

# GLADIATOR WEEKLY UPDATE

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North Phoenix Prep Academy 14100 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032 602.996.4355

## Upcoming Events

5/23 - 5/25 - Final Exams

5/26 - Last Day of School

5/26 - 8th Grade Promotion

5/26 - Graduation

## Quick Links

[School Calendar 21.22](#)

[May Lunch Menu](#)

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## 22.23 School Year

8/9 - First Day of School

10/10 - 10/14 - Fall Break

12/19- 1/2 - Winter Break

3/13 - 3/17 - Spring Break

5/25 - Last Day of School

## Digital Wellness and Youth Mental Health

We are pleased to welcome Katey McPherson to campus on Tuesday, May 17th to discuss Digital Wellness and Youth Mental Health. Please see the details on the flyer below and email from Friday, 5/13. In the meantime, if interested, please watch this video: [Childhood 2.0 Video](#)



As the world evolves with the use of technology, so does the landscape of childhood. Subject matter experts and researchers are quick to point out that we don't have enough data to say what causes what when it comes to children and the impact of screen time, but we do know that technology, the advent of the smartphones, and other mobile devices has changed the way children are accessing information, interacting with each other, and people they meet on the Internet.

\*Content contains material about cyberbullying, exposure to explicit material, depression, anxiety and self-harm/suicidal ideation.

**GREAT HEARTS NORTH PHOENIX PARENT NIGHT**  
DIGITAL WELLNESS AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

**MAY 17, 2022**

**6:30 - 7:30 P.M. Q&A**

\*Parents please view the movie ahead of parent night



**14100 N 32ND ST,  
PHOENIX, AZ 85032**



[@KATEYMCP](#) [@KATEYAZ1](#)  
[WWW.KATEYMCPHERSON.COM](http://WWW.KATEYMCPHERSON.COM)

Katey McPherson's experience as a K-12 guidance counselor and school administrator watching children manage the uncharted waters of screen time and social media. Practical evidence-based strategies and tips to manage and supervise digital device use will be offered.

PARENT'S NIGHT



## Academy Giving

**Did you know? Community Investment is the best way to support North Phoenix Prep!** Community Investment Funds help keep our curriculum rigorous while supporting our teachers and administration. Does your family want to support our school through Community Investment? Email [Jackie Curtis](#), Academy Giving Manager, with any questions or click [here](#) for more information.

## PSO Corner

[PSO Website](#)

[Contact PSO](#)

[Amazon Smiles](#)

## Connect with NPX



## A Note from the Dean

Greetings parents!

I wanted to share a few reminders and dates. I have reached out to families that must take summer school classes. However, if your scholar fails a class for the semester in a subject that will require remediation, please expect an email from me during the week of May 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are concerned or would like to know if your child may be required to take summer school, please reach out to me.

-Ms. Jensen, Dean of Students

5/16/22-Last day Homework Charts will be sent

5/20/22-Last Missing Assignment Report

6/3/22-Parent Portal opens for grades

6/6/22-Summer school starts

**[Summer School Brochure \(link\)](#)**

## Final Exams

Monday, 5/23 - 1st & 2nd Period (12:45 Dismissal)

Tuesday, 5/24 - 3rd & 4th Period (12:45 Dismissal)

Wednesday, 5/25 - 5th & 6th Period (12:45 Dismissal)

## End of the Year To-Do List

All textbooks will need to be returned by May 26. Please start gathering items around the house to return to your child's teacher(s) during Final Exam week.

