

"Excellence is our goal, Understanding our foundation."



Students Earn National Scholastic Recognition

Tanque Verde High School Students Distinguish Themselves Among 1.5 Million Nationwide

The names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program were announced by officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Tanque Verde High School is proud to announce that one of our seniors, Jessie Hampton, was named as a Semifinalist in The National Merit Scholarship Program. She now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that will be offered next spring.

Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Tanque Verde High School announced in September that senior Charlotte A. Drenkhahn has been



Jessie Hampton (left) and Charlotte Drenkhahn (right) were among the top achievers in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

named a Commended Student in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, has been presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

Only 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011

competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

During the summer, Charlotte attended the 2010 USA Leadership and Politics Summit at Arizona State University. Attendees learned about some of the legislation being considered at the time.

Charlotte says she not only learned more about political issues and leaders to help her in her AP Government class, but found it nice to talk to other students sharing her interest in politics.

"A Day Made Better" Helps New Teacher At Tanque Verde Elementary

\$1,000 In Merchandise From OfficeMax For First Grade

Sharon Florine, a new first grade teacher at Tanque Verde Elementary School, was one of nine Tucson teachers recognized as part of the "A Day Made Better" campaign.

"A Day Made Better" is a national program founded by OfficeMax

"A Day Made Better" was first conducted in October 2007 and has since contributed to the funding of more than 10,000 classrooms.

Mrs. Florine received a printer, a camera and a chair along with many other smaller items. Managers from the 22nd Street location of



First Grade teacher Sharon Florine shows her students some of the \$1,000.00 in classroom materials she received from OfficeMax.

and the nonprofit organization Adopt-A-Classroom to lead the fight to end teacher-funded classrooms.

Each October, more than 3,500 OfficeMax associates surprise and honor more than 1,000 teachers at 1,000 schools across the country with \$1,000 worth of classroom supplies. The name, "A Day Made Better," is derived from the concept that OfficeMax and Adopt-A-Classroom can make at least one day better for teachers by providing them with essential classroom supplies. It certainly worked during this particular visit!

Office Max came to Tanque Verde Elementary School to make the presentation.

In addition to the one-day event, OfficeMax coordinates the nonprofit Adopt-A-Classroom program for which teachers can register. Donors can then select one or more classrooms to support with a monetary donation. Teachers then receive an online e-wallet account which they can use to purchase educational materials for their classrooms. Those interested in supporting a classroom can do so by going to www.adoptaclassroom.org.

Tanque Verde Unified School District

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L to J Assessments Track Student Achievement

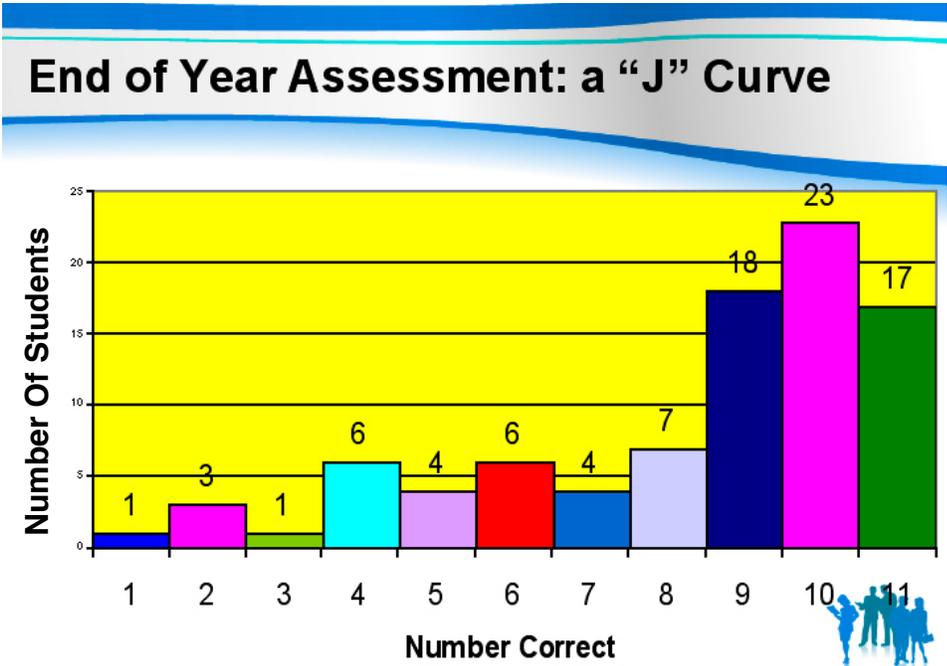
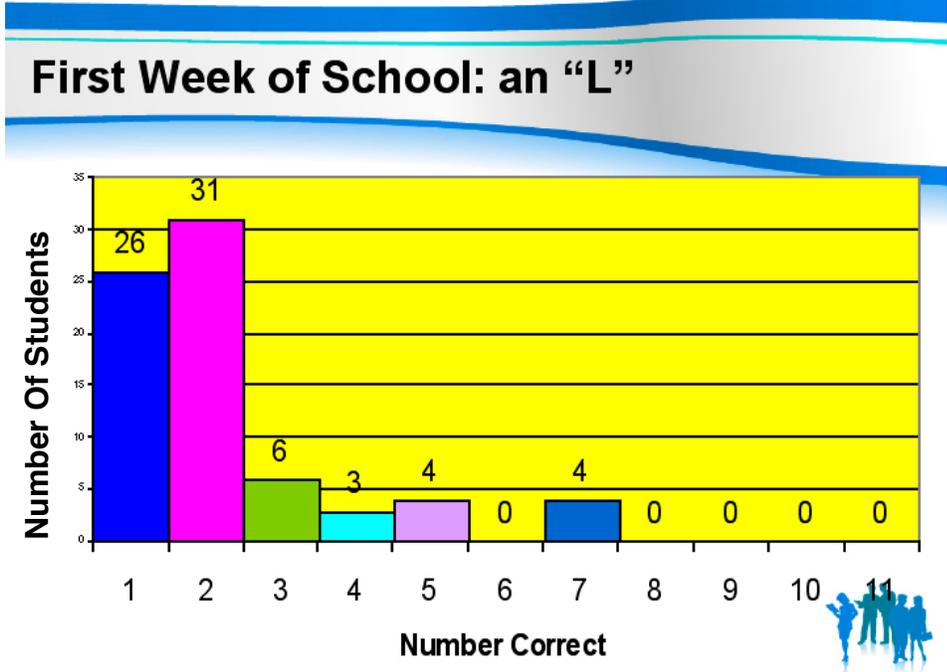
Student Quizzes Throughout The Year Help Teachers Chart Their Effectiveness

