



FEB '26



Mingus Union
High School District #4

MINGUS MATTERS

PAGE 1

Every Student Celebrated | Every Student Prepared

Hello Mingus Families,

A few things to keep in mind as we enter February. This is an essential time of year for students as the semester progresses and patterns of attendance, turning in work, and understanding material are often set for the remainder of the Spring semester. Please help in supporting your student and their progress!

Operation Graduation is a yearly event sponsored by the Mingus Connection Foundation, the Cottonwood Rec Center, parents, community volunteers, and local businesses. Operation Graduation is a FREE safe, adult-chaperoned event for MUHS 2026 graduates that takes place after the graduation ceremony. Mingus Connection Foundation is looking for volunteers, as well as donations from local businesses to make this event possible. Join us and be part of this wonderful tradition! For more information, please follow us on Facebook or Instagram, attend one of our upcoming meetings (date, time and location can be found on the MUHS community calendar and in this newsletter on page 2) or send an email to mingusopgrad@gmail.com. This month, OpGrad is meeting in the cafeteria at 5:30pm on February 5th. This is a great event to help with BEFORE your student is a senior.

February 12th and 13th are half days of school for parent teacher conferences. Your child's advisory teacher should reach out to you to schedule a conference. These conferences are a great opportunity to check on your student's progress, exam scores, and communicate any additional needs to our teachers.

Remember there is no school on Monday the 16th in observance of Presidents' Day.

February also marks the beginning of Spring sports programs holding practices and tryouts. Winter sports will begin entering their end of season and playoffs.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education.

February Dates to Remember

February 5
Operation Graduation Meeting
5:30pm - MUHS Cafeteria
*More info on PG 2

February 9-13
Scholastic Book Fair
MUHS Library
*More info on page 3

February 10
MUHS STEAM Night
4 - 6pm - MUHS 100 Bldg
*More info on page 9

February 12 & 13
Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Release Schedule applies
12:05 Release

February 12
Governing Board Meeting
6 - 8pm - MUHS Library
Regular Session
*More info on page 2

February 16
Presidents' Day
No School

February 17
School SITE Council Meeting
5pm - MUHS Library
*More Info on PG 2

February 17
Spring Sports Parent Meeting
6pm - MUHS Gym
*More Info on PG 8

February 28 - March 8
Project Prom Closet
*More Info on PG 3



David D. Beery
Principal
Mingus Union High School



CAMPUS EVENTS & RESOURCES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 MUHS GOVERNING BOARD

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 otherwise noted

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



MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

SITE COUNCIL

We value your opinion and welcome you to attend and participate in site council meetings

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
5:00 PM ~ MUHS LIBRARY

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.



CLICK 

Operation Graduation

IS A FREE, SAFE, ADULT-CHAPERONED EVENT FOR MUHS 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.

mingusopgrad@gmail.com



SCAN TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND LEARN MORE

JOIN US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THIS EVENT FOR OUR AMAZING 2026 MARAUDER GRADUATES!

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH
5:30PM | MUHS CAFETERIA

Mingus Union High School Nutrition Department

Scan the QR code to see our monthly menu and learn more about our cafeteria.



Marauders

MUHS

SCHOOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

BUY BOOKS FOR YOURSELF OR BUY AND
DONATE BOOKS TO MANZANITA OUTREACH

THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9-13, 2026

Mon. 2/9:

7:30 am - 8am
12:20pm - 12:55 pm
2:45 - 3:30

Tues 2/10:

7:30 am - 8am
12:20pm - 12:55 pm
2:45 - 3:30
4 - 6pm

HOSTED BY:



Wed 2/11:

8:45am - 9:15am
12:30pm - 1:05pm
2:45pm - 3:30pm

Thurs 2/12 and Fri 2/13:

7:30 am - 8:00am
12:00pm - 4:00pm



Books



project prom

close

GRATIS

¡Vestimenta formal para
TODOS los estudiantes
de preparatoria!

