



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
August 17, 2021

Pendergast Elementary School District Joins Verizon Innovative Learning to Bring Free Tech Education to Local Title I Schools

Students and teachers will receive devices, internet access, and innovative learning programs.

In partnership with Digital Promise, Verizon Innovative Learning welcomes three schools in Pendergast Elementary School District for the 2021-2022 school year

WHAT: On September 2nd, three Phoenix middle schools will join Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon's award-winning education initiative, which addresses barriers to digital inclusion. In partnership with Digital Promise, the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program provides free devices, internet access and innovative learning programs to help give under-resourced students the technology, education and opportunity they deserve. Being part of the program will keep students connected, helping to facilitate learning from anywhere—in the classroom, at home or in hybrid learning environments. Verizon Innovative Learning is a key part of Citizen Verizon, the company's responsible business plan for economic, environmental, and social advancement.

Powered by a next-gen, technology-infused education model, Verizon Innovative Learning also equips each school with a technology coach and provides professional development support for teachers to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. Teachers in the program have reported that the initiative helped prepare them for remote learning, allows for more individualized instruction and elevates student engagement. * Students have reported that assignments are easier with the use of technology, and having it improves their confidence in the things they can do. *

Amberlea Elementary School, Desert Horizon Elementary School, and Villa De Paz Elementary School are among 247 new schools joining Verizon Innovative Learning Schools for the 2021-22 school year, equipping nearly 183,000 new students with technology resources and bringing the program's impact to more than 500 schools nationwide. A total of 880 devices will be provided to these schools as part of the program.

Dr. Shelmon Brown, Pendergast Elementary School District Chief Academic Officer shares, "The Verizon Innovative Learning Initiative has the potential to change the way our students access, learn from, and use information. It provides our students the proper tools and technology to enhance their education

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and learning experiences. This initiative supports our students as they grow into successful leaders of tomorrow and will help them achieve and sustain success. We are so excited to have three of our schools participating in the Verizon Innovative Learning Initiative."

"So many students across the nation lack the access to technology and resources they need to be successful in today's digital world", said Matt Clark. "On behalf of Verizon, we are excited to help enable students in the Pendergast School District to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities for a more promising future."

To celebrate Pendergast's participation in the program, a kick-off event at the Pendergast Community Center will feature local middle school students receiving their own devices, as well as:

- Firsthand remarks from administrators and program leaders on why hands-on learning experiences using technology—particularly in middle/high school—is so important to academic achievement and lifelong success.
- Demonstrations by teachers and students on how this technology will be used in classrooms this year.

WHEN: September 2, 2021 | 4:00-7:00 pm

WHERE: Pendergast Community Center | 10550 W. Mariposa St. Phoenix, AZ 85037
We ask all members of the media to sign in at the Pendergast Community Center's front office. We will have one of our District staff provide guidance and directions.

WHO:

- Abraham Gonzalez | Villa de Paz Elementary School Principal
- Pendergast Governing Board Members
- Dr. Jennifer Cruz | Superintendent
- Dr. Shelmon Brown | Chief Academic Officer
- Betty Guardado, Phoenix City Council District 5
- Matt Clark, Verizon Representative
- Local middle school students receiving new tablets

***92% of teachers said Verizon Innovative Learning helped prepare them to teach remotely**

***92% of teachers said Verizon Innovative Learning helped them explore new ways of teaching**

***88% of teachers said Verizon Innovative Learning allowed for more individualized instruction**

***84% of teachers said that Verizon Innovative Learning enhanced student engagement**

***59% of students believe assignments are easier when using a device**

***54% of students believe that having the technology improved their confidence in the things they can do**

**Source: Westat (2020). Westat (2019)*

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About Verizon Innovative Learning

Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon's award-winning education initiative, addresses barriers to digital inclusion and is a key program under Citizen Verizon, the company's responsible business plan for economic, environmental and social advancement. Since 2012, the program has provided free technology, access and innovative learning programs to under-resourced schools, enabling students to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to build an innovative workforce of the future. In 2021 Verizon launched Verizon Innovative Learning HQ, a next-gen online education portal that will provide free access to immersive XR educational experiences to all K-12 teachers nationwide. The company is committed to providing 10 million youths with digital skills training by 2030. Learn more at CitizenVerizon.com.