



Happy New Year from the Villago Middle School Staff. We are excited to be entering the Second Semester and look forward to many celebrations of student success in the coming months. Villago will have early release on January 12 and 26. The school will also be closed on January 17 to celebrate the birthday of Dr. King. Have a great month, and stay safe.

Jeff Lavender Principal Villago Middle School





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PBIS AT VILLAGO

At Villago, we have specific expectations for our students:

~Be Respectful, Be Accountable, and Communicate~

<u>On the bus these are met by</u>: Keep, hands, feet, objects to yourself. Line up to get on the bus. Be quiet during announcements. Keep track of <u>your</u> belongings. Sit in your assigned seat. Stay in your seat while the bus is moving. Arrive at the bus stop early. Speak positively. Use inside voices. Use appropriate language. Report problems.

Please discuss these expectations and behaviors with your child. We need support for students to learn and follow the expectations for success while riding the bus.

COUNSELOR CORNER

Happy New Year and welcome back Villago Families!

As we begin a new semester, we would like to remind students and families that it is our goal and mission to provide a nurturing environment to all students that will address their social-emotional and academic needs. Mrs. Pantoja will help provide an understanding of and respect for self and others; problem-solving, emotional-management skills along with learning skills for academic success. Here are some of the activities and services that she has planned on providing for our Villago students:

Individual Counseling: Our student's academic success is greatly affected by their emotional well being. Students may see a school counselor for a variety of reasons including: stress, study skills, family changes, bullying, and more.

<u>Small Groups</u>: Small groups provide additional learning experiences, giving students the opportunity to build relationships, practice new skills, and learn through the support of group members.

<u>Classroom Guidance Lessons</u>: Classroom lessons address important preventative and developmental topics, including conflict resolution, bullying, academic skills, career, and personal safety, among others.

Parent and teacher connection: Collaboration with parents and teachers is an important part of the school counselor's role in helping students succeed. Mrs. Pantoja can also help find community resources for parents in search of information or services to help their child at home.

We are so excited about this semester and all of the new and wonderful things that it will bring. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pantoja!

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UNITY MARCH

Villago is also happy to partner with the City of Casa Grande to host the annual Unity March and Rally. Students from our community have been marching for Unity since 2003. We are excited to participate again this year after taking a break last year because of Covid. Students from Casa Grande Middle School and Cactus Middle School will join our students in marching for Unity. The theme this year is "Dr. King's Beloved Community." The keynote speaker at the Unity Rally will be Pastor Anthony Edwards. Pastor Juan Humes will lead the closing activity. The Casa Grande Alliance will also announce sponsorship of the Dr. King's Voices Project at the rally. The Unity March and Rally will be on January 14 at 1:00 p.m.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student council has been working hard to begin student-led announcements prior to Winter Break. We have had a successful implementation of student-led announcements. The goal is to create more video content that includes student related issues/concerns and that empower student voice.

COVID INFORMATION

Just a reminder of these CDC recommendations to fight the spread of Covid-19:

1. Wear a mask, especially if you are not vaccinated. It is recommended that you still wear a mask even if you are vaccinated.

2. Wash your hands frequently with hot water and soap.

3. Be vigilant in monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- ✓ Body aches and/or headache
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of smell and taste

4. Stay home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms and consider getting tested for COVID-19. If you get tested, do not return to school until you are symptom-free for 24 hours and tested negative. You can find COVID-19 testing sites on the Arizona Department of Health Services Website:

https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/index.php#everyone-get-tested

5. Communicate with the school as soon as possible all positive COVID-19 cases.