



Mingus Union
High School District #4

MINGUS MATTERS

APRIL '26

PAGE 1

Every Student Celebrated | Every Student Prepared

Dear Marauder Families,

As we move into Spring, the Mingus campus is abuzz with important state testing, Prom, Spring sports, and, of course, Graduation!

This month, our freshman and juniors will take the ACT-ASPIRE, ACT, and AZ Science Assessments. State testing allows us to measure our student growth and learning and identify areas of focus. Please remind your Marauders to get a good night's sleep and put their best effort forward when testing.

Senior yard signs were distributed to seniors at our cap and gown pick-up event on March 25th. If your senior student has not yet brought one home, encourage them to stop by the bookstore as soon as possible.

The prom is Saturday, April 18th at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse in Clarkdale. Student Council has done a wonderful job with planning and prepping for this Olympian Dreams themed dance!

ATORT (Mingus Theatre) is presenting the musical *Something Rotten*. Enjoy the phenomenal set, exceptional singing, dancing and actin from our award-winning group of thespians! This show opens on Friday, April 3rd and runs over two weekends, get your tickets now!

Baseball, softball, track and field, and tennis are all in season and going full speed. We invite you to join us for our on-campus events and see our amazing Marauders in action!

Preparation for graduation for the Class of 2026 is underway. We are so excited to celebrate our seniors and host our largest, most honored community event of the year. Mark your calendars for May 22nd at 7:00pm to show your support for the Class of 2026!

The graduation after party - Operation Graduation - is in full planning mode - Op Grad is a community party for Mingus graduates that provides a safe and celebratory environment post ceremony. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Sarah Garrett at sgarrett@muhs.com.

As always, thank you for all you do to support your student's learning. Thank you for making Mingus a part of your family's story. Please reach out with any questions you may have or for any information you may need; we value your voice and want to hear from you.

April Dates to Remember

April 2
Operation Graduation Meeting
5:30pm - MUHS Cafeteria
*More Information on PG 4

April 3-6
SPRING HOLIDAY ~ No School

April 3, 4, 10, 11 & 12
"Something Rotten: The Musical"
presented by Mingus A.T.O.R.T.
*More Information on PG 5

April 9
Governing Board Meeting
6 - 8pm - MUHS Library

April 18
MUHS Junior & Senior Prom
7-11pm @ Clark Memorial
Clubhouse

April 21
School SITE Council Meeting
5pm - MUHS Library



Go Marauders!



David D. Beery
Principal
Mingus Union High School



Mingus Union
High School District #4

CAMPUS EVENTS & RESOURCES

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



THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH 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, APRIL 21
5:00 PM ~ MUHS LIBRARY



Mingus Union High School
Nutrition Department
Scan the QR code to see our monthly menu and learn more about our cafeteria.



SUMMER SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

We are excited to be offering several options and formats for Summer School 2026.

On-Line Credit Recovery

Students have the ability to earn up to 2 credits from home using Edgenuity

On-Line Credit Recovery from Home - May 28th - June 24th

On-Line Original Credit

Students have the ability to earn a full credit from home using Edgenuity

On-Line Original Credit from Home - May 26th - June 24th

***Cost: \$100 payable to the Mingus Bookstore**

Please reach out to your student's counselor if you have any questions or need assistance with completing the summer school registration process.

SIGN UP TODAY!



MUHS will be offering the Digital SAT on Saturday, May 2nd.

The deadline to register for this test is April 17, 2026.

See Ms. Garcia in the Counseling Office if you have any questions about registration for this test!

Why Take the SAT?

- ✓ **College Admissions**—The SAT is accepted by thousands of colleges across the country.
- 💰 **Scholarship Opportunities**—Strong scores may qualify you for merit-based scholarships.
- 🎯 **College Readiness**—The SAT helps you assess your academic strengths and prepare for future studies.
- 🌐 **Keeps Options Open**—Even at test-optional schools, a good score can strengthen your application.

Important Dates:

- Test Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026
- Registration Deadline: April 17, 2026





38th Annual Operation Graduation

May 22nd, 2026 @ Cottonwood Rec Center

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

Operation Graduation is a **FREE**, safe, adult-chaperoned event for MUHS 2026 graduates that takes place after the graduation ceremony. Each graduate will receive a ticket for the **PRIZE** drawings! Tickets are drawn for prizes, such as computers, electronics, sports equipment, gift certificates, music, movies, & the **BIG prize of \$2,026 CASH!!!**

OpGrad is 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. You may contact one of the committee members listed below to make arrangements to pick up your donation. Donations can also be delivered to the MUHS office.

