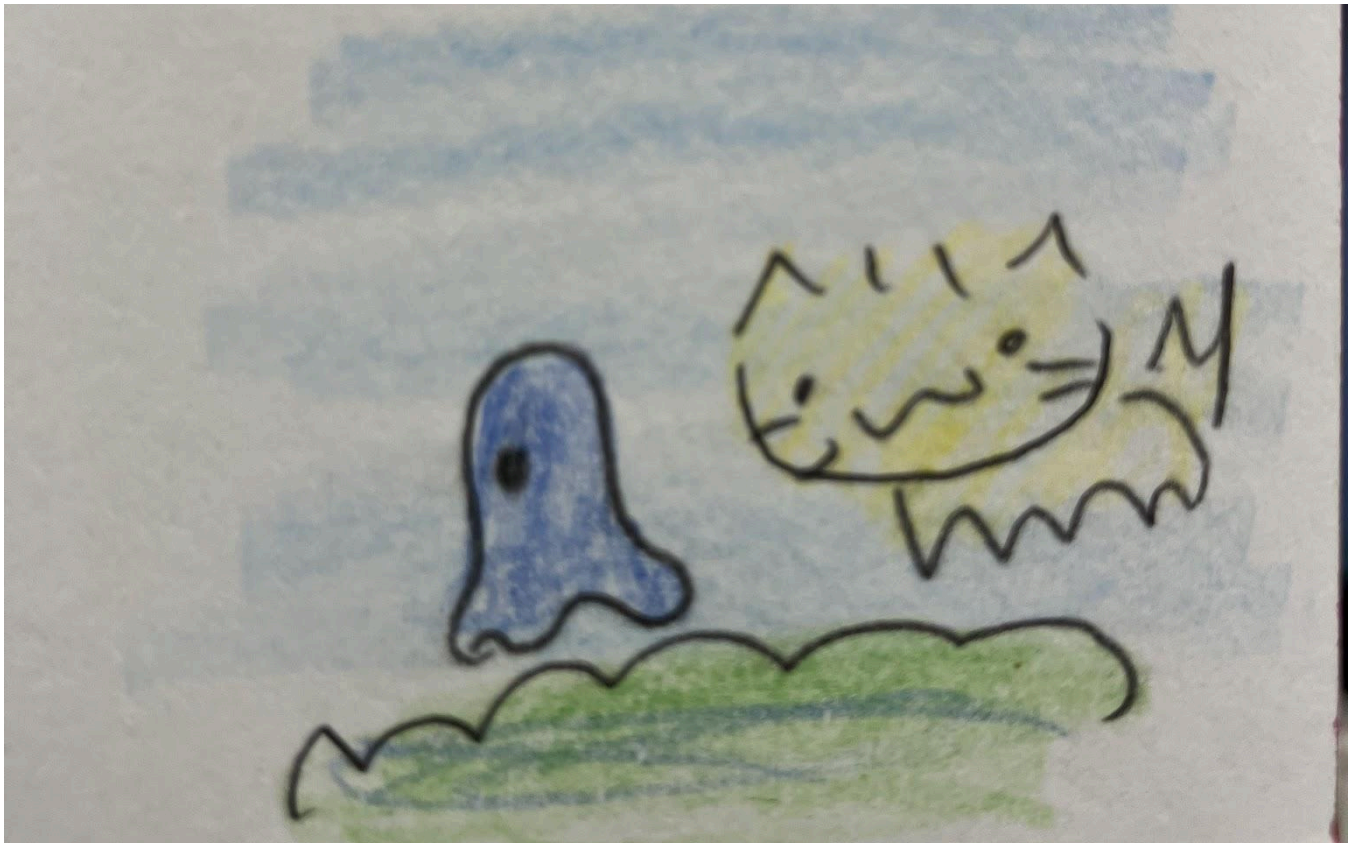
Kim Danielski, Board Member, co-Coordinator,
danielskikim@gmail.com, 630-750-4658
Donna Male, Onsite Support, co-Coordinator,
donnamalegeef1@gmail.com
480-283-3743

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

With apologies, I had to make a choice between battling with some 'edit resistant' page breaks and getting the monthly newsletter on its way, on time. On time won… please enjoy the information contained herein and I do solemnly swear to wrestle with the gods of Google editing so that next month we don't have such odd blocks of white space! As a quick fix, I added this charming student drawing from my Art class a few years ago.

