



PRESS RELEASE

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Summer School Increases Student Success, Graduation Rates

High School Students Use Summer to Continue Learning

Avondale, Arizona - Summertime provides students with a much-needed break from school. But for some high schoolers, summer break is an opportunity to continue learning. “This school year was incredibly difficult for students because of the challenges related to the pandemic. So we saw an uptick in summer-school interest,” said Bryan Richman, Non-Traditional Programs Director for the Agua Fria Union High School District (Agua Fria UHSD).

“We had over 800 students enroll in our various summer-school program offerings. In some cases they earned or recovered credits and in other cases got a head start on high school. Regardless, our programs made a positive impact on students’ lives,” commented Richman. “A big congratulations to the seniors who enrolled in summer school, persevered, and graduated high school. Their willingness to work hard, stay the course and earn their diploma means they created a better, brighter future for themselves.”

Summer-school successes include:

- Incoming freshman earned .5 elective credit for getting a jump start on their learning
- Students earned .5 elective credit for completing an “Introduction to computer science course”

- Students recovered credits to stay on track for graduation
- Seniors enrolled to meet the graduation requirements and earned their diploma
- Students earned credits to graduate early

Despite having a compressed, four-week summer-school schedule, students are held to the same rigorous academic standards as they are during the regular school year. “We are incredibly proud of the students who used their break to continue learning and are excited for the seniors who put in the extra time and effort to earn their diplomas,” Tom Huffman, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning enthusiastically shared.

While summer-school programs traditionally run only in the month of June, students in the Agua Fria UHSD will return to in-person learning soon. Freshmen will be welcomed onto campuses Monday, August 2 and all other students return on Tuesday, August 3. [Agua Fria Online](#) will also launch August 2, providing an opportunity for students who want to continue with remote learning. To help all students prepare for the incoming school year, information from school principals will be emailed out in the coming weeks.

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Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Waddell and part of Glendale with its five high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado. Plus the District offers three alternative programs: Coldwater Academy, New Directions and Agua Fria Online. More information can be found at aguafria.org.