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Mentor Monthly Newsletter, March 15, 2026

Your Input Helps Us Better Serve Our Students

Thank you to all 27 Mentors who responded to our Survey! We will keep chipping away until we have closer to 100% responses, but for now, here's a sample of our membership's thoughts

Why our members like mentoring

"I enjoy getting to know students while figuring out how to best support their learning journey."

"going great! Love it!"

"Even in retirement, it's great to be able to impact a student's learning!"

"Connecting with and having a positive relationship with my mentee"

Opportunities for Improvement in 2026-27

"more support as to needs of student;
1:50pm-mentor room very busy with 20 students/teachers"

"Placement took too long"

"More access to grades (Chromebooks)"

"Scheduling was most difficult this season for both teachers and mentors. 'Director' contact with teachers seems to have worked more smoothly in past years."

"Maybe different day/time for coffee catchups"

In April's newsletter, look for updates and explanations that address comments



Protecting our Mentees' Rights & Data Safety



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 are 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](#)

A Note from the Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board

As we move into the spring months, we're excited to share a few updates from the Foundation. Our board recently approved funding for **eight fantastic Classroom Projects**, bringing new and creative opportunities into our schools. We always enjoy seeing the innovative ideas our teachers bring forward to enrich student learning.

Our **Scholarship Program** is also moving full steam ahead. Applications have been submitted and are now being carefully reviewed by our volunteer scorers. We're grateful for the time and thought they dedicate to this important process.

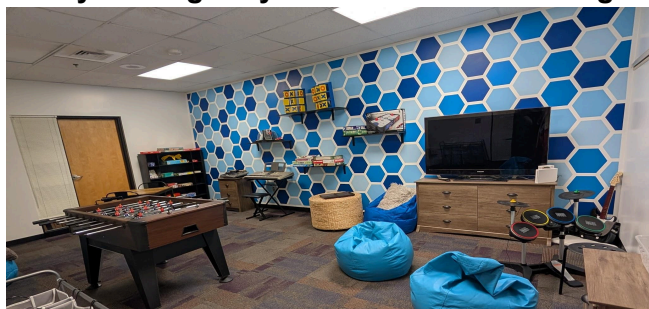
We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our graduating seniors during the **Senior Recognition Night on Monday, April 20th**. It's always a special night recognizing the bright futures ahead for these students.

Thank you for being part of the Golden Eagle Education Foundation community.

~Jenna



Hey Middle School Mentors - NEW! Ask Stef to direct you to the new mentor space option. Pinball, keyboard and Comfy seating for your use while mentoring!



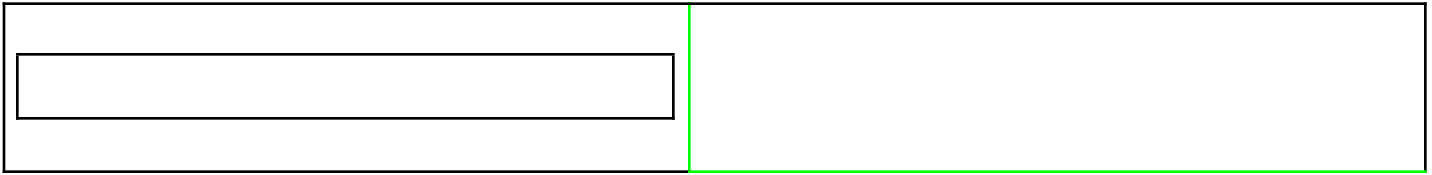
Share Testing SUCCESS Tips w/ your Mentee



The Arizona State Tests cover selected questions from an entire school year's learning, so when you're meeting with your Mentee for the next few weeks, you might find it best to focus on practicing the skill of HOW to take a test and leave the WHAT'S TO BE TESTED to the teachers unless the teacher asks you to do something specific. Reinforcing these five steps can help your Mentee build success!

