

Understanding the WUSD's Math Program

Recently, the state released the second year of AzMERIT test results for English-language arts and math. As expected, school districts across the state of Arizona are working through the transition to a much higher standard of learning for their students and properly establishing which groups are to be tested.

At Wickenburg High School, we increased the number of students taking the AzMERIT algebra I test year-over-year by 44% because some students had been taking the course over a two-year period. Now, all students will take algebra in one year. As one might expect, the passing percentages dipped with more students testing, but performance should stabilize and begin to increase now that this adjustment has been made.

The community might also be interested to know that 20% of Wickenburg High School students take advanced levels of math beyond algebra by the time they hit ninth grade. In fact, this past school year 32 freshman students were either in geometry or algebra II. Many of these students will make it through two years of calculus prior to leaving high school, which is quite impressive.

Our elementary schools are also raising the bar in dramatic fashion. Many of our staff members attended training this past summer to learn more about the Eureka math curriculum. Eureka has proven to provide tremendous results for students across the United States, and many districts in Arizona have begun to adopt it at the elementary level.

We are excited to see our math program transitioning as we raise the bar for our students and effectively prepare them for the career of their choice, the military, or college. It is a different world today, and students must know so much more than previous generations to be successful. Our students and staff are up to the challenge, and we look forward to seeing how this unfolds in the years to come.