This year, teachers across our school district are tracking student achievement using an assessment tool known as L to J. When student achievement is plotted on a graph, the shape of the curve on the chart takes the form of the letter L at the beginning of the year and changes over the course of the year to more closely resemble the letter J.

Teachers have been working since June to develop assessments in various subject areas, creating a master list of questions covering the entire year's curriculum. At Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde Elementary, most teachers are working in the area of Math. At Emily Gray and Tanque Verde High School, teachers are tracking one section of the courses they teach to derive student data.

Students take assessment quizzes on a regular basis (not included in the calculation of report card grades), and the questions on those quizzes are chosen at random from the master list of curriculum questions. This makes it possible for the quizzes to cover material that has not yet been studied in class. At the beginning of the year, most students will get 0-1 questions correct on a quiz. As the school year progresses, the number of correct answers will increase, and by the end of the year, most students will answer all or nearly all questions correctly.

The results of these quizzes are charted in a variety of ways. For example, a Class histogram charts the number of students for the number of correct answers on a quiz. As the school year pro-



gresses, this chart shows students moving from 0-1 correct to an increased number correct, and then to perfect scores at the end of the year.

A Student Run Chart can be a line graph or a bar graph illustrating a student's own scores on each quiz and their and their improvement over the course of the year. A Class Run Chart shows the total

of all students' scores on each quiz. When a point on the graph is higher than in any of the previous quizzes, the class has achieved an All Time Best. This achievement is celebrated in a variety of ways, depending on the classroom.

Please contact your child's teacher to learn more about the L to J assessments and how they're working.

Pictures At An Exhibition?

Our Junior High School Will Be Brand New, But Reinterpretation Isn't

When Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky wrote a piano suite he called "Pictures At An Exhibition" in 1874, the establishment of the Tanque Verde School District was just twelve years away. At that time, he probably couldn't have imagined that the challenging bit of music he'd written would be reinterpreted ninety seven years later by three English musicians named

Emerson, Lake and Palmer. People loved it. Old became new again.

The ELP re-do was very different, incorporating instruments Musso-rsky never heard of and couldn't have imagined, and the way it was performed would have astonished him. We find ourselves in the middle of some reinterpretation of our own lately, and while we're

riffing on a school district rather than on a piano, the idea's very similar. Modernity seems to beget a look back.

When the Tanque Verde School District was established in 1886, the ranching life was tough, and residents of this area had the education of their children in mind back then just as we do today.



The Walls Come Tumbling Down

It's the end of an era alright, and the building originally constructed as an elementary school eventually served as a community center and school district offices before meeting up with some heavy equipment.

The photo at left is of the space originally used as the old Tanque Verde Elementary School library, but more recently as the location for school board meetings.

Much of the hardware and structural metal in the old building is being salvaged and recycled. The doors, interior windows and even the metal doorjambes were cut out and used in the new district offices built in the former charter school space on the property.

