



FALL 2025

#TUHSD
STRONG

NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Superintendent Calles
A-Rated Schools

University High School Recognition

West Point High School Unified Sports
Champions

TUHS Softball Super Stars

New District Office Facilities Warehouse

The Education Exchange 2.0

2nd Annual Commitment Day Recap

Professional Development Day Recap

Employee Spotlights

New PR Request Form

Callahan Care

TUHSD in the News

Social Media Recap



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JEREMY CALLES



DEAR TUHSD TEAM,

“As we embrace the beauty and vibrant energy of the fall season, I am delighted to introduce our first edition of our employee newsletter, TUHSD Strong, for the 2025-2026 school year. I know there is lots to learn and read about inside the pages of the newsletter and you can see for yourself all the good things that are happening in our District. This online newsletter is a celebration of our collective achievements, the dedication of our remarkable staff, and the ongoing commitment to excellence that defines the Tolleson Union High School District. Thank you for your hard work and passion—together, we continue to make a difference for our students and community. Enjoy the newsletter!”

LETTER GRADES ARE IN!



Congratulations to La Joya Community, University and West Point high schools for achieving their A-Letter grades! This is a testament to the hard work our staff and students have put in to make those campuses A-schools. The rest of our schools are no lower than a B, making the Tolleson Union High School District a solid B-district. We recently celebrated our A-schools with site luncheons where administration, teachers, staff, and District leaders celebrated and congratulated the staff who made these letter grades possible. We know that it is only a matter of time before our B-schools will also achieve an A-letter grade. Thank you to our staff and teachers for their hard work in making this happen.

“ We’re just getting started. To show that kids south of the tracks can learn just as much as any kid out there at all, our Lobos are amazing, ”

Dr. Sorensen said in a West Valley View interview



UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS A DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL FOR 2025.



Congratulations to University High School for their recognition by the Arizona Department of Education as a Distinguished School for the year 2025. University High School is one of 8 schools throughout the state of Arizona that is being recognized for exceptional student achievement.

Amongst some of the criteria that U-High has met is that it has demonstrated high academic achievement; and met or exceeded state-determined accountability criteria.

We are excited about University High School being recognized at the state level for their hard work and dedication to school improvement. University High School will be recognized on the Arizona Department of Education Distinguished Schools website as a state finalist.

Congratulations U-High on your latest accolade!



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



NATIONAL ESEA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

National Title I Distinguished Schools

The **National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program** is a project of the National Association of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Program Administrators (**NAESPA**) that publicly recognizes qualifying federally-funded schools for positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students. The National Title I Distinguished Schools award has been presented to schools across the nation, but only two winners are chosen for each state.



WEST POINT UNIFIED WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

November 13 was a historic day for West Point High School when the Unified Flag Football Team won the Division II AIA State Championship game against Valley Vista High School.

The Dragons quickly took the lead to finish with a score of 44-6. The winning touchdown came from sophomore Malik Harden.

The championship was played on the outdoor field at State Farm Stadium in Glendale. This is the first Unified Sport Championship win for the school and the District. The single elimination tournament consisted of three games.

WP Flag Football is taught by Karina Gibbons, Justina Carnahan, Mahogany Jimerson, Shannon Forman and student coach, Michael Perez. There are 10 players.

The TUHSD Unified Program is a partnership with Special Olympics of Arizona to provide courses that promote school-wide inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities and general education students. Unified classes in sports, PE, music and dance include both populations, where partners (general education students) and athletes (students with an intellectual disability) work together.

When flag football games are in play, there is a ratio of three athletes to two partners on the field at a time.

The team was well-supported by the school and West Point families. Athletes were sent off from campus by the marching band and flagline. Student government, Unified Dance and students from the autism and CARES program, cheered from the sidelines.

The crowd held homemade posters and were dressed in red and black as they cheered, "We are West Point and we are UNIFIED!"





TUHSD



SOFTBALL SUPERSTARS

SHOUTOUT TO OUR TUHSD SOFTBALL SUPERSTARS!

Our talented players proudly represented their schools and community with the Arizona Diamondbacks in the Nike RBI Softball League this season!

Jada Rubalcava (C/O 2027), Trinity Preciado (C/O 2026), and Phoenix Preciado (C/O 2025), represented Tolleson Union High School.

JewelryAnna "Jewels" Grijalva (C/O 2026), Leilani Mendez (C/O 2026), Gabrielle Rodriguez (C/O 2025), and Zerianna Gomez (C/O 2025), represented West Point High School.

