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Alamogordo Public Schools

1211 Hawaii Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
(575) 812-6000
www.aps4kids.org

Alamogordo Public Schools 2016-2017

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APS Mission Statement

Doing our best everyday to embrace, encourage and mentor success.

APS Vision Statement

Alamogordo Public Schools:
The New Mexico Public School District
Second to None

APS Values & Beliefs

- ◆ Integrity/Ethical - "Do the Right Thing"
- ◆ Truly Care for Others
- ◆ Positive Attitude
- ◆ Communication - honest, substantive, and relevant
- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Respect and trust are earned, not given
- ◆ Be a team player

Seven "C's" for APS

- ◆ Character
- ◆ Commitment
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Courage
- ◆ Common Sense



APS Employees

Alamogordo Public Schools is the second largest employer in Otero County. Nearly 900 people in Otero County are employed with APS.

Professional Breakdown*

Administrators	29
Assistants	121
Bus Drivers	3
Certified Support	44
Coordinators	2
Contracted Services	22
Classified Office Personnel	58
CR Staff	6
Custodians	48
Exempt/Non-Certified	15
Food Service	52
Librarians	3
Maintenance	14
Non-Teaching Coaches	33
Substitutes	210
Superintendent	1
Teachers	311
Technical Support	8
Temps	26

* 2015-16 Numbers

Employee Education*

Non-Degree	223
Associate's Degree	38
Bachelor's Degree	211
Bachelor's Degree + 15	47
Bachelor's Degree + 45	19
Master's Degree	223
Master's Degree + 15	39
Master's Degree + 45	36
Doctorate	2

of APS Students 2015-2016

5749

* 120th Day Count

Virtual Academy

Alamogordo Public Schools invites students 6th-12th Grade to apply for this innovative opportunity! Students enrolled in our Virtual Academy will receive direct instruction from a real, live teacher 24 hours a day/ 5 days a week and can work at their own pace. All teachers have met Highly Qualified New Mexico status and specialize in their content as well as online learning instructional practices.

The student (parent) must agree to register as an APS student, enter with a "C" average and strive to make a "B" (80%) as a final grade in each course. A wide variety of courses will be offered for enrichment opportunities, including AP courses!

The student must be enrolled in four virtual classes at all times in order to maintain full-time status, and must comply with all policy requirements, including State and Federal assessments. Students interested in taking one- to three courses may also enroll in courses for a fee.

(Fees will be developed based upon the current market value of online coursework.)

Students needing to recover a credit are also encouraged to inquire about special courses that include a specific diagnostic that pinpoints areas of concern and strengths, which results in the course being individualized for the student.

We are excited to offer this wonderful opportunity for students!

Alamogordo Public Schools Strategic Plan Goals

- to begin 2016-2017 School Year -



Goal #1: Academic Excellence

Achieve and continuously improve academic excellence in preparing all students to excel as successful and responsible citizens.

Goal #2: Creation of Partnerships

Alamogordo Public Schools will engage all members of our community in the education of our students.

Goal #3: Ensure effective and efficient utilization of all district resources

Align and prioritize resources to support student learning.

United Way's Helen Kirk Circle Donor Award

Thanks to the generous donations from APS employees, the District has received United Way's Helen Kirk Circle donor Award. United Way of Otero County raised a total of \$400,000 for the 2015-16 Campaign. APS contributions totaled \$20,001, up from the previous year of \$11,409.

Thanks to your generous contributions, the following partner agencies will benefit:

- ◆ Alamogordo Senior Center
- ◆ Big Brother Big Sisters
- ◆ Boys & Girls Club of Otero County
- ◆ CHINS
- ◆ Cloudcroft Summer Youth Program
- ◆ COPE
- ◆ Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Otero County
- ◆ Opportunity Center
- ◆ Pregnancy Help Center
- ◆ Sacramento Mountain Senior Services
- ◆ Southern New Mexico Wellness Alliance
- ◆ Tularosa Senior Center
- ◆ White Sands Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Zia Therapy Center



Alamogordo Public Schools

Elementary Schools

Buena Vista Elementary (est. 1960)

