



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
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## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 1.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

**PRESENTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

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

### CFHS Change of Pace Choir

On February 7-9, Change of Pace Choir traveled with Mr. Jeffrey Evans, CFHS Director, to Flagstaff to compete in the Jazz & Madrigal Festival hosted by Northern Arizona University. This three-day festival featured over 100 choirs from more than 100 schools, with participants from California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

In both the Jazz and Madrigal categories, Change of Pace earned Superior—the highest possible rating. They performed at both NAU’s Ardrey Auditorium and Epiphany Church in Flagstaff. They were adjudicated by Professor Emeritus Bruce Rogers (Mt. San Antonio College) and Professor Mathew Myers (Washington State University)—both highly esteemed in the world of choral music.

Change of Pace Choir members are Ellaina Carnahan, Carter Ferrell, Jacqueline Foley, Fox Foster, Isabella Gamas Collazo, Aisha Gereau, Kiera Kuehnle, Siena Mayfield, Zachary Pittner, Finch Silverman, Abigail Sinclair, Louisa Stine, Alejandro Tavera-Reyes, and Luis Urtaza.

### National Merit Finalists

I am pleased to share that all seven of our National Merit Semifinalists have advanced to Finalist status in the National Merit Scholarship Program! This is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects the academic excellence, dedication, and perseverance of

our students. They are Joseph Drexler, Fox Foster, Sara Christina Nielsen, Nilay Patel, Carson Ruiz, Tahlia Szoke, and Bryan Zhang.

Each finalist was presented with a Certificate of Merit from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in recognition of their outstanding achievement.

The final selection process is underway, with approximately 6,870 Merit Scholarship winners to be chosen from the pool of more than 15,000 Finalists nationwide. The NMSC will notify scholarship recipients via email in March.

Congratulations to our Finalists for their hard work and commitment!

### CFHS Pomline

The Catalina Foothills High School Pomline showcased their talent at the USA Spirit Nationals, held February 13–17, 2025, at the Anaheim Convention Center. We applaud the team's dedication, countless hours of practice, and passion for excellence. Under the leadership of Coach Camryn Breese, our athletes demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship on a national stage.

Varsity Pomline Members include Avelyn Alcott, Jazlynn Arias, Alexis Bates, Haley Brett, Liliana Clevenger, Audrey Dessent, Mary (Emmie) Gooding, Elizabeth Harlow, Norah Jackson, Adalyn Maynes, Annika Maynes, Aubrey Maynes, Coral Michel, Talia Monash, Peighton Rolfe, Presley Sarullo, Cally Sulger, Lauren Thompson, and Katelyn Trenka.

We congratulate these outstanding student-athletes and Coach Breese on an incredible season.

On February 22, the Catalina Foothills High School Pomline captured a first-place win in the Varsity Pom division at the Pink State Championship. The private tournament was held at North Canyon High School in Phoenix. This marks an incredible streak for our senior athletes, who have ended their high school careers as four-time Pink State champions. We are incredibly proud of your achievements and can't wait to see what's next for this talented team.

### CFHS Varsity Cheer

On February 14-17, our varsity cheerleaders were in Anaheim to compete at the USA Spirit Nationals Competition! We competed in both All Girl Stunt & Varsity Intermediate Show Cheer.

Our All Girl Stunt team placed 11th out of 41 teams, an incredible accomplishment for the five ladies: **Seniors** Lauren Sita & Des Ortiz, and **Juniors** Ava Moltrup, Cristina Angel, and Sidney Flores.

Our Varsity Show Cheer put on a great routine that truly modeled all of the hard work and countless hours they put in throughout this season. The routine included: **Seniors** Lauren Sita, Kira Saathoff & Des Ortiz, **Juniors** Ava Moltrup, Cristina Angel, Sidney Flores, Cindy Lu, Gabby Fiello, Giana Bueno Johnston, Victoria Benitez, Taylor Garcia, Maya Alvarez, and Maiya Nixon-Lopez, **Sophomores** Annelise Kohut, Destani McKenna, and Sedona Drumm-Lee, and **Freshman** Lily DuPont. The team's coaches are Brooke Hoglin and Emma Fuller.

#### CFHS Boys Soccer Team Receives AIA Sportsmanship Award

We are proud to announce that the Catalina Foothills High School Boys Soccer Team has been selected to receive this year's AIA Soccer Sportsmanship Award! This prestigious honor is presented annually by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) to the team in each conference that exemplifies the highest level of sportsmanship, as determined by game officials. The team received this award during halftime at this year's State Championship Game held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Mesa High School.

Winning the AIA Sportsmanship Award shows the leadership, discipline, and positive culture fostered by Head Coach Greg Whitney, Assistant Coach Wes Wade, and Assistant Coach Ryan Whitney. The team's dedication to fair play and respect for the game has earned them this well-deserved distinction.

