

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



Serving Students in San Tan Valley, Kindergarten Through 12th Grade

Combs Education Foundation names first Dr. Langer scholar

Racquel Carpenter plans career as child psychologist, heads to Northern Arizona University in the fall

The Combs Education Foundation proudly announces Racquel Carpenter as the recipient of the first Dr. Langer Scholarship. Racquel will be recognized at the Combs High School Awards Night, May 16. Applicants had to have at least a 3.0 grade point average, be attending an in-state college, and have attended Combs High School for more than 2 semesters.

A part of her application, Racquel shared her future goals. "I will be a first generation college student at

Northern Arizona University and plan on majoring and attaining my masters in psychology, specializing in children. One goal of mine is to take part in NAU's accelerated masters program for psychology and have my masters degree done in five years rather than the normal six years. By successfully completing this program I will be achieving my dream career as a child psychologist and be able to love what I do."

The Combs Education Foundation's mission is to provide

scholarships to Combs High School Seniors seeking higher education, mini-grants to teachers to innovate in their classrooms, and assistance for Combs families to meet the basic needs of students.

Dr. Langer, former J.O. Combs Superintendent, said she was very excited that her dream of a scholarship for students has finally come to fruition. "Learning is a progressive process. It is an honor for the Combs School District Education Foundation to initiate

Combs 
Education Foundation

the Dr Jan Langer Scholarship for a graduating Senior and help a student continue their education."

If you'd like to contribute to the Combs Education Foundation, please contact Kelly Guerra at 480-987-5322 or kguerra@jocombs.org.

PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING!

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



YOUNG COYOTES

Develop social, emotional, & academic skills

Ages 3-4 years old

Open 6:30am-6:00pm

Full and half day options available



KINDER PREP

Prepare for Kindergarten

Ages 4-5 years old

AM or PM Half day sessions

Can be combined with Young Coyotes for full day care

Now
Enrolling!

2 LOCATIONS IN
SAN TAN VALLEY

Ranch Elementary
43521 N. Kenworthy Rd.

Ellsworth Elementary
38454 N. Carolina Ave.

Visit our website at www.jocombs.org
Combs Community Education 480-987-5310



SCHOLAR

Racquel Carpenter was awarded the first Dr. Langer Scholarship from the Combs Education Foundation.

STAY CONNECTED WITH J.O. COMBS



Get all of the news and information from around the district by connecting with us on social media!

COMBS DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: JOCombsUSD

Twitter: @JOCombsUSD

Pinterest: jocombsusd

YouTube: JO Combs USD

COMBS SCHOOLS

Combs Traditional Academy:

Facebook –
CombsTraditionalAcademy
Twitter – @CTAKnights
Instagram - combstraditional

Simonton Elementary School:

Facebook – SimontonStallions
Twitter –
@SIMONTONROCKS

Ellsworth Elementary School:

Facebook – EaglesEllsworth
Twitter – @EaglesEllsworth

J.O. Combs Middle School:

Facebook – CombsMSCougars
Twitter – @CombsCougars

Combs High School:

Facebook – CombsCoyotes
Twitter – @CHSsm
@football_combs
@CombsCourier
@CombsRundown
@CTECombs
@chs imprint
@CombsBands
@CombsHighDance
YouTube – Combs CTE

Harmon Elementary School:

Facebook –
HarmonElemHawks
Twitter –
@HarmonElemHawks

Ranch Elementary School:

Facebook –
RanchRoadrunners
Twitter – @ranchroadrunner

Before and After School
Licensed Child Care



Open 6:30am—start of school day, end of school day—6:00pm

All 5 elementary school sites

Indoor and Outdoor Activities

Homework time

Games

Crafts

Summer, Winter,
and Spring Break
camps available!

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Community Education

480-987-5310

CommunityEd@jocombs.org

www.jocombs.org



For more updates around the district, make sure to follow the San Tan Valley PRSS
Facebook: SanTanValleyDailyPRSS
Twitter: @STVDailyPRSS

Combs High School Outstanding Seniors

In their own words – Combs High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian share their experience and Combs and words of wisdom for future Coyotes

Sabrina Apostol, Salutatorian

My four years here at Combs have been made more enjoyable by clubs such as Band, Coyote Buddies, NHS, and Academic Decathlon. I've also enjoyed managing and playing sports like softball, baseball, and soccer.

