

Spring 2017 School Liaison Newsletter



Month of the Military Child: The Military is full of traditions! A yearly tradition that has taken root over the past few years is the celebration of the military child during the month of April. April is a perfect month to celebrate our strong and resilient military children because just like the season of spring, military children will bloom where they are planted; and just like a dandelion flower, military children will land wherever the military winds will blow them. On April 21st, please join the MCAS Yuma Programs and many of our local schools by showing your pride and support and “Purple Up” for military children stationed throughout the world!

AzMerit Testing: During the month of April, students in 3rd through 8th grades within all Arizona public/charter elementary & middle schools will be taking the state standardized test call the AzMerit. Standardized tests will consist of Math, English, Language Arts, and Writing. During this time, school Principals and Teachers encourage all parents to please plan accordingly and arrange all appointments for students outside of the testing dates.

Kindergarten Registration: Kindergarten Registration is still taking place at many Yuma schools. In Arizona, a child must be 5 years old by August 31st in order to be eligible for Kindergarten. If you have any questions regarding Kindergarten registration and school options, please call the MCAS Yuma School Liaison as soon as possible at 928-269-5373.

Early Entrance Kindergarten: If your child misses the AZ Kindergarten eligibility date, and you feel that your child should be considered for Kindergarten, there are several early entrance Kindergarten programs in Yuma that you may want to consider. The Crane School District offers an early entrance program as well as Amerischools charter schools (North & South Campus). Parents must contact these schools directly to inquire about the program. Each child will be assessed by school staff members to determine if he/she is ready to enter Kindergarten.

Online Learning Academies: With the popularity of online learning programs growing throughout the country, more and more school districts are offering Online Learning Academies for elementary, middle and high school students. Did you know that Yuma Union High School District, Yuma School District One and the Crane School District also offer online learning programs? These programs are excellent for students that are being homeschooled, students that are homebound due to medical reasons, or students that need to make up courses due to various circumstances. If you feel that an online learning program may be right for your child and your family, please visit the school district websites to learn more about these online learning programs:

- Yuma Union High School District’s YODA:
http://www.yumaunion.org/pages/Yuma_Union_HighSchool_Dist/Welcome/Yuma_online_Distance_Academy
- Yuma School District One:
https://tb2cdn.schoolwebmasters.com/acnt_72890/site_72891/Documents/YumaEIDO_DistrictONEOnline_0121152.pdf
- Crane School District’s Online Learning Academy: <http://www.craneschools.org/Welcome.aspx>

Empowerment Scholarship Account Applications: Active duty military parents stationed in Arizona who are interested in homeschooling or sending their children to private schools are eligible to apply for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA). The ESA will provide military families tuition dollars for homeschooling and private schools. The ESA application is now available year round. The application can be found at: <http://www.azed.gov/esa/>. Please call the MCAS Yuma School Liaison if you have questions about private school education and the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA).

Relocation of YUHSD Offices: The Yuma Union High School District (YUHSD) Office have temporarily moved from Avenue A to the Yuma High School campus due to the new construction of Vista Alternative High School and a new district office. The temporary re-location will be in effect for all of the 2017-18 school year. Phone numbers have remained the same. The new address for the YUHSD office is: 400 S. 6th Ave. All Open Enrollment forms must still be submitted at this temporary district office location.

End of 4th Quarter & MCX Super Star Program: All Yuma area schools will be winding down the school year at the end of May. If your child has maintained a B average or higher on his/her report card, don't forget to bring it to the Marine Corps Exchange for a scratch off gift card.

- Yuma School District One last day of school: May 26th
- Crane School District last day of school: May 31st
- Yuma Union High School District last day of school: May 25th

High School Commencement Ceremonies:

- Yuma Union High School District: Friday, May 26th
- Yuma Catholic High School: Friday, May 26th
- Desert View High School: May 25th

PCS=Positive Change of Schools: The USMC School Liaisons want this PCS season to be a "Positive Change of Schools" for you and your children. Military families are encouraged to contact their installation School Liaisons when planning to transition their children to a new school. School Liaisons can assist in alleviating the stress of moving by providing resources and support to families when researching new schools. Find your USMC School Liaison here:

http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/mccsyuma/assets/File/SLO_Directory.pdf



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Connecting Military Families, Schools and the Marine Corps

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/mccs-yuma-school-liaison-program-1655031571431918/>