



August 2018

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the 2018-19 school year. We are already off to a great start and looking forward to the accomplishments of our students and staff this year.

I want to share an update with each of you in regards to our school's academic performance. While new state labels are not yet in, our AzMERIT results are – and they are worth celebrating. For the 6 tested subject areas (9th, 10th, and 11th grade in both Math and ELA), our scores were higher than they were the year before. At the start of last school year, we established target scores for our overall Math and ELA pass rates. We not only met those targets, but exceeded them. Additionally, our junior class and sophomore class cohorts grew in comparison to state averages, with both of those cohorts solidly above the state average for both of the tested subject areas.

Though we are pleased with our progress in AzMERIT, we understand that those scores are simply one measure of our academic achievement. With that said, I would also like to share some data with you in regards to our Advanced Placement (AP) performance. Over the past 5 years, Arcadia has increased the number of students taking an AP test (up 36%), increased the total number of AP tests taken (up 40%), and increased the number of tests passed (increase of 51 tests passed) resulting in college credits earned for their performance.

As we move forward with the 2018-19 school year we will continue our work to ensure a strong academic focus at Arcadia High School.

Professionally,

Todd Stevens



The SUSD Teaching and Learning team is hard at work, making sure that the resources are in place to ensure all individual learners reach their full potential again this year. We are here to support teachers and students, and are pleased to report that those efforts resulted in another year's growth by SUSD students on the state-required AzMERIT Test this past spring. All grade levels tested (3-11) exceeded statewide scores in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. While the percentage of those scoring at passing levels (called 'Proficient' and 'Highly Proficient') on ELA varied by grade, it is up overall since AzMERIT's inception in 2015. Math led the way in 2018, with six of the nine grade levels achieving their best passing scores yet. Individual student scores are headed home soon. Great job, everyone!



SUSD Parents & Guardians: It was a pleasure to welcome your students to our schools on August 7. We join you in looking forward to another year of outstanding instruction and exceptional learning, the hallmarks of an SUSD education. We spent the summer forming the right leadership team to move our district forward. We accept the challenges before us, and will accept nothing less than the best for our teachers and your students. You play an instrumental part in that, as well, by supporting your students every day, keeping yourself aware of where they stand in their studies, and becoming part of school life through volunteering in the classroom, joining the parent-teacher organization and attending school functions. It's going to be a great year!
~ Dr. John Kriekard