

The Wickenburg Unified School District (WUSD) has once again developed a comprehensive plan for summer programming. Last year our summer program coordinator switched from Bill Moran, director of special services, to Debbie Hodgkiss, director of CAILL initiatives. Debbie has worked to bring all of the programs together, and we are expecting a very active summer.

In sum, a bit over 290 students will attend one of WUSD programs, and this figure does not include Camp Imagination, the Webb Center's popular summer program. Most of the WUSD programs will be during the month of June and will be conducted on the Wickenburg High School campus, although there will be some level of programming on each campus in the district.

Funded through either grants or fees, the programs address individual student's needs or interests. WUSD will offer programs for students interested in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM), as well as individuals desiring online course work, students who are struggling in reading and math, students in need of high school credits, and individuals interested in gaining a "jump start" on their high school algebra course work.

Students in each of the programs will be able to take advantage of free breakfast and lunch service (served at Hassayampa and WHS), and the programs make joint transportation possible. I believe this effort to coordinate the programs and figure out ways to share resources and services is both beneficial for all involved and a wise use of taxpayer dollars. Anytime similar programs can work together for mutual benefit, both students and taxpayers win.

I wanted to take a moment to update the community about this effort to create efficiency in offering summer programming, as you might be surprised to see kids riding buses to and from school during June and parts of July. Know that this represents an effort to use your tax dollars in both an effective manner academically and an efficient manner financially.