2600 19th Street., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Tena Spitsberg, Principal
of students: 264

(575) 812-5100

Desert Star Elementary (est. 2015)

400 S. Washington Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Victor Gonzales, Principal
of students: 554

(575) 812-5750

Heights Elementary (est. 1957)

2410 10th Street, Alamogordo, NM 88310
Cathy Jackson, Principal
of students: 304

(575) 812-5200

High Rolls Mt. Park Elementary (est. 1922)

23 Karr Canyon Rd., High Rolls, NM 88325
Victor Gonzales, Principal
of students: 37

(575) 812-5275

Holloman Elementary (est. 1954)

750 Arnold, Holloman AFB, NM 88330
Denia Burkhard, Principal
of students: 562

(575) 812-6100

La Luz Elementary (est. 1918)

99 Alamo, La Luz, NM 88337
Bertha Garza, Principal
of students: 262

(575) 812-5300

North Elementary (est. 1936)

1300 N. Florida Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Manuela Sanchez, Principal
of students: 304

(575) 812-5400

Oregon Elementary (est. 1954)

1500 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Teresa Bruederle, Principal
of students: 189

(575) 812-5600

Sierra Elementary (est. 1959)

2211 Puerto Rico Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Melissa Cole, Principal
of students: 397

(575) 812-5800

Yucca Elementary (est. 1966)

310 Dale Scott Blvd., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Catherine Diaz, Principal
of students: 382

(575) 812-5900



Alamogordo Public Schools

Middle Schools

Chaparral Middle School (est. 1961)

1401 College Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Robbi Coker, Principal / Dana Thiry, Assistant Principal
of students: 609

(575) 812-6300

Holloman Middle School (est. 1969)

381 1st Street, Holloman AFB, NM 88330
Steven Starkovich, Principal
of students: 203

2013 National Blue Ribbon Award Winner



(575) 812-6200

Mt. View Middle School (est. 2000)

500 South Washington Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Moises Cardiel, Principal / Teresa Irwin, Assistant Principal
of students: 494

(575) 812-6400

High Schools

Academy del Sol Alternative High School (est. 1996)

1200 North Florida Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
Dr. Johnnie Walker, Principal
of students: 124

(575) 812-5500

Alamogordo High School (est. 1969)

103 Cuba Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310
George Heaton, Principal / Gid Allen, Assistant Principal / Cynthia Bond, Assistant Principal
of students: 1535

(575) 812-6500



**Congratulations
to the
FIRST
Graduating Class
from
Desert Star
Elementary!
- Class of 2016 -**

Desert Star Students are College Bound!

The New Mexico State University-Alamogordo (NMSU-A) Elementary School Adoption Program initiative is undertaken to address the need to increase college and career readiness to elementary school students and parents in the community, consequently creating a college-going culture. The program advocates the perspective that “college begins in kindergarten” by building strong elementary school and college connections. Many students think that college is a distant dream. College Bound Elementary is designed to allow students and parents to visit campus facilities and meet staff. Students will participate in various activities to learn about the process of applying for college and more. By introducing them to college early, students realize their dream is real and possible!

NMSU-A and the Alamogordo Public Schools partnered in an agreement to promote a college-going culture through the College Bound Initiative at Desert Star Elementary School, proclaiming the adopted school as a **College Bound School!**



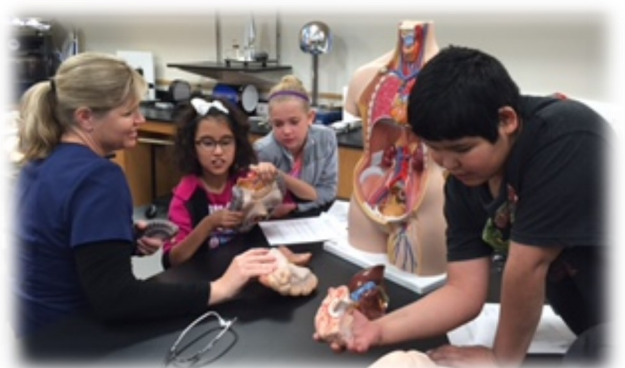
During the MOU signing, Superintendent Salas asked students who was going to college and spoke of the importance of attending school and getting good grades.