## 8th Grade Promotion

*When: Thursday, May 26*

*Time: 9:00 am*

*Where: NPX Field*

*Details: Families are asked to bring their own chairs and shading. \*Students will be provided chairs and there will be limited seating on the field for guests.*

## Welcome and Farewell

*Please help us welcome the following new faculty and staff of North Phoenix Preparatory Academy for 2022-2023:*



An Arizona native, **Mrs. Sheila Conner** received her Bachelor's Degree in Women's Studies from Arizona State University. Her experience in higher education includes several years as Admissions Counselor and Student Life Coordinator at Arizona State University. Most recently, she served as Registrar for Archway North Phoenix for three years. Sheila is an avid reader of philosophy, mythology, and science fiction and enjoys yoga and hiking the Phoenix mountains. Her twin daughters started their educational journey at Archway North Phoenix in Kindergarten and are entering 7th grade this fall as Gladiators. Ms. Conner will join Ms. Martin in the college counseling department.

**Mrs. Ashley Viotor** graduated from St. John's College, Annapolis in 1995 and started teaching middle school Latin at a small private school in New Haven, CT in 1996. Two years later, she moved to a boarding school for girls (Chatham Hall School) in southern Virginia where she taught high school Latin I and II and her Pembroke Welsh Corgi ruled the campus. Four years later she stopped teaching to raise her growing family. In 2005 she moved to Phoenix and in 2017 began teaching Latin again at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School. Throughout the years she has homeschooled several of her six children. She enjoys long walks with my husband and children, reading a wide variety of literature and biography, and when time permits, needlepointing pillows for my children! Favorite authors include Willa Cather, Mark Twain, and Sigrid Undset. "Laete cognoscam et laete docebo"



**Mrs. Stephanie Bangston** joins our team as a Literature/Composition teacher. She comes to us with two years of English Language Arts teaching in addition to several years as a classroom and Exceptional Student Services teaching assistant. Throughout these years as an educator, she has developed a passion for helping students find their own love of reading and their unique author's voice. Having moved to Phoenix in late 2020, Stephanie enjoys exploring the desert landscape through hiking and camping excursions. In her spare time, she loves reading, playing piano and flute, and dancing ballet. She lives with her husband, Matthew, in the North Valley.

**Mrs. Joanie Faust** is an Arizona native with a Bachelor of Arts with honors in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona. She spent nearly ten years as a writer, editor and content director for marketing firms before taking time off when her first child was born. As a descendant of many teachers, she swore she would never become one herself, but often wondered if the clichés about teaching might be true. In August of 2020, she answered the call to take on a 6th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies position in the Washington Elementary School District (the same year her oldest son started kindergarten at Archway North Phoenix). While she does not recommend beginning a teaching career during a pandemic, she discovered that teaching really is the most rewarded and unrivaled job in the world. Mrs. Faust is overjoyed to be sharing her fervent love of classical literature, figurative language, and the Oxford comma with the scholars at North Phoenix Preparatory as the ELA interventionist and the newest member of the 7th grade Lit/Comp team.



**Ms. Christina Young-Fuentes** will be the new ESS Teacher/ Coordinator here at North Phoenix Prep. She was born in Detroit, MI, and has lived all around the world--the life of a military brat! She is excited to make Arizona her home. She knew she wanted to be a teacher since the 8th grade. She graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a BA in History. While pursuing her M.Ed in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University, she had the rewarding experience working in ASD classrooms in Oak Park, MI, which has made her want to become a certified special education teacher. She is currently certified 6-12 in Social Studies and she has her Alternative Special Education K-12 Certificate, as she is completing the Teacher in Residence Program for Special Education at Rio Salado College. When she is not teaching, she loves spending time with her fiancé and daughters. She is looking forward to the new school year!

**Mr. Kenneth Hansen** joins the NPX Math department as a Euclid and Great Books enthusiast. Mr. Hansen graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in California where he earned a Bachelors of the Arts in Liberal Arts. During his time at TAC, Mr. Hansen served as Vice President of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Prior to his time at TAC, Mr. Hansen studies at Texas Christian University where he studied Political Science.

***With the excitement of new faces comes the realization that we will also be missing some familiar faces next year. We are excited for these members of our community as they continue to grow and share their passions in new places. Please help us goodbye to the following North Phoenix Preparatory Academy faculty and staff:***

**Ms. Baker** will be moving back to her home state of Illinois. We will miss her dearly and appreciate all of the work that she has put into our literature, poetry, and writing courses at NPX!