If you prefer, monetary donations can be mailed to the school (that information is at the bottom of this flyer), or made directly to our Mingus Connection account, and are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU for making this a safe and fun-filled evening that our graduates can remember for a lifetime!!

Operation Graduation Committee 2026

- * 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*
- * Paula Herald - Fundraising & Prizes ~ 928-301-3001 * Ashley Shiltz - Food ~ 928-254-0923*
- * Jennifer Mathe - Food Co-Chair ~ 928-300-9727 * Barbie Duncan - Mingus Connection ~ 928-301-4687*

ENTERTAINMENT

A variety of entertainment is provided. Activities include climbing wall, karaoke, ping-pong, pool, Sharpie tattoos...
Have an idea for us?
Contact us to donate services or equipment for entertainment!

PRIZES

Each graduate present is entered into drawings to receive prizes including:
Cash, computers, appliances, electronics, sports equipment, gift certificates, music, movies, etc...

MINGUS CONNECTION TAX ID # 86-0718225

FOOD

Donations of food and drinks for the event are greatly appreciated!

SERVICES

Many types of services and volunteers are needed! These include volunteers to supervise during the event, trash pickup, equipment rental and more.

Make Checks payable to:
Operation Graduation 2025
Mail to:
Operation Graduation
c/o Mingus Connection
1801 E. Fir Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

To donate funds to Operation Graduation:
Scan QR code or enter link below in your browser.
<https://www.azgives.org/MingusConnection>
Monetary donations are used to buy prizes, pay for entertainment, food, etc.



MINGUS CONNECTION TAX ID # 86-0718225

JOIN US!

on April 2nd and May 7th @ 5:30 pm in The MUHS Cafeteria to hear more about OpGrad and how you can help!



MINGUS A.T.O.R.T. PROUDLY PRESENTS



Book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell, Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick
SHOWING IN THE MUHS AUDITORIUM

FRI April 3
2 pm

SAT April 4, II
6:30 pm

SUN April 12
3 pm

Tickets at
ATORT.ludus.com
Adult - \$16
Senior - \$14
Student/Child - \$10
All tickets \$3 more
at the door.

FRI April 10
6:30 pm

IT'S
EGG-
CELLENT!

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com



featured on:



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Karen Zul Ramirez



After graduation this year Karen plans to continue her education at Yavapai College and pursue a Bachelor of Science in Business. She hopes that in five years she will have completed her education and begun working in marketing, ideally within the cosmetology industry, or starting her own business in the cosmetology area.

During her 4 years at Mingus, Karen participated in several extracurricular activities. At the end of her sophomore year, she tested proficient on the AZELLA. Her extra-curricular activities included, playing tennis during 10th and 11th grades; participating in VACTE for cosmetology, where she is currently in her second year, and this year she joined Key Club. She feels that all of these activities shaped her in many ways and have helped her to grow personally, professionally, and academically. She also holds down a part-time job in order to make her own money.

Karen's favorite memory from high school was a tennis match in Lake Havasu that was an exceptionally fun experience, not only because she won the match, but also sharing the experience with teammates. In Karen's free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially her cousins. She also loves baking when she gets the chance.

The one piece of advice she would give to her freshman self would be to keep working hard, stay focused on your goals, try new things without fear, and surround yourself with people who bring out the best in yourself.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

James Ball

Choir and Theatre Director



Mr. Ball first started at Mingus in August 2007 and has been our Choir and Theatre Director for the past 19 years. James says that his favorite part of this job is creating performance art with his students - be it theatre or choir. "The pride and joy I feel when they perform is what keeps me going!" During his time at Mingus, ATORT has won best in state 4 times, Northern AZ Theatre Teacher of the Year two times, Runner-Up Yavapai County Teacher of the Year, and last year got his lead actress to the Jimmy Awards on Broadway!

James feels that every play, musical, or concert is like a giant puzzle. Figuring out how the pieces are going to fit together and working with students to help make it happen, because each show, scene, and concert is different - it is a fun challenge each time and that keeps him motivated.

When students need motivation, Mr. Ball encourages them not to compare themselves to someone else. Too often students are intimidated by someone else to sing, dance, or act. The hardest thing to do is be yourself on stage. Most of what he teaches is confidence building.

Mr. Ball was born in Madison and grew up north of Chicago. After receiving his bachelor's in music education with a vocal emphasis, piano and organ minor from Illinois Wesleyan University, he decided to try somewhere different than the mid-west. When James interviewed at Mingus, he wasn't aware that it included the theatre position, he thought it was just choir. Originally, he wasn't planning to stay so long, but after creating a program that he loved, he wanted to stay and continue growing it.