That's SEVEN student athletes from TUHSD who were a part of the D-Backs Nike RBI Softball team!

These athletes took their skills to the next level — competing hard, leading by example, and showing what it means to play with passion, pride, and purpose.

By going undefeated (5-0), they won the 2025 Nike RBI Softball West Region Championship in Seattle and were able to participate in the Nike RBI Softball World Series in Vero Beach, Florida.

A special shoutout goes out to Phoenix Preciado who not only won the Gatorade tournament MVP award, but also stole home to win the West Region championship for her team!



NEW TUHSD FACILITES WAREHOUSE

This summer, we proudly opened the doors to the brand-new TUHSD Facilities Warehouse!

This modern space now serves as the central hub for our Facilities, Maintenance, Nutrition Services, and Warehouse teams, bringing everyone together under one roof to better support our schools and community.

The new warehouse is designed to improve efficiency, collaboration, and service delivery across the district.

We're thrilled about the opportunities this space creates for streamlined operations and enhanced support for students and staff.



THE EDUCATION EXCHANGE PODCAST SEASON 2

The second season of The Education Exchange Podcast is well underway! If you have tuned into our weekly broadcast, you can catch the audio at www.tuhsd.org/podcast or visit our YouTube Channel to watch and listen at www.youtube.com/@TUHSD214. Podcasts air every Thursday (that school is in session) at 9 a.m.



TEE began two summers ago to introduce students and families to Commitment Day. Superintendent Jeremy Calles hosted vendors who would attend the two-day event at State Farm Stadium. Notable guests included representatives of the military, all major state and community colleges, trades and businesses. It was an opportunity for students to learn more about these after-graduation options so they could plan for success after graduation. Much of the discussions revolved around ways to afford college, what courses would be needed to begin in the work force, and how the military branches differed.

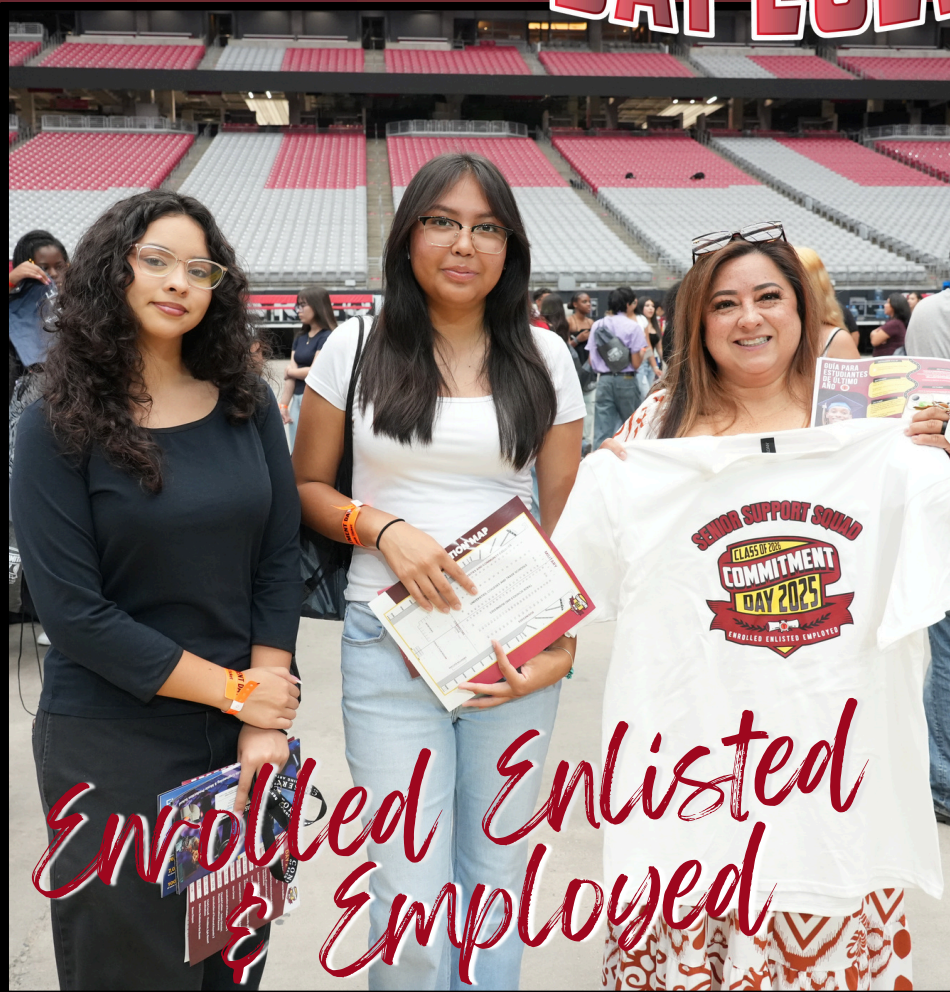
After Commitment Day, topics ranged from new building projects, to diploma seal options, to discussions with each of our principals.