*I want to thank the faculty, students, and families of NPX for the past three wonderful years. I have been so blessed to have found a home here and have loved teaching 8th Grade Lit.Comp and 9th Grade Poetry. Alas, my family in Illinois is calling me home, and though I don't look forward to those Midwest winters, I am excited to be close to my parents, siblings, and five nieces and nephews.*

*To my faculty family, I wish you all the best, and thank you for helping me grow as a teacher and leader at Great Hearts. A special thank you to Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Stone, our headmaster and assistant headmaster for all you do for this school and your teaching staff each and every day.*

*I also want to thank Ms. Alexis Fulton, my 8th Grade teaching partner of the last three years. You have been an amazing collaborator, mentor, and most importantly dear friend.*

*To my students, past and present, I wish you so much love and good will. Thank you for your joy, hard work, and for all you have taught me in return. I will never forget you. And as it wouldn't be a proper Ms. Baker farewell without Shakespeare, I will leave you with his words:*

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
On such a full sea are we now afloat,  
And we must take the current when it serves,  
Or lose our ventures.*

Love,  
Ms. Sarah Baker

**Mrs. Bailey** will continue to focus on her health until she is ready to return to teaching. We are hopeful that we will see her again soon and wish her a speedy recovery.

*The last three years have tested our resilience, but for me they are also filled with memories of working with wonderful colleagues and kind-hearted students and has renewed my passion for teaching. I had so many plans for this year, but it is with the memory of my NPX family's compassion, generosity, and support that I depart (for now) to focus on my health. - Ms. Bailey*

**Dr. Geraci** will continue to serve the network as a curriculum writer. We are grateful for Dr. Geraci's implementation of modeling curriculum at NPX and wish her well as she supports other science teachers in the network.

*After 20 years working in science and 7 years teaching science in middle and high school, I am taking a sabbatical next year. I am joining the Great Hearts Professional Development team as a Teacher Resource Portal Content Specialist for chemistry and physical science. At a time when only about 75% of students in the U.S. take chemistry and nearly 60% take no physics in high school, I am excited to create content that supports our students who take both as part of a classical liberal arts curriculum. - Dr. Geraci*

**Mr. Lauffenberger** graciously filled in for Ms. Bailey this year. While it is never easy to take a class mid-year, Mr. Lauffenberger has been dedicated and attentive to his post. We are grateful that he will continue to serve the network in a teaching position at another school this fall.

**PARENTS: SAVE THE DATE!**

**LOST CANYON  
HIGH SCHOOL  
RETREAT**

**8/15  
TO  
8/17**

We will be taking our entire high school back to  
Lost Canyon again this August.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND ALUMNI NEEDED**

Please consider being a volunteer helper for this trip. We  
can't do it without you!

**MORE DETAILS AND SIGNUP INFO COMING SOON**

## College Counseling Update

### *Prompt*

Prompt hosted their "Secrets to Great College Applications and Essays" webinar on May 9. If you missed it, not to worry! We have a recording that you can watch at your convenience: [Prompt Webinar for Great Hearts](#).

Prompt has also invited all Great Hearts junior families to sign up for a call with a Prompt Coach through the end of May. You can ask Prompt anything about college essays and applications or learn how Prompt can help you along your application and essay journey. You can [sign up here](#)!