Mr. Ball is a very busy guy! When he does have free time, besides the standard sleep and binge-watch a TV series, James enjoys kayaking and traveling. Most breaks from school he takes off to travel. It fuels his soul and resets him to start teaching again each time. In his personal life, he got engaged this past Christmas and is looking forward to his wedding in October.

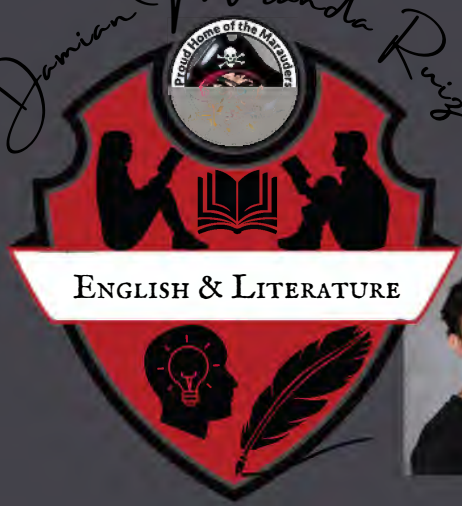




MARAUDER of the MONTH

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.

Janian Miranda Ruiz



ENGLISH & LITERATURE



Dalila Matthews



FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Reevyn Rogers



MATHEMATICS



Angel Beltran Miranda



SCIENCE



Jacob Bagda



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Alissa Amundson



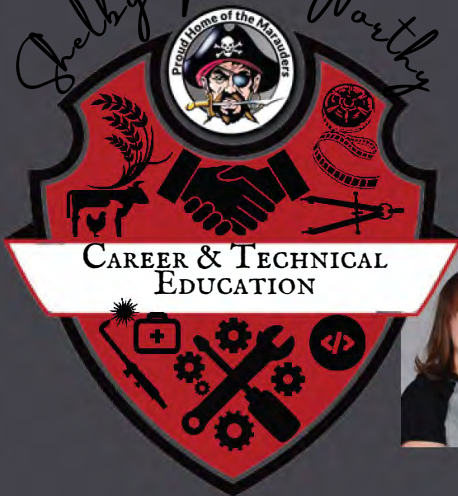
SOCIAL STUDIES





MARAUDER of the MONTH

Shelby Mc Worthy



CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION



Dalton Ryan



PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS



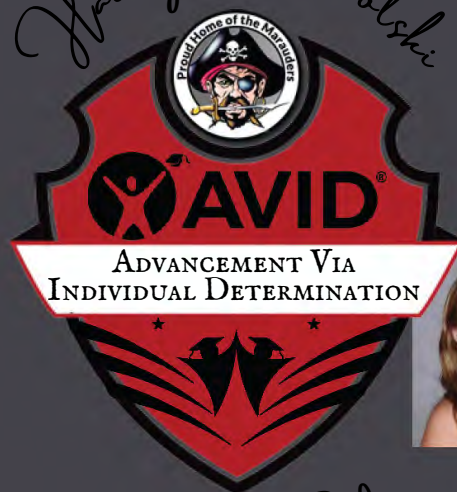
Luke Shelton



MINGUS ACADEMICS



Hailey Dabrowski



ADVANCEMENT VIA
INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION



Damian Velazquez



MALE ATHLETE



Ali Hernandez



FEMALE ATHLETE



Quinn Wright



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 (📡) in the top right corner.

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



BRAG BOARD



AIA - All Region Award

- **1st Team - All Region**
 - Kenna Cook
- **Honorable Mentions**
 - Breeze Aispuro
 - Peyton Valles

JVUHS

girls basketball

AIA - All Region Award

- **1st Team - All Region**
 - Ethan Baird
- **2nd Team - All Region**
 - Xavier Ayala
 - Memphis Korolowicz
- **Honorable Mentions**
 - Liam Buss
 - Stone Durkalec
 - Bransen Phillips
 - Ricky Villalobos



MUHS

boys basketball



BRAG BOARD

AIA - All Region Award

- **1st Team - All Region**
 - Alijah Bernard
- **2nd Team - All Region**
 - Kamryn Westcott
 - Jocelyn Ortega
- **Honorable Mentions**
 - Ashlynn Cooper
 - Ailyn Gamboa Van Hecke
 - Jet Gillies
 - Ella Little



MULLS

GIRLS SOCCER



MULLS

BOYS SOCCER

AIA - All Region Award

- **Honorable Mentions**
 - Luis Olvera
 - Finn Pollcok
 - Landen Rolfes
 - Axel Sandoval

We are excited and honored to recognize the following Mingus Union Winter Sport athletes who have been selected to receive the AIA All-Region Award. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a reflection of their hard work, dedication, and outstanding performance this season. Please join us in congratulating these athletes on this well-deserved recognition and for representing Mingus Union with pride. Congratulations to all! Go Marauders!

