

FALL 2025
Quarter 1 Edition

CESAR CHAVEZ ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER



Principal's Corner

ROBERT GRANT

Welcome back, Champions! We've had a great start to Quarter 1, and I'm excited to share our first Academic Newsletter of the 2025-2026 year. This newsletter is designed to bridge communication between families, staff, and students—highlighting the incredible academic events, achievements, and the hard work of our talented Chavez staff and students.

Please take a moment to look through for important updates, upcoming events, and celebrations from across our campus. I hope you enjoy the photos, stories, and recognitions that showcase the pride and excellence of our Champion community.

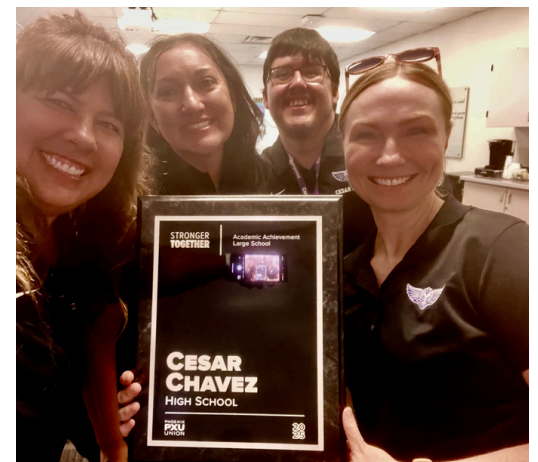
Thank you for your continued partnership and support in making Chavez a place where every student learns, grows, and shines!



Quarter 1 Celebrations

CESAR CHAVEZ NAMED LARGE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR!

Cesar Chavez High School started the year with a proud celebration—being recognized by the district as the Large School Academic Achievement School of the Year for the second year in a row! Adding to the excitement, **Mayen Usoro**, a remarkable student from Chavez, was honored as PXU's Student of the Year during the district's annual convocation. Our champion staff cheered with pride as Chavez once again proved what it means to embody excellence, dedication, and Champion spirit!



Quarter 1 Celebrations (continued..)

CHAVEZ NAMED AVID SCHOOLWIDE SITE OF DISTINCTION

Cesar Chavez High School has once again proven what it means to lead with excellence—earning recognition as a Schoolwide Site of Distinction, one of only two schools in the district to achieve this prestigious AVID honor! This advancement from last year's Site of Distinction status reflects our commitment to implementing AVID strategies schoolwide, including the What, Why, and How learning targets posted in every classroom and our campus-wide Marking the Text initiative.

Our strong AVID walkthrough results, ACT tutoring efforts through our AVID and ARCH students, and participation in piloting the new National CCI all contributed to this success. With continued growth, Chavez is on track to apply for National Demonstration School status next year!

Special thanks to Mr. Grant, Dr. Foreman, and our dedicated staff for championing AVID practices, and to everyone who supported our Kona Ice fundraiser, raising over \$1,000 for future AVID initiatives. We are incredibly proud of our students, our staff, and the collaborative spirit that makes Chavez shine!



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We are proud to recognize one of our AVID students, Karen Estrada, for her remarkable accomplishments. Karen has been awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and has received acceptances from 24 colleges and universities. Her hard work, perseverance, and commitment to her education truly exemplify the spirit of AVID, and we cannot wait to see the incredible impact she will make in the future!

-Ms. Finberg ,AVID Coordinator

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LAUNCHING 3DE AT CHAVEZ: REAL-WORLD LEARNING IN ACTION

This quarter marks the official launch of our first year of 3DE at Cesar Chavez High School, in partnership with Junior Achievement! 3DE is an innovative educational model that connects real-world business challenges to classroom learning—helping students build the critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills they'll need for future success.

Our amazing 3DE students recently partnered with global consulting firm Deloitte to tackle a real business challenge. Over five weeks, they researched, collaborated, and developed professional-level solutions, and on October 23, the top teams will present their final proposals to Deloitte leaders at the Culminating Event.

Next up, students will launch a new case challenge with local entrepreneur Scooptacular on November 5, followed by a visit to Deloitte's Tempe offices on November 7. **A huge shout-out to Ms. Corona, along with Ms. Hegstrom and Ms. Sanchez, for leading this incredible new learning experience. We are so proud of our 3DE Champions!**

Back to School Open House

CHAVEZ HOSTS FIRST-EVER BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE!

Cesar Chavez High School made history this year by hosting our first-ever Back-to-School Open House before the start of the school year! For the first time, students and families were able to visit campus, meet teachers, and get familiar with schedules and classrooms before the first day of school.

In past years, our Open House took place several weeks into the semester, but this new format gave families an early opportunity to connect—and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive! Staff, students, and families shared that they felt more supported and confident as the year began. The event kicked off with student performances and special greetings from Principal Grant, Freshman House Coordinator Ms. Patterson, and ARCH Microschool Leader Mrs. Wells. It was a powerful way to start the year—celebrating community, connection, and Chavez pride!



CHAVEZ CLUB RUSH KICKS OFF BEFORE THE FIRST DAY!

Cesar Chavez High School is proud to offer one of the largest club selections in the district—over 50 clubs strong! During our Open House Club Rush, students had the exciting opportunity to visit club booths, meet advisors, and sign up for activities—all before the first day of school even began! At Chavez, we believe that student involvement is key to both academic success and social-emotional well-being. From academic honor societies and service clubs to arts, culture, and leadership groups, there's truly something for every Champion to connect with and enjoy. It was a fun night filled with energy, music, and school spirit as students explored ways to get involved and make their mark this school year.



2025-2026 Schoolwide Academic Improvement Goals

FINETUNED GOALS

We're committed to ensuring that every Champion learns, grows, and achieves. This year, our two schoolwide academic goals focus on strengthening instruction, collaboration, and alignment to boost student achievement in Math, ELA, and ACT scores.

Goal 1: Strengthen Common ELA and ELL Instructional Practices

We're building stronger readers, writers, and thinkers by using schoolwide strategies like Marking the Text and Finding the Main Idea.

Target Outcomes:

- Increase ACT English and Reading benchmark scores by 5%
- Increase the percentage of students scoring Proficient or higher on AZELLA by 5%
- Ensure 60% of students meet or exceed Lexile growth goals on NWEA
- 100% of teachers will implement and submit quarterly evidence of strategies

Goal 2: Boost Schoolwide Math Interventions

We're enhancing math achievement by focusing on targeted interventions in Advisory, utilization of Edmentum, consistent practice, and ACT prep support.

Target Outcomes:

- Improve overall math performance by 5% compared to the 2024–2025 school year
- Reduce failure rates in Algebra 1–2 and Geometry by 10% or lower.

These shared practices strengthen learning across every classroom, creating a consistent, supportive, and engaging environment for all Champions.



