

Digital Learning at the Middle School Level

Over the course of the past four years the Wickenburg Unified School District has become a leader in the digital learning realm. Many of our programs and projects are recognized at both the state and national level and we are proud of what our staff has accomplished.

Digital learning is growing exponentially in the K-12 setting and it provides a way for rural students to gain access to subjects and courses which were previously unavailable. We believe that through providing digital learning options our students can expand their opportunities and will leave our schools better prepared than ever before.

Starting this school year the Wickenburg Unified School District has expanded its digital learning opportunities at Vulture Peak Middle School to include Honors English and Social Studies for students in grades 7 & 8. This is a “blended learning program”, which means that the students split their time between online learning and receiving instruction and small group assistance from a teacher. Research has shown this to be a highly effective learning model as it “blends” the best of both online and traditional methods of instruction.

We are also expanding our digital learning opportunities at Festival Foothills Elementary (K-8) in the southern portion of the school district. As of this year we are offering a Digital Honors/Acceleration Program for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. The program will start small, but we believe that it will grow as time progresses. During the course of this school year we will explore the possibility of offering high school programming at the Festival campus. This would allow us to more effectively serve our resident students, many of which attend schools outside of the district upon leaving the 8th grade.

The possibilities are truly endless with digital learning and I believe it will continue to grow and expand in the years to come. I will plan to keep the community updated on the new programs we offer and provide periodic reports regarding our progress as we continue this digital learning expansion.