



# OSBORN Superintendent's Update

**TO: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF & COMMUNITY**  
**FROM: Dr. Michael Robert**  
**DATE: August 19, 2022**

## Welcome Back to School for 2022-2023

Osborn School District is happy to welcome back 450 employees, 2650 students and families, and our community for the 2022-2023 school year. On Friday, August 5, staff



gathered for our annual Opening Meeting to reconvene and meet with friends and colleagues, celebrate with one another, and launch a great year of work together. Dr. Robert encouraged staff to commit to the **trust** the community gives us by honing teaching craftsmanship, and seek **cooperation** with one another by being the best teammate possible. Take one minute to enjoy [this video](#) of the sights and sounds of our day together and get excited for a year of learning, laughter, and love!



## Montessori Program Expands as Teachers Complete Certification

Kudos to former Encanto Second Grade Teacher, **Katrina Roberts** and District Preschool Coordinator, **Jill Singh**, who completed their International Certification in Elementary Montessori Studies through the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). They began their journey to help build and support the [district Montessori program](#) located at Montecito Community School in the summer of 2020. This intensive three-year long program included extensive theory and methods work as developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. Katrina will move to be the lower elementary guide for the fall 2022-2023 school year while Jill will remain as Preschool Coordinator and will move to a classroom

in the future years as the program builds. For those interested in exploring more about Montessori learning, or just curious, email Jill and she will happily show you around the program and some amazing new updates happening at Montecito as well!



Southwest Institute  
of Montessori Studies



## Osborn Seeks Continuation of Override

This November, community members within the Osborn School District boundaries will be asked to vote on the Osborn School District Maintenance & Operations Override. This is a continuation override of the current 15% override approved by voters in 2018. Being a continuation override, this means there are NO NEW TAXES if passed. The override will continue to support art, music, PE, library, gifted programming, full day kindergarten, class size reductions, professional learning, English learner supports, and technology staffing. Please review the district override [Fact Sheet](#) for financial and program information.



## Living the Core Values

Osborn has identified Five Core Values that drive our work in the district. They are **Integrity, Equity, Joy, Growth, and Relationships**. Each month at the regular meeting of the Governing Board, we will honor 5 individuals, one for each core value, that have been identified for living out the spirit of each of these Core Values in their daily work in the district. For this first awarding, we chose 2 people per value. Those who were honored in August are as follows:

- Integrity:** **Kelsey Meyer**, Special Education Teacher on Special Assignment  
**Jennifer Page**, Administrative Assistant to the Curriculum Department
- Equity:** **Amber Stevens**, Native American Specialist  
**Cristina Delgado**, Encanto School Social Worker
- Joy:** **Brianna Sawyer**, Encanto School 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher  
**Sabrina Campos**, District Receptionist
- Growth:** **Rodi Vehr**, Longview School Master Teacher  
**Kelly Kesterson-Walker**, Arizona Teacher Residency Coordinator (not pictured)
- Relationships:** **Abby Potter-Davis**, Chief Officer for Learning & Equity  
**Lisa Nye**, Administrative Assistant to the Governing Board & Superintendent



## OSDEF Honors Osborn's Teachers of the Year

Osborn School District Educational Foundation invites you all to SAVE THE DATE for the Osborn Teachers of the Year celebration on Saturday, October 22. We will honor the 3 educators selected as Osborn's Teachers of the Year:

- Ann Aken** Clarendon Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Dual Language Spanish Teacher
- Kayce Kahl** Clarendon Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dual Language English Teacher
- Guillermina Valles** Longview Elementary Kindergarten Teacher



The Teachers of the Year (TOY) event is the principal fundraiser for the [Osborn School District Educational Foundation](#), which utilizes its funding to support district-wide academic, athletic, and artistic endeavors. The foundation has long supported teachers directly through funding grants written by Osborn staff in support of their students. The KidsRead program at the elementary schools supports the necessity of students attaining the foundational literacy skills necessary for success in school and life. Foundation funding also supports the after-school sports programs at Osborn Middle School. You can attend the TOY event and also participate in the virtual auction that culminates on the night of the fundraiser.

# Osborn Begins Teacher Residency Program



Eight new teacher candidates have begun their year-long residency in Osborn classrooms as part of the newly established **Arizona Teacher Residency Program (AZTR)**. In partnership with **Northern Arizona University**, the **Arizona K12 Center**, and with significant funding through the **Arizona Department of Education**, this program embeds the teacher candidates in our district classrooms, working in close partnership with highly effective teachers in the district. The teacher candidates and supervising teachers are supported by district Teacher Residency Program Coordinator **Kelly Kesterson-Walker**, who has been instrumental as a Master Teacher at Encanto School for the past 11 years. You can read all about the residency program [here](#).

