOOL 2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY 7om on Bright Field



May 23 Graduation Practice for Seniors 7. 10am in gym *rehearsal is mandatory for all seniors students who do not attend graduation rehearsal will not participate in the graduation ceremony.



MINGUS MATTERS

End of Year Reminders

Senio All fees MUST be paid by Friday May 9th or your name will be removed from the Graduation walking list!

Don't forget to pay your outstanding fees at the bookstore before the end of the year!

To find if your account has a balance due, log into **PowerSchool or contact Mrs. Bailey in the bookstore** ebailey@muhs.com ~OR~ 928-478-7939 (M-F 7a-3p)

May 5 AP Biology 8am ~ Library

May 7 **AP Computer Sciene A** 12 pm ~ Library

TESTING

Mingus Union High School District #4

> May 8 **AP World History** 12pm ~ Small Gym

May 9 **AP United States History** 8am ~ Small Gym

May 14 AP English Lang and Comp 8am ~ Small Gym

May 15 AP Computer Science Principals 12pm ~ Library

10:45am - 12:00pm

May 9 Art and Design 8 p.m. ET is the deadline for AP Art and Design students to submit their three portfolio components as final in the AP Digital Portfolio.

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May 16 AP Psychology 12 pm ~ Library



DAY 2 Periods 2 4 6

SCHEDULE





Dear Graduate & Parent/Guardian – Class of 2025: Thank you for making Mingus Union High School a part of your family's history. Long after your student has moved on, their face will grace our yearbooks and their stories will live on in our hearts and hallways.

Graduation from high school is a ceremony which carries a personal and familial significance. We look forward to honoring your student's academic achievements and sharing this special time with you. Our Mingus graduates and their guests deserve a dignified and memorable ceremony. We ask that attendees follow our instructions for the graduation ceremony so we can provide a safe and celebratory event. We hope our graduation ceremony successfully demonstrates the immense pride that we have in our graduates, staff, and community.

As our seniors embark on their journeys beyond high school, please remember that you are and will always be the Black Cannons of 2025!

I look forward to sharing this incredibly special evening with our graduates and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

David Beerv

Principal

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PLEASE READ THE GRADUATION PACKET <u>CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH</u> <u>OPRIMA AQUÍ PARA ESPAÑOL</u> Print, sign, and return the form to the Bookstore by Friday, May 9th, 2025.

MINGUS MATTERS

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MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PREPARATION FOR GRADUATION

<u>May Countdown</u>

- 5: Graduation tickets available for pickup in the Bookstore (4 field tickets per graduate)
- 6: Senior Surveys Due (QR code on last page)

Mingus Union High School District #4

- 9: Last Day to order cap and gown
- 15-16: Final Exams for Seniors normal school schedule
- 19-23: Senior Week More Details to Come!
- 19: 5:30pm Senior Honors Night
- 23: 7:00am Graduation Practice Gym (*Mandatory*)
- 23: 6:00 pm *Graduates meet in Gym to line up* (Graduation begins 7:00 pm)
- 23 Operation Graduation 2025! 9:00pm at the Cottonwood Rec Center

Graduate Dress Code

Our graduation ceremony is an important community tradition and a final learning experience for our proud students; our dress code reflects this belief.

- Men: dress shirt, pants/slacks, clean shoes (dress shoes are preferred and ties are optional)
- Ladies: dress, skirt, or dress pants/slacks – he careful with heel height, it is a long walk, and we do not want you to take a fall on your special night!
- No shorts, t-shirts, Jeans, or flipflops - no extremely informal attire
- No decoration on the graduation gown. No leis, boas, etc. - only school approved medals/cords are allowed.
- Graduation caps may be decorated but the decoration must lay flat.
 No 3D or decorations hanging off the side. And decoration which would draw undue or negative attention is not permitted.
- Red gown, cap, tassel: the cap is to be worn flat on the head with the point at the center of the forehead and tassel on the right side. Red gown must be fully zipped for the ceremony.



Senior Honors Night

We are extremely proud of the academic accomplishments of our seniors. We will hold a special ceremony on Monday, May 19th in the Mingus Union High School auditorium at 6:00 p.m. There will be a reception with light refreshments prior to the event at 5:30pm. If your student is being recognized for an award or scholarship, they will receive an invitation; however, all seniors and their families are welcome to attend. The attire for this evening is professional business attire.

