



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:** 1.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, April 7, 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 (CFHS) Model UN

Students from the Model United Nations team competed at a national level in Washington DC. Four of our students have won awards out of 3,000 students competing. Alex Rowswell won Best Delegate, which is essentially first place in his highly competitive crisis committee. Porter Bache and Sasha Cabrera Urzen won Outstanding Delegates as a duo, competing in one of the larger committees with upwards of 300 students. Ali Lucas won the Research Award, demonstrating his academic and diplomatic expertise on paper. The students spent a week in DC among students from all over the world including France, South Africa, Italy, Taiwan, Korea, and many others. Our Model United Nations students represented our school at the highest levels of diplomacy! The trip was chaperoned by teacher/sponsor Mr. Peter Maxwell and counselor Ms. Kat Graham.

### CFHS Class of 2026 University of Arizona Scholarship Recipients

We are proud to celebrate five members of the Class of 2026 named recipients of the University of Arizona's brand-new President's Saguaro Scholars Award: Inara Smith, Felisberto Pondeca, Sophia Toapha, Connor Doty, and Ava Glasner.

One of UA's most selective merit scholarships, the award recognizes outstanding Arizona resident first-year students for exceptional academic achievement and potential, encouraging the state's strongest scholars to pursue their university

experience in-state. Approximately 100 students statewide receive the honor annually, with each scholar earning up to \$60,000 over four years of study.

Having five recipients from a single school in the award's inaugural year is a remarkable distinction. Each of these Falcons was personally nominated by a teacher, counselor, or community member who recognized something exceptional in them.

Please join us in congratulating Inara, Felisberto, Sophia, Connor, and Ava.

#### Arizona All-State Band/Orchestra Winds

Congratulations to seven students who were selected to the Arizona All-State Band/Orchestra Winds:

- Grace Seo - 1st Chair Oboe (Overall in the state)
- Robert Ferber - 1st Chair Bassoon (Overall in the state)
- Maddi Lister - Clarinet
- Tommy Logue - Clarinet
- Mareliss Alvarez - Clarinet
- William Liu - Trumpet
- Yash Chauhan - Trumpet

#### CFHS Music Ensembles Shine at Area Festivals

Congratulations to three Catalina Foothills High School music ensembles on outstanding performances at recent Area festivals. Under the direction of Renee Shane-Boyd, these results reflect the talent and hard work of our student musicians.

At the Area Jazz Festival on February 24 at Ironwood Ridge High School, the Jazz Band earned a Superior rating.

**Jazz Band — Superior** Congratulations to Joseph Barre, Luke Bennett, Zalan Brown, Brooklyn Brown, Yash Chauhan, Jackson D'Albini, Sam Frankfort, William Keith, Lucas Leonard, William Liu, Matthew Maxwell, Valerie McLamarrah, Giovanni Metzger, Wyatt Miller, Elizabeth Povsner, Penelope Reno, Keenan Sammani, Valentina Sanchez Barrios, Amy Sternberg, Tyler Tom-Lin, and Zechariah Wright.

Also, at the Area Concert Festival on March 4, the Symphonic Winds and the Wind Ensemble both earned Superior with Distinction — the highest rating possible, requiring every adjudicator to award the ensemble a Superior.

**Symphonic Winds — Superior with Distinction** Congratulations to Carolina Alfaro, Donovan-James Barnes, Melanie Bime, Lily Bowsher, Major Carney, Vitor Carvalho, Isabel Craig, Nathan Denoyer, Mikayen Devlin, Hannah Dominguez Angulo, Evan Eider, Kai Ground, Kristen Harrison, Landon Heise, Emeline Heise, Eleanor Herman, Abigail Knutson, Mason Kot, Theodore Leblanc, Christopher Lored, Adina Lytle, Alexander McFarlane, Mia Mendoza, Andrew Murray, Lucy Neptune-Pratt, Kristofer Nicholson, Edgar Padilla, Sebastian Quijada, Roman Rodriguez, Michael Rogers, Benjamin Russell, Matilda Salas-Varela, Valentina Sanchez Barrios, Samuel Savin, Grace Seo, Sahil Shah, Zen Shah, Derek Shelton, Rex Shetlar, Amy Sternberg, Brandon Taylor, Spencer Thorn, Tyler Tom-Lin, Oden Toms, Alejandro Urbina, Ayumi Valencia, Azariah Wilhite, Zechariah Wright, and Nuoyan Zhang.

