

### Every Student Celebrated | Every Student Prepared Hello Marauder Families!

We are excited to be approaching the end of our first semester of the 2025-26 school year!

As a reminder, the semester grades are what appears on a student transcript and are what determines if credits earned towards graduation are awarded. For most classes, the first two weeks of December are finishing up class instruction and assignments. The third week is our semester final exams week with a modified testing schedule on Thursday, December 18th and Friday, December 19th.

Take advantage of this natural halfway mark in the school year to celebrate student successes, acknowledge hard work, and plan for a strong second semester. It's also a great time to make any needed adjustments to sleep or time-management schedules for students. Winter sports, theatre productions, and other events will continue to run during break-please check communications from advisors and coaches to stay up to date.

One area an adjustment may be needed is attendance. If your student reaches over 9 absences in any class, they are required to appeal in order to earn any credits. Students cannot appeal in both semesters of the same school year. If semester 1 had too many absences, make adjustments to avoid a similar situation in semester 2.

The holiday season can be stressful for both students and families. With winter break approaching, I encourage all students to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments with family and friends. When we return on Tuesday, January 6th, we'll begin the new year focused on continued growth, academic progress, and supporting each learner's success.

Thank you for your partnership, your communication, and your ongoing trust in our school. I wish you and your family a peaceful and joyful

holiday season, and a wonderful start to the new year.

### December Dates to Remember

December 4 & 18 **Operation Graduation Planning Meetings** 5:30pm | MUHS Cafeteria

\*More Information on PG 5

**December 11 Governing Board Meeting** 6pm | MUHS Library

**Regular Session** \*More info on page 2

December 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14 ATORT & CBBA Presents:

The Pumpkin King Steals Christmas: A Holiday Dance Show

**MUHS Auditorium** 

\*More info on page 9

December 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14 Winter Choir Concert

6:30pm | MUHS Auditorium \*More info on page 9

> **December 12** StuCo Holiday Bash!

6-8pm | Cafeteria \*More Info page 8

December 18 &19 Semester Exams

2 Day Exam Schedule applies Early Release @ 12:05pm \*More Info on PG 2

Dec 22 (Mon) - Jan 5 (Mon) WINTER BREAK **No School** 



### January 8

**Governing Board Meeting** 

\*More info on page 2

January 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18

A.T.O.R.T. Presents: Pride & Prejudice

**MUHS Auditorium** 

\*More Information on PG 10

January 13

**Future Freshmen Night** \*More Info on PG 2

**January 15** 

**Operation Graduation** 

**Planning Meeting** 

\*More Information on PG 5

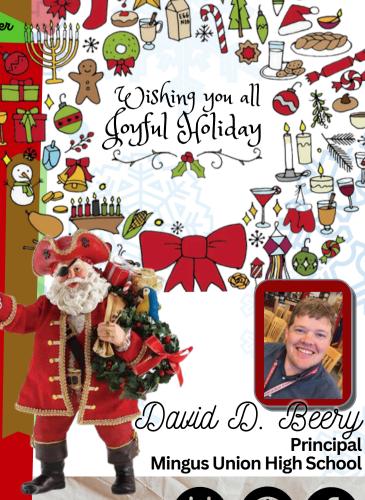
January 19 **Martin Luther King Day** 

> No School January 20

**Site Council Meeting** 5pm | MUHS Library \*More info on page 2

January 30 & 31 A.T.O.R.T. Presents: 27th Annual Patchwork **Dinner & Variety Show** 

6pm | MUHS Cafeteria \*More Information on PG 9



# CAMPUS EVENTS & RESOURCES

# THURDEC 11 & THURJAN 8

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 othérwise noted\*

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

### Home of the MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL SITE COUNC We value your opinion and welcome you to attend and participate in site council meetings TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 5:00 PM ~ MUHS LIBRARY No meeting in December!

