

21st Century Learning Program Going Strong!

This past year Wickenburg High School applied for and received a 21st Century Learning Program grant to provide after school academic services and activities for WHS students. As the first high school in the state of Arizona to receive a 21st Century grant, it is quite an honor and the program is providing great learning opportunities for our students before school, after school, on Saturdays and in the summer months. Over the period of this past year the program served 161 students on a consistent basis and is led by WHS Counselor, Rachael Flann-Willis.

Research tells us that after school programs keep kids safe and improve students' academic achievement by providing critical opportunities to grow and learn. Students who participate in 21st Century Learning Programs across the nation get better grades, exhibit better behavior in and outside of the classroom and perform better on standardized tests. As Richard W. Riley, Former U.S. Secretary of Education states "Why are after school programs so important? Because children's minds don't close down at 3:00 p.m., and neither should schools."

The WHS program is in its second year of operation out of five. As indicated earlier, 161 students achieved completer status this past year meaning they attended the program 30 days or more during the year. This year we are excited to expand the opportunities for students and their families. We have added two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) options for kids this year. We know that learning mathematics through hands on application is a powerful way for students to achieve, so starting next week we will offer a computer science STEM class and a furniture making STEM class. The class choices for students include tutoring, board exam support and enrichment opportunities. A schedule can be obtained through the WHS office and the program starts Monday, August 27 and will run for the rest of the school year Monday – Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00.

I welcome you to visit the program sometime when you have a chance to see the many exciting opportunities which are being offered WHS students. As we continue to increase academic expectations and rigor at WHS it is programs like this, which extend the school day for some students, which will enable them to achieve success.