NMSU-A President, Dr. Ken Van Winkle also spoke to the students, getting them excited about the idea of college.

Each Desert Star student received a College Bound t-shirt, backpack and NMSU-A pennant.



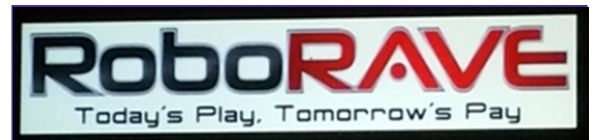
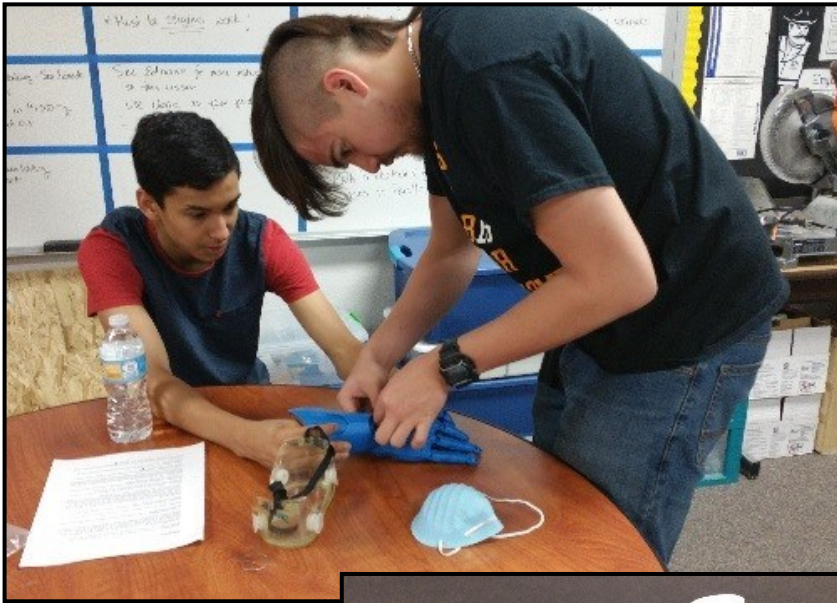
On March 29, 2016, over 150 fourth and fifth graders from Desert Star Elementary who were part of the College Bound Elementary School Program toured New Mexico State University Alamogordo (NMSU-A). The students visited each of NMSU-A's three divisions and participate in activities designed to engage their interest in various areas of education.



AHS MESA

AHS Graduates, Nicholas Baker and Sarah Fox, received the South East MESA Outstanding Student Award! Nicholas Baker plans to attend New Mexico Tech University in Socorro, NM, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Sarah Fox will attend New Mexico State University, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

MESA students, Angel Baray (Project Leader & MESA President), Nicholas Baker (MESA Vice-President), and Beda Prieto continued to focus on a working prosthetic hand for an Alamogordo High School student who was born without a hand. The team used the Engineering Design Process, 3-D printer and SolidWorks (3-D modeling software) to develop, design and customize the hand. Pictures to the left show their progress.



Manny Klaassen (AHS MESA teacher) and Allison Curry (HMS MESA teacher) recently attended a 5-day training in Albuquerque. Participating teachers came from Columbia, Mexico, China, Spain, France, Japan...and many more countries from around the globe.



Good News at APS



Arizona Furphy,
Recipient of
NMSU-Alamogordo's
Distinguished Dual
Credit Achievement
Award - receiving a
High School
diploma and an
Associate's Degree
simultaneously



David Lozano, History Teacher at
Mt. View Middle School received the
New Mexico Patricia Behring Teacher
of the Year Award.



Lisa Patch, Director of Health
Services, serves on the Board of
the National Association of
School Nurses



Sarah Johnston, teacher at
Mt. View Middle School is the
ONLY teacher in the APS
District to have earned
National Board Certification.



