

SPARTAN ON STAGE

A unified community dedicated to building graduates worthy of the Spartan S.H.I.E.L.D.

Stewardship

Service, philanthropy, & commitment

Pledge Alignment: Take pride, have spirit, and be involved in the Camelback community

Initiatives & Clubs: Club Interact; CB Food & Clothing Bank; community service requirement in Advisory; Graffiti Busters; Relay For Life; Camelback Bible Church service events; New Global Citizens

Honor

Respect, pride, honesty, & professionalism

Pledge Alignment: Respect myself, others, our campus, and our community

Initiatives & Clubs: DECA; FBLA; Junior Achievement; Toastmasters; Golf Club; Hiking Club; New Pathways Club

Intelligence

Critical-thinking, problem-solving, & college-readiness

Pledge Alignment: Be a life-long learner and challenge myself daily in pursuit of personal and academic excellence

Initiatives & Clubs: National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society; Thespian Honor Society; Music Honor Society; GEARS; Open Library; ACT Prep; AP, Honors, and Dual Enrollment growth plan; ACT Quality Core; Science Club; AVID; ACADEC

Ethics

Morals, values, & empathy

Pledge Alignment: Embrace diversity, accept differences in others, and be led by a strict moral compass

Initiatives & Clubs: Awareness Weeks; GLASS Club; Advisory curriculum; Young Life; Best Buddies

Leadership

Resourcefulness, citizenship, & character

Pledge Alignment: Serve as a positive role model by demonstrating strong character, commitment, and competence in all that I do

Initiatives & Clubs: STUGO; Spartan Scholarship & Stewardship Center; Advisory; SVP Leadership Dinners; Be A Leader; JROTC

Discipline

Goal-setting, work ethic, & responsibility

Pledge Alignment: Be socially, behaviorally, academically, and environmentally responsible

Initiatives & Clubs: Eco-Spartans; binder/agenda policy; tardy policy; Friday School; Spartan Advisory Support Services

Once A Spartan, Always A Spartan

"A Unified Community Dedicated to Building Graduates Worthy of the Spartan S.H.I.E.L.D."

To say that Camelback High School has changed over the past year and a half sells this community short. Steeped in resilience, dedication, and resolve, and despite many obstacles and setbacks such as a car accident the first Friday of the school year that killed two Spartans and injured eight others, CBHS has adopted a new vision and aligned initiatives over the past 20 months. CBHS is not focused on AIMS scores, it is focused on students; it is not focused on minimum standards, it is focused on an ideal standard. As our mission states, CBHS is dedicated to growing competitive graduates of which the entire community will be proud. We are in the business of building excellent citizens. We believe test scores will follow. We match our beliefs with initiatives that ensure growth, rigor, and development of the whole child.

One of the biggest problems in large urban high schools is a lack of relationships with and connectedness to teachers, the school, and the community. Daily, across the country, students take 6 classes, eat a lunch, and disperse into the community. Too often, schools encourage their students to flee campus minutes after the final bell. At CBHS, we have a much different philosophy. Our goal is to create a culture of connectedness; we want students on campus and in the community for as long as possible. Subsequently, each student is now placed in an Advisory period that meets for nearly an hour, every day. Students remain in the same Advisory, with the same Advisor (a certified teacher), for all four years at CBHS. Students receive tutoring, complete coursework and homework, utilize the library and computer labs, have their attendance, grades, behavior, and transcripts tracked, carry the newly-required CBHS binder, and receive explicit instruction in the pillars of the Spartan SHIELD (Stewardship, Honor, Intelligence, Ethics, Leadership, and Discipline). They connect with their peers, form relationships with their Advisor, and give and receive peer tutoring and mentoring. We are able to provide tiered interventions and improve our identification systems to ensure, or at least work toward, success for all students. In order to immerse our students in the Camelback community and better align ourselves with research, all 2,000 students are required to join a club or a sport, complete community service, and attend 15 campus events a year. We have significantly increased our club offerings to ensure success of these initiatives.

We moved 60 teachers' classrooms to align all of our departments, much like a university, to improve collaboration and effectiveness. We implemented a very aggressive AP growth plan with the goal of offering 20 AP courses by 2014. In 2009, CBHS offered 7 AP courses; currently we offer 9; in the fall of 2011, we will already offer 14. In many of our AP courses, we now offer multiple sections. We will offer one of the first freshmen level AP courses in the valley next year: AP Human Geography. We have increased our honors offerings, especially in the freshmen level. For example, we increased English 1/2 Honors from 1 section to 3 sections. We increased Algebra 1/2 honors by 2 sections. We also increased Geometry 1/2 Honors by 2 sections. These are just a few examples. We are even piloting 2 sections of *Physics First* in 2011. We will also increase our Dual Enrollment offerings by pairing DE with junior and senior honors courses.

We created and implemented a new school within a school, Camelback GEARS (Game/Web Design, Engineering, Architecture, Robotics, and Sustainability), which has been featured in media print and in video production throughout the year in the Valley. We are aligning math and English with ACT Quality Core principles. This is the first year CBHS has offered 4 sections of AVID; we have also changed our AVID coordinator and many AVID teachers to improve our AVID program. We now open our library every morning from 7:00AM to 8:00AM as well as from 3:00PM to 5:30PM every afternoon so that all students have a quiet, secure place with Internet access to complete homework assignments. In August of 2011, we will start a full night school at CBHS during which we'll offer classes in all major content areas. We will also begin a new mandatory 9th hour for all freshmen who have one or more F's each grading period.

In terms of the big picture, CBHS officially founded the CB Food and Clothing Bank in 2010 that serves our entire community. We acquired college gear from around the country and created the Camelback College Café and the Camelback College Commons, which now boasts pool tables, ping pong tables, foosball tables, and an air hockey table (much like a student union building). Over the summer, we will officially open the Spartan Scholarship and Stewardship Center which will be a clearinghouse for college applications, scholarships, job openings, and community service opportunities. We have reinvigorated the Camelback Alumni Association and partnered with many local businesses and groups, most importantly with Social Venture Partners, increasing awareness, opportunity, and access and making this, the transformation of Camelback High School, a community affair.