

Maintenance Welcomes Back Students

Written by Bill Moran, Director of Maintenance and Operations

On August 9th, students returned to Wickenburg Unified School District for the 2016-17 school year. Students, staff, and parents will have noticed that maintenance has been hard at work getting all campuses ready for their arrival. Most years the maintenance crew has taken a break for three weeks in the summer; at that time, there were no maintenance staff members on duty. This summer we abandoned that structure for a configuration where we always had a minimum of two maintenance staff available.

One of the primary objectives of the department was to address aging HVAC equipment and bring them up to the best possible condition for a smooth and safe beginning. During this time, much needed preventive maintenance was addressed, as well as running HVAC units periodically during the summer months to ensure operation efficiency. Although, we have had some HVAC issues with the opening of the school, they appear to be significantly reduced from last year's opening, when we had multiple units down daily.

Where was our summer monsoon? This year we have had a very delayed monsoon season, which many may appreciate. However, our grounds staff often welcomed the wet weather to help green up our playgrounds and sports fields. Without the normal monsoon wet season, the grounds crew has done an excellent job of monitoring water on the fields to have the best possible play areas for students. We have also performed preventative maintenance on much of our equipment to keep the fields ready for play. Striping for our fields is done with our paint lining machine. This summer operators have established a plan for maintaining equipment and keeping an inventory of small parts to reduce any down times.

As we move forward throughout the year, we are sure we will encounter many challenges in maintenance. However, I feel we have grown as a department in the past year or two and will continue to strive to move forward, providing a safe and friendly environment for students and staff.