### 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.



### SEMESTER EXAMS



Thursday, Dec 18 Exam Schedule

Periods 1 3 5

School Released @ 12:05 p.m.

Friday, Dec 19 Exam Schedule

Periods 2 4 6

School Released @ 12:05 p.m.



DAY 1 & 2 CLASS TIMES

8:00am - 9:15am

9:15am - 9:25am (BREAK)

9:25am - 10:40am

10:40am - 10:50am (BREAK) 10:50am - 12:05pm

# **FUTURE FRESHMAN NIGHT**

open house for all future freshman and their families on Tuesday January 13th from 5:30pm to 7pm. The Class of 2030 will get information about clubs, sports and extracurricular activities offered at Mingus. Families will be able to walk around, tour campus and meet the staff.







When it comes to safety, it's

important to be clear and concise. That's why Mingus Union High School District utilizes the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) method

from the I Love U Guys Foundation.

The Standard Response Protocol is

easy to understand and easy to

implement. The development of SRP is ever-evolving, being

reviewed through collaboration with

first responders, public safety

officers, school districts, and

communities to ensure that the

tactics are data-driven, and

research & experienced based

(iloveuguys.org). The vocabulary is

standardized so all stakeholders can

understand the response and status

of an event. For students, it

provides "continuity of

expectations and actions"

throughout their time at MUHS. For

teachers and staff, "this becomes a

simpler process to train and drill".

Our feeder districts also utilize the

Standard Response Protocol, so students who come to the high

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Standard Response Protoco

# N AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



### HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls. STUDENTS **ADULTS**

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced Do business as usual

Close and lock the door Account for students and adults Do business as usual



### SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

Return to inside of building Do business as usual

Bring everyone indoors Lock outside doors Increase situational awareness Account for students and adults Do huginege ag ugual



### LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

### STUDENTS

Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door

Recover students from hallway if possible Lock the classroom door Turn out the lights Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door Prepare to evade or defend



### EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

### STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to If possible, bring your phone Follow instructions

### **ADULTS**

Lead students to Evacuation location Account for students and adults Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



### SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

### Hazard

Tornado Hazmat Earthquake

### Safety Strategy Evacuate to shelter area

Seal the room Drop, cover and hold Get to high ground

Lead safety strategy Account for students and adults Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



school are already familiar with this process and our substitutes that are shared among the Verde Valley have the same familiarity. As we move further into the year, we'll be addressing the SRP through future drills, preparing and practicing for various scenarios. For more information on the Standard Response Protocol, feel free to visit the I love U Guys website: iloveuguys.org.

Katherine Forbes

Dean of Students and Safety & Security Coordinator







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Preparations for Operation Graduation's 38th successful year celebrating our Mingus Union High School graduates are in the works and we need your HELP!

First Planning Meetings: Dec 4<sup>th,</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & Jan 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in the MUHS Cafeteria

Operation Graduation is a FREE, safe, adult-chaperoned event for MUHS 2026 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. This event is planned and run strictly by volunteers so that all donations received are used for the celebration, which includes the facility & equipment rental costs.

We are looking for parents & community members who are interested in volunteering or donating toward the event.

Please feel free to reach out to our Committee for more information.

# Operation Graduation Committee 2026 mingusopgrad@gmail.com

Mandy Labrie - Chairperson (928) 301-9023

Sarah Garrett - Co-Chairperson (928) 451-2733

Juliana Saravo – Treasurer (928) 301-1894

**Danielle Huntress-Rosenberg – Entertainment** (928)301-2805 **Barbie Duncan - Mingus Connection** (928) 301-4687

To donate funds to Operation Graduation: Scan QR code or go to the link below:

https://www.azgives.org/MingusConnection



- Choose the donation type
  - one time or monthly
- Choose your donation amount
- Designation: choose "Operation Graduation"
- Complete details and pay
- DONE



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to keep up with all we are planning and to find out how you can get involved!!







