Wickenburg Unified School District Adopts New Student Information System

At the last Governing Board meeting, we heard a presentation by Marcia Hespen, executive director of educational services, related to the states newly adopted student information system. In this article, I have asked Ms. Hespen to provide a bit of detail regarding this new system and its benefits for WUSD.

The Wickenburg Unified School District currently uses Power School, a student information system for all of our schools.   Teachers, parents and students have used the grade book feature on this system over the past fifteen years. While Power School has many good features, it is time intensive to obtain reports, for data uploads, and alignment with the Arizona Department of Education.

This past summer, Edupoint Educational Systems, Inc. was awarded the contract to provide Synergy as a statewide student information system for Arizona.   This adoption was the result of educators wanting an affordable system that would incorporate the latest technology to manage student information at a reduced price through state contracting.

In addition, the Arizona Department of Education has committed to ongoing support and streamlined data reporting, by providing services for all districts and charter schools that contract with the state to use Synergy. This will result in cost savings for our district. We will no longer have to use a third party vendor to connect with the state department in order to receive our data. We will now have direct access to our data through the state.

We are pleased to announce that the Wickenburg Unified School District will be implementing Synergy over the next six months. Our district will benefit due to the cost savings, alignment to state reporting, and a variety of features for students, parents, teachers and administration.

An example of these features include teacher websites in Synergy to inform parents and students through their portal to see all assignments, grades, activities, notices, announcements, etc. Synergy also allows the parent to customize what information they prefer to see for each of their children, based on that child's particular needs.

Once the system comes online for the 2015-2016 school year, we will provide additional information and updates for the community.