Though I strongly believe that the academic aspects of school are important focus points, I also know that being able to relax and enjoy the ride is what makes everything worth it. I was given the opportunity to choose these activities, I wasn't forced into them. Each club or team I have been a part of has given me a home where I could release any stress I feel. Each has shaped the path my life has taken.

There have been many teachers and staff members who have truly made an impact on my life. From my own teachers, to Mrs. Kathy, who always has a warm smile on her face. There are two teachers, however, who have never stopped teaching me to thrive, regardless of the situation. I would like to thank Mr. Wood and Mrs. Burnquist for being inspirational in their own unique ways. Mr. Wood, for continually reminding me of my capabilities and teaching me that not every failure is a true failure, but rather a necessary experience. And Mrs. Burnquist, for being living proof of what it looks like to be truly passionate about your work. Not only does she love writing, she loves teaching and articulates these two things every day through her methods of teaching. Congratulations on becoming a Freedom Writer, Mrs. B!!

Being a Combs student has taught me to take advantage of opportunities, and reach for bigger and better things wherever possible. I have been in this district since I was in kindergarten, and have watched it build upon itself. We live in a small community, and Combs High School itself is a small school. It has created a drive in me to branch out, and has motivated me to search for schools out of Arizona to attend after high school.

My advice to incoming Freshman is don't be afraid to join clubs. Find a place to call your home. School is what you make of it, so don't be to scared to try new things and love it. Clubs are the easiest way to meet new people around campus and to bond over a common interest.

I plan to attend a 4 year university and eventually move onto medical school to become a Pediatric Neurologist. The exact school of choice is currently an undecided one. I am excited for everything the future has in store for me!



Brandon Wu, Valedictorian

In my time at Combs, I've played in the front ensemble of the marching band, jammed in the jazz band, served as Vice-President of NHS, and competed as one of nine members in the first ever CHS Academic Decathlon team. Outside of school, I play the cello in the Phoenix Youth

Symphony and the Youth Symphony of the Southwest. I've also volunteered as a tutor at Ranch, attended art classes on Saturdays, and took piano lessons.

Every teacher I've had in high school really has inspired me one way or another. One thing I can take away is how dedicated my teachers have been in educating my peers and I. Whether they are spending a little extra time after school - coming home to their families later than they'd like - just to prepare our lessons or take money from their own pockets to make sure we have everything we need in class, the commitment they've shown is a trait I want to adapt into myself as I pursue my own career.

My advice to Freshman is if you're thinking about starting something extracurricular, be sure that you'll commit to it for all four years of high school, because that's your best chance of developing into a leader by the time you're a senior.

For the longest time, I actually didn't have a clue as to what I was going to do for college. All I knew was that I was definitely going to college, period. Since I didn't have a specific career goal in mind, it was important for me to at least get as well-rounded of an education as I could, so I pushed myself to take as many weighted courses as there were offered. I felt that doing this would give me a great, holistic base before I continued to a university, where you'll have to take all kinds of classes anyway. Plus, a big motivator was the fact that it looked attractive to university admissions.

I will be attending Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor degree in Computer Science. However, I'm aware that a lot can change in the span of four years, so I'm not afraid of possibly switching majors in the future. I still want to follow my passion of playing the cello, so I plan to participate in the cello studio and play in one of the ASU orchestras.



Combs High School

An AEF™ A+ School of Excellence™



ACADEMICS:

- Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment Courses • Honors Classes
- Art & Physical Education • Foreign Languages (French, German & Spanish)
- Career & Technical Education (Agriculture, Business Mgmt., Digital Photography, Early Childhood, Graphic Design, Journalism, Medical Professions, Software Development, Sports Medicine, TV/Film & Technical Theater) • Music (Band, Choir, Guitar & Orchestra)

PROGRAMS:

- After School Tutoring • Award Winning Drama Program • International Travel Opportunities
- Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) • Nine Computer Labs • Free Transportation to EVIT

SPORTS:

