

## Wickenburg High School Makes Top 100 Ranking

Recently we learned that Niche.com ranked Wickenburg High School #80 among all Arizona high schools. WHS was rated just below Ironwood High School in Glendale and just above Tempe High School. As of 2015 there are approximately 400 high schools across the state of Arizona.

Per the Niche.com website the Best Public High Schools in America list “ranks 14,431 high schools based on dozens of key statistics and 4.6 million opinions from 280,000 students and parents. A high ranking indicates that the school is an exceptional academic institution with a diverse set of high-achieving students who rate their experience very highly.” We are proud that WHS made the list and see it as an honor for the entire community.

We are also proud that this past year the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) named Wickenburg High School a model for competency-based learning. It did so based upon WHS’ implementation of the Move on When Ready (MOWR) program and offering of the Grand Canyon Diploma. The MOWR program allows students who pass a series of end of course exams to graduate at the end of their sophomore year if they choose and move on to community college at school district expense. Based upon the generosity of the Wellik Foundation, these students can complete all of their college course work on the WHS campus in the “MOWR Learning Lab” and therefore never need to leave Wickenburg! We see this as an amazing benefit for Wickenburg students and their families. In addition, these same students are allowed to participate in all high school athletics and activities while attending community college online. In essence, they are able to match the best of both the community college and high school experiences while never leaving town.

I see rankings of this type as a real benefit, not only for our students and their parents, but also for the town as a whole. Congratulations to WHS and keep up the good work!