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# SENIOR Lyra Earles SPOTLIGHT

After graduation, Lyra plans to major in Musical Theatre! She hopes to study in New York, she is dreaming big! Ideally, she'd like to do professional theatre on stage, in a city to keep me busy for a while and then give back by being a high school theatre teacher.

Lyra has been a part of ATORT since her freshman year, she was the historian once, and this year she is ATORT President! ATORT helped her discover a lot about herself, namely what she wants her future to look like!

She feels that she has met some of the most amazing, talented, and genuine people in the ATORT

program.

Her favorite memories over the last 4 years have been of attending trips to Regional Choir. She has gone two years, and is hoping this will be her third! Singers audition in a solo musical selection, as well as for sight reading. Lyra says she always learns so much on this trip, but more than anything it's a perfect opportunity to bond with classmates!

With theatre keeping her so busy, Lyra has little free time, but when she can, she also loves to bake.

If she could go back and talk to herself as a freshman, she would tell herself to not let insecurities get in the way of what I need to do, and what I love to do. There is no shame in struggle, but it's important to apply yourself regardless.

# STAFF Terri Bright Media Lab Teacher's Assistant

Terri is an assistant in our ESS departments and also a Teacher's Assistant in the media Lab where she helps students make up or get ahead in their courses.

Her favorite part of the job is getting to know the students and what makes them who they are. What their hopes and dreams are, their plans after graduation and to be there for them.

Encouraging students and helping them succeed in making up their credits and excelling beyond that is what keeps her motivated. Terri has had students who started two or three grades behind and then graduated early, which makes her very happy! To inspire and motivate her students, she tells them that they can do anything that they desire to do. Never ever give up on your dreams.

Terri grew up in Cottonwood, and graduated from Mingus in 1977. She worked at COCSD for 19 years before coming to work at Mingus in 2010.

Her favorite thing to do is travel and to spend time with her family. She has two sons and two beautiful grandchildren. She also likes to cook and read in her spare time.



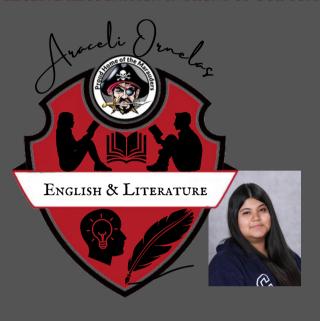


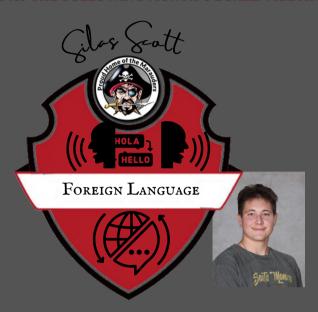


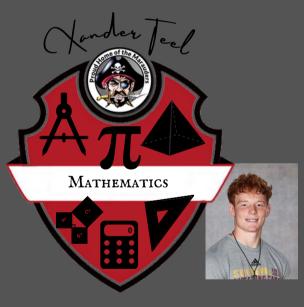
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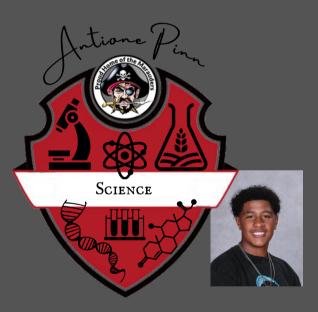
### MARAUDER of the MONTH

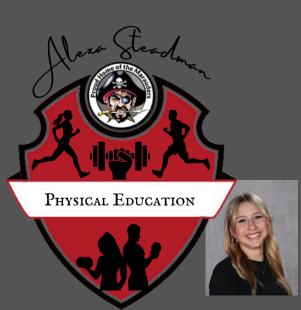
TEACHERS AND COACHES ARE ASKED TO NOMINATE STUDENTS IN ALL ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS DEPARTMENTS. THESE STUDENTS ARE THEN VOTED ON AMONGST THOSE TEACHERS & COACHES TO CHOOSE FINALISTS TO RECOGNIZE EACH MONTH. THESE STUDENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN OUR NEWSLETTER AND INVITED TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION IN FRONT OF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









