IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Walt Sampson
Principal
623.915.8209

Brian Galbreath
Operations/Resources
623.915.8206

Steve Threadgill
Student Services
623.915.8201

Brian Galbreath
Walt Sampson
Leif Barsness
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Social Worker: Leif Barsness
Psychologist: Steve Threadgill
Attendance: Brian Galbreath

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Welcome to the 2016-17 school year. It has been a great start and
should be a year filled with great excitement and success. Cortez continues
to be recognized as one of the best high schools in Arizona by US News
and World Report as a Bronze Medalist. Beat the Odds Gold Medal Winner
and a contributing member of the Glendale Union High School District
Advance Placement National District of the Year (2013). The Arizona Department
of Education also continues to recognize Cortez High School as an “A” school.

Cortez High School’s focus is to enable all students to be lifelong
learners, Academically Excellent, have Strength of Character, and give
Service to Others. Students will be challenged and given the
opportunity to develop the skills to analyze, reason and problem solve.

Thursday, October 6

Happy Halloween to all! Do not drive
while drunk this weekend and please
be safe.

October 6

Call to Action: MCIS

This Thursday, October 6, the
Glendale Union High School District
will be holding a Community Meeting
at the Glendale Adult Learning Center.

Yes • No • I don’t know

Cortez Highlights

M E S S A G E   F R O M   T H E   P R I N C I P A L

Hello Cortez family! My name is Leif Barsness and I am the new Assistant Principal of Discipline and Attendance. I am very excited to be at Cortez to work with a great staff and play an important role in helping all of our students be successful this year and beyond.

Before my time here at Cortez, I taught English at Apollo High School for eleven years. Along with teaching responsibilities, I was the English Department Chair, Title One Coordinator, and taught adult English classes at night. I look forward to this new chapter in my career at Cortez, and I’m grateful to be at a school that has such a strong community and a track record of success. In my short time at Cortez, I have been impressed with the students’ kindness and sense of responsibility, and I have also found the staff to truly be a family that supports one another and cares about the students.

The key to your child’s success in school starts with attendance. It is extremely important that our students are here on-time every day, ready to learn. If a student is struggling in a class and needs help, or simply needs to make up work for a teacher, it is an expectation at Cortez that students stay after school.

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Throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a great year here at Cortez!
All participants in our quality school are motivated to strive for excellence in teaching and learning. To meet the challenges of life, we develop individual potential and promote life-long learning. 

Paper Scissors Rock! is a new club at Cortez this year and is lead by the talented and wonderful Tanya Soto (CHS Counselor). Paper Scissors Rock! is part community service and part craft club. In this club, students will learn paper crafting skills to create cards that will be donated to those in need (retirement centers, Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix Children’s Hospital). Students will also make and sell a variety of paper craft items to fund other craft projects they get to keep. In the above picture, students show off their first completed card to be donated.

Randy Garcia was selected by the Honors and Awards Committee to be the CHS Rotary Student of the Month for September. The student of the month is selected based on academic standing and leadership. Randy is in the top 15% of his class and is involved in Link Crew, National Honors Society and National Hispanic Honors Society. It was a unanimous decision and we are ever so excited to have him here at CHS. Congratulations Randy! We are proud of you!