



**Brian Winefsky**  
Principal

August 2018

**Margie Suero**  
Assistant Principal

Dear Sunset Ridge Family,

**Welcome Back!** A new school year brings a new energy and excitement for what's to come for our students. Our staff has spent summer days and endless hours getting their classrooms ready for the first day and preparing for their new students.

As we return from break, you may notice that our front office layout has changed. In efforts to maintain a secure environment, our office was renovated this summer to ensure the safest environment possible. Although safety protocols are in place at Sunset Ridge, and across our District, we want you to know you are always welcome, and we want our parents and involved here at our school. Parent involvement is a big reason Sunset Ridge is a great school, and Pendergast School District ranks among the best school districts in Arizona.

With the exception of students enrolled in the District's before/after care PRIDE program, please keep in mind, students may not arrive on campus prior to 8:30am, before the start of the school day. Once students have arrived on campus, they may not leave the campus during school hours unless they are officially "signed out" by a parent/guardian or individual designated on the student's emergency contact section of the student registration form.

Parents must notify the school office in writing of any changes to the information on the student registration form. This includes changes to who can be contacted in the event of an emergency or who can pick up the child from the school campus. All emergency contacts must be 18 years of age or older. Individuals not specifically listed on the student registration form will not be allowed to remove a student from school. While we understand that emergency situations that necessitate picking a student up within the last 30 minutes of the school day do arise from time to time, please understand that this is a busy time for the office. If at all possible, please make appointments after the school day ends or on Saturdays rather than during the school day.

Parental involvement is strongly encouraged and solicited, since research shows that a child's success in school is directly related to his/her parents' interest and involvement. According to our Governing Board policy, all visitors to any school campus in our District must report to the school office upon arrival. All visitors are required to sign the register and show picture ID to enter the campus or sign a student out of school. This includes when we open our gates in the morning at 8:30 for students to enter campus. In addition, we ask that arrangements be made with the teacher or administrator at least one day prior to visiting classrooms, and that visits be limited in length. For the safety of all students on campus, parents/guardians who come to have lunch with their child will get to enjoy lunch at a designated parent table with their child. Student visitors and/or under-age siblings are not allowed on campus during regular school hours, or at events without a parent or guardian.

Thank you for your support in making the 2018-2019 school year a safe one, and the best year yet!

Your partner in education,

Brian Winefsky

## Counselor's Corner

Greetings from your school counselor, Nicholas Covert. If you are new to our school or have not had a chance to talk to me, please let me share a bit about myself. The 2018/2019 school year will be my second year at Sunset Ridge. I come to our wonderful school by way of Grand Canyon University where I received my Master's degree in School Counseling. This is my fifth year as a school counselor and my fifteenth year in the school setting in some professional setting. Pendergast School District implements the guidelines set forth by the American School Counselor Association for school counselors which I have been a member of since 2008. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

For the month of August, your student will see me in their classroom within the first two weeks of the school year as we talk about the topic of Bullying and define the difference between conflict and bullying. We will identify what students can do if they see bullying.

Additionally, the Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life initiative will continue for the third year at Sunset Ridge. We are very proud to continue this program and offer it as a school club. Talk with your student(s) about joining and let them know to keep an eye out on the morning announcements for when the club will meet.

Students will be learning from the district adopted social/emotional curriculum Second Step. Look for skill practice from the class lesson in your student's classroom. If you are interested to learn more about our school district's curriculum you can visit the website [SecondStep.org](http://SecondStep.org). There are parent resources on the site that seek to bolster the lessons that are taught at school.

For the 2018/2019 school year, students will be offered chances to participate in small groups. Starting this year, morning kindergartens will have the opportunity to participate in growth centered groups. Growth centered groups provide an opportunity for additional personal and social skill building. They will provide a chance for your student to share, be a part of and increase their sense of belonging. Small groups provide an opportunity for the counselor and students to get to know each other better. Working with students in a closer group relationship allows the counselor to gain better insight into the strengths/weaknesses of the student and allows the opportunity to see other students relating in a social setting. For the month of August kindergarten students will participate in an opt out growth centered group titled "Getting Along In School". We will learn skills to help students be successful in the school environment. We will focus on learning how to follow group rules, to play well with others, and to listen to the teacher. Our goal is for students to feel happy and successful so that learning can take place.

As you can see we will hit the ground running in the month of August. Please, if you have questions or need to get ahold of me for any reason reach out, my school office number is (623) 772-2730 and my email address is [ncovert@pesd92.org](mailto:ncovert@pesd92.org). I am looking forward to a great year here at Sunset Ridge Elementary School.

## Calendar at a Glance

Thursday 2	First Day of School!
Wednesday 8, 15, 22, 29	Early Release 1:15pm
Tuesday 7, 21	Regular Governing Board Meeting 6pm—8pm 3802 North 91st Avenue
Friday 17	PESD Monthly Parent Luncheon 11am—noon 3841 North 91st Avenue

# Welcome Back Students!

**Parents and guardians, do not miss out on this exciting opportunity!**

Release the Fear is offering their 2 Gen program at Sunset Ridge FREE of charge. The program is designed for 6th—8th grade students and their parent/guardian. During the workshop participants will learn valuable skills that will empower them to bridge the communication gap between generations. This program is only four hours long, but offers communication skills that will last a lifetime.

The 2 Gen program uses both verbal and non verbal activities to help participants learn to support each other, work as a team, and develop an understanding of each other's daily lives.

Space is very limited for this FREE program, so please RSVP to Nancy at 623-772-2730. If it is necessary to leave a message, names will be added to the list, and calls returned, in the order received.