The pictures below show what this support model looks like in real time. Teacher candidate **Kylie Dunn**, in just her second week on the job delivers a lesson to her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. Her supervising teacher **Maria Garcia** at times is there to whisper coach her through some aspects of the lesson, or supports students in their learning. Kelly was present in the room to talk with Maria about the objectives of the lesson and how she has supported her in preparation. Kelly is ready at the lesson's conclusion with a note of encouragement and reflection. With this level of support, our teacher candidates will have 10 months of guidance, modeling, preparation, and focus on craftsmanship. Building the next generation of teachers in Osborn and Arizona is serious work. This level of teacher preparation values and elevates the teaching preparation!



Kylie's read-aloud with her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class



Maria supports learners during Kylie's instruction



Kylie's observations and reflective questions for Kelly



Kelly and Maria discuss Kylie's lesson objectives



Kelly consults with Kylie after her lesson. With support like this, Kylie is well prepared for success!!!



If you have a bachelor's degree (completion by June 2023) or know someone who does that **may be interested** in being part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AZTR cohort, have them fill out this [interest form](#). The 2023-2024 cohort application opens October 1, 2022. You can learn more at this [virtual information session](#) on October 19 or join us at an [in-person information session and open house](#) on October 24 at the Arizona K12 Center.



# Professional Development for Child Nutrition Staff

One of our district's five Core Values is **Growth**. We try new things, staying flexible and curious so we can be better tomorrow than we are today. Upon returning to work after summer vacation, the entire Osborn **Child Nutrition Department** came together for training, led by [Chef Kent Getzin Consulting](#). Continuing with the learning the department has engaged in through partnership with [Life Time Foundation](#), Child Nutrition Director **Cory Alexander** set up this training to have Chef Kent work with staff on scratch-cooking topics and recipes including: sauces (pesto, cheese sauce, alfredo sauce, sweet and sour sauce, teriyaki sauce), salsas, veggie roasting, salad dressings, frittata concepts, and knife skills. We cannot wait to taste the new, fresh, clean label recipes coming our way this year. Healthy, nutritious, delicious!



# LIFETIME FOUNDATION



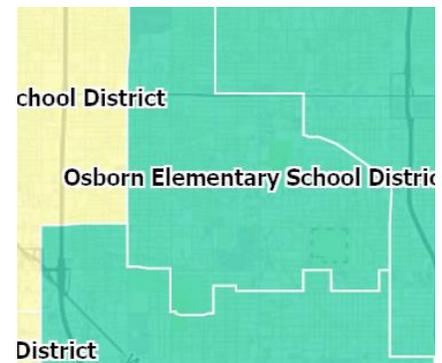
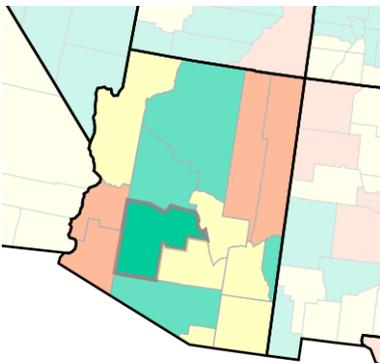
# Keeping Our Community Informed about COVID

As we return to school with COVID still in our midst for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year, check back to our website and social media outlets, listen to robocalls, and read emails and notices sent home you may receive about health concerns or changing community data. With mandates around precautions lifted, it is important that you use the information we will continue to share with

you to make the best decisions for you, your children, and your family about how to stay safe.

CDC Recommendations as of August 11, 2022

- End 6-foot social distancing requirement
- Contact tracing should be limited to hospitals and high-risk group-living situations
- De-emphasizing need for regular testing to screen for COVID-19
- No quarantine necessary if exposed but not infected
- **Keeps the same**
  - Test if you have symptoms
  - Isolate for 5 days after testing positive and mask for 10
  - Recommend wearing masks indoors if in area of High spread/infectio



**SAVE THE DATE!**

5th Annual  
**Teachers of  
the Year**



Sponsored by the Osborn School District  
Educational Foundation (OSDEF)

**Saturday, October 22, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix North

**A Celebration of Excellence**

**Click the links to follow  
Osborn School District on our Social Media Platforms**



Instagram



**Board Meetings**

Thursday, September 1: Special Meeting/Retreat of Osborn Governing Board and Administration, all day event  
Tuesday, September 20: Regular Meeting of Osborn Governing Board, 5:30pm

**Upcoming Events**

Monday, September 5: NO SCHOOL, Labor Day Holiday