Viernes, 27 de febrero (2:30-5:30)

Sábado, 28 de febrero (10-1)

Viernes, 6 de marzo (2:30-5:30)

Sábado, 7 de marzo (10-1)

Mingus Union High School

Entrar por el estacionamiento al
ante sobre Camino Real

Vestidos en varias
tallas y colores

Ropa para varones: Trajes y
sacos, pantalones, chalecos,
fajas, corbatines y corbatas

Joyería y accesorios

Zapatos de vestir

Mingus Union High School
Enter West Parking Lot
on Camino Real

Dresses in a variety
of sizes and colors

Menswear: Suits and Jackets,
Slacks, Vests, Cummerbunds,
Bow Ties & Neckties

Jewelry & Accessories
Dress Shoes



**President's Day
No School**
Monday February 16th

WGH

Feb. 12 & 13

**Parent
Teacher
Conferences**

*Early Release
Schedule applies
~ 12:05 Release*

YEARBOOK SENIOR AD

**LAST DAY TO PURCHASE
~ FEBRUARY 23, 2026 ~**



SENIOR ADS ARE SPACES IN THE YEARBOOK WHICH ARE PURCHASED BY FAMILY TO CELEBRATE THEIR SENIORS! ADS CAN BE PURCHASED IN THE FOLLOWING FORMATS:

- QUARTER PAGE: \$75
- HALF PAGE: \$150
- FULL PAGE: \$300

FAMILIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH PURCHASING & DESIGNING THEIR ADS ONLINE AT

[HTTP://WWW.YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM](http://www.yearbookforever.com)



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Dawson Rice



Currently, Dawson is working in a non-partisan position at the Arizona State Senate as a Page, assigned to the Natural Resources Committee as well as the Republican Caucus. Dawson has been planning to apply for this position since he was a freshman. He spent two days interviewing in the Capitol building with members of staff including the Sergeant at Arms, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Page Director, and the Head Page. This year was the largest applicant pool ever and they only selected 15 Pages. Not only was Dawson fortunate enough to be one of the 15, but he is the youngest Page in our documented history as well as the first to still be in High School! What an incredible honor! After graduating from Mingus, Dawson plans to pursue a dual major in Political Science and Public Policy at Arizona State University as well as continuing his work as an intern at the Arizona State Senate with hopes of having an elected office there in the future.

During his time at Mingus, Dawson participated in many clubs and sports, his most memorable and impactful, however, was his time in FFA. Through FFA, he learned the value of hard work and dedicating himself to tasks. He was a mentor to others and was mentored and learned further how to build himself up while doing the same for those around him. His best high school memory is the yearly FFA trips to Indianapolis, Indiana with his teams to compete at the National level.

During his free time, Dawson enjoys hunting, fishing, being politically involved, as well as spending time outdoors with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If he could go back in time and give himself advice as a freshman, he would say to talk to more people, it never hurts to know everyone!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Garrett

Community & Family Outreach / Hope Center



Mrs. Garrett has worked in the Hope Center at Mingus for five years.

She also puts together the monthly school newsletter, the daily TV screen announcements and keeps the MUHS social media outlets up to date.

Mrs. Garrett loves that her job is to support our students in the Hope Center with items they may need to be successful in and out of the classroom. Items like school supplies, hygiene products, clothing, snacks and referrals to outside resources if needed. Her favorite part of working at Mingus is seeing students who were struggling at some point come back in and share what they've accomplished and what their new goals are. When students need motivation she likes to remind them that everyone needs help sometimes and encourages them to advocate for themselves and to keep moving forward.

Sarah is a 3rd generation Mingus Marauder who graduated in 1999, her husband (and high school sweetheart) also graduated from Mingus, they have 2 sons, one who is a 2024 graduate of Mingus and the other is Mingus freshman this year!

Before working at Mingus, she worked at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northern Arizona as her 1st job at 17 until becoming a stay at home mom for 8 years, after which she spent 7 years at MVP elementary as their Health Aide. During her free time, she enjoys singing in her band, Local Honey, kayaking, going to Suns basketball games, attending concerts, traveling and camping and volunteering in the community.