- **Read the questions twice**
–Students should carefully read the question twice to make sure that they understand what the questions is asking
- **Always read the question first**
–If a student must read a paragraph and answer the questions, they should read the questions and then read the paragraph
- **Use the process of elimination**
–Read through all of the answers and decide which answers it cannot be, then choose the best answer out of the answers remaining
- **Flag questions**
–Many of these computerized tests have the ability to flag questions. If a test taker is unsure of an answer they should make their best guess, flag the question and then move on. If there is time at the end they can then go back to the flagged questions and double check their answers

- **Relax** - '3-2-4' breathing can help improve focus in tense testing situations:
[Controlled Breathing: 3-2-4 Breath Technique | Aligned Modern Health](#)

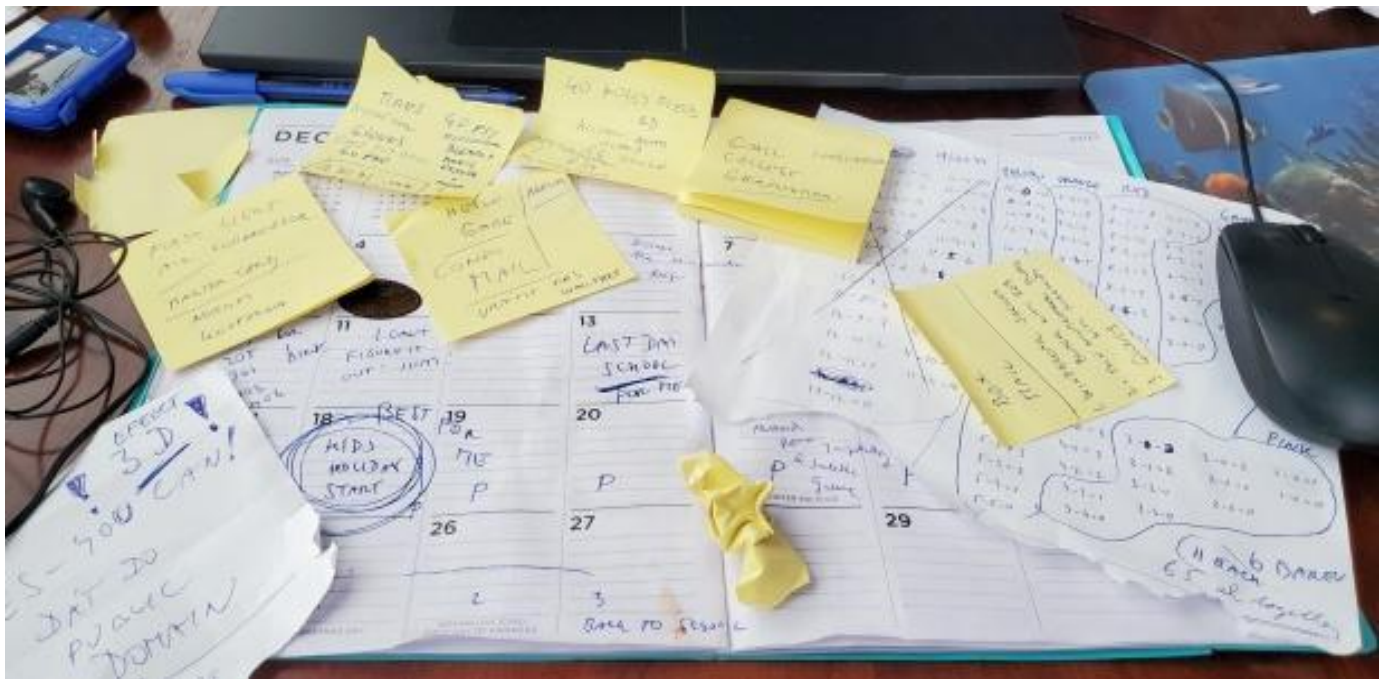


🙄 BUSY TIMES IN OUR SCHOOLS. | PLAN FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN YOUR MENTORING SCHEDULE

From March 20th through end of year. 😊

MORE THAN EVER OUR UPDATED MENTOR CALENDAR IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS!
BE SURE YOU LOOK FOR TESTING DATES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR MENTEE'S AVAILABILITY. NOTE ALSO THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE ABSENCES DURING TESTING WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL TBD 'MAKE-UP' TESTING DATES IN THE LAST WEEKS OF APRIL.

