



Ranch Elementary School

August 2016

43521 N. Kenworthy Ave. San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

480-882-3530 www.ranch.jocombs.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 4:15

Dear Ranch Families,

Empowering students to be lifelong learners is the mission at Ranch Elementary. The staff and I are focused on continued academic growth and achievement. Listed below are some strategies that will be implemented this year.

- 40 minute interventions in reading and math
- Incentives for classroom attendance
- Professional development for our teachers in math talk, math practices and math strategies
- Math and reading academic coaches to assist and support teachers
- Continuation of Write From The Beginning writing program
- Reading specialist to provide additional instruction for struggling readers
- Full time social worker to support our students and families
- Third year Partnership with *Beat The Odds Program* / Mentoring program for Administrators
- Minimum 60 minute period for math instruction/90 minutes for language arts
- Teachers participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) using data to drive instruction
- Academic Parent Teacher Teams

As we continue on our path to excellence we are asking for you to partner with our school in an effort to increase the school's student achievement scores and to assist your child in being academically successful. We are excited to continue with our **Academic Parent Teacher Teams** which allow us to continue our home/school partnership. Many of you participated last year. We look forward to increasing this partnership. Please mark your calendar for:

Wednesday, August 31st from 5-6:00pm (POPS & Kinderprep)

Wednesday, August 31st from 6-7:15pm (Grades Kinder - 2nd)

Thursday, September 1st from 6-7:15pm (Grades 3rd - 6th)

These meetings are important as your child's teacher will share our school achievement goal, Galileo, DIBELS and STAR data, and your child's individual student data. The classroom teacher will teach a lesson related to our school goal and provide you with materials that you will be able to use at home with your child. Attending the APTT meeting will enhance the relationship between school and home and will lead to greater academic success. Just for attending, your name will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Susan Kruse

Follow us on Twitter @
Ranchroadrunner and
[facebook.com/RanchRoadrunner](https://www.facebook.com/RanchRoadrunner)



You can follow us on Twitter: @Ranchroadrunner if you don't have a Twitter account, but would like to receive our updates via text message, follow these easy steps:

- ◇ Type 40404 (as the recipient)
- ◇ Type "follow @Ranchroadrunner" (in the message area) send
- ◇ That's it! You will now begin to receive our Twitter updates, even without an account.

Ranch Behavior Matrix

Ready, Set Learn
Aim for YOUR Best
Never Give Up
Consistently Show Your Character
Honor Self and Others



School Pledge

Today I will do more than I have to do!
I will treat others as I want to be treated!
And I will become a better person!

We would like to introduce our PTO Board for our upcoming 2016-2017

President: Stefani St. George
Vice President: Rock Gaylor
Treasurer: Jody Warren
Secretary: Tammy Luostari
Free Funds: Jennifer Swenki



Please contact any PTO Member at ranchpto@gmail.com or inquire at the front desk if you would like to be a parent volunteer. Our first meeting is **Thursday, August 18th** at 5:00 in the Media Center. Check out the Ranch calendar for our upcoming events!



RANCH & PTO COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

Ranch & PTO's cookie dough fundraiser is fast approaching. Please watch for order forms in your child's backpack this month.



PTO's first event of the year!! Come join us at Skateland on Thursday, August 25th located at 1101 W. Ray Road, Chandler from 5:30 - 7:30pm. This is a private event and not open to the public.

Band & Orchestra Information and Rental Night ***Tuesday, August 9th 6:00pm*** ***Ellsworth Elementary Gymnasium***

This meeting is for all 5th & 6th grade students, and their parents who are interested in starting a band or orchestra instrument. The music teachers will be there to hand out information packets, give a presentation and answer any questions you may have. Enrollment for the class is free, but students will need to purchase a lesson book which will be available for purchasing that evening. There will be several music vendors there to rent instruments from for the school year. For your convenience check or credit is accepted. Classes start on Monday, August 15th!

