



ALA NEWS
December 2023

4827 N. Country Club Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
480-362-2130

Monthly Newsletter to Accelerated Learning Academy Students, Parents, Families, and Community

I WILL ACHIEVE

DECEMBER

1: First Friday Chats with Higher Education, 10AM via Teams

2 & 16: ALA Saturday School, 8:30-11:30AM

4 & 18: SRS Education Board Mtg, 5:15PM

4-8: NWEA Testing

6, 13 & 22: Early Release at 12:30PM (*note—the 22nd is a FRIDAY*)

7: College Day—wear your college gear!

7: Soda w/ Security, ALA Lecture Hall, 5:30-7PM

12: NYCP Reading All the Way Drive-Thru event, ALA North Parking Lot, 6-8PM

15: Girls Empowerment Day

22: Jingle Jog Fun Run, 9-10AM

Dec. 25-Jan. 8: Winter Break/No Students



JANUARY

9: First Day of 3rd Quarter/Students Return

10, 17, 24 & 31: Early Release at 12:30PM

15: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day/SRS Closed

16: SRS Education Board Mtg, 5:15PM



O'odham/Piipaash Phrase of the Month

S'he:kig Jioş 'alidag ma:sig taş!
O'odham

Yoos xumay nyshnyaash xotk!
Piipaash

Merry Christmas!
English

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL WILKINSON

The holiday season puts our time management skills to the test. With only so many hours in the day, we are challenged to do the regular responsibilities we maintain throughout the year on top of prioritizing time for self-care: to spend time with families and friends, to make or give gifts to those who are special to us, and to take a break from the rat race.

With such little time left of the semester, please do not lose track of your vision and goals. Keep progressing through your courses, and as I always say, particularly to those who are on thin ice with attendance, show up!

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you and learning all about your goals in 2024!

Important Dates

- December 4-8: NWEA Testing
- December 15: Girls Empowerment Day

College Day

The first Thursday of every month celebrates College Day; Salt River Schools students are encouraged to wear college gear to promote higher education.

During the month of November, the ALA partnered with Higher Education and Scottsdale Community College to provide a college application session for our on-track to graduate seniors. Several of our seniors have begun their applications for Maricopa Community Colleges; three have officially completed the process!

Congratulations to the following students: Ben Francisco (SCC for Business Management), Vincent Gonzales (MCC for Automotive), and Louis Jackson (MCC For Audio Production).

If you are interested in learning more about attending SCC or planning for after graduation, please contact Davina Leon in Higher Education at 480-362-2551 or at davina.leon@saltriverschools.org.

Thank you, Davina, for connecting our ALA students with post-secondary opportunities!





... [B]eing open and amenable to new ideas, ways of thinking, and new opportunities is imperative if we are to continue to thrive. — SRPMIC President Martin Harvier

ATTENDANCE

Adult students & parents:
Please call our attendance
line at 480-362-2130
for all absences.

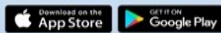
Facts About School Attendance

- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade or be held back.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Research shows that missing 10% of school, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

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Check out our NEW APP free!
Search "Salt River Schools"



COVID-19 vaccine clinics are also available by appointment and open to SRPMIC-enrolled children and Community resident children. Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 480-362-2603.

2023-2024SY

8:30-11:30AM

ALA Library & Remote
Dates/Location subject to change.

Aug. 12	Jan. 20
Aug. 26	Feb. 3
Sept. 9	Feb. 10
Sept. 16	Feb. 24
Oct. 21	Mar. 9
Nov. 4	Apr. 6
Nov. 18	Apr. 20
Dec. 2	May 4
Dec. 16	May 11

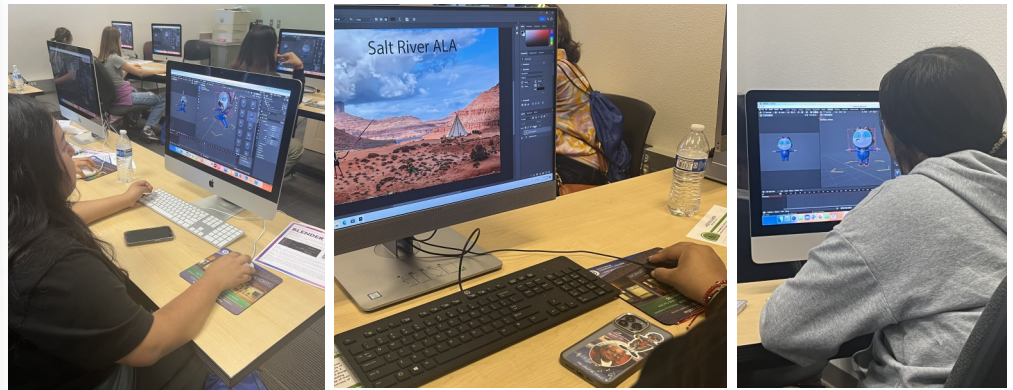


The ALA Saturday School is a FREE opportunity led by certified teachers from diverse content areas at every session, which are held in person in the ALA Library. Saturday School is a great opportunity for students to catch up and/or move ahead in their courses. Students are encouraged to attend every session that works for their schedule.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Girls Get IT

Four students from the ALA attended the Girls Get IT event at Scottsdale Community College on 11/17/23. They spoke with female leaders in the male-dominated IT field and participated in interactive workshops. Photoshop was a favorite!