FEATURED LITERACY STRATEGY: MARKING THE TEXT

MARK UP THE TEXT	
#1, 2, 3 ...	NUMBER THE PARAGRAPHS
	CIRCLE OR HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANT WORDS/DETAILS
—	UNDERLINE WORDS YOU DON'T KNOW
?	PUT A ? OVER THINGS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT
**	DOUBLE STAR INTERESTING FACTS
	PUT AN  NEXT TO YOUR TEXT—EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR ANSWER

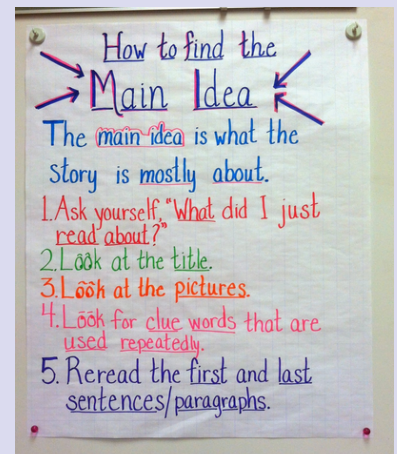
One of our schoolwide literacy focuses is Marking the Text — a strategy that helps students actively engage with what they're reading. When students underline key ideas, circle unfamiliar words, and annotate important details, they're learning to think critically and connect more deeply with the material.

You can encourage your student to practice this at home by marking up reading passages, articles, or even instructions. This strategy is used in all subjects, from math and science to art and PE, so students see and use it often to strengthen comprehension and focus.

FEATURED LITERACY STRATEGY: FINDING THE MAIN IDEA

Another key Chavez literacy strategy is Finding the Main Idea — helping students identify the central message or key point of what they read, hear, or view. This builds strong comprehension skills and helps students summarize, analyze, and communicate more effectively.

Encourage your student to ask themselves, "What is this mostly about?" after reading or watching something. Teachers across every department, including electives and performing arts, are reinforcing this strategy to support strong reading and thinking habits in every Champion!



ACT Prep

ACT PREP OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIORS!

We're committed to helping our juniors prepare for success on the ACT, one of the most important college readiness assessments. The ACT not only measures academic skills but can also open doors to college admissions, scholarships, and career opportunities.

This year, all junior Advisories will have assigned days to log in and complete timed ACT practice tests, helping students get comfortable with the format, question types, and pacing of the real exam.

Behind the scenes, our ACT Prep Committee is working hard to design opportunities and resources to support every student in reaching proficiency—a composite score of 19 or higher in the state of Arizona.

We're also hosting a series of Saturday ACT Prep Workshops open to all juniors:

- **Workshop #1: December 13**, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Workshop #2: January 21**, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Workshop #3: February 7**, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Workshop #4: February 24**, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Save the dates, juniors! Let's get prepared, stay focused, and show what Champions can do!

Advanced Placement Courses

CHAMPIONS EXCEL IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES!

We are proud to share that Cesar Chavez High School offers the largest number of AP courses in all of PXU—an incredible 18 college-level classes for students to choose from! These courses give students the opportunity to experience college-level rigor, build confidence, and potentially earn college credit by passing the AP Exam at the end of the year.



Why take AP? AP classes help students save money on college tuition, qualify for scholarships, and prepare for the pace and expectations of college classrooms. They also boost GPAs, as AP courses are weighted for academic rigor.

Last year, we strengthened our AP program by welcoming Mrs. Wells as our AP Coordinator, increasing funding for AP tutoring, and sending teachers to the AP Summer Institute for specialized training. The results were outstanding—our AP exam pass rates saw the largest jump in nearly every subject in school history!

We're excited to continue this momentum and can't wait to see what our AP Champions achieve this year!

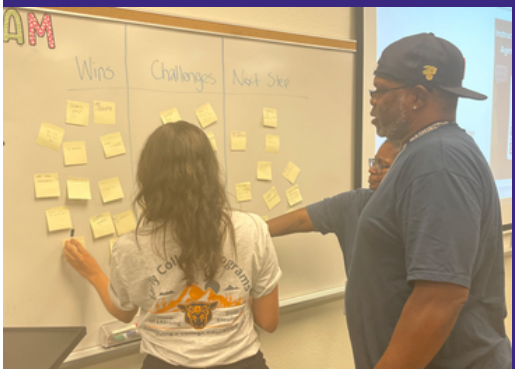
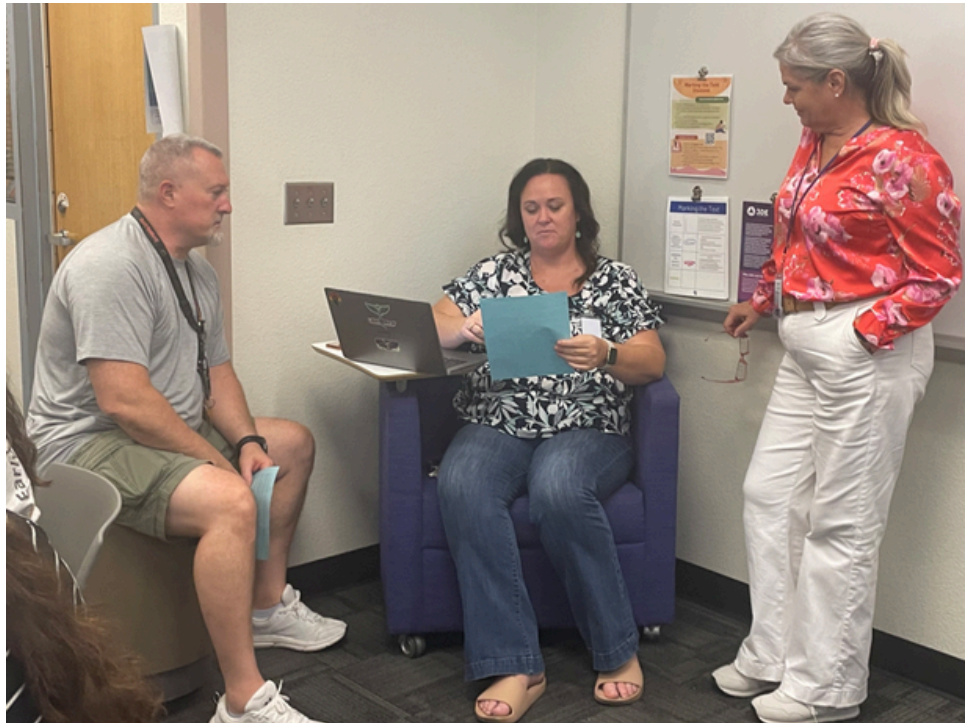
Cesar Chavez Instructional Leaders

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS DRIVE CHAVEZ SCHOOLWIDE SUCCESS!

We are proud to recognize our Instructional Leader (IL) Team—a group of 17 dedicated department leaders who play a vital role in driving schoolwide success. These leaders are the glue that holds together our school improvement initiatives and the continued growth of instructional practices across campus. This year, our ILs have taken on the added challenge of leading their departments through the launch of PXU's new grading system, supporting teachers with patience, problem-solving, and professionalism through every step of the change. Their leadership has been essential in ensuring alignment, clarity, and consistency across our school.

Our ILs meet regularly to plan, align practices, and advocate for their teachers and content areas. They kicked off the year with a full-day retreat in July and have been working with energy, collaboration, and commitment ever since.

Thank you to our IL Team for your leadership, resilience, and dedication to helping every teacher and student at Chavez thrive!



Important Information and Upcoming Events

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LOWEST YEARBOOK PRICE!

Pre-order your yearbook now for the best deal of the year! Prices go up to \$70 on November 1st, and if any extra copies are available in May, they'll be \$75. Remember — we can only order books that are paid for in advance, so if you don't pre-order, you won't get a yearbook. Order yours today in the bookstore (cash or card) or online by following the posted directions!