BRAG BOARD

Mingus is proud to announce that five of our outstanding wrestlers have been named NWCA High School Scholar All-Americans!



MUNIS

wrestling

Please join me in celebrating Evie Bakhaus, Marina Downey, Payton Lochridge, Kyson Mackey, and Isaiah Ortiz for this prestigious and nationally recognized award.

This award honors wrestlers who maintain a high GPA while competing at a varsity level, a true testament to their discipline and hard work both in the classroom and on the mat. I am incredibly proud of these five for representing our program with excellence and dedication to being true student-athletes!

Adam Earles
Girls Wrestling Head Coach



Congratulations to our 1st Semester Athletes!!

We had over 98 AIA Scholar Athlete Awards in Football, Volleyball, Swim, Cross country, Golf, Cheer, and Flag Football.

We also had 6 AIA Scholar Athlete TEAM Awards in Boys and Girls Swim, Girls Cross Country, Freshman Volleyball, Varsity Volleyball and Fall Cheer.

These athletes are recognized for 3.5 GPA or higher and for their exemplary dedication to academics, athletics, and activities as a foundation for success.

Keep up the great work Marauders!!





This amazing group of seniors are almost done with their first year of college! Throughout the year, they have taken on challenging coursework, developed strong leadership skills, and built lasting connections with their peers. They have excelled in their college classes with grit, optimism, and dedication. Their hard work and commitment to their future is truly inspiring! Watching them grow as individuals, students, and friends has been an honor. We look forward to celebrating their continued success as they prepare for the next steps in their academic and professional journeys!

Mrs. Steph Garcia Hernández
Early College Coordinator



Mingus Union Auto



Cameron Walker and Jordan Watson each earned \$2,000 scholarships by finishing 6th at the Top Tech Competition at UTI. Cameron Walker also placed 2nd at the SkillsUSA Regional competition held at Yavapai College in Prescott.



Great job representing Mingus!





VALLEY
ACADEMY FOR
CAREER AND
TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION



VACTE - The Valley Academy of Career & Technology Education would like to highlight our course Teacher Training/Education Professions

Ed Professions is a course offered through VACTE and Yavapai College that allows students to be dual-enrolled and earn 12 college credits in a school year. The courses are foundational offerings that explore the career of education. Students receive instruction in a classroom setting with a curriculum that is designed to engage and provide hands-on real-life experiences in the world of teaching. Guest speakers, field trip experiences, and practicum experiences in local schools are an integral part of the course.

Students explore classroom settings in the Verde Valley grades K-8 and get to choose a classroom environment where the teacher exhibits best practices. They work in their classroom 2-3 days a week building relationships with students and teachers. In any industry having a role model and an opportunity to grow a skill set is critical in preparing for success. This program does exactly that by providing opportunities to explore and experience teaching in classrooms. VACTE's Ed Professional students are blessed with teachers who each have over 30 years of experience, Mrs. Genna Adams and Deana DeWitt, who work tirelessly helping create future educators. They motivate students to consider teaching in their future by showing such compassion and enthusiasm for teaching. They both truly love teaching, love students, and naturally motivate their students to become our future teachers.

In the VACTE Teacher Training Classroom Mrs. Adams & Mrs. DeWitt develop a relationship with each of their students. They teach them about lesson planning, curriculum, teaching strategies, social/emotional programs, positive classroom behavior management skills, positive culture, and much more. They guide and empower them to take risks and to become public speakers. They both bring experts in the educational field to teach the students about the different aspects of education, such as special needs, Title I, STEM Curriculum and many other important topics in education to keep the students learning the cutting-edge strategies that make a difference in the classroom.

Mrs. Adams and Mrs. DeWitt take the students to Verde Valley schools and show them a diverse selection of classrooms to determine the placements for the student practicums. They place the students with effective mentoring teachers to help foster the students to learn effective classroom environments and learning strategies. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. DeWitt then continue to coach and mentor each of the students to help them continue to grow.

The Educational Professional/Teacher Training students also participate in FCCLA with leadership conferences, camps, and competitions.

