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

Monitoring and adjusting to make our Mentoring Program even better: Changes happening in 2026-27 mentoring school year



Thanks largely to your regular input, we continue to work on solutions to make the Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program even better every year. For the first time in many years, we are a 100% volunteer organization and we are very proud of the contribution our collective efforts make to the Fountain Hills Unified School District. Here are synopses of the responses mentors provided to our Spring 2026 Electronic Survey.

WHY OUR MEMBERS LOVE MENTORING

Without exception, our mentor survey responses confirmed that making a difference in a child's life is what keeps on bringing us all back each year. The 21st Century student faces increasing challenges and your support to a mentee can make an enormous difference in their current and future success. Your presence is POWERFUL! ***'With everybody you encounter, you leave either footprints to follow or scars to heal'*** - Gerry Brooks, 2023. Leave footprints to guide.



Opportunities for Improvement in 2026-27 - GEEF's responses to Spring Survey comments

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN THE MENTORING LANDSCAPE?



"Placement took too long"

Timely placement was an issue at the elementary school this past year. It took a bit to work things out, but once 'Mentor time' was determined to be eligible for 'WIN' ('**what I need**', a **relatively new time slot**), we were able to resolve placement for students who had been waiting for as much as 3 months. We regret the delay and we're changing our information flow this year and will work with teachers to establish 'WIN' periods for all mentees by Labor Day.

Middle School and High School campuses serve much smaller mentor groups and both of those campuses continued to place mentees during their 'electives' or 'advisor' periods. Remember that mentor placement does have to wait until the teachers have a few weeks to get to know their new students - we are confident that **we'll have all students who HAVE SUBMITTED A SIGNED PARENT PERMISSION FORM** placed shortly after Labor Day.

New Goal: **Mentors will receive their mentoring assignment at the 'GREET & GRANOLA Event during the 1st week of September.** Seasonal mentors, let us know when you're ready!

Continued on pg.2

Spring Survey Synopses Continue Here



“More support as to needs of students”

As noted in last month’s newsletter,, there are FERPA limits as to what specific mentee details can be shared by teachers and administrators. Generally, most teachers will share current work products, but you have three other options too:

1. Both Kim and Donna are retired master teachers - Call us. Text us. Nab us in the hallway. We are familiar with most general education-related situations and can offer recommended approaches or find a staff member who can answer particulars!

2. If you’re unsure about what lessons to focus on, go to <https://www.fhgeef.org/mentoring> and find the NEW ‘LINKS & LAWS’ tab. You can pull up AZ Dept. of Education Standards by grade and subject specific academic levels and possible activities to support the mentee’s designated learning standards.

3. **The GREEN FOLDER named MENTOR PROGRAM GUIDE that you received in 2026** is filled with valuable general and specific information about mentoring at any FHUSD campus. Note to veteran mentors: if you have an ‘old green folder’ from previous years, contact Kim for this updated green folder!

[During some time blocks], mentor room was very busy with 20 students/teachers’

We have the okay to use all 3 team rooms at MMES and MS opened a 2nd room last year. We’re adding ‘room assignment’ to our data and we’ll monitor and relocate as needed when congestion issues arise.

“More access to grades (Chromebooks)” -

Working on it. This might remain an individual issue - ask your contact teacher if your mentee can borrow a Chromebook for your session.

Coffee & Catch-up’s will be scheduled at different days/times throughout the year - Please join us!

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, on Monday, April 20th, 6:30pm, at the Community Center, Golden Eagle Education Foundation Scholarship Division and other community and state organizations will recognize a number of Fountain Hills Seniors and present monetary rewards to a number of deserving graduates! This event is open to the public!



As the school year draws to a close, all our mentees will move up the academic ladder, but four groups will receive special recognition as their academic advancement has them changing campuses and one group moves on to their futures. Each of these promotions/‘step ups’/graduations carries a special meaning to the designated group(an maybe a butterfly or three..🦋). If you have or had a mentee that is reaching a milestone this year, **ask them to talk about their thoughts and consider attending their ‘graduation.’**

GRADUATIONS!

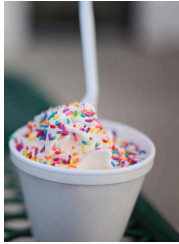
Kindergarten to 1st Grade: Tuesday, May 19, 9:30a-10:30a (at MMES)

5th to 6th Middle School: Wednesday, May 20, 5:30p-6:30p (at MMES)

8th to 9th HS: Tuesday, May 19, 6:00p-7:00p (at HS Gym)

FHUSD Seniors’ Graduation: Friday, May 22, 7:00pm (at the Fountain Amphitheater!)

YEAR END MENTOR/MENTEE/PARENT CELEBRATIONS - Invitation sheets are waiting for you to hand out at your school!
VOLUNTEERS FOR GREETING, SETUP & BREAKDOWN ARE REQUESTED.



Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program is wrapping up for the year and mentors will be sharing sweet treats with our mentees. Parents, you are welcome to join us **Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 2:35-3:00p** in the cafeteria at **McDowell Mountain Elementary School**. Parents have a chance to sign their child up to have a mentor again next year while we say farewell for now. 🥰

Mentors, 'farewell' for the year is important to your mentee



Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program is wrapping up for the year and mentors will be sharing a pizza party with our mentees. Parents, you are welcome to join us **Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 11:16-11:46** in Room F205 at **FH Middle School**. Parents have a chance to sign their student up to have a mentor again next year while we say farewell for now.

Mentors, saying 'farewell' for the year is important to your mentee



A Note from the Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board

As the school year begins to wind down, we want to take a moment to thank each of you for the time, care, and consistency you've given to your students. For those heading off to cooler refuges soon, we are especially grateful for your service this year and hope to welcome you back again next fall.

We're excited to celebrate our seniors at the **April 20th Senior Recognition Night**, where GEEF will award **over \$70,000 in scholarships**—a testament to the generosity of our community and the bright futures ahead for these students.

This is also a perfect time to highlight our fourth signature program, **Teacher–Staff Appreciation**. These awards recognize educators and staff within the Fountain Hills Unified School District who make exceptional contributions and lasting impacts on students' lives. Recipients are selected through peer nominations and an evaluation process, with awards being presented on **May 22nd**.

Thank you for being such an important part of the GEEF mission.

—The Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board



WAIT! One last thing before you take off for the summer, visit <https://www.fhgeef.org/mentoring> and fill out your 2026-27 Mentor Profile. Remember also to check your security clearance and see Kristi Fuda at FHUSD main office if you're due for a renewal. Thank you for all you do.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">MENTOR PROGRAM 2025-26</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Important Dates & Special Events</h3>
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	<small>-'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. Feb. 11, 1p-3p at Fountain View Coffee</small> - 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,1; Fountain View Coffee, 1-3pm -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(NOTE DATE CHANGE 🗣️ and the public is welcome to cheer on the seniors! -End of Year Mentor/Mentee Celebrations MS&HS: 4/29, 11:16-11:46a at MS Campus; MM: 4/29, 2:35-3:00p. Attendance is strongly encouraged; you matter to your mentee!
MAY Featured Topic: FAREWELL!	-Last day for Mentoring: Friday May 15 Kinder to 1st Gr.Promotion: T.5/19, 9:30a-10:30a (at MMES) 5th to 6thMS Promotion: W/5/20, 5:30p-6:30p (at MMES) 8th to 9thHS Promotion: Tu/5/19, 6:00p-7:00p (at HS Gym) -Mentor Profile for 2026/27 is due. please respond by 5/31.

Students return and meet their new teacher(s) July 30. Mentoring begins after Labor Day.