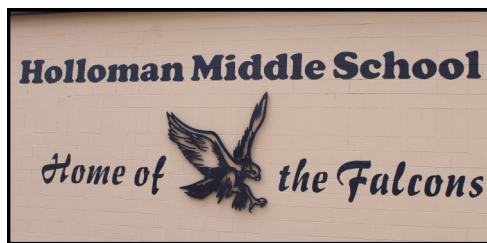
AHS JROTC celebrated with others world-wide for their
100th birthday with a 5K Fun Run.
The Goal: 100,000 runners to break a world record.
Close...80,000 participated from 87 countries!



Mt. View Middle School Teacher,
Annette Joyner, receives the
White-Reinhardt Award at the
AITC National Conference



Attended special summer
camp at Stanford University,
made possible through the
Center for Talented Youth,
sponsored by John Hopkins
University.



**2013
National Blue Ribbon School
Award Winner!
HMS was the ONLY
Middle School in the State of
New Mexico to
receive this honor.**



AHS Junior, Alex Ferenczhalmy, was one of twelve
students, world-wide, to attend the
Frances Hasslebein Student Leadership Program
held at the United States
Military Academy at West Point, NY

Excellence in

Million Sticker Celebration at Yucca Elementary

Yucca Elementary School students celebrated their goal of cumulatively earning **ONE MILLION** stickers on the First In Math® website. They did so by solving game-based math problems on the website both from school and home. Yucca students have solved an average of ten-thousand math problems per student.

The celebration kick-off was on Thursday, March 31st. Activities will included games, both physical and mental. Barbara Asteak, Vice President of Suntex International, the creator of the First In Math® online program, was on hand to join in the festivities.

The First In Math program provides a rich, digital gaming environment that helps students become better critical thinkers. The program incorporates intelligent game design based upon neurological research. It promotes 21st-century skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, communication and collaboration - and character qualities of persistence and grit.

"My students and teachers were so focused on reaching this goal," says former Principal Brenda Dorsey. "Every week we made announcements recognizing the top students and classrooms. Everyone was into this challenge 100%. I am very proud of their determination and hard work."

Yucca Elementary was FIRST in New Mexico and #23 in the NATION!

NO OBSTACLE IS TOO LARGE FOR
YUCCA ELEMENTARY
1,000,000 = 3,000,000
MATH
STICKERS EARNED PROBLEMS SOLVED



Education

Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award

Alamogordo Public Schools and Holloman Air Force Base are recipients of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award. This award recognizes the successful partnerships and projects that ultimately benefit military-connected children.

Power Up! Team Holloman has made several connections, including the work of the APS Military Community Liaison, Natalie Wimberley and the Holloman AFB School Liaison Officer, LaurieAnn Goodier with various military connected student groups throughout the year.

Student Representatives from the S2S Program, along with Mrs. Wimberley and Mrs. Goodier attended an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. in July to receive the award.



Power Up! Team Holloman receives 2016 Recognition of Partnership Award



Alamogordo High School~S2S was chosen to represent the S2S (Student-to-Student) program at the Military Child Education Coalition 18th National Training Seminar in Washington, DC in July 2016! Of more than 325 S2S sites worldwide, **only seven S2S schools were chosen** to participate at the conference.

AHS~S2S was chosen on a number of factors, including their outstanding implementation of the S2S program and the quality and

quantity of progress reports presented throughout the school year.

This is an opportunity to showcase the AHS~S2S program, but also an opportunity build on leadership skills. Additionally, they had the opportunity to meet and talk to many high achieving individuals who also attended the training seminar.



Military Child Education Coalition
...for the sake of the child.

“Walk a Mile in *THEIR* Shoes”

April was the Month of the Military Child. To celebrate and honor them, APS Military Community Liaison, Natalie Wimberley, coordinated “Walk a Mile in *Their* Shoes.” The event kicked off at Alamogordo High School with a welcome rally and guest speakers. The mile long walk ended at the APS Administration Complex with refreshments before the monthly school board meeting. During the meeting, several local military connected students were recognized for their outstanding achievements.

It was a great show of support for our military children because...”**Kids Serve, Too!**”

Holloman Elementary School won the autographed “Celebration Banner” since they had the most participants at the event.