If you have any questions before please feel free to email Mr. Pennington for Orchestra kpennington@jocombs.org or Mr. Mixdorf for Band at jmixdorf@jocombs.org

Cafeteria



The district participates in the National School Breakfast/Lunch program. All meals served meet guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Free/Reduced Applications:

One application per household is needed each year. Applications are accepted anytime during the year. Please allow 10 school days for a response. Families are notified in writing of the status of a request. Qualifying students receive one breakfast meal and one lunch meal daily. Applications are available at the district web site (www.jocombs.org) through the Food Service icon located under Departments.

Management of Lunch Accounts:

Students are notified at least three times before they run out of money. If a student has a deficit balance a courtesy meal of cheese sandwich, fruit and milk will be provided.

EzSchoolpay.com:

This is an on-line payment option. You need to call 480-987-5312 for your student's ID number to begin. Checking your child's account balance and making payments on-line are an easy way to manage your child's account.

Report Card

A+

Quarterly report cards will be printed and sent home with your child. Progress reports can be found in Jupitergrades.com. We encourage you to go online and activate your Jupitergrades.com account at the beginning of the school year. Jupitergrades.com allows each parent/guardian an opportunity to review their child's academic progress any day or time of day. Parents/Guardians can sign up for automatic alerts and emails as well. If you need assistance logging into the system for the first time, please contact your child's teacher.



Love and Logic Classes begin from 6:00pm - 7:30pm at Simonton Elementary School Library. Classes are **FREE** and will be held on the following dates: 8/22, 8/29, 9/12, 9/9, 9/19, 9/26 and 10/3. Contact Angela Albers at 480-987-5330 to register. Child care provided for ages 2-11.

For The Safety Of Our Children

Students are not allowed on campus prior to 7:55am. Please do not drop your child off before this time unless prior arrangements for tutoring have been made with the classroom teacher.



In the event of a lockdown go directly to www.jocombs.org for immediate up to date information.

STUDENT
DROP-OFF
AND
PICK-UP
AREA

The area out front of the school is a drop off and pick up area only. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended. If you need to come into the school for **ANY** reason. Please park in the parking lot.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION



"If you need to make a change to your child's afternoon transportation, please be sure to contact the school office prior to **2:00 pm** to give us adequate time to notify your child's teacher. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance in this matter."

CHILD FIND

J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 has programs for children in preschool through age 22 who may require special services. Through the child find process the district locates children with disabilities who are not yet receiving any special education services. Our district serves the needs of preschool-to 22 year old students with special needs in a variety of domains, including but not limited to, cognitive, emotional, speech, hearing, vision, language, and/or motor. If you know of any such child, or have questions about the programs available, please call your neighborhood school or Jeremy Evan Scherer at the district's special needs office at [480-987-5321](tel:480-987-5321). If you have any specific questions about preschool-age children, call Brendan Stynes at [480-882-3538](tel:480-882-3538). We offer preschool screenings several times during the year. These are free for all 2.9-5 (non kindergarten eligible) children and are held between 8:30-11:30 on the following dates and locations:

8-2-16 Ranch Elementary
9-14-16 Simonton Elementary
10-19-16 Ranch Elementary
11-30-16 Simonton Elementary
1-11-17 Ranch Elementary
2-15-17 Simonton Elementary
3-29-17 Ranch Elementary
5-10-15 Simonton Elementary
June sign-up screening to be determined



Title I Funding

J.O. Combs Unified School District has once again received supplemental funds through a Title I grant from the Federal Government to provide extra services to students.

The funds will be utilized to:

- ◆ Hire highly qualified instructional personnel including a Reading Specialist, Social Worker, and Reading Para-Professional
- ◆ Purchase equipment and instructional material
- ◆ Increase parent involvement
- ◆ Provide on-going staff development

We are pleased to have these funds to provide high quality instruction for students at Ranch Elementary.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

Karla Slovisky, the Director of Business Services for the Combs School District has been awarded the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement and the Business Office has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. These awards are the highest forms of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and finance. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the J.O. Combs Unified School District's students!



Combs Community Education is excited to announce the opening of a Kinder Prep classroom at Ellsworth Elementary. Kinder Prep is for children ages 4 - 5 and will help prepared them for Kindergarten in the 2017-2018 school year.

Don't forget to sign you child up for Combs Kidz Before and After School care. It's a great place for students to spend time getting homework done and playing with friends.