- Badminton • Baseball • Basketball (Boys/Girls) • Cross Country (Boys/Girls) • Football
- Golf (Boys/Girls) • Sand Volleyball • Soccer (Boys/Girls) • Softball • Spiritline/Pom
- Swim/Dive (Boys/Girls) • Tennis (Boys/Girls) • Track & Field (Boys/Girls) • Volleyball (Boys/Girls) • Wrestling

STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES:

- Anime • Art Club (National Art Honor Society) • Athletic Training • AZ Ancient Cultures • Band
- Best Buddies • Choir • Class Clubs (Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior & Senior) • Drama Club
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) • Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Future Farmers of America (FFA) • Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
- Journalism • Magic Club • Math Club • National Honor Society (NHS) • Orchestra
- SkillsUSA • Student Government • Travel Club • Yearbook

TOGETHER WE CAN. TOGETHER WE WILL.

2505 E. Germann Rd., San Tan Valley • CombsCoyotes.org • 480-882-3540

JACK W. HARMON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



At Jack W. Harmon Elementary School, we take pride in providing a safe, nurturing environment where children may grow and learn. Our dedicated staff strives to engage each child in expanding the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. We stress growth, individual responsibility, and problem solving in a collaborative effort among students, parents, educators, and the community. Education is most effective when it is supported by a team effort.



39315 N. Cortona Dr., San Tan Valley • Harmon.JOCombs.org • 480-882-3500



HELPING HAND

Staff and students at Jack W. Harmon Elementary who helped raise fund for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Jack Harmon Elementary students help others

More than \$800 raised for cancer research

**Angie Beauchene
Principal**

Jack Harmon Elementary students raised over \$800 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which supports cancer research and improves the quality of life for cancer patients and their families.

Diana Tibben, Brenna Flynn,

and Heather Bullard, Jack Harmon Elementary student council sponsors, helped organize the school-wide Pasta for Pennies fundraiser.

Congratulations to Mrs. Tibben's class for bringing in the most donations!



For more updates around the district, make sure to follow the San Tan Valley PRSS
Facebook: [SanTanValleyDailyPRSS](https://www.facebook.com/SanTanValleyDailyPRSS)
Twitter: [@STVDailyPRSS](https://twitter.com/STVDailyPRSS)

Putting their knowledge to work

CHS Digital Photography student work featured in Harkins Ad

Combs High School Career and Technical Education students taking Digital Photography recently had an opportunity to apply their skills to the real world and have their photos featured in the J.O. Combs ad at Harkins Theater.

Students who wanted to compete for a spot submitted their photo representing Combs High School students to the district Leadership team. Three photos were selected to replace the ones currently running at the Queen Creek Harkins.

The winners were Samuel Hipps, Tyler Palomo, and Kaylee Kroetz.

Sam Hipps, who has been taking Digital Photography for two years, chose the class because of his interest in photography. The Sophomore was not sure if photography was part of his career path, but enjoys the class.

Sam's advice to future students: "Pay attention to what you are learning and other people because you can learn a lot from them."

Tyler Palomo bought his camera two years ago and wanted to learn how to maximize his skills by taking the Digital Photography CTE track as a Freshman. When

asked about digital photography as a career, Tyler replied, "It's definitely a possibility. It's definitely something I would pursue."

Sophomore Kaylee Kroetz echoed her classmates' sentiments. "I chose this CTE course because I have a passion for photography and it's nice to be able to express myself through my photos," she said. "The best advice I can give for other students interested in taking this course is to show expression; don't just go out and get the picture."

Congratulations, students!



TALENTED STUDENTS

These fierce competitors' photos are featured in the J.O. Combs Harkins ad. Tyler Palomo, Samuel Hipps, and Kaylee Kroetz.

FOR RENT

Rent Our Facilities Seven Sites Available to Rent

- Classroom Space
- Gyms
- Fields
- Media Centers
- Parking Lots



Combs
J.O. Combs Unified School District
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Contact Community Education for pricing at 480-987-5310 or communityed@jocombs.org
Or visit www.jocombs.org
Click on "Rent Our Facilities" Button

Just a few of our Combs champions...



← MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPS

Combs Middle School Baseball took 1st place in the Desert Middle School Athletic League. Combs Middle School Girls Basketball team (not pictured) also took 1st place in the Desert Middle School Athletic League.