On this season of The Education Exchange, the focus has included voices from our schools – students, staff, clubs and groups. Some fun episodes included a Thursday Night Lights feature with Tolleson Union football players and members of the cheer and pom squads; an appearance by the Copper Canyon Az-Tech Robotics Team; and a special tribute to the 9/11 Remembrance Walk/Run event organized by La Joya Community High School.

We are always looking for guests! If you would like to recommend a student, group, teacher, staff member or other topic we could discuss on the podcast, please let us know! Your suggestions can be emailed to publicrelations@tuhsd.org.



COMMITMENT DAY 2025

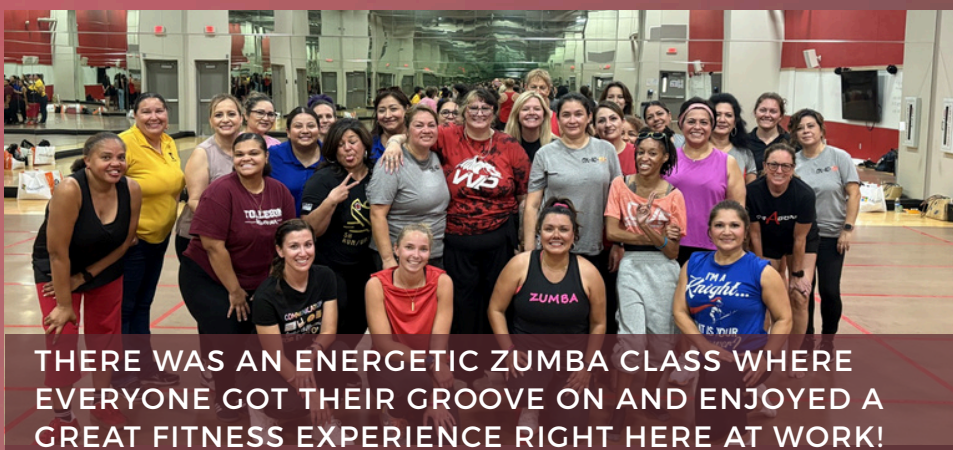
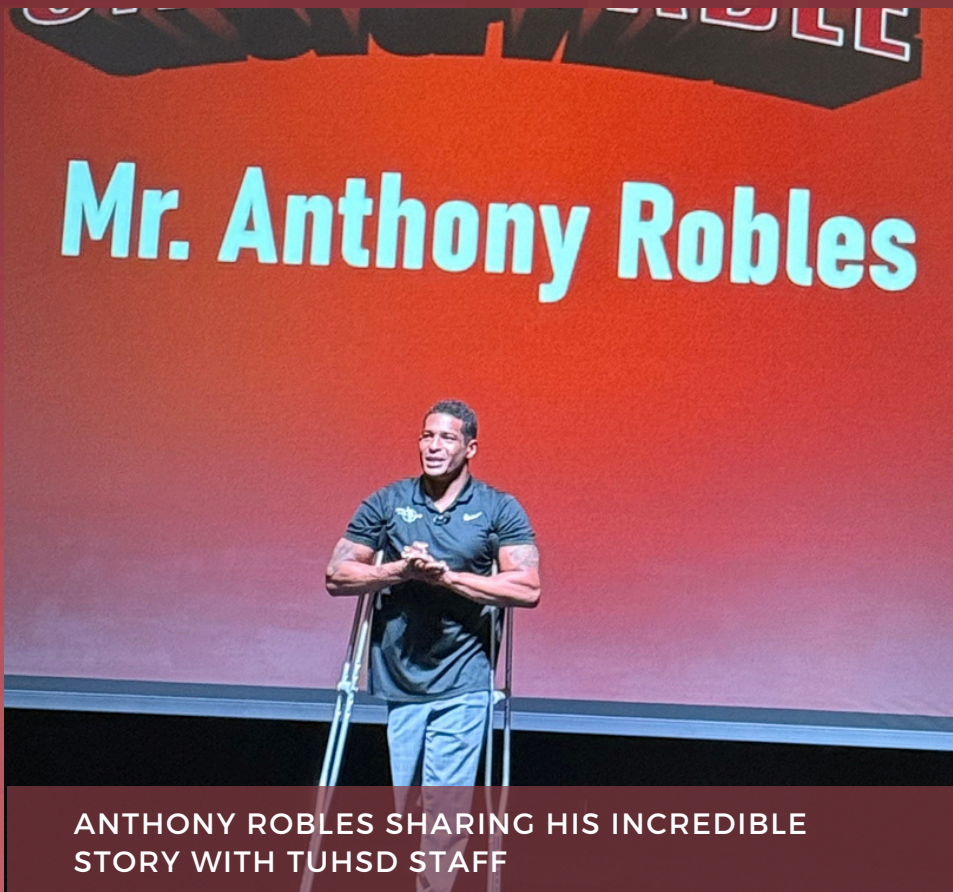