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT "I-DAYS" AT CHAVEZ

At Cesar Chavez High School, our I-Days (Independent Learning Days) are virtual learning days designed to help students stay on track and get extra academic support. On these days, students work from home but still participate in school—they can connect with teachers on Microsoft Teams in the afternoon for help with assignments or questions.

Attendance counts on I-Days! To be marked present, students must complete and submit their Advisory participation form, which includes uploading evidence of their work and completing a short reflection.

- **9th Grade:** Can work on make-up assignments or earn a Math trophy in Edmentum.
- **10th & 11th Grades:** Choose from Edmentum Math, make-up work, or MyACT practice.
- **12th Grade:** Focus on make-up work or complete college, career, or scholarship tasks.

I-Days give students time to catch up, reflect, and strengthen learning habits while teachers engage in professional development and learning in the mornings and provide virtual support for their students in the afternoons. Thank you for helping your student stay engaged and accountable on these important learning days!

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING QUARTER 2 EVENTS

In-House Course Registration- October-December

Homecoming Dance- October 18

Picture Days: Senior Cap & Gown- October 21, Freshmen- October 22, Sophomores- October 24, Juniors- October 27, Retake Day - November 18

Chavez NHS Blood Drive- October 22

PXU Academic Decathlon Scrimmage- October 24-25

Senior Civics Exams (Graduation Requirement)- October 30 and December 18

IDay Virtual Learning (No Classes)- November 8

Veteran's Day (No Classes)- November 11

FASFA Event "You Have to FAFSA!" - November 18

Thanksgiving Recess (No Classes) - November 28-29

Saturday Junior ACT Prep Workshop- December 13

Saturday AZELLA Prep Tutoring- December 13

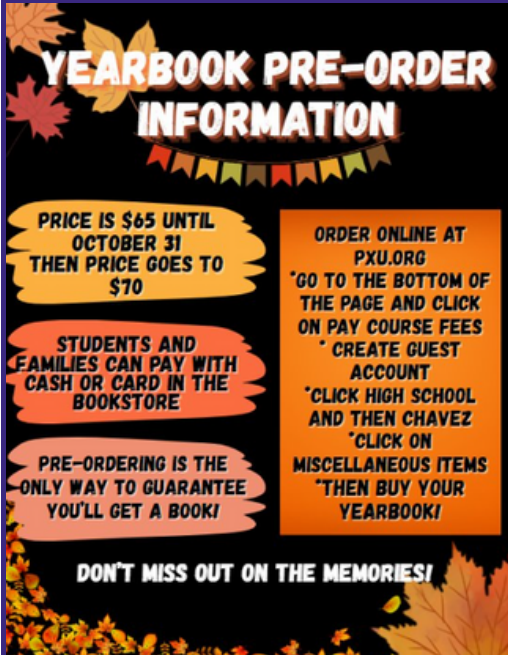
NWEA Testing (All grades)- December 14

End of Unit Exams Half Days- December 16 -17

End of Quarter 2/1st Semester- December 19

Winter Recess- December 20-January 3

3rd Quarter Classes Begin- January 6



YEARBOOK PRE-ORDER INFORMATION

PRICE IS \$65 UNTIL OCTOBER 31 THEN PRICE GOES TO \$70

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES CAN PAY WITH CASH OR CARD IN THE BOOKSTORE

PRE-ORDERING IS THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE YOU'LL GET A BOOK!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE MEMORIES!

ORDER ONLINE AT PXU.ORG

*GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE AND CLICK ON PAY COURSE FEES

*CREATE GUEST ACCOUNT

*CLICK HIGH SCHOOL AND THEN CHAVEZ

*CLICK ON MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

*THEN BUY YOUR YEARBOOK!



Testing Information

IMPORTANT UPDATE: END OF COURSE EXAMS

This year, PXU has shifted from end-of-semester finals to end-of-course finals, meaning most classes will not have final exams in December. Only a small number of courses that officially end this semester will give finals. Instead, students will complete end-of-unit assessments or projects, and the traditional December testing days will be used for NWEA Round 2 testing—a key measure of student growth and learning. Student attendance is extremely important during the last week of the semester, as students will be completing final projects, assessments, and NWEA testing. Please make sure your student is present and engaged so they can finish the semester strong!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TESTING DAYS AHEAD!

PSAT (11th grade- only those who registered)- October 23rd

NWEA Round 2 (all students)- December 15th

AZELLA Reassessment (ELL students)- January 26-March 12

Pre-ACT (10th grade)- March 17th

ACT (11th grade)- March 24

AzSCI (11th grade)- March 31st

ACT Aspire (9th grade)- April 7th

NWEA Round 3- April 27-May 4

AP Exams (all grades/all AP classes)- May 4-15



Important Information (continued...)

UNDERSTANDING PXU'S NEW GRADING PRACTICES

This year, Phoenix Union has adopted a new districtwide grading policy designed to make grading more fair, consistent, and focused on learning. We recognize that this transition has come with some adjustments, and we want to thank our students, teachers, and families for their patience and understanding as we fine-tune the process.

Our amazing Cesar Chavez teachers have been working collaboratively to ensure that grading systems truly reflect student learning and mastery of state standards—not just completion or behavior. You may notice that in the gradebook, a single assignment sometimes appears with multiple scores. This simply means the assignment was aligned to more than one standard, and each score shows how well the student performed on those specific skills. Our goal is for grades to reflect what students know and can do, giving everyone a clearer picture of academic progress.

NWEA TESTING AND WHY IT MATTERS

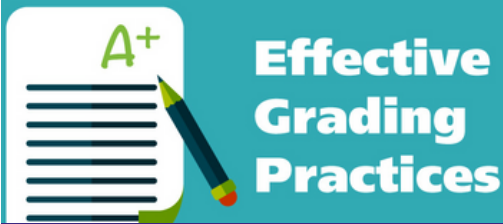
At Cesar Chavez High School, we use the NWEA test three times a year as a key part of our schoolwide academic improvement plan. This important assessment helps us measure each student's individual growth in Math and English over time. Unlike traditional tests, NWEA is adaptive—it adjusts the difficulty of questions based on each student's answers to find their exact learning level.

NWEA is not a pass-or-fail test; it's a tool that shows teachers and students how much progress is being made and where extra support might be needed. We encourage every student to take it seriously and do their best so we can celebrate true growth and success.

These are important school days, so please make sure your student is present and on time for all NWEA testing sessions. With a growth mindset, every Champion can see how their hard work is paying off!

EDMENTUM: SUPPORTING STUDENT GROWTH IN MATH!

We're excited to continue using Edmentum as one of our key strategies to improve math achievement schoolwide! Research shows that adaptive learning programs like Edmentum help students grow by meeting them exactly where they are—offering lessons that adjust to each student's individual learning level. Students can log in to Edmentum anytime—especially during I-Days and Advisory when they don't have other assignments. Each time a student completes a lesson, they earn a trophy, a fun way to track progress and celebrate success! Edmentum is a powerful extra tool that helps students who need to catch up while also challenging those who are ready to move ahead. We've already seen great results—after launching this initiative last year, our math scores improved schoolwide! Keep logging in, Champions—your effort makes a difference!



Every student deserves the opportunity to thrive everywhere learning occurs. Edmentum partners with K-12 educators to design, implement, and sustain the programs that deliver on this shared promise of learning acceleration for every student.