SILVER MEDALIST ↓

Combs CTE student Jazzy Patterson receives a silver medal at Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Nationals.



← 5 AWESOME MEDALS

CHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America brought back 5 medals from the state competition. From left are: Hailey Bradley Bronze in 'Life Event Planning'; Shelbi Lopez Bronze in 'Life Event Planning'; Lucia Marin Bronze in 'Leadership event'; Sarah Ferraro Silver in 'Teach and Train'; and Allison Silva Silver in 'Teach and Train.'

A few more of our Combs champions...

SWEET KICKERS →

Combs High School Girls Soccer team took the Regional Championship.



↑ **HEALTH CARE WINNERS**

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) students Annessa Nino (right) and Beatriz Nevarez (left) brought home silver and bronze medals respectively from the state conference.

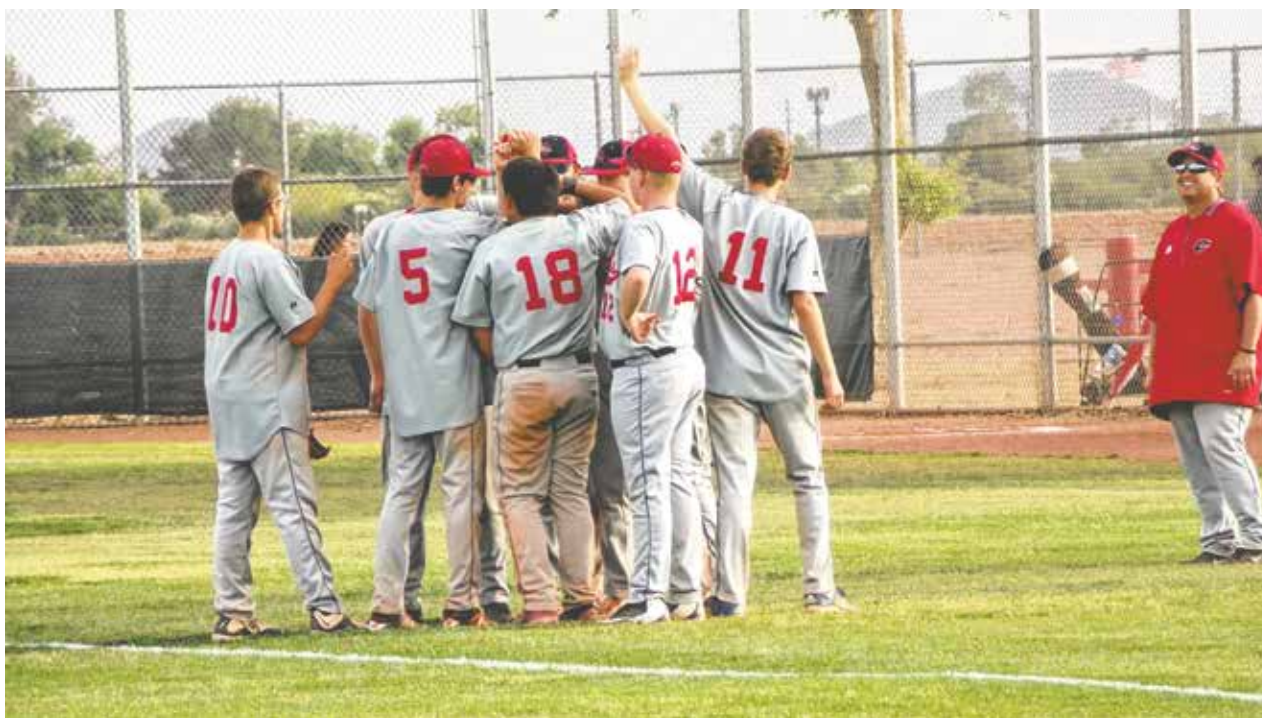
↓ **HELP DESK MEDALS**

FBLA students attended regional competition at ASU East this past weekend. Congratulations to Isaiah Hall-Brooks and Judge Cristobal for finishing 1st and 3rd respectively in the Help Desk competition.



REGIONAL CHAMPS →

Combs High School Boys Baseball team took the Regional Championship.