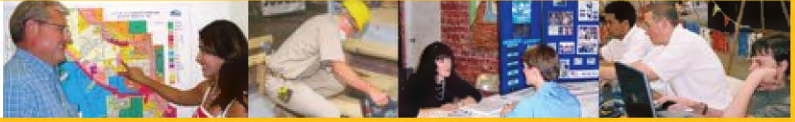
They traveled in March to Tucson for the FCCLA State Leadership Conference.

Our students competed in many different competitions and represented VACTE well.

We are so proud of the hard work they put into their competition areas. Congratulations to our two FCCLA National qualifiers, 1st place Jessica Carrillo and 2nd place Kaori Emerson!

They will compete this summer in Washington DC at the National Convention.





VACTE's Teacher Training program at the Arizona State FCCLA Leadership Conference and Contest in Tucson on March 3 - 5, 2026

Gold Medalists:

- Jessica Carrillo. Teach or Train: First Place in the State. Gold Medal (MUHS)
- Kaori Emerson. Teach or Train: Second Place in the State Gold Medal (MUHS)
- Juan Marcos. Interpersonal Communication: Gold Medal (VCS)
- Jacob McKean. Leadership: Gold Medal (VCS)

Silver Medalists:

- Melanie Rodriguez. Teaching Strategies: Silver Medal (MUHS)
- Paola Nieto Salazar. Teaching Strategies: Silver Medal (SRRHS)
- Alison Chavez. Teaching Strategies: Silver Medal (SRRHS)
- Josie Russel. Teach or Train Level Two: Silver Medal (Home School)
- Riley Murdoch Professional Presentation: Silver Medal (MUHS)
- Caitlynn Montgomery. Job Interview: Silver Medal (AHA)
- Adalia Rios. Career Investigation: Silver Medal (MUHS)

Bronze Medalists:

- Abigail Avilez. Leadership: Bronze Medal (SRRHS)
- Meisha Jackson. Professional Presentation. Bronze Medal (MUHS)
- Kenlee Shanks. Professional Presentation. Bronze Medal (CVHS)



Congratulations to these students and Mrs. Genna Adams VACTE FCCLA Advisor/Teacher Training I



Teach or Train (Level 3)
1st Jessica Carrillo





Baseball. Barbeques. Birthday celebrations.

Pax, Program of Academic Exchange, is a nonprofit organization that places students in American high schools on a scholarship that is sponsored by the State Department. The goal of FLEX (Future Leaders from former Soviet Union countries) is to promote peace and diplomacy worldwide. Students come from Kazakhstan, Armenia, Poland, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia, just to name a few. These students are chosen for their high academics, friendly personality and leadership skills. The State Department provides a monthly stipend and full insurance for all sponsored students. This is a great way to bring cultural diversity into your family's life. Families can be single parent or retired and the student can share a room with a closely aged sibling. Families are asked to provide a bed, quiet area to study, meals and love and support for a teen. Student profiles are coming into our system and the teens are anxious to know if they have a family.

Khurshida is 16 and is from Uzbekistan. She enjoys volunteering, drawing, debate and volleyball. Her teacher describes her as outgoing, respectful, hard working and curious.

She would be great with younger kids since she loves spending time with her nieces and nephews. Khurshida speaks 3 languages and was chosen with other students like her from a highly competitive process. She describes herself as open minded, caring and wants to learn from others.

This program creates Global Citizenship which we so badly need.
Step out of your comfort zone and gain a daughter/son for life.
Make a Positive Difference in the World.

For more information contact
Marcia Goebel

Coordinator for PAX and FLEX for 30 years
Marciagoebel@yahoo.com
(928)301-9868

Please call with questions or interest in hosting.



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.

Inspiring
CHANGE

Providing
HOPE

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

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

Sharing God's LOVE

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 - 5 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 am pm

VISION

1st Tuesday/month
10 am - 11 am

LEGAL

Call: 928-634-7859

MISSION THRIFT STORE

Clothing vouchers can be used Tuesday - Friday 9am to 4pm
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.

LISA
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/university testing fees
- Birthdays & Holidays

Qualifying students include those who attend Oak Creek School, Dr. Daniel Wright School, Cottonwood Community School, as well as their graduates currently attending Mingus Union High School or Verde Tech High School. We also assist students attending West Sedona School, Red Rock Jr. High and Sr. High School.

LISA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides aid to public school students in the Verde Valley. Request aid at wlisa.org

**Manzanita
Outreach**

Check the Manzanita Outreach Facebook page for updates on their food share dates and what items could be available.

Our mission is to share the abundance of resources within our communities with dignity and joy.

406 S 6th Street,
Cottonwood
manzanitaoutreach.org