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NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE@<https://www.fhgeef.org/mentoring> GEEF Mentor News, August 15, 2026

**IT'S TIME TO GATHER FOR MENTORING
 NOTE DATE CHANGE TO 9/15!!!!**



1. MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND RSVP FOR OUR FIRST 'READY, SET, MENTOR' EVENT OF 2026, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 8a-10a, at the FHUSD Learning Center. Bring your Mentor Program Guide (new mentors will receive their copy!) and be prepared to update your contents. You'll also receive a new journal for your mentee! Coffee, tea, water and light snacks will be served. For those who join us later in the year, look for periodic 'Coffee and Catchup' events and also for our annual January celebration of National Mentoring Month.



If you've not already done so, go to <https://www.fhgeef.org/mentoring> and fill out your 2026-27 Mentor Profile. Also, Kristi Fuda at FHUSD main office can update your security clearance if needed. To keep us organized, your 2026-27 must be in by September 30 to continue mentoring. However, you can apply again when you're ready to be reactivated.

Protecting our Mentees' Rights & Data Safety

Reprinted from the 3/15/26 newsletter

The Golden Eagle Education Foundation and its Mentors are invited onto each campus as guests by the school. With the privilege of that invitation comes an obligation to follow specific rules and regulations.

Of particular note, a mentee's right to privacy is protected by a federal law known as 'Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, or FERPA. We, as mentors, have a legal duty to our mentees and their families, to maintain confidentiality of educational records. One of the best ways to comply is to not discuss a student, their work, or their behavior with anyone who is not a member of the mentee's teaching team.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of educational records.

As a volunteer you may occasionally be given access to student record information as necessary to fulfill the task you have been assigned. The information you are provided should only be

used for this purpose and under no circumstances should you further disclose the information or release it to any other individuals. Once your task is completed any paper copies or electronic information regarding students must be returned to a designated school staff member.

As mentors, our major areas of compliance involve not sharing photos in which the student is recognizable (for our closed circulation newsletter, note that all student faces are cropped out) and the work samples are kept confidential. Contact Kim or Donna if you have any questions.

For more information, this article has more details:
[FERPA Primer: The Basics and Beyond](#)





As we say thank you and farewell to Jenna VanBeek, our outgoing Board President, please join us in welcoming our new GEEF Board President, Brooke Dyrhaug.

Dear Mentors,,

As Board President of the Golden Eagle Education Foundation, Brooke Dyrhaug is committed to advancing educational opportunities and enriching the student experience throughout the Fountain Hills Unified School District. With career spanning education, leadership development, community engagement, and strategic program management, she brings a unique blend of educator insight and nonprofit leadership to the Foundation.

Brooke began her professional journey as a 4th grade teacher at Four Peaks Elementary School where she taught for 13 years, developing a passion for helping students reach their full potential. She later transitioned into healthcare leadership, where she has led large-scale training, patient experience, and culture transformation initiatives for organizations across the country.

Currently serving as a Regional Patient Experience Program Manager for UnitedHealthcare, she specializes in leadership development, stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and building collaborative partnerships that drive meaningful outcomes.

As President of the Golden Eagle Education Foundation, Brooke works alongside board members, educators, business leaders, and community partners to support innovative classroom grants, student scholarships, mentoring programs, and teacher appreciation initiatives. Her vision is to ensure that every Fountain Hills student has access to opportunities that inspire learning, leadership, and future success, regardless of financial barriers.

A proud resident of Fountain Hills, Brooke is passionate about investing in the community's future by strengthening connections between schools, families, businesses, and local organizations. She believes that when a community comes together to support education, students thrive, educators feel valued, and the entire town benefits.

"Education changes lives, and strong communities invest in their students. I am honored to serve as Board President and help create opportunities that empower the next generation of leaders"

— Brooke Dyrhaug.



Welcome and welcome back from your co-coordinator team! We are here to help you in all things 'MENTORING', so please don't hesitate to reach out. Along with your standing team, Kim Danielski, Donna Male, Michelle Ryan, and Connie Barczak, 'Lady Sue' Hendershott has joined us as primary contact for the Middle School campus. Remember that there is HELPFUL info in every monthly newsletter - mark your calendar to look for it in your email on the 15th of each month!