When you pair Edmentum's proven and comprehensive learning acceleration solutions with empowered and supported educators, you can change the direction of students' lives.



Understanding Attendance

ATTENDANCE TODAY, ACHIEVEMENT TOMORROW!

At Cesar Chavez High At Cesar Chavez High School, we take pride in teaching and learning from bell to bell! Help every Champion start the day strong by arriving on time—1st period begins at 7:30 a.m. (8:15 a.m. on Wednesdays). For safety, students are not released before 2:25 p.m., and must wear their school ID daily.

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION FLOW CHART

Total absences by class period and/or
full-day absences per semester

Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 3
On Track	At-Risk	Trending	Chronic	Critical

1 - 3

Parent/Guardian will be notified at 3 unexcused all-day absences through the district communication platform (e.g., phone, email, text).

Content teachers will make a reasonable effort to conference with the student regarding their absences.

4 - 5

The **Content Teacher** will contact the Parent/Guardian at 4 unexcused absences in their class.

The **Advisory Teacher** will contact the Parent/Guardian by phone at 5 unexcused all-day absences.

Content/Advisory teacher may assign student to academic interventions.

6 - 7

The **Student Liaison** will notify the Parent/Guardian at 6 excused/unexcused all-day absences.

The **Student Liaison** will conduct a root-cause analysis to identify underlying factors contributing to absenteeism and will implement targeted, individualized interventions using Check & Connect strategies to support student re-engagement.

The **Student Liaison** may collaborate with the Engagement Team and/or Attendance Committee for ongoing support.

9+

The **Student Liaison** will notify the Parent/Guardian at 9 excused/unexcused all-day absences via regular posted mail and electronically by email or the District adopted communication platform.

A student's **Counselor** will be notified at 9 excused/unexcused all-day absences.

Admin will conduct a review of academic progress, interventions received, behaviors that may impact learning, and attendance.

Collaboration with the **Student Support Team (SST)** may be initiated to provide sustained or more intensive support, depending on the student's level of need.

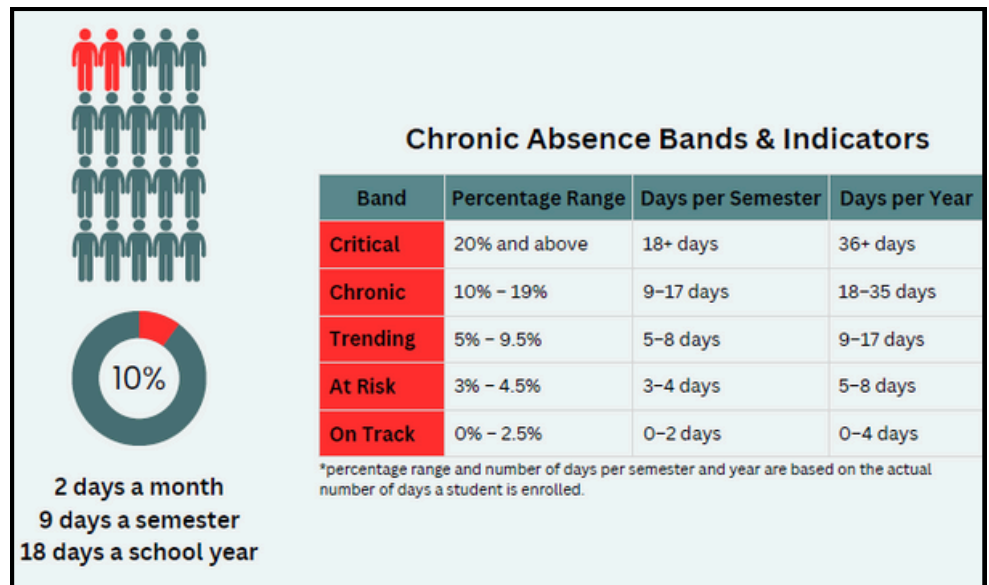
Continued absences may result in a referral for an Attendance Hearing.



Understanding Attendance continued...

WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of the school year, for any reason, whether excused or unexcused. This level of absenteeism often reflects a pattern of repeated absences that goes beyond occasional illness or emergencies. Over time, these missed days can create significant gaps in learning, disrupt academic progress, impact classroom connections, and contribute to disengagement from school altogether. Even a few absences each month can add up quickly and have lasting consequences on a student's ability to stay on track for graduation.



Advanced Weapon Detection

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A SAFE AND SMOOTH START!

As part of our district's commitment to safety and learning, Cesar Chavez High School has successfully implemented the Advanced Weapon Detection System (AWDS) on campus. We're happy to share that our entry process is now running smoothly, and students have quickly become familiar with the routine—allowing everyone to enter campus efficiently each morning.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our students and families for your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we adjusted to this new system. Your support has helped us create a safe, welcoming, and optimal learning environment for all Champions.

Safety remains a shared responsibility, and AWDS is one important layer in our ongoing efforts to ensure that Chavez continues to be a secure and supportive place for learning.



New State Statute: Staying Engaged and Distraction-Free

LEARNING COMES FIRST AT CHAVEZ! PHONES DOWN, LEARNING UP!



We are committed to creating the best possible learning environment for all students. In alignment with the new Arizona state statute, cell phones are not permitted during instructional time in any class period. Students may use their phones only during passing periods and lunch.

Since implementing this expectation, we've already seen a significant increase in student learning and engagement across classrooms! While we understand that students enjoy their phones, research nationwide continues to show the negative impact of cell phone distractions on focus and achievement.

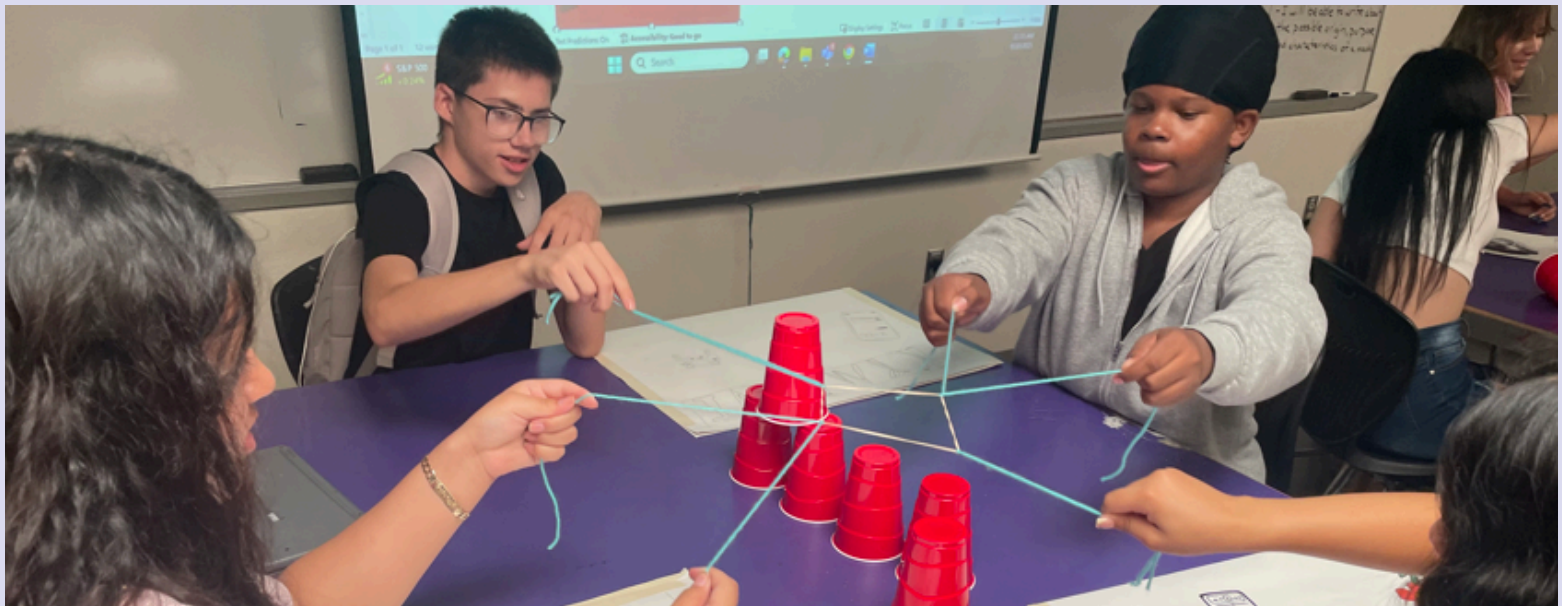
We truly appreciate the support of our families and students as we work together to keep classrooms distraction-free. Please continue to remind your student (or yourself!) of the why behind this initiative—because every minute of learning matters.