The approach taken in the use of the site was to preserve what could be preserved and to remove only what absolutely had to go. Many old trees have remained in place, one is being relocated, and the sick and dying ones were removed. Three fast-growing native trees are being planted for every tree lost in the course of construction.



This community still commits its resources to doing the best it can for its children. The economy is tough, but we're all pitching in like our predecessors did a hundred and twenty four years ago.

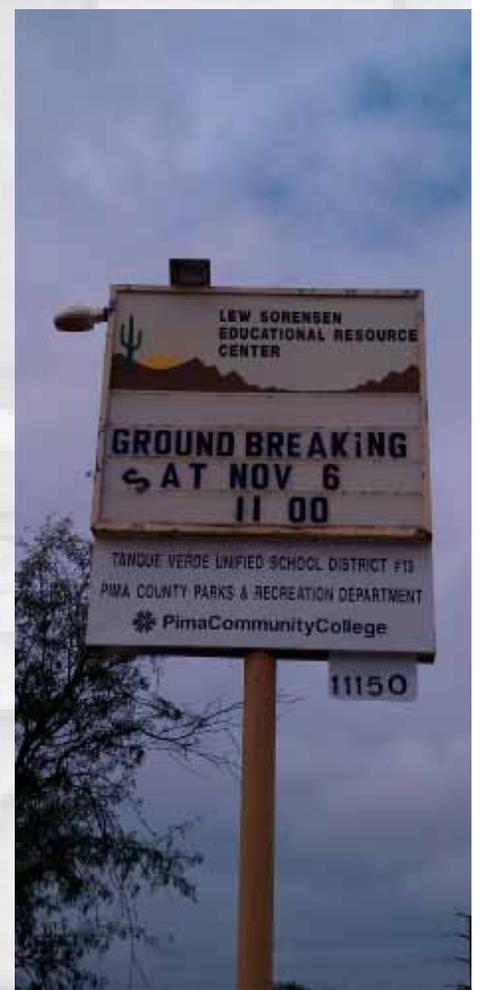
The people who came here long before us could never have imagined the computers in our schools, the phones in our pockets or the

pace of change in the world today. The way schools are built and the way children are educated today would have astonished them.

Differences between this area's past and present notwithstanding, the more things change, the more they remain the same. We're preparing our kids for a different world but we're doing it the same

way it was done in this community back in 1886. Think of it as neighbors coming together. Think of it as a modern barn raising.

Here are some pictures for our own exhibition. They are snapshots of this moment in time, a look at what we're changing from and a peek at what we're changing into. Those old ranchers would've loved it.



Signs Of The Times

The sign in the center was up for a couple of months before work began at the site of the new Emily Gray Junior High School. Once ABA Architects and Lloyd Construction began their site work along with a host of subcontractors, progress became brisk. The popular Antique Fair long held at the site has taken up temporary residence on the field behind Tanque Verde Elementary, and the school district's administrative offices have moved around the corner to the old charter school building. That old reader board sign is on the way out too. See you at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Girls State Provides Insight Into Government

High School Senior Represents Tanque Verde During A Week On University Campus

Tanque Verde High School Senior Heidi Iverson was the TVHS representative to the American Legion-sponsored Girls State this past summer. Heidi spent a week on the campus of the University of Arizona and said it was a wonderful experience.

Heidi made new friends, listened to state government officials and participated in Girls State activities to better learn how our government works. Heidi was one of the precinct committee officers and attended meetings of the “Federalist” Party. She helped write the party platform and was appointed a poll inspector for the election process.

After their government was created, Heidi volunteered to be part of the Housing Authority and was appointed historian for her city called “Mesquite Monsters.” Overall Heidi learned a lot and is sharing her experiences with her AP U.S. Government class this year.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship. Since the inception of the Girls State program in 1937,



TVHS Senior Heidi Iverson learned about the workings of state and local government as she represented Tanque Verde at Girls State.

nearly 1 million young people have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works.

High school girls who have completed their junior year spend an intensive week working together as self-governing citizens at Auxiliary-sponsored Girls State programs nationwide.

Participants learn how to participate in the functioning of their state’s government in preparation for their future roles as responsible adult citizens. Two girls are selected from each Girls State program to attend Girls Nation, a national government training program. Girls Nation “senators” meet for a week in Washington, D.C., where they run for political office.

New Federal Regulations On Race And Ethnicity Data

District Questionnaire Coming Soon

The U. S. Department of Education is revising the way state and local education agencies are expected to maintain, collect, and report data on race and ethnicity. States will be required to report summarized data using these new standards. The new standards are part of federal

education reports that districts and states submit to receive funds such as those provided through the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) and also are part of the required reports collected through the federal EDFacts data collection system.

