

## Education Options at Wickenburg High School

Last week the Wickenburg community was blessed to have Governor Ducey visit Wickenburg High School. WHS was the only high school the Governor selected to visit during this school year and the reason was he wanted to learn more about our Move On When Ready – Grand Canyon Diploma program and the many options we offer our students when it comes to graduation.

Graduation is an important moment in every child's life. It is the culmination of work started back in Kindergarten and is a stepping stone into adulthood. Traditionally, students passed a stated number of credits and achieved graduation if they passed their classes. Regardless of ability, future plans, or work ethic most students had to fit into that mold.

With all the changes in our society and the need to prepare students for careers which may not exist at the present time, Wickenburg High School has developed multiple paths that lead to graduation and prepare students for the future. This approach facilitates students' preparation for college and the work force. It also allows for early entry into college or career training courses and graduate from these programs in less time.

Having options is great, but can be confusing. Based on research, the Grand Canyon Diploma facilitates a variety of paths to ensure your child is college or career ready. Students can demonstrate this mastery by passing 9 specific courses and 7 End of Course (EOC) assessments. This model can be accomplished in two, three, or four years depending on the individual student's needs and plans.

Due to the variety of paths that can be followed it is sometimes difficult to have all of the information to make an informed decision regarding your child's education. To assist, Wickenburg High School has developed a website to clarify the options and opportunities so that parents and students can pursue in depth discussions (See "Education Options at Wickenburg High School" tab on the WHS website).

The website's goal is to allow parents and students to chart a path for their future. Topics included are as follows:

- What is needed to graduate?
- An interactive way to create a four year plan.
- Advantages of multiple paths to graduation (See video).
- Tips to help your child succeed at Wickenburg High School and beyond.

The design is to present this information in easy to see visuals that include pictures, animations, and movies. There is also the ability to dig deeper and explore the many possibilities available to your child through their high school experience. I hope you will take a look and learn more about what options are available at WHS – it is truly an exciting time for our students.

I believe the Governor thoroughly enjoyed his visit to WHS and was excited to see all that is going on at our rural high school. If you ever want a tour please let us know!