HEADING TO MED SCHOOL

Jordan and Annabeth Flake. Jordan takes his MCATS this May.

Jordan Flake, Graduating Class of 2012

What are you up to now?

A week later after graduating, I left to serve a 2 year mission for the LDS church in Budapest, Hungary where I learned the Hungarian language and grew to love and appreciate the country and people that lived there. In August of 2015, I was accepted to attend University of Arizona. While attending school, I met and married my best friend, Annabeth. I'm due to graduate from UofA on May 12, 2017 with a Bachelor in Molecular and Cellular Biology and am scheduled to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) May 18th. Once I get the results from the MCAT in July, I am planning to apply to medical school and continue towards my goal of becoming a neurologist. To add to my busy life, Annabeth and I are expecting a little girl in July as well.

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

During my time at CHS, I took advantage of the CAC classes that are offered during the summer to gain college credits while in high school. Using this opportunity along with AP classes that can earn college credits, I graduated from CAC with my Associates in Science just a year after graduating high school in May 2013.

The foundation that I received in the Combs District has helped me to pursue my dreams. I had great teachers and role models at Combs who inspire and encourage me to follow my heart.



WORLD TRAVELER

Berenice Pelayo visited China with Central Arizona College's study abroad program.

Berenice Pelayo, Graduating Class of 2015

What is your fondest memory of your time at CHS?

I have so many good memories from my time at CHS, it is hard to choose one. I felt such a strong sense of community, service and support when my fellow classmates joined together for Pay it Forward. We set up a day at a local restaurant to raise funds, collected loose change in classrooms and joined forces with the baseball team to help a fellow student during a tough time.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned while at CHS?

I think high school is a great time to experiment with interests that we can turn into careers. Taking advantage of the great staff, extracurricular activities and simply enjoying the four year journey is a great experience. I learned that people are willing to help you and opportunities are everywhere. It is simply a matter of stepping out of our comfort zones and pursuing them.

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

The education and welcoming environment at CHS pushed me to try harder and reignite a passion for learning. CHS provided opportunities to learn about options after high school, like Central Arizona College. I am really enjoying my experience and taking advantage of the many opportunities and programs offered at CAC. I was able to study abroad in China for five months through CAC and it was an experience I will never forget. Since studying abroad, even more opportunities have presented themselves as a result of stepping out of my comfort zone.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan on graduating from Central Arizona College in 2018, transferring to Arizona State University and majoring in Political Science or International Business. I am constantly evolving and changing my mind about what career I would like to pursue but, as of now, I think I would like to join the Foreign Service.

Where are

As the Combs High School seniors near the finish line, we want to find out what they are doing after graduation. Are you going to college and what college?



WIN BY PIN

Joshua Salas wrestles at Adams State College, Colorado.

Joshua Salas, Graduating Class of 2014

What is your fondest memory of your time at CHS?

Winning Homecoming King my senior year. I remember the assembly we had that day and how intense the football game was that evening.

Is there one teacher/staff member at CHS that made an impact on you or your career decisions?

Coach Miller helped me push myself to be a hard worker and that trait he taught me goes a long way in any career choices.

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

At CHS I graduated with a 3.3 GPA, and I've kept that same GPA throughout college so the Combs curriculum prepared me to succeed in college.

What is the most valuable information you learned while at CHS?

To make goals and achieve them

What are your plans for the future?

I plan on being a secondary education social studies teacher and a wrestling coach. If the opportunity presented itself to go and teach at CHS, I would not hesitate to accept the job.

they now?

school's 6th graduating class spoke to several alumni up to now and how their high school impacted their career paths.



NEW COLLEGE STUDENT

Logan Valdez currently attends Arizona State University.

Logan Valdez, Graduating Class of 2015

What is your fondest memory of your time at CHS?

One of my fondest memories at CHS was the fall of my junior year, when our football team won its last regular season game against Coronado and slid into the playoffs for the first time in school history. I felt lucky to be a part of such a close and supportive group of students.

Is there one teacher/staff member at CHS that made an impact on you or your career decisions?