ALA CELEBRATES ITS BRILLIANT “B” LETTER GRADE

Salt River Schools is thrilled to announce that the Accelerated Learning Academy recently received a “B” letter grade from the Arizona Department of Education. Students and staff celebrated with a *Breakfast of Bs* recently (bagels, bananas, and balloons)

The ADE measures year-to-year student academic growth, proficiency on English language arts, math, and science, and indicators that high school students are ready to succeed in a career or higher education, among other measures.

The ALA will continue to build upon its success, aiming for further improvements in academic achievement, student support, and family engagement. With its focus on excellence, the ALA is committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for its students.



EAST VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



A focus of the ALA this school year is ensuring all students have a post-secondary plan beyond graduation. We recognize this doesn't always mean the college track, so we work with other organizations and departments to connect students with various opportunities.

This year, we have rekindled our partnership with the East Valley Institute of Technology. EVIT will be back to visit ALA students next spring for those interested in attending EVIT for the 2024-25 school year.

Johnny Perez is a dual ALA/EVIT student working toward his certificate in Commercial Baking and Pastry Arts. Here's what he had to say about his time at EVIT so far: "The students at EVIT get along well with each other. This is probably my favorite thing about being there. When I graduate from the ALA this school year, I will continue with EVIT through next year. It's a benefit being able to attend the ALA part-day and then go to EVIT where I can learn something I am passionate

about. It's nice not feeling like I am doing school work all day long. So far, my favorite project at EVIT has been the cake project. We had the opportunity to put our own spin on the recipe by experimenting with different fillings and toppings."

For words of advice to other students, Johnny says, "If you are passionate about something that EVIT offers, give it a try. It will benefit you in the future to do something you like while still in high school. It is an added bonus that you can get college credit, depending on the program."



SODA *with* SECURITY



480-362-2010
Esteban.Lopez@saltriverschools.org



Thursday, Dec. 7
Suicide Prevention/Awareness
Teen Lifeline **Adults only******

Soda With Security will take place at the **Accelerated Learning Academy** from 5:30-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR MONTHLY SCHOOL MEAL MENUS!

www.saltriverschools.org/departments/food_services



READING ALL THE WAY

A Drive-Thru Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, Dec. 12 | 6-8PM

ALA North Parking Lot
Enter from Chaparral Road heading East



Decorate your sleigh (vehicle!) and join us for a drive-thru holiday celebration filled with literacy, merriment, and holiday cheer. The theme is "The Twelve Days of Christmas in Arizona," based on the book by Jennifer J. Stewart. There will be lots of gifts and prizes awarded for best car decorations!

480-362-2500 | SaltRiverSchools.org

ALA.SaltRiverSchools.org

**HIGHER
EDUCATION
PROGRAM
FUNDING
APPLICATION
DEADLINES**



the journey begins here.

Higher Education is there to uplift you every step of the way.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- APR 30: School start date in May, June & July
- JUL 30: School start date in Aug., Sept. & Oct.
- OCT 30: School start date in Nov., Dec. & Jan.
- JAN 30: School start date in Feb., March & April

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

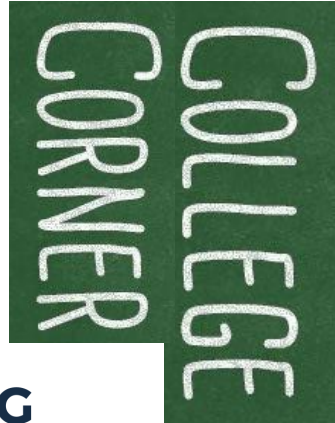
- Fall Semester: JUN 30
- Spring Semester: NOV 30
- Summer Semester: APR 30

If deadlines fall on a weekend, applications will be accepted on the following business day.

480-362-2500 | HE.SaltRiverSchools.org

**ATTENTION SENIORS
GET HELP WITH:**
 Completing your FAFSA
 College applications
 Scholarships
 Picking your major

Appointments Available
 Monday - Friday
 8AM - 5PM



**ADVISING
APPOINTMENTS**

Higher Ed is offering advising appointments for SRPMIC-enrolled high school seniors.

Virtual appointments are also available for students who live out of state.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DAVINA LEON

📞 480-362-2551 ✉ Davina.leon@saltriverschools.org

#AIMHIGHER

**MOCK INTERVIEW
MONDAYS**

WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

- Test your answers to tough questions
- Enhance your communication skills and delivery of responses

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE | VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
 9 AM - 4 PM

CONTACT JOYLA GATES TO REGISTER

480-362-2542 | Joyla.Gates@saltriverschools.org

FIRST FRIDAY CHATS



Ask questions, get advice, learn from the experts & feel confident about your higher education goals.
 Email HigherEd@saltriverschools.org to register!

**Friday, Dec. 1
10-11AM
via Microsoft Teams**



To receive text messages from Salt River Schools, text "opt-in" to 67587.
 Opt-out at any time.