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

TRAINING BEGINS IN OCTOBER

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 often something new to pick up. Contact Kim to reserve your seat!

* 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

SAFETY FIRST ON CAMPUS- Look for this device on walls in classrooms and hallways. Safety drill info will flash on the screen and further audible instructions will be broadcast through the speaker.



We have the great privilege of being able to mentor FHUSD students on campus and with that privilege comes the responsibility to ensure everyone stays safe. Each campus has rigorous protocols in place and it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with ALL plans for ALL emergency contingencies.

EMERGENCY DRILL PROCEDURES

Reprinted from Golden Eagle Education Foundation MENTOR PROGRAM GUIDE

Practice lockdown and fire drills are mandated and will occur throughout the school year. Follow procedures as directed. If there is a drill in effect and the school door is locked as you arrive to mentor, you will not be allowed entrance. Also, you must stay until the all-clear signal is given. Please review so you are prepared.

Fire Drills: Fire drills will be practiced monthly to prepare students and staff in the event of a real fire. Please take drills seriously and relay the importance to students. Mentors will receive procedural information and are encouraged to ask clarifying questions as needed. Mentors at the MS and HS will receive a copy of policy for each building.

Soft Lockdown- A soft lockdown is implemented when a potential threat exists near the campus but does not pose an immediate danger. Security measures include locking access points, limiting movement within the building, and keeping classes running inside. Members of the administration work with authorities to assess the situation while everyone remains indoors.

Unstructured Lockdown- Same as a soft lockdown, but during times other than in the classroom, such as before or after school, passing periods, recess, or lunch.

Shelter-In-Place- An order is given for external hazards, such as extreme weather, animals on campus, or chemical spills. Unlike a hard lockdown, room doors may stay unlocked, but students and staff must stay inside until further guidance is provided.



Below is the fire drill procedure specific to the Elementary School (MMES).

MMES Fire Drill Procedure:

- Alarm sounds, signaling ALL OCCUPANTS to exit the buildings using predestined routes.
- Teachers will walk the class quietly to a predetermined location on the fire drill map.

Lockdown Drills: Hard Lockdown- A

hard lockdown is used when an immediate threat, such as an active shooter, is inside the building or in the campus. In this situation, classroom and office doors are locked, windows are covered, and students and staff remain silent. Movement is restricted, and no one can evacuate until law enforcement gives the all-clear.

A Mentor is to join any nearby class to evacuate the building. If joining your mentee's class is not immediately possible, go to and join the closest evacuating class and ask the teacher to add your mentee's name to their evacuation roster.

- Room doors should remain locked and lights turned off.
- DURING A DRILL, teachers are not to allow students into the building. Teachers should collect any students in the hallways and bathrooms and communicate with administration who they have in addition to their students by holding up the RED card at the lineup and completing the missing/extra student form. (Mentees/Mentors could be on the 'extra' list)
- Once teachers are at their destination, students should quietly line up; take attendance.
- Teachers display a GREEN card if all students are present. Teachers display a RED card if someone is missing, unaccounted for or extra student.

- Allow no one inside the building until the principal or designee gives the all-clear signal by announcing, "THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIRE DRILL. YOU ARE FREE TO ENTER THE BUILDING". Before you leave campus, please make sure you personally return your mentee to their teacher.

- When necessary, employees have the authority to make decisions for the safety of staff & students without waiting for directions from the principal or designee.

- COMMON SENSE SHOULD ALWAYS PREVAIL!

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW THE 'MENTOR GUIDE' BEFORE YOU BEGIN MENTORING! DON'T WAIT FOR THE UNEXPECTED TO HAPPEN



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Dear Mentors - I apologize in advance for the disorganized nature of this month's newsletter; I am 7 days in with my newly installed hip and careful final edits are just not in the cards today. The most important parts, dates for training and REPRINT of district safety precautions are in good shape - focus on those! For those who missed the 'Ready, Set, Mentor' event today, tap the 'Greet & Granola' link to the right and enjoy some pointers about 'who we are, what we do, and how we support our students'. Calendars are updated and if you're missing anything else, drop a note to me in a couple weeks and I'll update once sitting at my computer no longer involves sitting on a fresh 10inch long suture. See you on campus soon! Kind regards, Donna Male



WE HAVE OFFICIALLY BEGUN THE MENTORING YEAR!

Our "Ready, Set, Mentor" kick-off event happened today, September 15th. Tap the link to the slide show can be shared with friends and family to increase Golden Eagle Education Foundation's Mentor Program awareness in Fountain Hills:



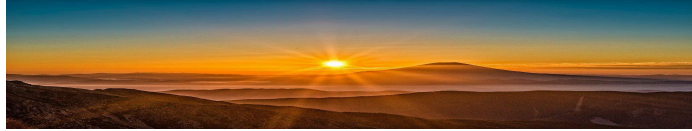
 'Greet & Granola', 2026-27, Mentor Program...



Superintendent Val Reichler introduced herself and asked for our help in promoting the School Bond ballot issue - please help the district earn much deserved community support by inviting local friends and family to VOTE on November 3rd!.



Brooke had a meeting with our superintendent about the upcoming school year, and said that Val was very positive, appreciative, and supportive of the mentor program. Communication and positive dialogue is welcome. Look for Brooke's introductory video in the October 15th Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program Newsletter!



	MENTOR PROGRAM 2026-2027 Important Dates & Special Events <i><u>This calendar is updated in every subsequent monthly newsletter - stay connected through the Golden Eagle Website:</u></i> 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' OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS - WE'LL TAKE A VOTE ON 9/9. - 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' 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 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	-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)

summer.	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.
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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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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

- 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