Happy Fall, Spooky Halloween, and Kind regards,
Donna



Happy Halloween from my 2024 FHMS Art Class!

First training/refresher session was October 8; the NEXT SESSION is Thursday, November12.

Education is a dynamic endeavor, so there's always something new to learn. For new mentors, training is mandatory, but for our learned veterans, there's also something new to pick up. Did you know that there are different protocols for different emergency drills on all campuses? How do you use 'Active Listening' to engage a hesitant learners? It's all outlined in your Mentor Manual, but if you'd like to reserve a seat to learn more, Contact Kim at your convenience!

* Mentor Training/Refresh Dates:

~~- Thursday, October 8, 2026, 9-11am @ Chamber of Commerce~~

- Thursday, November 12, 2026, 9-11am @ Chamber of Commerce

- Thursday, January 21, 2027, 9-11am @ Chamber of Commerce



GENEROUS COMMUNITY GROUPS KEEP US AFLOAT

In the Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program, our mentor members are our true currency, but periodic infusions of monetary support keep us focused on our mission. 4 Peaks Rotary, one of our loyal community support groups, again gifted us with $4000 in September.

Mentee Engagement Suggestions



This month, math is our featured academic discipline. Here are some **AZ ED links** and project suggestions. 😉 More on writing next month. Tap the work 'search' to open the Arizona Department of Education Math link for your grade:

Kinder: Draw a couple outlines numbers each week for students to trace or color and praise the mentee when s/he can create numbers unaided - small steps count!.
1st az 1st grade math standards - **Search**
2nd math for 2nd grade - Search
3rd 3rd grade math standards - **Search**
4th 4th grade math standards - **Search**
5th -FEATURED Project: Create fraction bars using the lines of the journal. Students can struggle with the concept that ⅓ is greater than ¼, until they see the two measures side by side. Arizona AASA Grade 5 Math: Free Worksheets

6th - AZ 6th grade math standards - **Search**
7th - 7th grade math standards - **Search**
8th - az 7th grade math standards - **Search**
HS - Prep for Spring testing; start each session with 5 minute Stamina Writing.



WE HAVE OFFICIALLY BEGUN THE MENTORING YEAR!
Note that we jealously protect your time and limit even voluntary meetings to the bare minimum. That said, Every month, on the 15th, we send out a newsletter that has important updates and useful information - we ask that you make it a point to look for that email every month and keep yourself informed!

Our “Ready, Set, Mentor” kick-off event happened on September 15th with around 50% attendance (not bad considering that more than ¼ of our mentors return to the valley from October to January) and much lively conversation. Tap the link to the slide show below which can be shared with friends and family to increase Golden Eagle Education Foundation’s Mentor Program awareness in Fountain Hills.

'Greet & Granola', 2026-27, Mentor Program Inaugural …



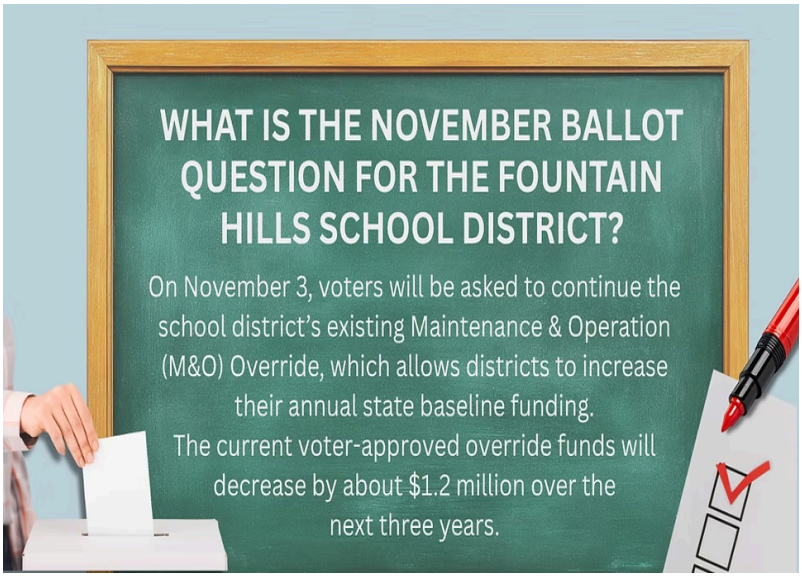
FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR, STAMINA WRITING IS A FOUNDATIONAL TOOL FOR ALL! For ALL grade levels: 1. Weekly five-minute journal writes Use a meaningful (to the mentee) image or sentence starter and ask students to write without stopping for five minutes. It is not about perfection. It is about building fluency and independence. Start small, then increase the writing time as stamina improves. Here are a BUNCH of short videos to give you some ideas: https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;_ylt=A2RQpyd3E9Bq1QIAkT5XNyoA;_ylu=Y29sbwN1cy13ZXN0LTIEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3BpdnM-?p=teaching+stamina+writing&fr2=piv-web&type=E210US739G0&fr=mcafee

