

EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Magnet Elementary Schools

The Sunnyside District Governing Board has approved the expansion of Gallego Basic Elementary School and has approved Liberty as the Gifted and Talented Magnet School. These newly-expanded magnet schools will:

- Keep our achieving students from leaving for other high-performing schools.
- Increase Sunnyside's opportunities for achieving Excelling AZ LEARNS designation.
- Establish a prototype for the K-5 learning environment of the future.

Freshman Academy

Freshman Academies will be established at Desert View and Sunnyside high schools beginning in Fall 2011. The goals of Freshman Academy are:

- Improve attendance and academic achievement.
- Support students with integrated learning opportunities linked to core standards.
- Allow for relevant learning experiences through community service.
- Connect all students to caring adults who guide them and help them plan for the future.
- Ensure preparation for college and career readiness and incorporate 21st Century Skills.

Grad Nation/America's Promise Alliance Partnership

Building a Grad Nation is a report published by America's Promise Alliance that provides a sobering assessment of our challenges to ending the dropout crisis in America's schools. The report shares some hopeful signs that some states and school districts are raising their high school graduation rates with scalable solutions, showing the nation we can end the high school dropout crisis. America has made gains since the initial dropout crisis reports in 2002. The Grad Nation report shows progress in states and school districts has often been the result of rising to a standard of excellence--with clear goals and expectations from the state to the classroom, by challenging all students with a more rigorous curriculum to obtain a meaningful diploma that prepares them for college and work, and through a targeted approach sustained over time that provides extra supports to the school leaders, teachers and students who need them the most. Progress was not the result of a magic bullet, but a weave of multiple reform efforts, sustained, integrated, and improved over time.

Free Internet Access for Sunnyside Families

Sunnyside District has come into a fantastic opportunity to provide up to 300 families with Internet access over the next two years. The District is currently seeking proposals from Internet providers and will have a selection process by which families may receive Internet access in their home at a cost of \$100 for two years which is Arizona Tax Credit eligible (making it free for families paying at least \$100 in Arizona taxes. This is made possible by a \$75,000 donation from the Tohono O'odam Nation with additional funding support by the Sunnyside Foundation.

Partnership with National Academic Educational Partners

The partnership between Sunnyside School District and NAEP is almost complete as the final agreements are worked out for replicating Project Graduation on a national scale. The NAEP marketing and sales team are gearing up for expanding the success of Sunnyside to Milwaukee school district next fall and crafting a successful implementation program that will be expanded to ten other school districts. NAEP CEO Jeffery Hernandez met with Sunnyside staff and is excited about the strategic partnership that will result in a powerful alliance for improving education here in Arizona and nationally.