Thank you TUHSD Staff for making our second Commitment Day a tremendous success! On September 9 and 10, our 4,000 seniors met with more than 150 different universities, agencies, employers, and military organizations at State Farm Stadium to plan their futures, and it wouldn't have been possible without your efforts. We're already planning to make next year's Commitment Day even better!



UNSTOPPABLE

All Tolleson Union High School District staff gathered at West Point High School for a day of training, learning new ways to teach or support our teachers and students, and personal development. Anthony Robles inspired attendees with his story. Participants enjoyed various courses, including Copilot lessons, Diploma Seals info, Wellness classes, Canva tutorials, and even Zumba. Thank you to West Point High School for hosting and all who attended!



MEET ADAM SCHWARTZ



Adam Schwartz is the district's new Executive Director of School Leadership. He joined the TUHSD family in June and has quickly become a familiar face around our campuses.

Mr. Schwartz began his career in education as a college football coach in the Northeast before migrating to the Agua Fria Union High School District, where he was a science teacher.

He also served as an assistant principal and principal at Willow Canyon High School, which is part of the Dysart Unified School District.

Mr. Schwartz said he was very proud of his accomplishments during his time as principal.

After his tenure as principal, he transitioned to the Arizona Department of Education where he led school support and improvement initiatives. Joining TUHSD in the newly created Executive Director of School Leadership position was a natural fit for Mr. Schwartz.

"Education is a people business and TUHSD is full of amazing educators, staff, families, and students," he said.

Mr. Schwartz lives in the West Valley with his wife and three sons. In his spare time, he enjoys being outdoors, hunting, fishing, scuba diving and sailing.

“ WE EARNED AN A RATING AND WERE NAMED AN A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE. MY FAVORITE ROLE IN EDUCATION HAS BEEN SERVING AS A PRINCIPAL. I LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SUCH A TALENTED TEAM OF SCHOOL LEADERS. ”



MEET AGUSTINA RIVAS

We're excited to welcome Agustina Rivas to the Tolleson Union High School District as our newest HR Specialist! Agustina's journey began in Durango, Mexico, before moving to Arizona at the age of nine. Now a proud resident of Laveen, she brings a vibrant perspective and a wealth of experience to our district.

Agustina has dedicated 27 years to public education, with an impressive 26 years spent at the Phoenix Union High School District.

* Her extensive background covers both campus-based positions and Human Resources, giving her a unique understanding of the needs of staff at every level, whether they're working directly with students or supporting them from the district office.

"I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE ADULTS WHO HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR STUDENTS."

Outside of work, Agustina loves to cook and bake, and she cherishes time spent with her family. She's a proud mom of three, twins (boy/girl) and one boy, and is eagerly waiting for her turn to become a grandma.

Also, fun fact: Agustina recently climbed Fansipan, the highest peak in Indochina! Her adventurous spirit and great sense of humor make her a wonderful addition to our TUHSD family.

Welcome Agustina!



MEET

MAEGHAN KINNAN



Say hello to Maeghan Kinnan, her name's even spelled the Irish way! Maeghan is one the newest members of our team, stepping into the role of buyer for the district. Before joining Tolleson Union High School District, she spent nearly a decade honing her skills in the Mortgage industry. In 2024, Maeghan made the bold leap into procurement, a field she knew little about, but quickly became passionate for. She credits a network of outstanding mentors statewide for helping her become a self-taught expert, sharing:

“ **MY KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE FOR PROCUREMENT SEEMED TO GROW OVERNIGHT!** ”

Outside of TUHSD, Maeghan embraces adventure, wherever she can like camping under the stars, riding on SxS vehicles, or paddleboarding across Arizona's waters. She also collects tumblers. She laughingly admits that she owns "way too many."