Mentee writing idea: Set a timer and challenge the mentee to keep their pencil moving until time is up. Revisit the piece later for editing or improvement. Nothing to write? If the mentee simply writes his/her name over and over, without fail, a thought that can be written down or drawn (from ‘littles’) WILL bubble into their consciousness!

Remember to get out and VOTE on November 3rd. Our Fountain Hills Unified School District is on the ballot and the schools could use our support. Tap the link below to see some information about what is on the line:

M&O Override Election | Fountain Hills USD

FHSCHOOLS







A Note from the Golden Eagle Education Foundation

As we settle into another exciting school year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your commitment, dedication, and support of the Golden Eagle Education Foundation.

We are especially grateful to those who were able to attend our **"Ready, Set, Mentor" Kickoff Meeting**. Your enthusiasm, engagement, and willingness to invest in our students set a positive tone for the year ahead. We are excited to see the meaningful connections that will develop through the mentoring program.

In addition to the launch of our mentoring activities, we have officially begun the review process for our **Fall Classroom Projects**, one of GEEF's signature programs. We have received several innovative and inspiring submissions, and we are excited about the impact these projects will have on classrooms throughout our district.

Looking ahead, another of our signature programs, the **GEEF Scholarship Program**, will soon be launching to our community. This is always an exciting time as we prepare to support and celebrate the achievements of our students.

There are so many wonderful things happening across the Golden Eagle Education Foundation, and none of it would be possible without dedicated volunteers like you. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and passion in support of our students and schools.

We look forward to another successful year together!

With gratitude,

The Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board



"Helping students soar" GOLDEN EAGLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION	**MENTOR PROGRAM 2026-2027** **Important Dates & Special Events** *This calendar is updated in every subsequent monthly newsletter - stay connected through the Golden Eagle Website: https://www.fhgeef.org/mentoring and monthly electronic newsletter mailings.* **LOOK FOR THE GMAILED NEWSLETTER ON THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH!**
JULY/AUGUST - FERPA LAWS; students return; mentoring prep begins	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 Featured:-EMERGENCY PROCEDURES; Our official start is Wednesday, September 9.	-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.
OCTOBER Featured AZ Standards: MATH	-Fall Break; no school October 5-12 First Full length **Training/Refresh Session Oct.8, 2026,** 9-11am, Chamber of Commerce 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	-**Training/Refresh Session: Nov.12, 2026,** 9-11am, Chamber of Commerce -**'Coffee & Catch Up' Wednesday, November 18th, 1p-3p.; ideas for journaling! Fountain View.** - Wednesday 11/11 - Veterans' Day. No school - Thank a Veteran! - 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: Jan.21, 2027,** Chamber of Commerce Building MLK Day, Monday, January 18; No school. **Thank You Mentor Gathering, DATE TBD FHUSD Learning Center 8-9:30a**
FEBRUARY Featured topic: Play Games	-'Coffee & Catch Up' February ____ Breakfast?? TBD - 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 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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AUGUST

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30	31					

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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JUNE

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27	28	29	30			

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

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 26-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
Wednesday Early Release	April 7, 14 & 28, 2027
Half Day Release ***(PK-12)***	April 23, 2027
Wednesday Early Release	May 5 & 12, 2027
HS Spring Term Final Exams	May 18, 19 & 20, 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