Roadrunner Food Bank Helps APS Families



During the 2015-2016 school year, Desert Star Elementary & Mt. View Middle Schools applied for a grant and was eligible to be in the Roadrunner Food Bank program. This program is going to make a difference in the lives of children and families of Alamogordo Public Schools.

The program provides 50 pounds of food per family to include: meat, eggs, nutritional drinks, vegetables (while supplies last), dry goods (to include cereal, crackers, breakfast bars, snacks, etc.) and bread items. There is not an unlimited supply of food, but enough for nearly 100 families!

Roadrunner Food Bank is a non-profit organization dedicated to end hunger in New Mexico; it is a member of Feeding America—the Nation’s Food Bank Network. RFB is working with schools in New Mexico through the Childhood Hunger Initiative.

Special thanks to Debbie Graham & Brenda Guinn for their coordinating efforts of this much needed program!

For more information on the Roadrunner Food Bank program, please call APS Health Services at 812-6094.



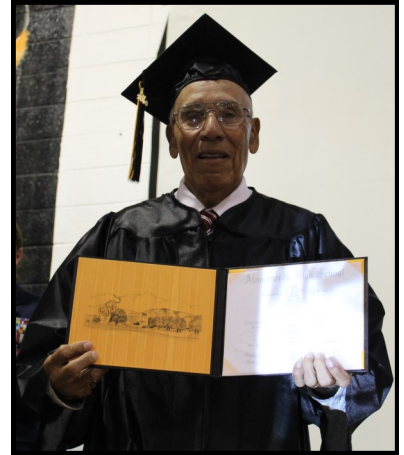
APS Bestows Diploma to 82 Year-Old Korean War Veteran



On Monday, November 10, 2014, Alamogordo Public Schools was proud to bestow the honor of High School Graduate to Mr. Jose Benitez at Alamogordo High School.

Jose S. Benitez was born on January 9, 1932 to Severiano and Petra Benitez. He is the second son of six living brothers who also served in the Armed Forces and all six returned home safely. He also has five sisters of which only three are currently living. Joe was very active in sports while attending Alamogordo High School. He played football, basketball and track.

Joe left for Korea at the tender age of 17, nine days after his birthday, on January 18, 1949. He pleaded with his parents to let him enlist in the Army. After much pleading and finally giving in, his dad took him to sign permission so he could enlist. He then was sent to FT. ORD in California for 8 weeks of Basic Training. After training, he went on leave for 30 days. Next stop, CAMP STONEMAN in San Francisco, CA for one week before traveling on a ship to Yokahama, Japan. It took him 11 days to arrive to Japan. The sea sickness took an awful toll in his stomach, but he overcame what would be "hell on earth", as he described it. His final destination, PUNSON, KOREA, where he was in Combat Status for 10 long months.



During those 10 months, close to the end of his service time in Korea, his parents were visited by a black-2 flagged car. Two military men in formal uniform knocked at his parents door, giving them the devastating news no parent would ever want to hear, that their son was killed in action. The family was devastated. But , Joe arrived to Alamogordo about 10 days after the news was sent out that the Army had made a mistake. He arrived in Alamogordo before the news that a mistake had been made and he was actually alive could be sent to family. He surprised his mom while she was hanging laundry on the clothes line and gave her the biggest scare and the biggest surprise of her life.



Joe was raised in a Christian family and his faith in God brought him through the hardships he endured during 20° below weather in Korea. Many of his friends, including childhood friend, Willie Estrada did not get to come home. He is grateful for God, country, family and friends who brought him home safe through prayer.

Although he suffered shrapnel in his right knee, Joe fulfilled his service to his country. He was honorably discharged in 1952. During his service, he received a Korean service medal with one bronze service star, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), Combat Infantry Badge Bronze Star Medal and a Distinguished Unit Citation.

Upon his return, the City of Alamogordo threw a parade in his honor.

Mr. Benitez worked, for a short time with the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier. After many dog attacks, he decided working at Holloman Air Force Base was a better fit. A few years later, he met and married his beautiful wife, Eloise. Since his wife was from El Paso, he relocated there and took a job at White Sands Missile Range, where he worked for 35 years.