She enjoys spending time with friends and family which includes her husband and 4 sons. Maeghan dreams of taking her adventurous spirit overseas to explore the cultures and histories of Ireland, Italy, Germany, and England. We're thrilled to welcome her to the TUHSD family!

Maeghan's Arizona roots run deep; she was born and raised in Arizona and has spent most of her life in the Buckeye area. These days, you'll find her in Rainbow Valley, a small corner south of the river bottom. Her connection to the local community is strong, shaping both her work ethic and her outlook



MEET

HAI DANG

Let's give a big welcome to Hai Dang – a new school psychologist with the district!

Mr. Dang has 20 years of experience in special education and school psychology. He first worked as a school psychologist for an elementary school district before joining TUHSD.

* "My favorite part of being a school psychologist is helping students overcome challenges that affect their learning and emotional well-being," he said.

Mr. Dang moved with his family to Tolleson from Florida in 2006. He lived in the city for 10 years before moving to neighboring Avondale.

His children attended elementary and high school in Tolleson.

"My favorite part of working in the district is building relationships with students and staff, and being part of a supportive team that's dedicated to helping every student succeed," he said.

In his spare time, Mr. Dang enjoys playing and watching basketball games.



“ I FIND IT INCREDIBLY REWARDING TO SUPPORT THEM THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES, IDENTIFY THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS, AND WORK CLOSELY WITH TEACHERS AND FAMILIES. MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD’S LIFE MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME. ”

MEET

MICHAEL GREGORY



The Office of Learning and Academic Success welcomed Michael Gregory to the position of Instructional Math Coach this year, though he has been with the district since 2013.

Mr. Gregory graduated from St. Joseph's University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education mathematics and computer science. He relocated from Long Island, NY to Arizona in 2013, where he began a teaching career with La Joya Community High School.

He became La Joya's Math Department Chairman in 2017. Mr. Gregory earned a master's degree in educational leadership in 2021, "which led me to my decision to leave the classroom and pursue a coaching position with the district," he said.

Having the opportunity to work with teachers and supporting them with the individual instructional goals they want to achieve, is his favorite part of the job.

What he loves most about the district is,

“OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND PROVIDING OUR STUDENTS WITH A QUALITY EDUCATION DURING THEIR TIME WITH US.”

In his spare time, Mr. Gregory enjoys cooking and spending time with his wife and three children.



MEET REBECCA SATTERLEE

Although Rebecca Satterlee is not new to the district, she has accepted a new position with the Exceptional Student Services Department as a support analyst.

Ms. Satterlee first joined the district as an ESS records clerk at West Point High School in 2022.

"I began my career in education as a before and after care team member at Legacy Traditional Schools, eventually becoming the program lead," she said. "Later, I joined West Point as an ESS Records Clerk, where I discovered a passion and love for our department."

She finds her job very rewarding and cites her co-workers as a reason why she loves what she does.

“MY TEAM! THEY HAVE BEEN SO WELCOMING AND SUPPORTIVE!”

In her spare time, Ms. Satterlee is devoted to her three dogs (Cash, Smalls and Ace), reading, fitness and spending time with loved ones.



MEET

SANDRA WELLWERTS



Sandra Wellwerts is no stranger to the TUHSD family but joins us this year in a new role as instructional math coach.

She has been a math teacher at Copper Canyon High School for the last 10 years, and recently as a new teacher mentor.

She graduated from ASU in 2013 with a degree in Computational Mathematical Sciences. However, teaching was not something she intended to do.

“One of my former high school teachers contacted me about an instructional aide position for a summer math program for incoming freshmen,” she said, referring to her summer after graduating from ASU. “He always told me that I should become a math teacher. I always refused. I decided to try it out and became an instructional aide that summer and I loved it!”

It was the summer that changed everything, she said.

“I LOVED HELPING STUDENTS WITH MATH, SO I DECIDED TO GET MY TEACHING CERTIFICATE THROUGH GCU’S SECONDARY EDUCATION GRADUATE PROGRAM. TWO YEARS LATER, I WAS HIRED AT COPPER CANYON AND IT’S BEEN SUCH A GREAT EXPERIENCE.”

Finding a home at Copper Canyon and in the Tolleson Union High School District has been rewarding, she said.

“My favorite part of the job is building relationships with teachers and students,” she said. “My favorite thing about TUHSD is the commitment to helping students succeed.”