Coach Hart and Coach Miller had a great impact on me all throughout high school. In the classroom and on the field, they were very supportive, positive role models. They were staff members I always felt comfortable approaching for any sort of advice, and I knew they would always be willing to help with anything.

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

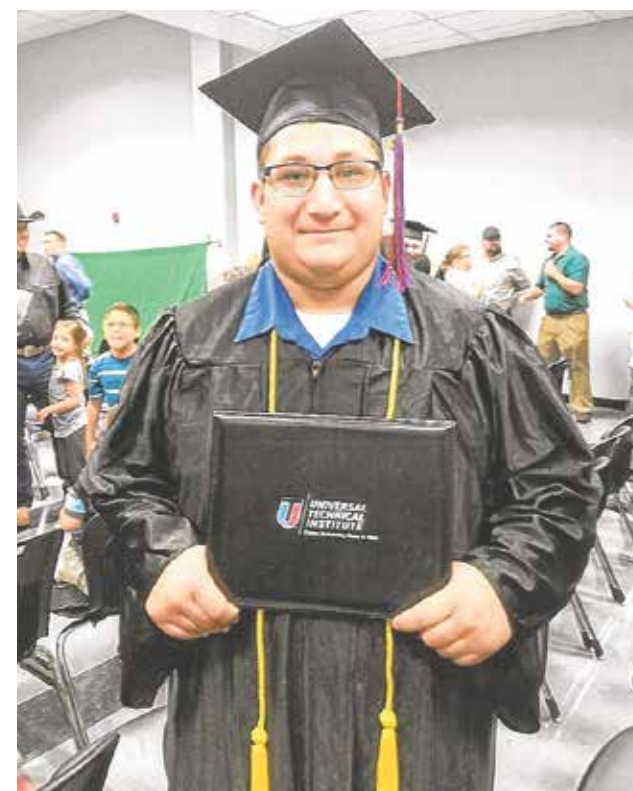
One of the most impactful classes that I took at CHS was AP Microeconomics. It was in that class I learned that I really enjoyed economics, and it would have been much more difficult to change my major from Civil Engineering to Economics at ASU had I not known before hand that I had a passion for economics. There were several amazing teachers I had at CHS throughout my 4 years and they all helped me shape my long-term goals for college and my career as they challenged me to think from different perspectives.

What is the most valuable information you learned while at CHS?

I learned that even though being a part of a newer school had its challenges, especially in sports, hard work and persistence could overcome and surpass those challenges and every little or big success is much more rewarding. A lot of these lessons I learned at CHS easily translated to the real world.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to graduate with a double major in Economics and Finance with an International Business Certificate, and I would like to eventually work with a city's department of Economic Development or get into investment banking.



GRADUATE

Bailey Throckmorton graduated from UTI and is attending the Mercedes-Benz Drive program.

Bailey Throckmorton, Graduating Class of 2015

What are you up to now?

After graduating from Combs, I attended Universal Technical Institute (UTI) and have graduated from this program as a certified Automotive Technology II with an Associate of Occupational Studies Degree. Because of my high performance at UTI, I was asked to join the Mercedes-Benz Drive program in Jacksonville, FL. to become specialized in Mercedes Benz. When I graduate from this program in May of 2017, I will be guaranteed a contract with Mercedes-Benz as a mechanic.

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

Combs High school played a great part in my success! They gave me the tools I needed to graduate high school and find my career path. Combs allowed me to attend EVIT during my high school years so I could really find out if I had a true passion for automotive. I had a lot of great teachers along the way who encouraged me to do my best and follow my dreams. A few that come to mind is Dr. Savage and Mrs. Ouellette. They both really believed in me and made me feel like I could accomplish anything. I really appreciate all the support and great teachers I had along the way of my Combs High School years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at CHS?

While at Combs High School I enjoyed my few years at football and track. We made a lot of great memories working hard at football camp and learning what a team effort really means. I feel very blessed for the success I am having in life, and I also thank my Mom and family for all of their support along the way encouraging me to follow my dreams.



BUMP, SET, SPIKE

Landry Armstrong plays volleyball for Saddleback College, California.

Landry Armstrong, Graduating Class of 2016

What are you up to now?