Graduation Seating

Each graduate will receive four field tickets once all school fees have been paid. Tickets will be given to the graduates (not adults). Students need to pick up the tickets at the High School Office May 5th - May 16th. MUHS will not manage ticket issues related to family dynamics. Our hope is that four field tickets will allow for inclusion of all family structures. The north football gates will open at 5:00 pm, Friday, May 23rd, for admission to the graduation ceremony. Seating in the bleacher area and the reserved on-field area (with ticket) is on a first come, first served basis, with no saving of seats. CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

Appropriate Behavior

If your child participates in a destructive or dangerous senior prank and/or demonstrates behavior that is not school appropriate, he or she will forfeit the privilege of participating in senior activities and/or walking at Graduation. If damage is caused to the school, no matter how little, law enforcement will be involved. Any behavior that draws attention away from the speakers, performers, or individual graduates being honored, or detracts from the dignity of the ceremony itself will result in removal from the ceremony.

We ask our proud parents to please respect all the graduates by remaining seated during the ceremony. Walking around on the field, engaging in conversations, or entering the student seating area for photographs is unfairly disruptive. Please do not enter the graduates' seating area. Blown up beach balls, poppers, silly string, bull horns, etc. are not appropriate. Graduation parties are more appropriate for celebrations of this nature. Please discuss this issue with your graduate. We want to do everything possible to make this a cherished memory for all our students. A good rule of thumb, if the action takes away from the ceremony and focuses on an individual or group of individuals, then it is inappropriate and unacceptable. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.



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Mingus Union High School District #4

Celebrating our AVID Seniors!

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MINGUS MATTERS

This year's AVID Seniors have been busy learning and reinforcing college and career readiness skills. These skills range from organization of physical and digital resources and materials, how to finance higher education, writing for disciplinary literacy, focusing on college and career options, creating to-do lists to prepare for college and applying for scholarships. To date, our AVID seniors have applied for over 350 scholarships and many students have already been notified of earning funding to continue their education.

SENIOR Candace Basham SPOTLIGHT

*eating healthy in college potluck

19/19 of our AVID seniors

have applied to and been accepted into college(s)!

After graduating, Candace plans on attending the University of Alaska Anchorage in the fall as a pre-nursing major. She hopes to see herself graduated from college with her nursing degree and working in a hospital gaining hours before branching off and working as a travel nurse. She likes to keep herself busy by going to the gym, working a part-time job up in Sedona, and she also runs her own YouTube channel, with over 10,000 subscribers! During her time at Mingus, she has participated in many clubs, including Student Council for 2 years (Representative one year, Senior Class President second year) -BC2M club (mental health awareness) for Junior and Senior year -International Explorers club during Freshman Year -Yearbook Chief Editor (for 2 years) Sophomore and Junior year -National Honors Society Member- Junior and Senior year -JV Swim Team Freshman and Sophomore year -Link Crew Club (help freshman manage high school) during Senior Year -BigFuture College Board Ambassador Fall 2024 Semester -"Crutches 4 Africa" 2025 Ambassador for Mexico Leg. Student Council has been her favorite activity on campus by far! Having a voice in the way our school runs has provided her with so much confidence and the ability to speak up. If she could speak to herself as a freshman, she would tell herself to get more involved and to get out of her comfort zone, because this big scary campus as a freshman has gotten way more comfortable by being involved!



MINGUS MATTERS

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS Sherri Ullery

Classroom Aide ~ Academy at Mingus

Mingus Union High School District #4

Sherri has been at Mingus for 14 years. She has spent 11 of those years at the Academy at Mingus. At the Academy she works with our students who are behind on credits. She tutors, consults, motivates, redirects and cares about these students. Her favorite, part of her job is seeing that hard work has paid off. She loves running into previous students and hearing about their success because of their mind change towards education that happened at the Academy. She also strives to help students see the purpose of finishing their education and help them set goals to make something of themselves. When engaging with a student who needs motivation she tells them to focus on small things so the challenge of all those credits does not look so big. Like, "You only have 1 credit of Math left". Or "When you focus, look how much you can accomplish" or "Lets see if you can finish this class by the end of the week." When it comes to her own motivation, several things keep her on task at work. One is the responsibility she has. As a paraprofessional, she is continuously searching for ways to help her students and other students focus on their education. She also enjoys constantly learning from and sharing experiences with her co-workers. Watching a student finally finish a class and watching them radiate from this accomplishment is what keeps bringing her back to work . Sherri has lived in Cottonwood most of her life. She is a Mingus Union Alumni and so are her husband and children. She was raised in a big extended family and loved the values that they taught her. She has four children and their wonderful spouses, and five grandchildren. In her free time she loves to bargain shop, do yard work, and hang out with her kids and grandkids. She also loves to play games around the table with her family.

