

Wickenburg Sun Article:

SYNERGY – What does it mean?

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Having served in public education for many years, I have witnessed many new programming initiatives. Often I found that some of these were little more than a change in window dressing of programs that were already in place. What was even more shocking is that at times these efforts did not reflect data driven decision making. With that perspective, I am sure you are wondering why I and others are championing Synergy, the new student information system for the Wickenburg Unified School District. The simple answer is we are excited about our commitment to quality programming for students that reflects data driven decision making. I continually see an evolution in our district of evaluating data and helping children based upon their personal needs and customizing an educational plan to help them succeed.

To truly have effective data to drive decisions, you need a robust system which can customize student information and help students in their social/emotional and academic endeavors. Synergy not only provides this option, it also has support mechanisms through the Arizona Department of Education. In my 42 years, it is the most robust system I have seen for tracking student's success and programming effectiveness at the local, state and federal level. So, what's the catch you ask?

Well, if you are the head football coach and you have to teach and train offense, defense, special teams, etc., your team would be limited in their skill level. However, if you have multiple coaches to dedicate time, a summer program to refine skills, and a strong weight training program, you will no doubt build greater expertise and skills in your players. The same is true when implementing a new system; you must dedicate the time and effort in providing training and support to all stakeholders.

I want to encourage parents to let us help you get set up with ParentVUE. This tool is one stop shopping to see grades, etc. for all of your children. If you did not receive an activation letter or would like help getting setup, please call me at 928-684-6653. We will be happy to help you over the phone and/or set up an appointment that fits your busy schedule.