**Wind Ensemble — Superior with Distinction** Congratulations to Mareliss Alvarez, Rylee Begay, Dominic Bell, Julia Bonet, Jacob Braitberg, Orsolya Brown, Taylor Brown, Brayden Carroll, Charlotte Cassell, Aidan Chang, Yash Chauhan, Jackson D'Albini, Robert Ferber, Samantha Gaither, Sofia Garcia, Benjamin Grandner, Aidan Green, Matthew Hanson, Mason Hashim, Zachary Henson, Sonia Hughes, Sean Hull, Alexander Lewnes, Madeline Lister, William Liu, Thomas Logue, Ariana Madrid, Giovanni Metzger, Wyatt Miller, Richa Patel, Felisberto Pondeca, Elizabeth Povsner, Madeleine Reed, Natalie Reyerson, Gage Richardson, Isabella Samaniego, Keenan Sammani, Valentina Sanchez Barrios, Samuel Savin, Grace Seo, Zen Shah, Derek Shelton, Rex Shetlar, Brandon Taylor, Spencer Thorn, Tyler Tom-Lin, Azariah Wilhite, Zechariah Wright, and Nuoyan Zhang.

Way to go, Falcons!

### CFHS Falcon Band Takes Ireland by Storm

One hundred and twenty Falcon Band musicians traveled to Ireland March 21 through 30 for a performance tour that combined world-class music-making with deep cultural immersion. Under the direction of Renee Shane-Boyd, the ensemble performed at iconic venues including Kilkenny Castle and Galway's Eyre Square, bringing Falcon pride to stages steeped in centuries of history.

Beyond performing, students explored the Cliffs of Moher, the Rock of Cashel, and the ancient monastic site at Glendalough. They also dove into Irish musical traditions firsthand, learning Ceili dances, hearing folk musicians their own age perform, and attending a dinner show where they tried their hand at traditional Irish dance steps and learned to play the bodhrán, the iconic Irish drum.

One of the tour's most memorable experiences was a performance exchange with the Mullingar Town Band, an ensemble that has been making music since 1840. In Ireland, concert and marching bands exist as community town bands rather than through schools, so the Mullingar group included musicians ranging from middle school age through adulthood. The two ensembles performed for each other at Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar, then shared lunch and conversation at the Mullingar band hall, complete with a performance by dancers from the Emerald Lakes Academy of Irish Dance.

The visit clearly left an impression on both sides. The Mullingar Town Band shared on social media that the joint performance was "a standout of our 2026" and one they "will remember for years to come," calling the Falcon Band's music "wow." Our students also made an impression offstage. Two sisters from Texas who were touring Ireland at the same time emailed CFSD to share how well-behaved and polite the band students were at their hotel in Galway and at Kylemore Abbey. "You can be so proud of them!!" they wrote.

What a trip, Falcons!

### 2026 Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) Winners

CFSD students shined at the 2026 Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Fair with forty-four (44) projects receiving awards.

Awards received included:

- 7 first place awards
- 11 second place awards
- 15 third place awards
- 1 Pima Community College Foundation Scholarship Award
- 1 Phi Beta Kappa Award of Excellence
- 3 SARSEF Board Awards
- 2 TEP Award of Excellence Awards
- 1 Regeneron Biomedical Science Award
- 1 Mastermind, Texas Instruments Engineering Excellence 2nd Place Award
- 1 Texas Instruments Engineering Excellence 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award
- 1 Alex and Laura Schauss Award
- 1 The Energizer Award
- 1 Excellence in Earth and Space Science Awards
- 1 Arizona Hydrological Society Award
- 1 The Tucson ASQ Quality Tools Award. CFSD winners by school include:

### *Canyon View Elementary School*

- Evelyn Hartshorne (Grade 2) – *The Science of Swimming Fast* – Third Place
- Owen Hartshorne (Kindergarten) – *Monster Truck Launch Test* – Second Place
- Sawyer Thompson (Grade 2) – *Grocery Gloves* – First Place