Mrs. Wellwerts laughs that in her spare time, her hobbies include doing short sprints... “by that, I mean chasing down my 3-year-old and 1-year-old around the house!”





FACILITY REQUEST FORMS

Fast, Convenient, and Easy

New Schedule Request

Requests > New Schedule Request

* Event name

* Building

* Resources

* Starts
☐ All day

* From

* To

* Requests

Setup time

Teardown time

* Number of Attendees

Additional Event Details
(Please be detailed)

The Tolleson Union High School District has introduced a new FMX portal to simplify the process of submitting facility requests. This new system replaces email and phone submissions, allowing facility managers, technicians, and custodians to track time spent on tasks. Faculty can now file two types of requests: maintenance and schedule.

Maintenance requests cover repairs and operational needs, such as fixing a classroom door or setting up tables and chairs for an event. Schedule requests let faculty reserve district facilities, including classrooms and the district office, for events like conferences, athletic games, or community gatherings. These requests can be for one-time or recurring bookings.

New Maintenance Request

Maintenance Requests > New

Request

* Request type

* Request

* Building

* Location

Description

A Formatting guide ☐ Show preview

Emergency? ☐

Notes

A Formatting guide ☐ Show preview

Priority Description (Integrated Data Only)

Attachments

The FMX portal streamlines communication, boosts operational efficiency and makes managing district facilities easier. Faculty are encouraged to use the portal to ensure timely service and better coordination across the district.





**DO
WE
NEED
SOCIAL
MEDIA
DESIGN
OR
VIDEO
HELP?**

HELP?

Our PR and Marketing team is here to serve and support all of the exciting projects and ideas that you have to promote and showcase our district. As the number of these projects continues to grow, we want to ensure our PR Team is dedicated to each task that is brought our way, and that your project or idea is given the valuable time and energy it deserves. That is why we are excited to unveil and present our **work order request form**, first launched and presented at our PD Day presentation in late September.

Whether your project involves social media, graphics, or long-form video, you'll be able to express the details of your idea on the request form. You can also provide us with an estimated timetable and deadline for your project, so that we can effectively collaborate on all projects to meet your expectations.

This form can also be found on the public relations subpage of our website.

We thank you for your cooperation in teaming up with us as we work through this new process, and we look forward to bringing to life the amazing ideas you have.



Callahan Closets



Partnership with Tolleson Union High School District

Last year, our district partnered with Callahan Care to retrofit areas of school campuses into donation sites (open closets) for students and families in need. The closets house clothes, toiletries, instructional items and other family resources upon request.

Please consider a nonprofit charitable tax credit donation to Callahan Care and designate your donation to our district. **100%** of your donation will directly support our school closets and our ability to provide resources to our students all year long. Donate here: callahancare.org.

List **Tolleson 214** as the district you are donating from!

Click [here](#) to learn more on how Callahan Care helps our students.



TUHSD 214

Donate Now

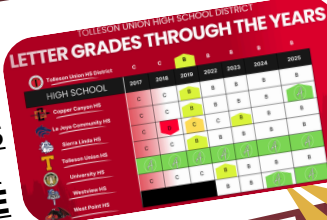
List **TUHSD 214** as the district you are donating from

TUHSD

IN THE NEWS

Take a look at some of the positive news stories on local media in recent months involving our schools and our district.

**TOLLESON
UHSD
ACHIEVES
SOLID 'B'
AVERAGE**



**EMMA JADE STOPS
BY COPPER
CANYON HIGH
SCHOOL TO SEE
HOW STUDENTS
AND STAFF ARE
FINDING SUCCESS.**



**AVONDALE HIGH
SCHOOLERS
BRING HOME
SKILLSUSA
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLE**



**TOLLESON
UNION HIGH
SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL
LIVING HIS
DREAM**





@tuhSD214



918 likes



@tuhSD214



634 likes



@tuhSD214



129 likes

WHAT IF THEY CAME OUT WITH TUHSD LABUBUS?!

THE WOLVERINES DEMOLISH THE OWLS TO WIN THE RIVER ROCK!

... AND THAT'S SHOW BUSINESS! #IYKYK #TAYLORSWIFT #LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL

SOCIAL MEDIA Recap



@tuhSD214



558 likes



@tuhSD214



266 likes



@tuhSD214



167 likes

LA JOYA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL EARNS THEIR FIRST EVRR A RATING!

HAPPY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY FROM TUHSD!

WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL EARNS BACK-TO-BACK A RATINGS!

FOLLOW US!



EXCELLENCE in every endeavor



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL



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