Haley Davis English 9 & Dual Enrollment English 12 Head coach JV softball team, & sponsor of Rainbow League.

Haley's favorite part of the job is always her students. She says that teenagers might be unpredictable at times, but that's what makes every day interesting. She enjoys helping them through their English work, seeing how they grow as writers and readers, and listening to their ideas, even when they're a little wild. Teaching seniors this year has been extra rewarding since I taught some of those students when they were in 9th grade. When she needs to find or maintain my motivation, she thinks about all of the impactful teachers she had as a kid (Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Snider, Mr. Ostler, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Barton, and Mrs. Goldsmith to name a few). They too, pushed through

difficult days with minimal resources and support, and she still learned and grew with their support every single day. "If they could do it, so can I." When supporting a student who needs motivation, she would advise that they try to connect the skills they practice in the classroom to the real world. In the world outside of school, you might not be reading Shakespeare or delving into complex scientific concepts, but you will always need to persevere through difficult reading tasks, identify the source of an issue, collaborate, and solve problems. We practice all of that in school with the support and guidance of teachers, so take advantage of your time here!

Haley was born and raised in Sedona, and prior to teaching at Mingus, got her MFA in Creative Writing from NAU. She taught English and Creative Writing at NAU before coming back to the Verde Valley area in 2020. It was a huge career shift going from the college setting to high school, but she is very glad she did it. Who would have thought 9th grade English would be so fun! You can find Haley reading in her free time. Her goal this year is to read 100 books, and she is well on the way with 32 finished as of mid-April. She also loves spending time with her spouse, gardening, and enjoying the outdoors, whether that's at the creek or on the softball field with her team.





The AZ High School Musical Theatre Awards through ASU Gammage released their finalist list and we are beyond thrilled to announce that ATORT's production of "Mamma Mia!" received finalists in 9 of the 13 Categories! Out of the top 25 schools that were selected across the state, we are in the top 4-10 schools of each of the categories.

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ASU GAMMAGE – MINGUS FINALISTS

High School Music Theatre Awards

- Top 7 Finalists to MUHS Hair and Make-up Crew lead by Melaine Rodriguez
- Top 8 Finalist to MUHS Costume Crew lead by Addi Hughes

Mingus Union High School District #4

- shout out to our designer and Mingus 2024 Alumni, Beth Bates, as well! • Top 8 Finalist to MUHS Set and Props Crew lead by Ava Fransk and Jack
- Top 8 Finalist to MUHS Lighting Team Henry Crawford, Ian Laas, and Sofia Arvayo
- Top 9 Finalist Best Dance Ensemble Voulez-Vous, choreographed by **Carla and Stephen Renard**
- Top 8 Finalist Best Supporting Actor Caleb Thompson
- Top 10 Finalist Best Lead Female Mekenzie Combs If she wins, she competes in New York on Broadway for the Jimmy Awards!
- Top 10 Finalist Best Vocalist Mekenzie Combs Top 4 Finalist – ASU Gammage Leadership Award – Mekenzie Combs
 - Special Shout Out to our Mingus Finalists

- · Jareth Alegria for Best Lead Male Emerald Cardinali for Best Supporting Actress
- Wyatt Schilz for Stage Management

We are so proud to have so many finalists for our production of "Mama Mia!" One thing to keep in mind, unlike Athletics there are no school divisions due to size or region in this competition - from class 1A to 5A, each school is on the same playing field. From Joseph City to Scottsdale, we are all competing for the same 14 awards (the 14th award, best musical, finalists aren't announced until the awards show). The winners of each category will be announced at the Awards show at ASU Gammage on Saturday, May 24th. New this year - if Mekenzie makes it to the top three, she will have to surprise sing at the awards show, on the Gammage Stage, in front of everyone competing against the other two for a ticket to Broadway!

Congrats to all the kids involved! They truly knocked it out of the park! Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and for coming to see the show!

Your Mingus Theatre Team, James Ball, Stephen Renard, Carla Renard, Angelica Alcala, Katie Hall, and Caleb Wright



OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS ... OUR FUTURE.

Congratulations to our 2nd Semester Athletes!!

