

April Website Message:

Dear Tolleson Union High School District Community,

It was with great expectation and excitement that we welcomed students back to in-person learning on March 22. We welcomed freshman students first, followed by all other classes on March 23. I cannot tell you how good it felt to see our students in person for the first time in a year. Our students have been great about wearing their masks and doing their absolute best to follow all of the COVID mitigation protocols. Parents deserve a huge THANK YOU for making sure that your student knows how important it is for students to wear masks, socially distance, wash their hands, etc. It is evident that you have taught your children well and we truly appreciate your support to keep everyone safe! I also want to thank our excellent teachers, administrators, and staff who have been working hard and supporting our students throughout this entire process. It was a challenge to welcome our students under such conditions, but we have been planning for the return of in-person learning for almost a year to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families.

So, what will the month of April bring? Well, of course we have the warmer weather and the longer days of sunlight to look forward to. But we are also in the home stretch as we only have a few more months of school before we finish the 2020-2021 school year. We do expect all students to continue to follow the CDC guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing, frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer, which our schools have conveniently located throughout our campuses and classrooms. We realize this is not business as usual, but we know that our incredible students are extremely resilient and they are adaptable to the situation and the environment, as we all are.

Each and every one of our schools is busily preparing for the 2021 Summer School session. Our Success Academy is open to incoming and current Tolleson Union High School District 9th through 12th grade students who thrive in a structured class with face-to-face instruction and teacher-guided instruction. Students can earn a .5 credit in each class they successfully complete. Students may attend morning and afternoon sessions. There will be two Summer School sessions offered; one beginning on June 1 that will go until June 15, Monday through Friday; and a second session beginning on June 16 through June 30, Monday through Friday. Morning sessions will go from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon sessions will begin at 12:30 p.m. and go to 3:30 p.m.

Our Blended Option Academy provides incoming and current TUHSD 9th through 12th grade students the opportunity to obtain high school credit through a blended learning model using the TUHSD Edgenuity platform. The Blended Option Academy will follow the same schedule and dates as above.

One thing that I can say is that even during the pandemic, our student successes have not diminished. We still have students doing amazing things and continuing to be hidden gems in our community. For instance, we are happy to report that 171 of our students have been accepted into West-MEC! These seats were allocated to our students for the 2021-2022 school year in Central Programs. This is quite an achievement and our CTE Department couldn't be more proud of our students. Great job students!

This is an exciting time of year as seniors are deciding their futures after graduation. Here are just a few examples of our senior's accomplishments:

- Alexander Fenlon, a senior at University High School, is the latest winner of the AZEdNews Scholarship sponsored by The Brand Agency. Alexander is planning on going to Arizona State University next year to study conservation biology and ecology. Congratulations Alexander!
- In addition, Tolleson Union High School senior, Amaru Bond, has made the decision to attend Tuskegee University on a full-ride scholarship paying \$40,750 a year towards his tuition! Amaru also received several other scholarships before making his decision on his college of choice.

Remember to mark your calendar for the following important dates:

- **April 2 – Cesar Chavez Holiday Observed (No School)**
- **April 5 Spring Recess Day (No School)**

As always, please keep checking our website (www.tuhsd.org) and our social media pages (facebook.com/TUHSD/ and [@TollesonUhsd](https://twitter.com/TollesonUhsd)) for the latest information.

Be safe and stay Tolleson Strong!

Sincerely,

Nora Gutierrez

Superintendent