



News From PAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Sand Devil Family Member,

We've certainly had an exciting start to the second semester with a snow day happening and lots of Sand Devil athletic events. As we transition into February, I wanted to take a moment to highlight an event from January and a look ahead to February and beyond.

One of the most exciting events that took place during January was the unveiling of our new enrichment opportunities for students during the Sand Devil Block. Whether a student wanted to work on their basketball or archery skills in the gym or wanted to work with Mr. Sharp in the Auto Tech Shop, students were able to make good use of the time during the Sand Devil Block. In talking to teachers about how this new time is being used, nearly all of the teachers have found that they have been able to make great use of the time and have been able to provide students with opportunities they wouldn't ordinarily get. If you're curious about what your student is doing during the Sand Devil Block, please take the time to strike up a conversation about it with them.

Those of you who take the time to read my monthly newsletter article will know that we were supposed to receive our student growth results based on how students performed on last year's AzMERIT exam. As of right now, we have not received this data from the Arizona Department of Education but we hope to receive the results soon. What this data will show is how much students grew between their last AIMS test and taking the AzMERIT test. As soon as this information is provided by our state, we will make sure it is provided to parents and students. Also, while this may seem that it is a long ways off, this year's administration of the AzMERIT exams will take place on March 21st and will conclude on Thursday, April 28th. Please especially make sure your student is in school throughout this time so they can show what they know on the AzMERIT exam.

February marks the start of our pre-registration process for the 2016-2017 school year. Our goal this year is to get a pre-registration schedule into the hands of every student so that you and your student can review the courses selected for next school year. Upon reviewing your son or daughter's courses, please sign the pre-registration schedule and return it to Page High School. Here are a few important dates to make you aware of:

- February 5th-2016-2017 Course Description Handbooks are handed out to students
- February 10th-11th-Teacher Recommendation Days
- February 16th-26th-High School Pre-Registration Occurs
- February 29th-Pre-Registration Schedules are handed out to students
- March 11th-Pre-Registration Schedules must be returned with a parent signature.

Please help us out by doing your part to review, sign, and return the schedules on time so our pre-registration data is accurate and we can build the best schedule for all of our students.

Finally, one of the biggest distractions our students face is the onslaught of text messages they receive each day. In the interest of the education of your students, I would like to ask that you not text your student during class time so they can focus on their primary responsibility which is learning. Recently, one of our teachers presented a YouTube clip to her class with some research on how the split focus on technology and learning is reducing the ability of students and adults alike to transfer what they have learned into long term memory. I would ask that you take a few minutes to review the clip at your convenience at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKaWJ72x1rI>

Yours in Education,

Paul Gagnon