### *Summer Opportunities*

Are you looking to get involved this summer but not sure how to get involved or where to look? Great Hearts is seeking Prep Scholars to support Great Hearts summer camp. It will be rewarding, and you will earn service hours. Check out the flyer attached. (Alison- could you please link the flyer attached)

### *College Counseling Events*

**Rising 12th Grade Parent Info Session:** May 23, 2022 10:00-11:00 NPX Library (In person)

**Rising 12th Grade Parent Info Session:** May 23, 2022 3:00-4:00 ZOOM

### ***Join Zoom Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81738685410?pwd=q9MgGjGQxGFRPL4XIYtWOtVSYgVO9u.1>

Meeting ID: 817 3868 5410

Passcode: 955901

**Rising 11th Grade Parent Info Session:** May 24, 2022, 10:00-11:00 NPX Library (in person)

**Rising 11th Grade Parent Info Session:** May 24, 2022 3:00-4:00 Zoom

### ***Join Zoom Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86734238322?pwd=IOxEGvgwSIPvqnrIttoKED3USc4UDF.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3423 8322

Passcode: 964044

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER CAMP

SEEKING GREAT HEARTED PREP SCHOLARS TO SUPPORT GREAT HEARTS SUMMER CAMP.

Are you looking for something fun and rewarding to do this summer and interested in earning service hours?

Great Hearts is seeking energetic, helpful volunteers willing to assist our summer camp. Volunteers will gather supplies, organize craft activities, take pictures, and assist the classroom teachers.

**2022 Program Dates:**

June 6<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Program Hours:**

7:30am - 6:00pm M-F

Volunteers must be a rising junior or senior.

**GreatHearts® | Summer Programs**

CLASSICAL EDUCATION. REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOLS.™

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For more information, please contact the Campus Coordinator at your academy.

**Arete:** Lory Sipel | [Programs.Arete@GreatHeartsAZ.org](mailto:Programs.Arete@GreatHeartsAZ.org) | 480.251.5697

**Chandler:** Jordan Neal | [Programs.Chandler@GreatHeartsAZ.org](mailto:Programs.Chandler@GreatHeartsAZ.org) | 602.740.0683

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## Track and Field Gladiators

Congratulations to the North Phoenix Prep Boys' team as they place 4th overall at the State Championship and to the Girl's team for a 13th place finish. Boys team had 4 individual scorers, Thomas Koska, Harrison Brewer, Sam Johnston, and Finn Comerford along with Kaden Duryea and Jonah Pearson in the 4x800 relay. Making the podium- **Thomas Koska is the new D4 State Champion in the boys 1600**, he took 2nd place in the 3200, and 3rd place in the 800. And Also making it to the podium was Finn Comerford coming in 4th in the boys hurdles. The Girls had two individual scorers, Aleksandra Reno and Tessa Cannon along with Kendall Kartler and Lydia Attasseril in the 4x100 relay. Way To Go Gladiators!



## Athletic Signing Day

Congratulations to 3 of our athletes: Harrison Brewer (Lyons College) Football, Thomas Koska (University of Alabama) Cross Country & Track, and Sam Johnston (Florida Institute of Technology) Cross Country & Track as they signed their sports commitment papers to their respective colleges. We are thrilled of their choices and excited to see them compete at the next level. Way to go Gladiators!



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## Gladiator Gear

Here is the link to start shopping and saving –

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/arizona/phoenix/north-phoenix-preparatory-academy>

## Reporting Absences

To report your scholar(s) absence, please provide an email to [Attendance@NorthPhoenixPrep.org](mailto:Attendance@NorthPhoenixPrep.org) with the following information:

1. Student(s) First and Last Name
2. Grade
3. Date of Absence(s)
4. Reason for absence (*please be specific*)

## Absences

When a student is absent and in need of make-up work, they should first check the Weekly Homework Chart for assignments. Should they have questions or need additional assignments, they are to email their teacher(s) directly. Please do not ask the attendance line to acquire assignments for your student. If items need to be picked up from campus, teachers will leave these items in the front office.

## Tardies

We are now requiring any appointments (e.g., medical, dental, etc.) reported as a tardy to bring the documentation/slip from that office for auditing purposes. At time of check in, our Raptor system, allows to select reason for tardy “ Doctor/Dentist or appointments, a slip must be given to our Front Desk team upon entry.