To comply, the Tanque Verde Unified School District will mail out a questionnaire for parents to more fully describe their kids’ heritage.

For more information visit: ade.state.az.us/MISInternet/FY11federalraceethnicityguidance.pdf

Emergency Communications System To Debut

Make Sure Your Contact Information Is Accurate To Get The Word When It Counts

As part of an effort to enhance communications between our schools and the parents and guardians of our students, we have begun to implement the Intouch Alerts service. Intouch will allow the school district to quickly send important and emergency information to parents and staff through telephone and e-mail.

Expected uses for the system include:

- Notifications about emergency situations and school delays or cancellations
- Automated attendance notifications (with an opportunity to record a response)
- Sending information on scheduled and unanticipated events, testing schedules, open houses, delayed buses, etc.

The contact information used by Intouch comes from our student information system. This data is taken from the emergency

In An Emergency, We'll Be Able To Reach You In Multiple Ways:



Cell Phone & Text Email Home & Office Phone

Make Sure Your Current Contact Information Is On File.

contact information you've provided on your child's registration documents. In order to ensure that emergency notifications make it to you when it counts, please be sure to keep your contact information accurate and up to date. In an emergency, that information has to be right.

To check which phone numbers and email addresses you've provided, please call the office at the schools your children attend.

As the Intouch system is brought online, test notifications will be sent out to all parents, guardians and staff.

Request For Proposal (RFP) For Architect For Tanque Verde High School

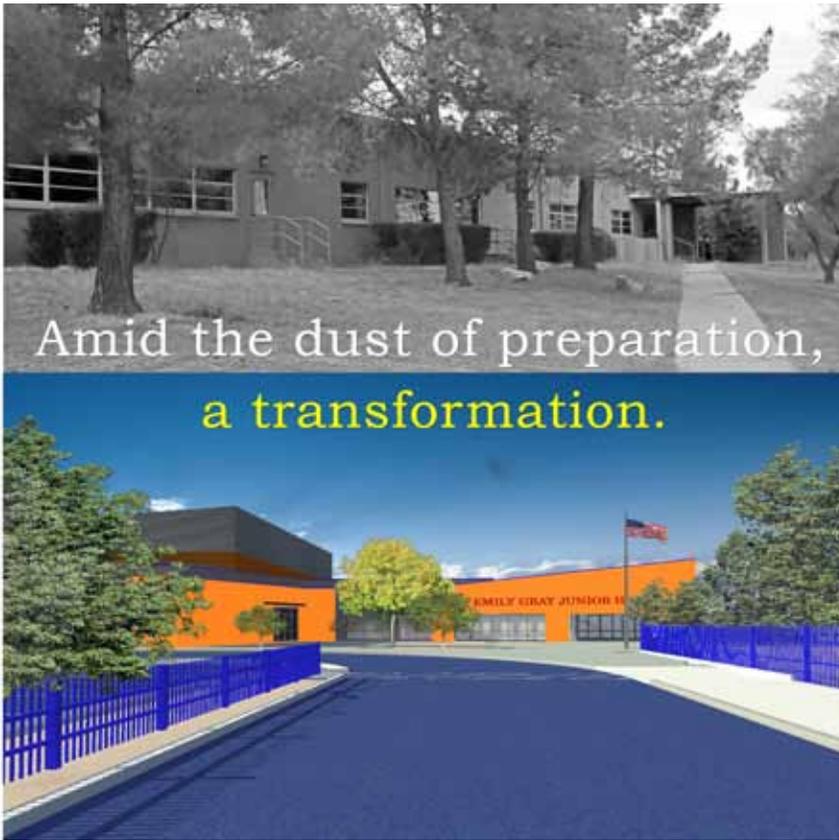
State-Funded Project To Enhance Dedicated High School Campus

On Friday October 8, 2010 twenty-two RFP's were sent to architects for architectural and engineering services for the construction of approximately 21,000 square feet of classroom space at Tanque Verde High School. The proposal includes architectural services required to produce schematic design devel-

opment and construction drawings, specifications and details as required to obtain necessary building permits, and to provide construction administration.

This project is funded by the Arizona School Facilities Board with construction bonds sold on October

7, 2010. The bonds allocated to our project total \$3,326,176 and terms of the bond issue require that the district pay prevailing wages under the Davis Bacon Act. Completion is scheduled for June 2012 to ensure a successful and timely start of the school year beginning in August 2012.



Amid the dust of preparation,
a transformation.

You are cordially invited to the
 Groundbreaking Ceremony
 for the new
 Emily Gray Junior High School.

Please join us as we
 switch gears from
 demolition to construction.

Saturday, November 6, 2010
 11:00 am
 11190 E. Tanque Verde Road

*A light lunch will be served immediately
 following the ceremony.*

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