

Buckeye Elementary School District



Superintendent's Letter April 2017

Dear Colleagues, Parents and Community Members,

BESD is celebrating spring in so many ways! Recently the national VH1 Director, Chiho Fiendler visited our District to see our band programs in action. We are very grateful to the VH1 Foundation for their financial support of our band programs. Chiho was so impressed with the progress we have made in our band programs thanks to Amber Shupe, our BESD Band Director.

The month of April is our AzMERIT testing where students are assessed on the Arizona [State Standards](#) taught in our classrooms. According to the Arizona Department of Education website, "AzMERIT is the statewide achievement test. Arizona public school students in Grades 3 through high school will take AzMERIT in English Language Arts and Mathematics at their grade level." The AzMERIT Tests are one way that we measure student progress however it is not the only way. Students are assessed in their classrooms on a consistent basis using many different tools to show growth and progress.

Recently a BESD team including students, teachers, and administrators presented at the [Arizona School Boards Association](#) Equity Conference. We continue to be a state and national leader in the work of ensuring equitable programs are delivered to students in public schools. The Arizona School Public Relations Association honored BESD with an Award of Excellence for our work with the Minority Student Achievement Network. Congratulations to all for making BESD proud.

We invite you to become involved in our District through the Parent/Superintendent Council, Site Councils at each school, our [BESD Foundation](#), on [Twitter](#) or Facebook. These are all opportunities to connect with us and see why we are "Passionate about Student Success."

Dr. Kristi Sandvik

Proud BESD Superintendent - ksandvik@besd33.org