We had over 85 AIA Scholar Athlete Awards in Baseball, Softball Track and Tennis And 29 AIA Scholar Athlete TEAM Awards in Boys Tennis and Cirls Tennis These athletes are recognized for 3.5 GPA or higher and for their exemplary dedication to academics, athletics, and activities as a foundation for success.

Keep up the great work Marauders!!



Attention Athletes

Sports Registration for 2025-26 is now available! Stop by the front office to pick up your athletic packet or visit

www.mingusunion.com/athletics

You must be cleared by the Athletic Dept in order to participate in sports.

The following steps need to be submitted:

- Family ID online registration needs to be created and/or renewed for the 2025/2026 school year.
- Concussion course and Opioid course needs to be completed through the AIA online academy
- All athletes need to turn in their 2025/2026 AIA sports physical evaluation form completed and signed.
- Visit our website www.mingusunion.com/athletics for all your registration needs









We are excited to be offering several options and formats for Summer School 2025. Dates:

Original Credit starts Tuesday, May 27th - ends Thursday, June 26th
Credit Recovery starts Thursday, May 29th - ends Thursday, June 26th
Credit Recovery for Algebra 1 and Geometry will be a hybrid schedule with students coming in person for 3 hours per day and completing additional work from home.

ALL courses besides CR Algebra 1 and CR Geometry are completed at home in Edgenuity. You will be responsible for dedicating time to work on your course(s) during Summer School. You must finish your course(s) completely in order to earn the credit. There will be no extensions given.

Credit Recovery

Students can register for/earn up to 2 credits (4 X .5 credit courses) in Edgenuity.

Original Credit

Students can register for/earn 1 original credit (1 course) in Edgenuity.

Cost: \$100 payable to the Mingus Bookstore

MUCHAS FELICIDADE

Seniors of the Latino Student Union ! They will be wearing Red, White & Green cords at graduation to show that they have maintained a 3.0 or ligher GPA, completed at least 10 hours of community service, and have been active members of the organization.

Ashley Gonzalez *Jose Felix Daizy Mejia *Andrea Deras Andrea Duplan *Eleni Salas Tyler Williamson *Jessica Casas Garcia *Idali Alamanza

THHSS Members

2025 Hispanic Honor & Service Society Inductees:

Amy Castillo Serrano Enrique Cruz Yuliana Estrada Kaylen Flores Castro Gabriela Guerrero Jimenez Jose Lara Mia Martinez Adrianna Mejia Allie Sabol Javier Salgado Lola Vento



Honor and Service

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VACTE - The Valley Academy of Career & Technology Education would like to highlight our Construction & HVAC Courses.

This course will introduce and train students in the basic to advanced skills necessary to pursue a career in construction. This course covers foundations, flooring, framing, plumbing, electrical, roofing, sheet rock, windows, doors, cabinetry, blue print reading, use of hand tools, surveying and construction math. Models to full-sized partitions are constructed in the shop. Projects at actual job sites are included. Upon completion of this course, students will have the opportunity to test for certification in Forklift Operations, OSHA-10, and Certification by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

Students receive hands-on experience both in the classroom as well as on-the-job training while participating in business/industry internships. Many of our Construction students have been hired by local construction companies and are making competitive wages!

Come join our program! Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors can take this course. We have two sections and the students receive high school credit! You can participate in Skills USA and travel competing in many different competitions! We would love for you to come by the VACTE office on 3405 E. State Rt. 89A,

Building B, in Cottonwood and see our amazing Construction classrooms We are open Monday through Thursday from 7am to 4:30pm.

At VACTE, we envision a future where our students attain the skills to build professional careers that will last a lifetime. Our vision is "Skills for Today, Careers for a Lifetime".













Please note these students are sponsored by the Dept. of State based on their leadership, academics and personalities. They are provided a monthly stipend full medical insurance, and school funds. The student can share a room with a closely aged sibling. They arrive in August only if they have a family and are presently anxiously waiting to see where in the US they may be living. This is a great way to bring cultural diversity into your world and become global citizens.

For more information contact: Marcia Goebel Marciagoebel@yahoo.com | (928)301-9868





Alternative Meals: Granola + Yogurt, Uncrustable PB&J, Whole Grain Cereal. All Breakfast Meals Served with Fresh Fruit and Optional Milk and Iced Coffee



Alternative Meals: Grilled Cheese, Uncrustable PB&J, Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Personal Pizza All Lunch Meals Served with Optional Fresh Fruit and Milk