TAKE NOTE THAT THERE ARE VARIOUS TEST DATES FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL STARTING THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH. BE SURE YOU MAKE TIME TO DROP YOUR MENTEE'S TEACHER A NOTE TO VERIFY AVAILABILITY. WE WILL SEND OUT NOTICE IF/WHEN WE'RE INFORMED OF ANY SCHOOL DECISIONS TO 'BLACK-OUT' ANY DAYS OR WEEKS.





MENTOR PROGRAM 2025-26

Important Dates & Special Events

AUGUST	- Informational emails sent to all previous and new mentors
SEPTEMBER	-Welcome Back Mentors GREET & GRANOLA, September 3rd, Learning Center 8-9:30am -Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, September 4, 9-11am, Chamber -Match Mentors with Mentees! Let's start after Labor Day!
OCTOBER Featured AZ Standards: MATH	-Fall Break; no school October 6-13 Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, October 2, 9-11am, Chamber October 27-31: FALL CONFERENCES. Note that 10/29-10/31 will be HALF day release; no mentoring will be scheduled during these conference days. Remind your mentee that you'll be back in early November. Elementary school mentors! You should be hearing from your assigned mentee's
NOVEMBER Featured AZ Standards: READING/ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	-Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, November 6, 9-11am, Chamber -'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. Nov. 5 (tentative 1-3pm, place TBD) -Tuesday, 11/11 - Veterans' Day. No school - Thank a Veteran! - Friday, 11/14-16 - Orme Dam Festival at Fort McDowell - Wednesday, 11/26 - ½ day release; check your mentee's schedule - Thanksgiving Break, 11/27-30. Students returns 12/1
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 19th, Half-day release; Winter break begins, No Mentoring on this short schedule day. -Winter Break: December 22-January 5 - 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 6, 2026 - students return -Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, January 15, 9-11am , Chamber of Commerce Building MLK Day, Monday, January 19; No school. Thank You Mentor Gathering, January 21, FHUSD Learning Center 8-9:30a
FEBRUARY Featured topic: Play Games	-'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. Feb. 11, 1p-3p at Fountain View Coffee) - February 16, Presidents Day- NO SCHOOL!
MARCH Featured Topics: Mentoring Test Taking Strategies & FERPA	-Spring Break: March 6th - ½ day early release; Spring Break Continues, no school March Mon.9-Mon.16 FIELD TRIPS THIS MONTH: K: 3/2; 5th: 3/ 4; 1st: 3/ 5; MM Field Day: 3/20; -AzScience Testing 4th Gr: 3/23-3/25; 8th Gr: 3/24-3/26 FIELD TRIPS: 7th: 3/23; 8th: 3/24(overnight return); 5th: 3/30-4/1; -AASA Writing Tests: 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th: 3/31; 3rd&5th: 4/1.
APRIL Shared data from EOY Survey & Preview of planned changes to the mentor program for 2026-27	-'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. April 1st (tentative 1-3pm, place TBD) -4/3, District Recess; No School -AASA Writing Tests: 3rd&5th: 4/1; -AASA ELA Tests: 3rd&5th: 4/6&4/8; 4th, 6th,7th, 8th: 4/7&4/9 -AASA Math Tests: 3rd&5th: 4/13&4/15; 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th: 4/14&4/16 Senior Recognition is Monday, 4/20, 6:30p-8p at Community Center -End of Year Mentor/Mentee Celebrations (tent.w/o 4/27). Attendance is strongly encouraged; it matters to your mentee!
MAY Featured Topic: FAREWELL!	-Last day for Mentoring: Friday May 15 (tentative/to be discussed K to 1st Promo Visit: 5/ 6; 5th to MS Promo visit: 5/13; 8th to HS Promo visit: 5/14 Check back here in April for K, 5th, & 8th promotions ceremonies w/o 5/18. -Mentor Profile for 2026/27 is due. please respond by 5/31.