

Big Changes in Arizona Education!



ACE Charter High School

www.acehs.org (520) 628-8316

AIMS Testing no longer required for Graduation!

On Friday, February 20th, Senate Bill 1191 was signed into law, immediately lifting the requirement that students pass a standardized test in order to graduate from high school. Until now, that test was the AIMS, Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards. The requirement had been set to expire in December 2016. But the bill has an emergency clause, calling for it to take effect immediately.

Diane Douglas, the new Superintendent of Public Instruction said "I congratulate the Legislature and Governor Ducey for removing this last vestige of high stakes testing," she said in a statement. "I hope this decision relieves much of the stress that parents and their children face when a high stakes test determines whether or not a student can graduate from high school. High academic standards and tests that provide information and accountability are very important, but placing all the responsibility and stress on individual students for the success of our educational system is unfair."

"Testing will still be available this week for those students wishing to take AIMS for scholarship eligibility or other personal reasons. Parents or families with questions about testing availability in these situations should contact their student's school," the Arizona Department of Education said in a release.

Now, Douglas is proposing legislation to review all state academic standards. There is a bill in the state Senate, SB 1305, which would establish a committee of teachers, parents and other education stakeholders to annually evaluate targeted standards.

"As we move away from Common Core, it is important to do so in a deliberate fashion so that we stop the pattern of creating new standards only to abolish them every few years," Douglas said in a statement. "This endless cycle leaves schools in a constant state of upheaval and causes undue stress for students and teachers.

AZ MERIT TESTING will still take place in April for all students taking English and Math classes. Sophomores will still take the AIMS Science.

Upcoming Events

March 13th - No School!

End of Quarter 3 Progress Reports mailed home!

March 16th - New Bell Schedule Starts!

New Bell Schedule starts!
Extended Learning and Tutoring now available in the mornings!

March 27th – April 3rd

Spring Break! Return to school on Monday, April 6th!

April 13th – 17th

NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) District Benchmark Testing for all students!

ACE Charter High School's

AZ Merit Assessment Schedule

April 21st – AZ Merit Writing Assessment

April 22nd and 23rd – AZ Merit Reading Assessment

April 28th and 29th – AZ Merit Math Assessment

All students who are enrolled in an English or Math class will take the AZ Merit End of Course Assessment. These tests are NOT required for graduation. The purpose is to demonstrate a student's knowledge of the subject. All Sophomores will still take the AIMS Science.

NEW BELL SCHEDULE STARTS MARCH 16th

Meeting our student's needs is a priority at ACE Charter High School. As an alternative school, we know that having good attendance is one of the biggest challenges our students face each day. Earlier this year, some English students wrote letters as part of a class assignment to Mr. Slauter giving reasons why school should start later in the day, including things like more time for a nutritious meal in the morning before school starts. With bus schedules, younger siblings and many other reasons, many ACE students have had poor attendance for morning classes and this has impacted their progress in classes required for graduation. We want to help our students find success so we are making changes!

In order to help our students be more successful, a new bell schedule will begin Quarter 4. First period will start at 9am!

Students will start first period almost an hour later than they do now with Period 1 starting at 9am. Pending approval from the National School Lunch program, breakfast will be served in classrooms during the new "homeroom" time, giving teachers and student's time to review announcements and socialize before the learning starts! The school will still open by 7:30 am and teachers will be available before 1st period to work with students. The 21st Century Learning Center classes still begin at 3:45 pm, reducing the time students must wait for enrichment classes like Yoga, Community and Culture and Environmental Club to start. Students who have work conflicts should meet with Mr. Slauter to make arrangements. Parents or students with questions or concerns should contact Mr. Slauter at jay.slatuer@acehs.org or call 628-8316.

21st Century Learning Center After School Program

The learning doesn't stop when the bell rings! Through the 21st Century Learning Center there are free, fun activities almost every day after school! Students can learn about the Environment, Arts and Crafts, Music, Cooking classes, Yoga and Meditation, Job Skills and much more! For more information contact John Zhang at john.zhang@acehs.org

Rodeo Break – No School Thursday, Feb. 26 or Friday, Feb. 27th

New Eligibility requirements for ACE students to participate in sports and other special events!

All students who want to play school sports, go on field trips or participate in other special events sponsored by ACE Charter HS must meet eligibility requirements. Student must be making progress in classes, have excellent attendance and demonstrate good behavior. Teachers are required to fill out a form for each student to show that students have earned these special privileges. Please contact Mr. Slauter if you have questions regarding eligibility requirements.

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Fundraiser!



The Community and Culture students will be organizing the Pennies for Patients fundraiser next month. Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country. So start saving those coins and help ACE support this great cause!

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