CHAMPION NEWS: STUDENT VOICES IN ACTION!

Check out Champion News, our student-driven online publication led by Mr. Hanawalt! Chavez students research, write, and publish stories highlighting campus events, student achievements, and important local and national news.

Their creativity and journalistic passion shine through every article and video—so don't miss out! Click the link to visit the Champion News website and explore the amazing stories and features our talented students have created.

Champion News website: <https://championnews.org/>



What Are Champion Learner Attributes?

Learner Attributes	Classroom	On Campus	Virtual Platforms
C Communication	•Use positive language. •Listen and be open to other different perspectives. •Collaborate with peers.	•Use appropriate and positive language. •Collaborate with peers.	•Use positive language. •Communicate technology concerns. •Collaborate with peers.
H Honor	•Demonstrate accountability for actions and learning. •Advocate for myself and others.	•Demonstrate accountability for actions and learning. •Keep areas clean. •Have ID visible.	•Maintain appropriate digital citizenship. •Comply with PXU electronics policy.
A Attentiveness	•Attend class daily. •Be on time. •Be prepared. •Use time effeciently and effectively.	•Be in assigned area. •Be on time.	•Have electronics ready. •Recognize technology concerns.
M Motivated	•Set goals and give your best effort. •Use the Advisory period and tutoring hours to meet your goals.	•Participate in: -Academic interventions -Support groups - Clubs & sports	•Stay focused on school-related websites. •Set goals and give your best effort.
P Problem Solver	•Collaborate with staff and students. •Be flexible and adaptable to different situations.	•See something, say something. •Ask for help when necessary.	•See something, say something. •Ask for help when necessary.

Departments nominatie one student each month for the “Student of the Month” honor, selecting candidates within their content teams based on our criteria for what it means to be a CHAMP.

Q1 CHAMP Students of the Month

Ayvion Stella-Floyd	Algebra 3-4	Zanijah Scott	Practical PLC
Savannah Solares	Spanish 1-2	Martha Bojorquez Rosas	Dance
Ruben Escalante Jaimes	Performing Arts	Camila Solis-Lopez	Algebra 1-2
Matthew M. Dineyazhe	JROTC	Sarai Myles	English 7-8
Noelahnni J. Ontiveros	Theatre	Isaiah Bueno Sotelo	English 1-2

We love our CHAMP students!

Rene Alvarez Higuera	Intermediate 3-4	Karen Estrada	AVID
Cenze Yazzie	Dine Language	JORDIN HUCKABY	COUNSELING
Destiney Zazueta Roman	English 1-2	Isaac M. Ortiz	Science
Miguel Martinez Hernandez	Visual Art	Fernando I. Amezquita Mendoza	Credit Recovery
Amarii Williams	Algebra 1 - 2	Elvin Manzi	Geometry



Daisey Garcia	Band	Tristan Sheets	JROTC
Serenity Morris	Reading	Anthony Hernandez	Guitar
Christopher Castillo Chavez	Senior English	Cristian Galarza Aguero	AVID
Amare White	Practical	Azaria Swaby	ARCH/ Counseling
Itzel Duarte Arellano	Dance	Savannah Velasquez	Theatre
Erian R. Salais Gonzalez	Health	Isaiah Kelly	Geometry

Q1 CHAMP Students of the Month (continued...)

Jeannette Nyirarusaremu	Econ/Gov	Manuel Montoya Mendoza	CTE
Je'Shyla Calvin	Integrated Science	Paula Torrecillas	ELD
Aubrey K. Ahimera	Freshmen English	Arian Gamez	Algebra 1-2
Aaron Delgado Torres	Culturally Relevant Literature from the Native American Perspective English 7-8	Amaya Y. Robles	College Math



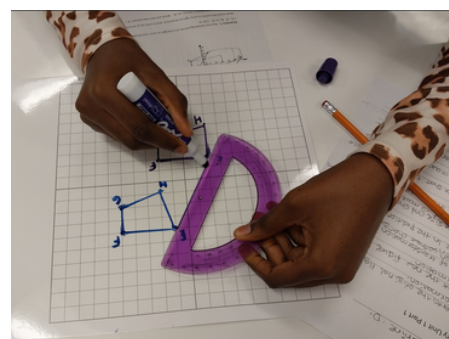
Department Highlights

ELD TEAM SUPPORTS STUDENT GROWTH AND SUCCESS!

This quarter, our ELD team has been hard at work supporting English learners on their path to success! The team analyzed assessment data, used the Flashlight app to strengthen students' speaking and communication skills, and launched after-school tutoring to provide extra support. These efforts are helping our students make great progress toward AZELLA reclassification and continued academic growth.

MATH COLLABORATIVE TEAMS LEAD WITH ALIGNMENT AND SUPPORT!

Our Math Collaborative Teams are doing incredible work this year—developing common formative assessments and ensuring that gradebooks are consistently aligned across all courses. The collaboration, communication, and support among teachers are making a real difference in student learning. It's inspiring to see how this unified effort is improving consistency, clarity, and success for all our Chavez students!



Department Highlights (continued...)

NATIONAL AVID WEEK

Cesar Chavez High School proudly joined schools across the nation in celebrating National AVID Week! This special day recognizes the power of the AVID program in preparing students for college, careers, and lifelong success.



GRIT AND AVID: PREPARING CHAMPIONS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

We're proud to continue our partnership with College Depot through the GRIT Program (Graduating, Ready, Independent, and Tenacious)! All AVID seniors are enrolled, receiving personalized college readiness support and mentoring through monthly Saturday workshops and one-on-one meetings with GRIT Advisors.

Thanks to the combined efforts of GRIT, AVID, and partnerships with ASU, U of A, GCU, and NAU, our students are achieving incredible results. A standout example is Karen Estrada, our first AVID senior and GRIT scholar to earn over \$1 million in scholarships and acceptances to 24 colleges!

This success reflects the dedication of our students, staff, and teachers who bring AVID strategies to life every day at Chavez.