Happy Mentoring and kind regards, Kim, Donna, Michelle, Connie, and Sue. 🌻

	MENTOR PROGRAM 2026-2027 Important Dates & Special Events <i>This calendar is updated in every subsequent monthly newsletter - Stay connected through the Golden Eagle Website: Mentoring Golden Eagle Education Foundation and monthly electronic newsletter mailings. LOOK FOR THE GMAILED NEWSLETTER ON THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH!</i>
JULY/AUGUST - students return; co-Coordinator begin mentoring prep	Falcon Fest is July 28. Students return on July 30. Teachers begin working with their new classes as we prepare mentee schedules. - 1st 2026-27 email will be sent to all veteran & new mentors on August 15th. Mentors begin working with mentees AFTER Labor Day.
SEPTEMBER -FERPA LAWS; Our official start EVENT is NOW TUESDAY, September 15th	-Welcome Back Mentors: 'READY, SET, MENTOR' EVENT, September 15th, Learning Center 8-10:00am. Veteran Mentors, BRING YOUR MENTOR MANUALS for updating. New Mentors - if you want to start right away, attend this mini-training session - you'll receive a Mentor Manual and brief training. NOTE 'READY, SET, MENTOR EVENT DATE CHANGE!'
OCTOBER Featured AZ Standards: MATH	-Fall Break; no school October 5-12 First Full length -Training/Refresh Session: OCTOBER 8, 2026, 9A-11A, Chamber of Commerce Building October 28-30: Pk-8 CONFERENCES (HS final exams). Note that 10/28-10/30, ½ day release; no mentoring will be scheduled during these conference/HS exam days.
NOVEMBER Featured AZ Standards: READING/ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	-'Coffee & Catch Up' OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS - WE'LL TAKE A VOTE ON 9/15. - Wednesday 11/11 - Veterans' Day. No school - Thank a Veteran! -Training/Refresh Session: NOVEMBER 12, 2026,, 9A-11A Chamber of Commerce Building - Friday, 11/20-22 - Orme Dam Festival at Fort McDowell - Wednesday, 11/25 - ½ day release; check your mentee's schedule - Thanksgiving Break, 11/26-11/29. Students return 11/30
DECEMBER Featured AZ Standards SCIENCE	Weekly mentoring only; no scheduled training or other events. See your Mentor Manual for gift giving 'best practices', pg.21, item #6 Friday, December 18th, Half-day release; Winter break begins, No Mentoring on this short schedule day. -Winter Break: December 19-January 4 - remember to let your mentee know that you're excited to see them again after the break!
JANUARY Featured AZ Standards: SOCIAL STUDIES & HISTORY	Tuesday, January 5, 2026 - students return -Training/Refresh Session: JANUARY 21, 2027, 9A-11A Chamber of Commerce Building MLK Day, Monday, January 18; No school. Thank You Mentor Gathering, DATE TBFHUSD Learning Center 8-9:30a
FEBRUARY Featured topic: Play Games	-'Coffee & Catch Up' DATE & TIME TBD at Fountain View Coffee) - February 15, Presidents Day- NO SCHOOL!
MARCH Featured Topics: Mentoring Test Taking Strategies	-Spring Break: March 5th - ½ day early release; Spring Break Continues, no school March Mon.8-Mon.March 15 LOTS of TESTING & FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS - ACCESSIBLE DATES TBD
APRIL Shared data from EOY Survey & Preview of planned changes to the 2027-28 mentor program	TESTING IS COMPLETED AND YEAR END EVENTS BEGIN - BE SURE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MENTEE'S SCHEDULE! MIDDLE SCHOOL PIZZA PARTY - TBD MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN ICE CREAM SOCIAL - TBD
MAY; Featured Topic: scheduling info for next year and FAREWELL for the summer.	Last day for Mentoring: Friday May 14 Kinder to 1st Gr.Promotion: T, 5/18, 9:30a-10:30 (at MMES) 5th to 6thMS Promotion: W, 5/19, 5:30p-6:30p (at MMES); 8th to 9th Th, 5/20, 6:00P-7:00P (AT HS Gym) HS Promotion: F, 5/21, 6:00p-7:00p(at the Fountain Park Amphitheater) -Returning Mentor Profile for 2027-2028 is due. please respond by 5/31.



FOUNTAIN HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FHUSD 2026-2027 Approved Calendar

Fall Term-60 days (ends 10/30), Winter Term-59 days (ends 2/12), Spring Term-61 days (ends 5/20)

JULY						
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JUNE						
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Students Return	July 30, 2026
Wednesday Early Release	August 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2026
Labor Day/No School	September 7, 2026
Wednesday Early Release	September 2, 16 & 23, 2026
Half Day Release (PK-12)	October 2, 2026
Fall Break/No School	October 5-12, 2026
Wednesday Early Release	October 21, 2026
PK-8 Parent Teacher Conferences	October 28-October 30, 2026
HS Fall Term Final Exams (Half Day Release PK-12)	October 28-30, 2026
End of Fall Term (Half Day Release PK-12)	October 30, 2026
Veteran's Day/No School	November 11, 2026
Wednesday Early Release	November 4 & 18, 2026
Thanksgiving Break/No School	November 25-27, 2026
Wednesday Early Release	December 2 & 9, 2026
Half Day Release (PK-12)	December 18, 2026
Winter Break/No School	Dec 21, 2026-Jan 4, 2027
Wednesday Early Release	January 13 & 27, 2027
MLK Day/No School	January 18, 2027
Wednesday Early Release	February 3 & 24, 2027
PK-8 Parent Teacher Conferences	February 8-12, 2027
HS Winter Term Final Exams (Half Day Release PK-12)	February 10, 11 & 12, 2027
End of Winter Term (Half Day Release PK-12)	February 12, 2027
Presidents' Day Holiday/No School	February 15, 2027
Half Day Release PK-12	March 5, 2027
Spring Break/No School	March 8-15, 2027
District Recess/No School	March 26, 2027
Wednesday Early Release	March 31, 2027
Half Day Release (PK-12)	April 7, 14 & 28, 2027
Wednesday Early Release	April 23, 2027
HS Spring Term Final Exams	May 5 & 12, 2027
Half Day Release (PK-12)	May 18, 19 & 20, 2027
End of Spring Term - Last Student Day/Half Day (PK-12)	May 20, 2027
Graduation	May 21, 2027
Last Day for Teachers	May 21, 2027

Adopted: March 4, 2026

- First Day of School
- Holiday/No School
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Teacher Work Day - No School
- Last Day of Trimester
- Early Release Wednesday
- Half Day Release PK-12