The school raised $1,000.00. The funds were used to purchase relief equipment for students affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma. The money was collected by the Cortez Hurricane Relief Fundraiser, organized by the student council.

Helping others actually produces the happy chemicals in the brain that causes pleasure and happiness. Psychologists named this feeling “helper’s high.” The Cortez High School community had the opportunity to produce the happy chemicals during our Cortez Hurricane Relief Fundraiser. September 6-15, students filled our many containers on campus with money to give to those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma. The school raised $1,000.00. The

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funds went to Direct Relief, GlobalGiving, Houston Food Bank, and the Houston SPCA. A heartfelt thank you to all those who participated.


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Welcome to a new school year at Cortez High School. Our vision for staff and students is to strive for excellence in teaching and learning and to meet the challenges of life and develop our individual potential. To achieve this, we focus on the core values of Lifelong Learning, Academic Excellence, Strength of Character, and Service for Others. It is our belief that through instilling these values in our students through instruction, team building, modeling and group interaction, the students of Cortez will be prepared to face the challenges that may confront them.

In preparing students to be Lifelong Learners, we are enabling students the ability to reason, inquire, analyze, problem solve, and develop the desire to learn more. For students to meet their Academic Excellence, they are challenged each day to meet their potential and do their best, always being encouraged to “Win the Day”. When they don’t meet their goals, we have supports such as Academic Enrichment and 8th hour to help the students understand and get back on track. Additionally, there is a learning center with adult instructional aides and tutors available before school starting at 7:00 AM and after school from 2:40-3:50 PM to help students with any of their academic needs.

We work with the students in developing a Strength of Character by working and modeling self-advocacy, reliability, timeliness, courtesy, and responsibility, just to mention a few characteristics.

To have Service for Others, we work for the students to become aware and involved with helping those around them and their community. This may simply be picking up trash left behind, helping someone in need, or taking the initiative to improve something in their community. All of this can only be accomplished if we work in partnership with you, the parent. We need to work together to help your child, our Cortez student, be the best they can be. One useful tool that can assist you in this partnership is using ParentVue. This computer program allows you to be informed about grades, absences, missing work, as well as a means to communicate with the teachers.

If you have not yet activated your ParentVue account, please contact the school at (623) 915-8205, and we will help you set up. Together, we will help all students at Cortez be the best they can be.

Principal | Mr. Sampson

THE DO’S AND DON’T OF DROP

Please do not drop off or pick up your child at the parking lot on 31st Avenue. It creates unsafe conditions for our students as they enter and exit campus, and it also creates congestion for parked cars needing to leave. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these procedures in order to keep our campus safe for our kids.

Please, drop off/pick up your child at the parking lot off Dunlap Avenue near the gate between the cafeteria and the auditorium.

Cafeteria News

Glendale Union High School District offers healthy meals every school day in compliance with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Breakfast costs $1.50; lunch costs $3.00. Ala Carte options are also available for purchase.

GUHSD also participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs which allows for students who qualify to receive meals at a discounted rate. Students may qualify based on household size and income. Please contact Mary Perez (623) 435-6040 or your school’s cafeteria office if you have questions regarding eligibility.

Attention | Parents of Athletes

Starting immediately, all parents of students who want to try out for a Cortez High School sport must register on https://register.myathletic.com/. RegisterMyAthlete is designed to streamline the process of student/athlete registration for students, parents, coaches, and school administrators. If you have any questions, call the athletic office 623-915-8246. For more information on clearing students to play, go to http://www.guhsdaz.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_754536/File/Athletics/Athletic%20Clearance.pdf

Dean | Mr. Barsness

Hello Cortez family! My name is Leif Barsness and I am the Assistant Principal of Discipline and Attendance. I am very excited for this school year, working with a great staff and playing an important role in helping all of our students be successful.

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, and ready to learn. The Glendale Union High School District attendance policy states that students are allowed a combination of 12 absences and/or tardies per semester before loss of credit eligibility. Parents/guardians are notified when students reach 5 and 8 absences, and parents can also track attendance through ParentVue. Please help to ensure that your student is here every day, but if an absence is necessary, be sure to contact the attendance office at 623-915-8201 or 623-915-8211.

Throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a great year here at Cortez!

CLASS Club is organizing our teams and clubs to host Trunk and Treat for the elementary students from our feeder schools.

Do you have an elementary student? Come on over to the 31st Ave. parking lot October 21, 4:30PM-6:00PM. Free Admission; however, donating canned foods would be greatly appreciated.

No drop off
No pick up
31st Ave. lot