Cortez Highlights

A proud member of the Glendale Union High School District

C.L.A.S.S. | Academic Excellence

Cortez’s first priority is our students, which is why our vision focuses on what is needed to help them thrive not only in high school but also in their future.

6th out of 369 Arizona high schools in academic growth.

How did we achieve this?
If any student is struggling with one or more classes after receiving standard and research-based lessons given by highly qualified Cortez teachers, we have academic interventions with dedicated staff and peer tutors to help our students to succeed.

Academic Interventions
- 8th hour
- Academic Counseling
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Learning Center
- Link Crew
- Social Worker Support
- Team (Sport) Study Hall
- Tutoring

Voluntary or Mandatory?
Students who are failing a class must go to 8th hour and students missing any assignment, quiz or test must go to Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). However, all students can and are encouraged to take advantage of the extra support. In fact, it’s our A and B students who often visit their teachers during these designated hours to ask questions, retake a test for a better grade, or seek guidance to improve their grades.

“I use 8th hour to get help with my math or to get ahead of my work. … Sometimes, I don’t understand the trig formulas.”
- Yvette, AP Calculus student

Mark Your Calendar

https://cortez.guhsdaz.org/
All teachers are available at 8:15 AM on late start Wednesdays for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and after school until 3:30 PM for 8th hour. Please, contact your child’s teacher(s) if you feel s/he would benefit from 8th hour or EOP.

Learning Center
The Learning Center is a great resource students can use to improve their grades. It is open every morning at 7 AM and after school Monday – Thursday until 4 PM. During these times, students can seek assistance from one of the paraprofessionals who run the center, seek tutoring from one of the National Honor Society volunteers or simply use it as a quiet place to do their homework. What can be better than getting help? Snacks! Snacks are provided after school. Students will need a pass if they come to the afternoon session after 2:45 PM and the Learning Center will provide bus passes for the late bus.

Focus Friday
The Learning Center is not open on Fridays to make room for math teachers, instructional assistants, tutors (National Honor Society, Math Club members and Honor Math students), and students who are not passing their math classes. The students are divided into the subject area — Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2. One math teacher runs each section instructing students and managing tutors.

Focus Friday began last year and proved to be highly effective by reducing the failure rate in those math classes. Now, other schools have taken our successful model for their students — Thriving Thursday at Sunnyslope, Math Mondays at Apollo, etc. It took a lot of teamwork to get this program started and it takes continued hard work and collaboration to keep it running for a second year. Thank you to the Math Department, Title I, Administration, Student Services, and the Cafeteria. Did we mention there are snacks?

Social Worker
Tish Jefferson
We are very fortunate to have social worker, Tish Jefferson, on campus. Our students could not grow academically if their social, emotional and behavioral needs are not met.

Mrs. Jefferson’s office is located in the counseling office. If you feel your child may have some issues that could be affecting his/her learning, feel free to contact her or have your child stop by to set up an appointment.

Phone: 623-915-8230

Mrs. Jefferson is also our Link Crew Coordinator, facilitating and organizing all the Link Crew events with 40 Link Crew members for over 300 Crew events with 40 Link Crew members for over 300 students.

Does your child need tutoring? National Honor Society (NHS) provides tutoring in all subjects. Sometimes students are reluctant to ask for help, especially, if it means staying after school. If you would like your child to receive tutoring, you can contact an NHS sponsor 623-915-8200.

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Hello Cortez Colts! My name is Steve Threadgill and I am the Assistant Principal for Student Services. This is my fourth year here at Cortez and I am excited to continue to work with a wonderful student population as well as a fantastic faculty. This year is off to a great start as students are experiencing success as they move through first semester and prepare for semester finals. As parent/guardians of students at Cortez, I encourage you to be involved in your child’s academic life. As high school students, there is rarely a day that goes by where homework is not assigned. Even when homework is not directly assigned or finished at school, there is always an opportunity to study for the next upcoming exam.

As parents, we want you to have access to a ParentVUE account that will allow you to have access to your child’s grades and assignment status. This is a helpful tool when encouraging your child to do their best in school. If you have not signed up for a ParentVUE account, please contact Diane Hayton at 602-915-8217 and she will provide you with access to code information to aide you in the set up process. If access to a computer/internet is hindering your ability to sign up for ParentVUE, please stop by our front office and we can assist you in the process in our counseling office.

As we continue into second semester, we will begin our testing from both a state and national level. Students will take the state AzMERIT exams in April and our Junior class will be given the opportunity in April to take the ACT (college entrance exam) free of charge.

We look forward to continued success and a partnership between home and school as the year progresses.

Social Worker
Tish Jefferson
Mr. Threadgill | Assistant Principal of Student Services

Research shows that, typically, students’ grades will drop when they transition from middle school to high school, and it is not because the work is harder. Freshmen tend to miss more school, do not study for tests, and generally do not work as hard as they did in middle school (Rosenkranz). Cortez chose to be one of the 3,540 schools to implement the Link Crew Program because it’s proven to raise test scores and graduation rates (Link).

The November Link Crew activity was an assembly called, “Ambition Wednesday.” Freshman were served cocoa and pastries and listened to inspirational speeches to encourage students to raise their grades.


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CHS Rotary Student of the Month

September
Diane Solorio is in the top 2% of her class and is involved in Student Council, NHS, Academic Decathlon and Volleyball.

October
Ethan Stein is also in the top 2% of his class and is involved in NHS, Golf, Basketball and Baseball.

Congratulations Diane and Ethan! We are proud of you!