



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 3.4

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

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) Choir

Three singers from CFHS represented the school as members of the 2025 Arizona All-State Jazz Choir Festival. After a statewide audition process, Senior Luis Urtaza, Junior Isabella Garcia, and Sophomore Sophia Hudgens were selected to be among the top forty jazz vocalists in the state to form the Arizona All-State Clinic Choir and the Arizona All-State Jazz Choir. Clinicians Maryanne Muglia and Dr. John Benik directed three days of rehearsals, culminating in a performance at Horizon High School in Scottsdale. Congratulations to our singers for their dedication to the preservation of one of the great American musical traditions! Mr. Jeffrey Evans is the Director of Choirs at Catalina Foothills High School.

CFHS Teacher Named a 2025 University of Arizona Athletics Top 10 Teacher of the Year

CFHS special education teacher Blake Hinson has been selected as one of the 2025 University of Arizona Athletics Top 10 Teachers of the Year, a distinguished regional honor recognizing educators who model exceptional instruction, leadership, and dedication to students.

A valued member of the CFHS Special Education team, Hinson teaches TSW (Transitions School-to-Work) Vocational Training and supports students across multiple aide-assisted courses. His work focuses on helping students build

independence, develop real-world job skills, and gain confidence as they prepare for life beyond high school. Known for his patient guidance and empowering approach, he creates meaningful learning opportunities that help students thrive.

Mr. Hinson's impact extends beyond the classroom to coaching the Girls Cross Country and Track & Field, motivating them to challenge themselves, support one another, and discover their strengths.

He will be formally recognized on Tuesday, December 22, at the University of Arizona Men's Basketball Game, including a pre-game reception in the Hall of Champions and an in-game spotlight.

We congratulate Blake Hinson on this well-deserved honor. His belief in every student and his impressive commitment to their success make a lasting difference at CFHS.

CFHS Falcon Theatre Shines at Southern Arizona Regionals Festival of Theatre

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Falcon Theatre Troupe 1374 represented Catalina Foothills with excellence at the Southern Arizona Regionals Festival of Theatre, earning an impressive nine Superior rankings and seven Excellent rankings across performance and technical categories.

- Nine (9) student earned the Superior rankings (9): Charley Bergthold (Costume Construction), Calista Morrison (Stage Management), Lilly Porter and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Monologue Performance), Lilly Porter and Quincy White (Duo Scene Performance), Ivy Buffalo and Nate Wiley (Musical Theatre Solo Performance), and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Original Short Film).
- Seven (7) students earned Excellent rankings: (7): Azailea Peterson and Kellen Tanner (Musical Theatre Solo Performance), Nate Wiley and Calista Morrison, Rowan Sandeen and Gemma Ricker (Musical Theatre Duo Performance), Zoe Sheffield (Musical Theatre Dance Solo), Alex Cramton (Playwriting), and Alex Cramton and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Original Short Film).
- Technical Challenges: Our students also excelled in the festival's technical team challenge events. The Backstage Badgers team — Calista Morrison, Milo Peters, Zoe Sheffield, and Layla Fraser — earned 1st place in cable coiling. The Flyline Falcons team — Nate Wiley, Amelia Manchester, Charley Bergthold, and Veronica Bavier — earned 2nd place in cable coiling,

3rd place in light hang and focus, and 3rd place overall in the technical challenge.

Congratulations to Amy Byroad and Norm Testa whose commitment to theatre arts education continues to elevate opportunities for our students.

Canyon View Third Graders Published in Bear Essentials

Congratulations to three talented third-grade reporters from Canyon View Elementary whose writing was featured in the November issue of Bear Essentials news. Under the guidance of their teacher, Samantha Thompson, these young journalists showcased curiosity, creativity, and strong nonfiction writing skills:

- Cooper Messing invited readers into the colorful world of Tucson Comic-Con with his article, *“Meet the Super Gila Monster at Tucson Comic-Con.”*
- Jacob Hamilton taught readers how to transform a desert staple into a tasty treat in *“Turn Prickly Pear into Delicious Dish.”*
- Claire Braun explored Arizona’s record-breaking temperatures in her engaging piece, *“Don’t Get Burned by Arizona’s Heat.”*

We are proud of these budding writers for sharing their voices with the broader community. Their work reflects the strong storytelling, research, and journalism skills nurtured by Mrs. Thompson. Way to go, Canyon View reporters!

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item