The CFHS Boys Soccer Team includes **Seniors** Jackson Cosgrove, Nicolas Lawrence, John Pierson, Giovanni Procopio, Sebastian Rogers, Gibran Verdugo, and Bryce Weege, **Juniors** Nathan Aguirre, Pedro Cazares, Luca Celi, David Ibarra, Andrew King, Jaidon Muratti, Ely Savir-Baruch, and Itai Winter, **Sophomores** Horacio Pedrazo-Corella, Aydan Laufer, Jules Manger, Seth Nottingham, and Rylan Smith-Carrillo, and **Freshman** Elmer Morales, Mateo Perez, Miguel Ruiz-Briones, and Moses Wollner.

Congratulations to our student-athletes, coaches, and the entire Falcon Soccer community on this incredible achievement! We look forward to celebrating their success both on and off the field.

#### CFHS Model United Nations Excels at NAIMUN LXII

From February 13-16, Catalina Foothills High School Model United Nations students showcased their skills on the global stage at NAIMUN LXII. Held in Washington, D.C., the event brought together over 3,000 students from across the United States and countries including South Africa, France, and Italy.

CFHS delegates engaged in high-level debates on historical and contemporary global issues, demonstrating their diplomatic expertise and critical thinking. Among hundreds of competitors, Tahlia Szoke and Porter Bache stood out, earning awards for their

outstanding speeches in their respective committees—a remarkable achievement at such a competitive conference!

Beyond the competition, students immersed themselves in Washington, D.C.'s rich history and international presence. They toured the Embassy of Spain, explored the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and visited iconic landmarks such as the Washington Monument, the U.S. Capitol, and the White House.

This learning experience not only sharpened their debate and diplomacy skills but also deepened their understanding of global affairs. Congratulations to all CFHS Model UN participants and advisor Mr. Peter Maxwell on this world-class accomplishment.

### District and Pima County Spelling Bees

The Catalina Foothills School District is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in this year's CFSD Spelling Bee.

1st Place: Natasha Jain (Ventana Vista Elementary, 5th grade) – Advanced to represent CFSD at the Pima County Spelling Bee on February 15.

2nd Place: Dominic Bayze (Ventana Vista Elementary)

3rd Place: Tien Long Ho-Patel (Ventana Vista Elementary)

These students demonstrated exceptional perseverance, competing through 10 challenging rounds and advancing to middle school-level words.

Natasha Jain proudly represented CFSD at the Pima County Spelling Bee, making it to the fourth round—a remarkable achievement! Mrs. Martinez went above and beyond by organizing the CFSD Spelling Bee and personally coaching Natasha in the weeks leading up to the county competition. Her dedication and encouragement helped Natasha feel prepared and confident on stage.

We are incredibly proud of all our participants for their hard work and commitment to academic excellence.

### DECA State Competition Results

At the Arizona State DECA Conference, held at the Arizona Grand Resort, over 2,300 students from across the state competed in a highly competitive environment. Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) DECA students, under the guidance of business teacher and DECA advisor Jason Reinhardt, demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and exceptional performance, with several students earning high placements and seven qualifying for the International DECA Competition, which will take place in Orlando, Florida, from April 25-30, 2025. The following students have qualified for the

International DECA Competition, where they will compete against more than 21,000 students from around the world:

Kyleigh Benton – 4th Place in Event

Isabella Franco – 7th Place in Event & Top 20% Test Score\*

Sydney Hellbusch – 7th Place in Event & Top 20% Test Score\*

Sophia Mallino – 3rd Place in Event

Daniela Oliver – 4th Place in Event & Top 20% Test Score

Zarya Vinal – 4th Place in Event

Zachary Wagenheim – 4th Place in Event

Sage Wexler – 4th Place in Event & Top 20% Test Score

*\* Normally it is only the top 5 from an event that qualify for Internationals, so the fact that these students have been invited to compete speaks volumes about their acumen and ability.*

Two students received state-level recognition for their outstanding performance:

Joaquin Islas – Top 20% Test Score

Thomas Vamos – Top 20% Test Score

The following CFHS students also competed at Arizona DECA State, demonstrating excellence and dedication: Aiden Amado, Charisma Corkle, John Donnelly, Shelby Drake, Arthur Fileguesias Pinto, Sam Irish, Andrew King, Walker Nighswander, Natalia Ortiz, Dylan Panno, Shubh Patel, Ely Savir-Baruch, and Aiden Wilt.

In addition, CFHS DECA is under consideration for three spots in the highly competitive Leadership Training Program at Internationals, demonstrating the professionalism, sportsmanship, and leadership displayed by our students. We are extremely proud of all our DECA competitors for their hard work and accomplishments. Their success at Arizona DECA State highlights their business acumen, leadership, and communication skills, and we look forward to their participation at the International DECA Competition in Orlando this April.

#### Tucson Festival of Books Artist

Congratulations to Canyon View's Ava Erlacher! This talented 4th grader was selected in the Tucson Festival of Books' Young Artists Competition. Ava created a painting of San Xavier Mission at sunset. She will be honored alongside other winners at the Tucson Festival of Books on Saturday, March 15.

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item**