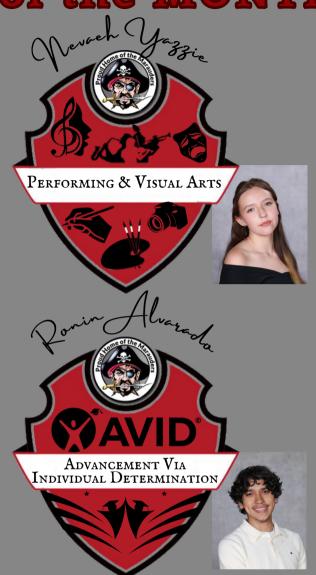




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# MARAUDER of the MONTH



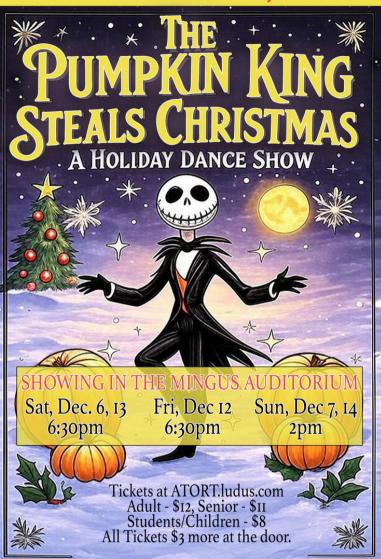






# MINGUS MATTERS MUHS Performing Arts: PAGE 9

ATORT & CCBA Proudly Present













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Mingus ATORT Presents





# PRIDE PREJUDICE

Saturday, January 10th at 6:30 pm Sunday, January 11th at 3:00 pm Friday, January 16th at 6:30 pm Saturday, January 17th at 6:30 pm Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 pm

Purchase Tickets at atort.ludus.com











laus Union



The MUHS Art Club created a fantastic Public Art Chalk Mural at the annual Walkin' on Main Festival in Old Town Cottonwood November 8th.

Our sponsor, the City of Cottonwood, gave us the theme "Savor the Moment" and our Club Leaders went to work to collaborate on a design that included the a bottle of Cottonwood wine, a mouse munchin' on some grapes, a wheel of cheese, an hourglass and the Arizona flag.















Ball Basketball Net









# ARAUDER





### Swim Division II State Championship

19 Mingus swimmers traveled to Mesa to represent Mingus Swim at the Division II State Championship

- Girls Team placed 25<sup>th</sup> with 5 swimmers swimming in the Finals
- Boys Team placed 11<sup>th</sup> with 8 swimmers swimming in Finals!

Out of the 21 individual swims we had 18 personal records/best times!



# Girls Varsity Flag Football 4A State Championship

Power Ranking #3

- 1st round playoffs 11/12: Mingus #3 vs Bradshaw Mountain #14 / 21-0 Victory!
- Quarterfinals 11/15: Mingus #3 vs Mesquite #6 / 14-0 Victory!
- Semifinals 11/19: Mingus #3 vs Eastmark #2 / 10-14 Loss

Although our Lady Marauders fell to Eastmark, their hard work and dedication in just their 2<sup>nd</sup> year is something to be extremely proud of!