Mr. Benitez has three daughters, a son and 13 grandchildren; three of whom are currently serving in the Air Force (2 grandsons and a granddaughter). He still resides in El Paso where he enjoys singing and jogging five to six miles every day. And, at 82 years young, continues to work security for Socorro Independent School District.

Superintendent, Adrienne Salas, and Alamogordo High School Principal, George Heaton, presented Mr. Benitez with his high school diploma, which he happily accepted. Athletics Director, Jerrett Perry, awarded Mr. Benitez with a Varsity Letter for football, basketball and track, along with a letterman's jacket.

Alamogordo Public Schools is proud to have bestowed this honor to Mr. Benitez and we thank him for his service to our country.



VIP Guests at APS



Former Dallas Cowboy & Minnesota Viking Player, Herschel Walker visits APS Schools to encourage self-confidence.



Bad Kitty Author, Nick Bruel, spent a week touring elementary schools and ended with a book signing, held at Yucca Elementary



Apollo 17 Lunar Module Pilot, Harrison "Jack" Schmidt, proudly displays his APS pin as he visits with Middle School students.



NM Secretary of Education, Hanna Skandera, visits NM Teacher of the Year, Diana Fesmire and her enthusiastic Math Learners.



The New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee met in Cloudcroft, NM in June 2015 and heard testimony from APS Superintendent, Adrienne Salas and Cloudcroft Superintendent, Travis Dempsey on state of education in Otero County.

College Connection



Beginning in the Fall of 2014, Alamogordo Public Schools partnered with New Mexico State University-Alamogordo, with the College Connection program. This program offers automatic admission to NMSU-A for all AHS Seniors. In addition to automatic admission, all student services such as admission, completing the financial aid application, placement test, career assessment, and advising for degree are physically provided at the high school at NO COST to APS, parents or students.

Seniors and parents will be glad to know that these multi-faceted services will be completed entirely at Alamogordo High School during the Advisory period.

Alamogordo High School and NMSU-A have partnered to assure that students

fully participate in exploring their career goals, to guide students in their transition from high school to college, and to maximize the college student experience.

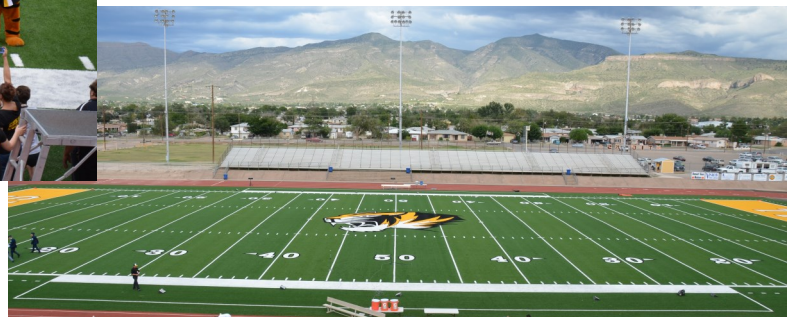
For more information on College Connection, please see a high school counselor or call (575) 812-6500.



New Field in Tiger Country



During the first home game of 2015, Tiger Fans greeted a new turf football field. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the special event.



APS Board of Education

David Borunda, District 1	(575) 430-4778
Steven Jaszai, District 2	(575) 921-5439
David Weaver, District 3	(575) 415-3457
Timothy C. Wolfe, District 4	(575) 430-4525
David Ceballes, District 5	(575) 443-8373
Col. Anthony Ajello, HAFB Ex-Officio	(575) 572-5541



Administration Offices

Superintendent's Office	812-6000
Support Services	812-6014
Director of Schools	812-6004
Chief of Staff	812-6075
Curriculum & Instruction	812-6034
Special Education	812-5970
Safety	812-6077
Transportation	812-6017
Athletics	812-5564
Human Resources	812-6060
Student Nutrition	812-6084
Health Services	812-6095
Technology Support Services	812-6024
Business & Finance	812-6044