HEALTHY MINDS AND STEADY HANDS IN HEALTH CLASS!

In Mrs. Sniff's Health class, students learned about stress and our responses to stress by having a cup stacking tournament. This was a high stress low stakes environment. They also practiced some healthy coping strategies like deep breathing, meditation, progressive muscle relaxation and blowing bubbles.



Department Highlights (continued...)

SENIORS SIMULATE CONGRESS IN U.S. GOVERNMENT!

Our U.S. Government seniors are diving into a Congressional Simulation, where they draft, debate, and work to pass bills through the full legislative process—just like real lawmakers! This year, our U.S. Government teachers have teamed up to make the experience even more realistic, with one class representing the Senate and the other serving as the House of Representatives.



Students are gaining a deeper understanding of collaboration, civic engagement, and how laws are made, all while putting their critical thinking and communication skills to the test. It's been inspiring to see our seniors bring such enthusiasm and professionalism to the process—a true showcase of learning in action!

CHAMPIONS EARN ENGLISH COLLEGE CREDIT THROUGH DUAL ENROLLMENT!

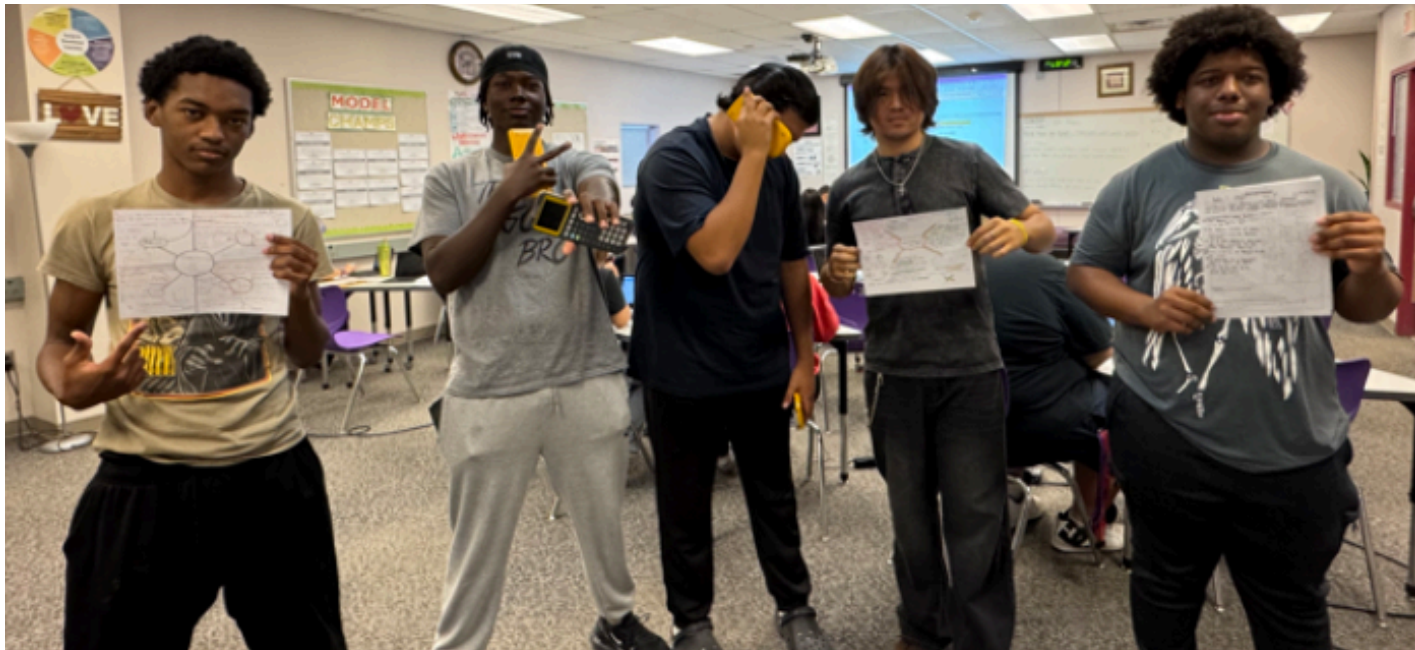
Cesar Chavez High School is proud to celebrate our students participating in Dual Enrollment this year! A total of 87 juniors are earning college credit in English 101, and 27 seniors are taking English 102 for advanced credit. These dedicated students are getting a head start on their college journeys while still in high school—way to go, Champions!

DUAL COLLEGE MATH STUDENTS SHINE IN DISTRICT COMMON ASSESSMENT

Dual college math students at Cesar Chavez High School are off to a remarkable start this quarter, excelling in the District Common Assessment (DCA). Their performance highlights the impact of a guaranteed and viable curriculum and the dedication of both students and teachers. At CCHS, 45% of students scored Highly Proficient, compared to the district average of 28%. Another 40% reached Proficient, surpassing the district's 34%.

Department Highlights (continued...)

DUAL COLLEGE MATH STUDENTS SHINE IN DISTRICT COMMON ASSESSMENT (CONTINUED...)



These results demonstrate not only academic achievement but also the strong learning culture that supports student growth. A solid foundation in mathematics is equipping learners with the skills they need for college, career, and life success. Students themselves emphasize perseverance and focus as keys to success. "College math isn't as difficult as it may seem. Pay attention, keep an open mind, and don't give up after one mistake. Instead, learn from it and use it to grow," shared Abdon Woods. Similarly, Henry Lane added, "College math becomes much easier when you take proper notes, use the resources available, follow instructions, and listen closely to the teacher. With focus and effort, this class can be very manageable."



JROTC RAIDERS BRING HOME THE TROPHIES!

Our Cesar Chavez JROTC Raiders Team showed true determination and teamwork at the district-wide competition near Flagstaff on September 27, 2025.

Despite the rain and tough conditions, our Cadets pushed through and proudly brought home trophies in four out of five events! Their hard work, grit, and school pride continue to make Chavez shine.

“

With this team, I truly feel that we are thinking about all students who take geometry at Chavez in our conversations.

-Mr. Martin

”

“

We work together, we have fun, and we use data to make the adjustments our students need. We build off each other's strengths as we create the foundation for one shared goal: our students' success.

-Mrs. Clark

”

“

Everyone feels like their opinion matters. No idea is implemented or shot down without team discussion. Stephanie Clark makes us laugh. Torrey is a great leader and keeps us on task. We all get along!

- Ms. Gulla

”

“

Each person is a valuable contributor to our team. Mr. Schierer brings years of pedagogical experience to lead the team into a meaningful direction of mindful teaching and grading. Ms. Chubrich reminds us all that teaching is more than grades and grammar; teaching is a work of heart. Noah transitioned to another department in the middle of the semester, bringing an open mind and positive spirit of a new teacher. Mr. Ayon brings his care and consideration for students into every discussion, and of course Ms. Plantz brings her expertise and feedback regarding our ESS students.

- Ms. Dominguez

”

Department Highlights (continued...)

CONGRATS Q1 COLLABORATIVE TEAMS OF THE MONTH!

Congratulations to Geometry team! Honored as Collaborative Team of the Month for Geometry—for disciplined data protocols, DCA analysis, rubric calibration on student work, and standards-aligned planning (e.g., congruence units) that deliver clear expectations and measurable growth for learners.