### **AIA - All Region Award**

Region Coach of the YEAR Chelsey Booth

2<sup>nd</sup> Team - All Region Kinley Rice

### **Honorable Mentions**

- Lana BoothJessica Carrillo
- Savannah Tobias



### AIA - All Region Award

**1**st **Team - All Region** • Trenton Patton

2<sup>nd</sup> Team - All Region

- Tristen Timm Jordan Watson

- Bryan Moreno
  Dawson Rice
  Austin Lyons
  Remington Stokes
  Shane Chupp

### **Honorable Mentions**

- Landen BackusHunter BejaranoCameron HausamanWilliam Lacher
- Ethan Moore
- Isaiah Ortiz









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# VACTE INDUSTRY CERTIFCATIONS ~ FIRE ACADEMY VACTE STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR THE WORKFORCE

### WHAT IS A FIREFIGHTER?

A firefighter is an emergency responder who is trained to extinguish fires, rescue people and animals from hazardous situations like burning buildings or car accidents, and provide medical care. They respond to a wide variety of calls, including structure fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, and other natural disasters.

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE A FIREFIGHTER?

The Fire Academy can cost approximately \$5000. The cost for equipment can range from \$1000 to \$2000. There are other fees associated with a Fire Fighting program such as state testing, fingerprinting and other expenses.

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO TAKE THE FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM FROM VACTE?

Nothing!!! The Valley Academy for Career & Technology education (VACTE) fire science program pays for all expenses for the fire science program. VACTE also pays for the students to take the EMT program the fall of their freshman year in college. When these two requirements are complete and the students have passed the state

required testing, our students are certified structural & wildland firefighters!

### HERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF OUR VACTE FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM:

The Fire Science class is a college-level course that is designed to prepare entry - level firefighters to successfully achieve Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence Fire Fighter I & II, Hazmat Certifications. Students must be a Senior in high school to qualify to take this program. It will teach students to understand and manage the role and function of a firefighter as outlined in NFPA 1001 - Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. This course is hazardous by its nature and includes high-risk functions such as the use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Wildland training, power tool operations, ladder operations, roof ventilations skills, vehicle extrication, and live firefighting exercises. Students conduct hands-on activities which prepare them for mentally and physically challenging experiences. The VACTE Firefighter Certification Academy will earn 18 Yavapai College credits. The students will use the IFSTA Essentials 7th edition textbook including fire department operations, Firefighting equipment, tools, and safety. There is an emphasis on the chemistry of fire, techniques and skills of a firefighter, and utilization of equipment and tools used in the fire service.

This academic preparation is for Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence Fire Fighter I & II certification, and all the Job Performance Requirements associated with it. The class will include physically demanding work and various skills courses that will allow you to be able to function on the fire ground.

VACTE currently employs 3 fire fighting instructors, Eric Ostler, Sal Unalde, and Jeremy Doerkson. All three of our instructors are still employed as full time firefighters and bring quality experience to the classroom.

We recently had two of our female VACTE Fire Science students attend the Trailblazer Academy! Woman firefighters are some of the best in the business!











Mingus Union
High School District #4

# MINGUS MATTERS Community Resources PAGE

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.



### **CHECK OUT THE NEW MOHELP.ORG!**

Now featuring comprehensive services. Find out what you are eliaible for!

MOHELP.ORG





# KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS - LET'S SPREAD IT!

Our friends at LISA reached out to ask us to help them share their list of upcoming Food Share events around our community. It is our hope that this information will help our local families to find what they need.

LISA is an amazing resource for our Verde Valley students, we hope you will take the opportunity to check them out and offer support if you are able!

**Empowering** 

Futures.

Enriching Lives





Scan the QR code or go to <u>azlisa.org/food</u>









# MINGUS MATTERS Community Resources PAGE

### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**



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

### **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

116 E. Pinal Street

Cottonwood 928-634-7869

1st Tuesday/month 10 am - 11 am

### LEGAL

Call: 928-634-7869

### MISSION THRIFT STORE

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.





PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND MORE OFFERINGS FROM THE OLD TOWN MISSION



Bring your family and join us for an afternoon of holiday cheer, treats, and festive fun! Cookie Decorating, Hot Cocoa & Gifts from Santa



Join us for a special meal with music, Christmas cookies and some surprises! \*Served as Dine-In or Take-Out