### *Catalina Foothills High School*

- Frederick Allison (Grade 12) – *Testing Essential Oils as an Alternative to Antibiotics* – Third Place
- Ajax Glenn-Grambo, Anyssa Medrano (Grade 12) – *Mitochondrial Phenotypes and  $\beta$ -II Spectrin Expression in Cancer Cells as a Result of TGF- $\beta$  Induction* – Regeneron Biomedical Science Award
- Abigail Hanley (Grade 12) – *Spraying The Facial Bacteria Away* – Second Place
- Bailey Moffett (Grade 12) – *Acoustic Force Trapping Hydrogel Granules in a Microfluidic Chamber* – Second Place
- Daniela Oliver (Grade 12) – *Investigation of Effectiveness of Activated Carbon for Water Filtration* – Third Place
- Alexis Rajala (Grade 12) – *Investigating Biodegradable Paint and Its Effectiveness for Different Art Techniques* – Third Place; Texas Instruments Engineering Excellence 3rd Place Award
- Natalie Reyerson (Grade 12) – *The Study of Temperature and Acidity's Influence on the Growth of Plants* – Second Place
- Gage Richardson (Grade 12) – *Is Your Toothpaste Tough Enough? Dental Health & the Effects of Fluoride* – Pima Community College Foundation Scholarship
- Sophie Roth Gordon (Grade 12) – *Investigating the Effects of Natural Supplements on Blood Sugar Regulation in Prediabetic Patients* – Alex and Laura Schauss Award
- Joseph Wang (Grade 10) – *Effect of Live Classical Music in Unhoused and Hospital Settings* – First Place; Phi Beta Kappa Award of Excellence

### *Esperero Canyon Middle School*

- Olivia Babst, Grace Jorquera (Grade 6) – *The Power of Paintings: Continuing to Explore Art and Emotions (Year 2)* – First Place
- Kelly Smith's Class (Grade 6) – *Exploring the Impact of Space Radiation on Seeds* – First Place
- Max Taylor, Jax Sutton (Grade 6) – *Magic Track Rechargeable Solar Car* – Third Place

### *Manzanita Elementary School*

- Maura Baker's Class (Grade 4) – *The Tasty Age* – Third Place

- Adam Elitzer (Grade 4) – *Investigating Solar Panel Electricity Generation* – Third Place; The Energizer Award
- Ella Winter (Grade 4) – *How Does Vision Affect Perception of Taste?* – *A Continuation Project* – Third Place
- Liliah Winter (Grade 5) – *How Does the Color Display of a Phone Affect the User's Screen Time?* – Third Place
- Megan Winter's Class (Grade 1) – *Can Solid Objects Affect the Temperature of Light That Passes Through?* – Third Place

#### *Sunrise Drive Elementary School*

- Noah Anderson (Grade 5) – *A Decomposition Story* – Third Place
- Ishwari Bandopadhyay (Grade 5) – *Lending a Paw?* – SARSEF Board Award
- Everett Boche (Grade 5) – *607- Parachute* – SARSEF Board Award
- Charles Botsford, Mohammad Daabag Elmarghani (Grade 5) – *The Science of Surface Tension and Elephant Toothpaste* – Second Place
- Noelle Brighton (Grade 5) – *Which Material Will Filter Dirty Water The Best?* – Arizona Hydrological Society
- Charlotte Burdette (Grade 5) – *The Night is for the Stars!* – Second Place; Excellence in Earth and Space Science
- Ethan Cole, Ethan Edmonds (Grade 5) – *Let's Fly Sky High* – Third Place
- Jotham David (Grade 4) – *Breaking the Surface* – Third Place
- Kodi Iatarola, Theron Mai (Grade 5) – *Will a Smartphone Survive the Vacuum of Space* – Second Place
- Siva Madhvani, Asher Sakievich (Grade 5) – *Biocrust Bust* – TEP Award of Excellence; The Ester Chapman Memorial Award for Curiosity in Plant Sciences
- Michael Swift (Grade 5) – *Want to Hit Homeruns?* – Third Place
- Timothy Wong (Grade 3) – *How Soda Affects Your Teeth?* – First Place

#### *Valley View Early Learning Center*

- Amy Acuna's Class (PreK) – *Native Neighbors vs Garden Strangers: Do Native Seeds or Store Bought Grow Best?* – First Place

#### *Ventana Vista Elementary School*

- Ellie Bao (Grade 5) – *The Color Code* – SARSEF Board Award
- Domenic Correggio (Grade 5) – *Protecting Your Stuff with Robotics* – Mastermind; Texas Instruments Engineering Excellence 2nd Place Award
- Leo Cusanovich (Grade 1) – *Citrusy Apple* – Third Place
- Mikael Cusanovich (Grade 4) – *Candy Colors* – The Tucson ASQ Quality Tools Award
- Joseph Frischenmeyer (Grade 5) – *I Wet My Plants!* – TEP Award of Excellence

- Henry Kiser (Grade 5) – *Apocalyptic Science Fair* – Second Place
- Angelos Kyriacou (Grade 2) – *Icy Awesome* – Second Place
- Sandy Martinez’s Class (Grade 4) – *Electrical Elements* – Second Place
- Micheal Montoya (Grade 3) – *No Mo Crying* – Second Place
- Miles Sadowsky (Kindergarten) – *Electricity Through Fruit and Vegetables* – First Place

---

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item**