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.

Julian Chavez Smart



Proud Home of the Marauders

ENGLISH & LITERATURE



Dave Cooper

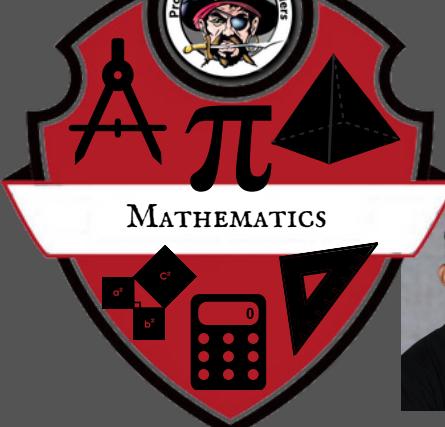


Proud Home of the Marauders

FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Santiago Tapia



Proud Home of the Marauders

MATHEMATICS



Palina Kharlamova

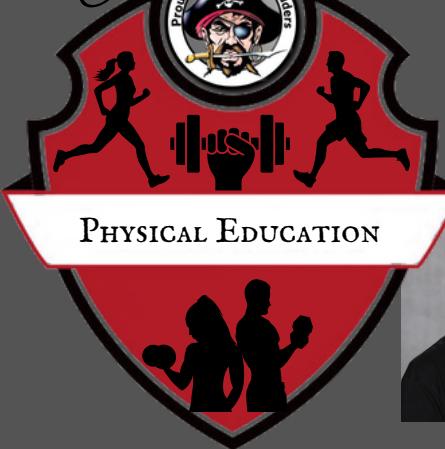


Proud Home of the Marauders

SCIENCE



Aero Serene



Proud Home of the Marauders

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Enrique Cruz



Proud Home of the Marauders

SOCIAL STUDIES



MARAUDER of the MONTH

Jessy Johnson



CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION



Eyge Jachim



PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS



Francelia Barraga



MINGUS ACADEMICS



Jalexa Villegas



AVID
ADVANCEMENT VIA
INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION



Xander Teel & Isaiah Ortiz



MALE ATHLETE



Marina Downey & Alexia Greatthen



FEMALE ATHLETE



Stone Durkalec & Ella Little



CHARACTER COUNTS

PURSING VICTORY
WITH HONORS



Athletics Program - Mingus Union High School District

All current athletic events, team schedules and coaching information are posted to the athletics page for quick viewing. You can also subscribe to the calendar and receive daily emails by scanning the QR code below, then subscribe by clicking the RSS link (RSS) in the top right corner.

*Schedules are subject to change, so check often or call the athletic department for more info!



MINGUS MARAUDER MANDATORY SPRING SPORTS PARENT MEETING

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026
6:00 PM / MUHS MAIN GYM**

**REQUIRED FOR ALL
PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS
WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING ON
A SPRING SPORT TEAM.
IMPORTANT SEASON INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED.**

**SPRING SPORTS INCLUDE: BASEBALL, BOYS TENNIS,
GIRLS TENNIS, SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD**



HISPANIC HONOR AND SERVICE SOCIETY

Why join?

- It's a great way to be involved in your school and community.
- We hold many events year-round celebrating Latin culture
- Community service projects & field trips.
- Members have ownership of deciding which activities we do, so your voice will be heard!
- Being an inducted member of this honor society looks great on college applications and resumes.
- Cords at graduation for members in good standing
- Gain support navigating scholarships

Celebrate your culture & make your voice heard!

Requirements:

- 3.0 minimum GPA
- Of Hispanic descent
- Complete 10 hours of community service each semester
- Attend weekly meetings & club events
- Complete the application by deadline (TBA)

Where and When?