Ms. Gulla, Mr. Knudsen, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Flores

Congratulations to the English 5-6 team! Celebrated as Collaborative Team of the Month for English 5–6—for tight IAP alignment, student-friendly summatives and rubrics, inclusive planning that elevates every voice, and consistent instruction and feedback that sharpen literacy across classrooms.



Mr. Ayon, Mrs. Chubrich, Mr. Schierer, Ms. Dominguez, Ms. Plantz and Mr. Rameriz

Department Highlights (continued...)

CONGRATS Q1 COLLABORATIVE TEAMS OF THE MONTH!

Congratulations to CTE Culinary! Mrs. Renteria is honored with the “Singleton Shout Out” of the Month for exemplary leadership and collaboration in her District Culinary team—aligning essential standards, developing shared assessments and hands-on labs, and achieving a 100% CTE exam and certification pass rate (highest in the district)—elevating student learning across our schools!



“ The Culinary CT works cohesively to build and revise our curriculum to achieve the highest standards for our program. We have common formative assessments that we have created together as a team, but at the same time, each Culinary teacher in the district has autonomy within their own classrooms to use our favorite recipes, and we highlight what our students are making each week in the lab. We keep each other informed of important CTE deadlines so we can all meet these requirements.

-Mrs. Renteria

“ I'm grateful to be part of a group that is supportive and so free of judgement that we can be truly vulnerable with each other. This allows for growth and problem-solving, while also providing a constant source of well-being

-Mrs. Chubrich

“ I appreciate my colleagues' willingness to attempt new strategies and continually refine our practice together.

-Mr. Schierer

CHAVEZ ADVANCED CHOIRS PERFORM AT HOME FOOTBALL GAME!

Our Advanced Choirs brought spirit and harmony to the field as they performed at the recent home football game! Their powerful voices and dynamic performance energized the crowd and showcased the incredible talent of our Chavez musicians.

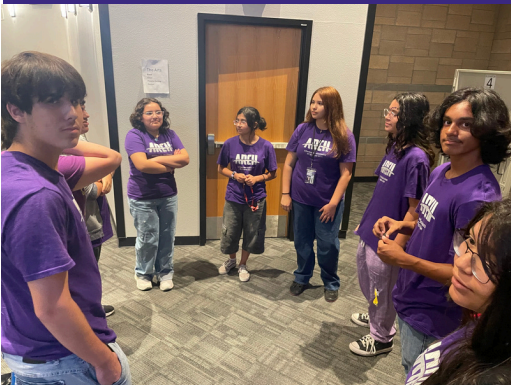
Thank you to our choir students and director for sharing their passion and representing our school with pride!



ARCH (Advanced Readiness at Chavez High)

ARCH MICROSCHOOL CONTINUES TO GROW!

Our ARCH Microschool at Cesar Chavez High School is expanding and thriving! Designed for high-achieving students who aspire to attend highly selective and competitive out-of-state universities, ARCH offers a small-school atmosphere within our large campus. Students benefit from a close-knit community and a specialized cohort of AP teachers, while still enjoying full access to sports, clubs, and electives across Chavez. ARCH students support one another through collaboration, leadership, and shared goals. This year's student ARCH officers led the first micro-school meeting of the year—setting a strong tone for another year of excellence and community! For more information, contact **Mrs. Wells, ARCH Micro-School Leader**, at cwell@phoenixunion.org.



Fine Arts Spotlights

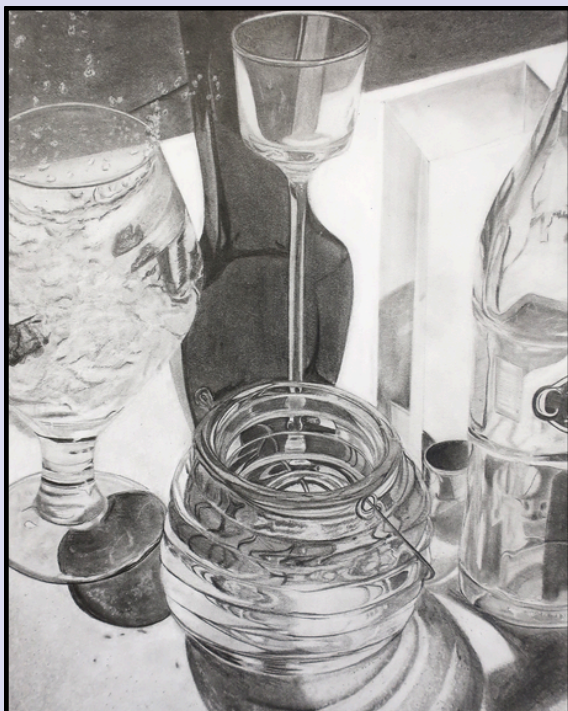
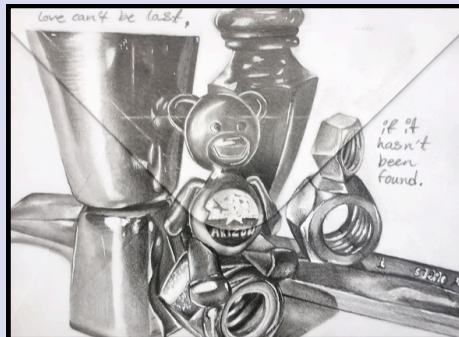
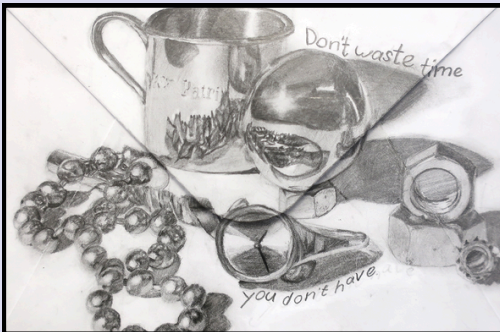
BEGINNING DRAWING & PAINTING STUDENTS CREATE “CHARCOAL ANIMALS”

Our Beginning Drawing and Painting students have been working hard on their first major project of the year —“Charcoal Animals.” Through this project, students are learning the fundamentals of observation, proportion, and shading using charcoal as their primary medium. Their artwork beautifully showcases both technical growth and creativity as they bring their animal subjects to life!



ADVANCED DRAWING & PAINTING STUDENTS SHINE WITH “GLASS” PROJECTS

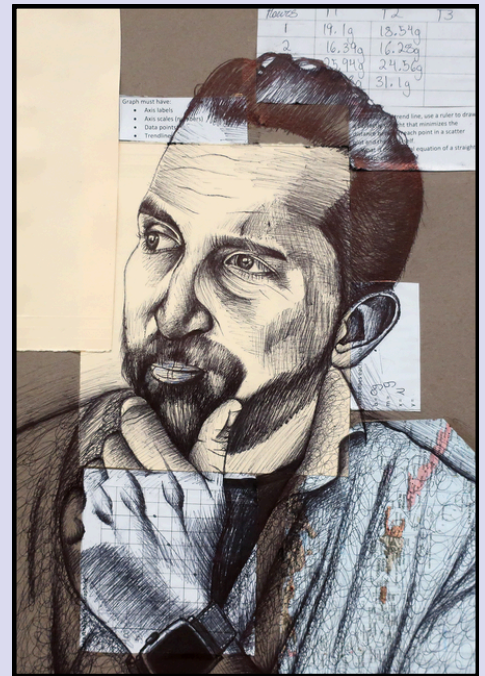
Our Advanced Drawing and Painting students have been refining their observational drawing skills through their stunning “Glass” projects. Using graphite, students are exploring the challenges of transparency, reflection, and light to create realistic and detailed works of art. Their dedication and precision truly showcase the high level of artistry within our Chavez visual arts program!



Fine Arts Spotlight continued...

AP 2D DESIGN KICKS OFF A CREATIVE YEAR!

Our AP 2D Design students have been hard at work and are already off to an amazing start! They've completed their first four projects of the year—The Summer Project, 3D Fabric, Marbles and Metals, and Scribble Teachers and Houses. From texture and reflection to creativity and composition, these talented artists have been exploring a wide range of design concepts. It's been a busy and inspiring start in the art studio!



CHAVEZ CHOIR SHINES AT DISTRICT HONOR CHOIR AUDITIONS!

Congratulations to five talented Cesar Chavez High School Choir students who successfully auditioned and earned a place in this year's Greater Phoenix District Honor Choir! These outstanding students will proudly represent Chavez at the District Honor Choir Festival on October 17–18, 2025. Their dedication, passion, and musical excellence continue to make our Toro community proud.



Counselor's Corner

PXU LIFTOFF TO COLLEGE

Students with a 2.8 unweighted GPA or higher had the opportunity to kick off college season by applying early to our in-state universities. We held another major event on September 30th, when all seniors came together through their senior English class to apply to in-state universities and community colleges. The Counseling Department will also host application workshops throughout the year to support students every step of the way!



SENIORS PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE!

Our Cesar Chavez seniors recently participated in Senior Future Day—a special event dedicated to helping students plan their next steps after graduation. During the day, students had the opportunity to apply to colleges, universities, and trade schools, create their FSA ID, start or complete the FAFSA, search and apply for scholarships, apply for jobs, and even build their résumés—the possibilities were endless!

We invited all Senior English classes, reaching an impressive 550 seniors, with an outstanding 91.4% participation rate. Thanks to their hard work, we're well on our way to meeting our goal of having 50% of seniors complete the FAFSA by December 31st!

Families, please continue encouraging your seniors to check TEAMS: Chavez Class of 2026 regularly for important updates on scholarships, job opportunities, Civics make-up testing, and more. This is our main communication hub for all senior information.



PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTUREPOST-SECONDARY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT



Students—are you planning for college, a career, or life after graduation? Be sure to visit PXU's "Prepare for Your Future" webpage for resources, guidance, and support to help you take the next step toward your goals. From college planning to scholarships, career exploration, and more, this site has everything you need to stay on track for success.

<https://www.pxu.org/o/pxu/page/welcome-to-prepare-for-your-future>

Counselor's Corner continued...

STUDENTS ATTEND HBCU COLLEGE FAIR AND DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Cesar Chavez High School students had the exciting opportunity to attend the HBCU College Fair and the Diversity Leadership Academy (DLA) this fall! These powerful experiences allowed students to explore college options, connect with university representatives, and participate in leadership workshops that celebrate diversity, culture, and academic excellence. Our Champions represented Chavez with pride as they planned for bright futures ahead!



ONGOING COLLEGE & CAREER SUPPORT — 2025–2026

We're proud to offer year-round college and career readiness support for all Champions! Whether you're applying to college, completing your FAFSA, or exploring scholarship opportunities, there's help available every week. Please encourage students to take advantage of these great resources throughout the year!

Day	Program / Support	Details
Weekly (Ongoing)	FSA ID & FAFSA help, college/university applications, scholarship searches, Next Steps, and more	Available throughout the week
Every Other Monday	Scholarship Workshops	During Advisory
Mondays & Tuesdays	South Mountain Community College (SMCC) Support with Ms. Rachel Harrison	All day in the Counseling Office & Lab L during Advisory
Every Other Tuesday	First-Generation Group	During Advisory
Thursdays	Grand Canyon University (GCU) Support with Mr. Monte Thompson	During Advisory
Fridays (8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m)	Be A Leader / META	FSA ID & FAFSA help, college apps, scholarship guidance, and more

Be the Change Club Launches FarmRaiser Program!

BE THE CHANGE AND SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS TOGETHER!

The Be the Change Club is excited to announce the return of the FarmRaiser Program this year! FarmRaiser is a month-to-month produce subscription that gives families the opportunity to enjoy fresh, locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and other farm products—all while supporting our community.

We're expanding this program to include friends and Chavez families, so please feel free to share the flyer and help spread the word! The first order will be delivered on Thursday, October 23, and the deadline to sign up is Friday, October 17 by 2:00 p.m.



Subscribe

1. Go to <https://www.sunproducecoop.org/select-your-pick-up-site/>
2. Choose Cesar Chavez High School
3. Select "Get Farm Bag"
4. Register for your account
5. Pay online. There are 2 sizes: Simple Harvest: \$18.00 or Farmers Table: \$25.00.
6. You will also have an option to pay for add-ons like bread, eggs, and honey.

Eat Well. Eat Seasonally.

Support your Local Farms.

Be the Change Club in partnership with

Sun Produce Co-op

will be providing subscription

Fruit/Produce boxes.



SCAN ME



CCHS Library Resources and Tips

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

Join us in celebrating the rich diversity and culture of Latin America during Hispanic Heritage Month! Explore our Hispanic Heritage Virtual Library, created especially for all CCHS Champions, and discover amazing books, stories, and resources that highlight Hispanic voices and experiences. To access the library, visit our Virtual Libraries site, open Destiny Discover Library Catalog, sign in with your PXU Microsoft 365 login, and click the images to begin exploring. Enjoy reading and celebrating the vibrant history, heritage, and contributions of the Hispanic community!

Hispanic Heritage Month

Click on the images to access the eBooks, eAudiobooks, Collections, and other online resources.

Sign-in with your PXU Microsoft 365 login to access the online resources.

Discover Collections (PXU/CCHS Resource Lists)

Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15 - Oct 15

Latinx Young Adult Literature (Print)

Latinx Young Adult eBooks & eAudiobooks

#WECANHELP

Follow us on IG @cesarchavezhslibrary

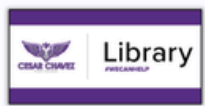
CCHS Library Resources and Tips (continued...)

LIBRARY LINKS

for Academic Success!

Bookmark these sites now!





CCHS Library Website
pxu.org/chavez/library
Online resources specific for Champions!



pxu.org/chavez/library/catalog
Search our catalog and checkout digital books. Sign-in with your PXU Microsoft 365 login.



Get our Library Catalog App for 24/7/365 access to eBooks & eAudiobooks on your phone!



CCHS Virtual Libraries
Explore collections and online resources related to literacy events and holidays.



PXU Libraries Portal
pxu.org/library
Online resources to support your learning.



PXU Databases
pxu.org/library/databases
Visit your library for database passwords.



PXU Libraries: College, Careers & Test Prep
pxu.org/library/testprep
Prepare for exams and future success!



Thousands of comics always available with unlimited access! Sign-in with your PXU Microsoft 365 login.



Driver Education
Get ready to take the exam for your permit or license.



Library

#WECANHELP



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS ALL THE LIBRARY RESOURCES ON THE CHOICE BOARD.