- Meetings will be held during lunch on Thursdays in room 602.
- Applications will be sent out by the end of January
- Inductions will take place in February

MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

*Science, Technology,
Engineering, Art and Math*



Tuesday, February 10th | 4-6pm
Mingus Union High School
Open to the whole community



SCITECH
festival

Explore STEAM through hands-on activities from school groups & community partners.

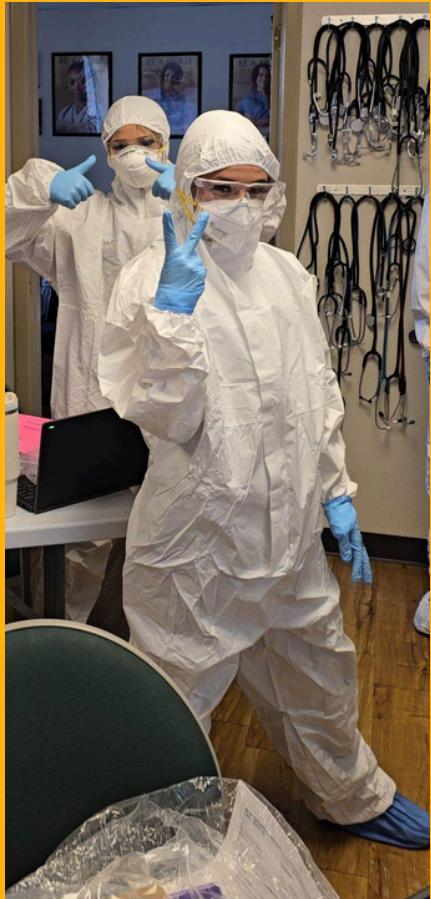




VALLEY
ACADEMY FOR
CAREER AND
TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION



VACTE - The Valley Academy of Career & Technology Education CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT & PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAMS



The VACTE Nursing Services program consists of both Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy. CNA and Phlebotomy are each one semester long, where students receive certifications in CPR, OSHA, and a Certificate of completion after completing 120 hours that include Didactic, Skills Lab and Real-world experience in the form of Clinicals at the Haven in Cottonwood. The students will have the opportunity to take the CNA Certification test from the Arizona Board of Nursing. The CNA class is dual enrolled with Yavapai College and may earn up to 6 college credits. These credits are one of the prerequisites for the Yavapai College Nursing program. The CNA class is held next to Verde Valley Medical Center and Phlebotomy is held on the Yavapai College campus. The students may earn up to 8 college credits from Yavapai College at the completion of the Phlebotomy class. The Phlebotomy class consists of Yavapai College Courses that include Fundamentals of Allied Health, Phlebotomy and Medical Terminology. Requirements for the program are that students need be at least 16 years of age, a junior or senior in high school and complete the ACCUPLACER through Yavapai College.

Throughout the VACTE Nursing Services program, students will have the opportunity to participate in HOSA – Health Occupations Students of America. In this club students can participate in Leadership conferences, Officer Camp as well as competitions at Regional, State, and National levels.



WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE CNA & PHLEBOTOMY?

- Earn high school and Yavapai College credits concurrently
- Receive Yavapai College Nursing Assistant Certificate
- Earn Arizona Certified Nursing Assistant License
- Class held in Cottonwood
- Available to High School Juniors and Seniors
- One semester each Class - Monday through Thursday
- Some Friday and Saturday practicums
- Be job ready immediately upon program completion



Community Events & Resources

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.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Old Town Mission
116 E. Pine Street
Cottonwood
928-634-7869

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

VISION

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.

CHECK OUT THE NEW MOHELP.ORG!

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

MOHELP.ORG







Low Income Student Aid

Supporting Student Success
Through Community Compassion

Some ways LISA can assist your student:

- Medical bills, prescriptions, therapy, etc
- Clothing, shoes, coats
- Hair cuts & personal hygiene items
- Outstanding cafeteria balances
- Book purchases & class tuition
- Admission to school events
- Graduation Expenses
- School supplies & special needs devices
- Childcare costs & pre-school tuition
- Fees for extracurricular activities
- College deposits & testing fees
- Birthdays & Holidays