I am attending Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA. I was recruited to play indoor and beach volleyball. I also walked-on in basketball. I am majoring in Biology with the goal to transfer to a 4-year university in 2018 to complete my Biology degree and continue in volleyball with the ultimate goal to attend medical school. I have been very busy with classwork and sports, and love Saddleback and Southern California!

How did your education at CHS enhance or change your current college or career path?

CHS really helped me explore the medical aspect and helped guide me to the medical path in college with the HOSA Medical Professions Program. I was able to complete my LNA while in high school. I hope to volunteer or work as a LNA while I'm in college. I also had some really great math and science teachers that helped prepare me for the challenging coursework I am in now. Additionally, my athletics at CHS paved the way for me to come to school here. Without that I wouldn't have had the opportunities I have to play the sports I love in college. Finally, I have made lifelong friendships at CHS with both students and teachers. Combs High School really cares about its students and their futures.

Ranch Elementary

43521 N. Kenworthy Rd.
San Tan Valley



Ranch.JOCombs.org
480-882-3530



Offering:

English Language Arts
Free All Day Kindergarten

Gifted Program

Math, Science & Social Studies

Band, Orchestra & Music

Before & After School Child Care

Library

Physical Education

Preschool

Technology

**COME FIND OUT WHY:
RANCH ROADRUNNERS RULE!**

ELLSWORTH Elementary School



**Whatever
It Takes!**

**Annual College & Career
Fair, Multicultural Event
and Talent Show
Battle of the Books
Character Education
Counseling Services
Spelling Bee Competitions
Student Council**

At Ellsworth Elementary we pride ourselves on providing a safe and caring environment for all students. We believe we have the best teachers and staff in Arizona. They care about the academic and social growth of our students. As a neighborhood school, parents and teachers work together for the personal success of our students.

In addition, we are educating and instilling personal qualities, such as: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship and caring.

Ellsworth Eagles are our future leaders!

**38454 N. Carolina Ave., San Tan Valley
Ellsworth.JOCombs.org • 480-882-3520**

SIMONTON ELEMENTARY

We LEAD - Learn,, Empower, Achieve and Dream

SIMONTON



A
Leader in Me
School

Featuring:

- **7 Habits Education**
- **Cool Student Clubs:**
Art, Garden, Journalism,
Patriotism *and* Robotics
- **Student Council**

40300 N. Simonton Blvd., San Tan Valley
Simonton.JOCombs.org • 480-987-5330

Combs Traditional Academy

37372 N. Gantzel Rd.

San Tan Valley

CombsTraditional.JOCombs.org

480-987-5320



Art Masterpiece • Character Education

Knight Ambassadors

Small School Environment • Uniforms

Accelerated Curriculum

Saxon Math • Socratic Seminars

Spalding Method

National Elementary Honor Society

Combs Traditional Academy is a school of choice. What makes us unique is our “Back-to-Basics” philosophy; we view the acquisition of basic skills, primarily through direct instruction, as the foundation of the learning process. We prioritize the fundamental tools of learning in the core academic areas of phonics and reading, grammar, spelling and writing, mathematics, history and geography, and science.

At Combs Traditional Academy, our students learn in a structured environment that minimizes instructional distractions in order to provide them with the strongest opportunity for academic and lifelong success.

Rigor, Responsibility, Respect

Exploring the wide world of careers

Elementary students interact with community members to learn more about possible career paths

It is never too early to start thinking about the future for J.O. Combs elementary students. Several schools in the district host annual career fairs where community members meet and share their work experience with students.

Harmon Elementary hosted their 2nd annual Career Days on Sept. 15 and 16. Harmon students had an opportunity to learn about the education required and job details from various professionals in the community including police officers, firefighters, a sign-language interpreter, a nurse, a flight attendant, a local chef and more.

Students learned that the hard work they do in school now helps lay the foundation for life after school. Sixth grader Brandon Amack said, "It was really interesting to see all the different jobs we can have when we grow up."

On Jan. 20, students at Ranch

Elementary met with a wide-variety of career pathways including a Pinal County Sheriff Deputy, a cake decorator, and a pilot among many more. Students had specific questions to ask the attendees including, "How did your education help you in your career?"

Laurie McRae, Social Worker at Ranch Elementary, hopes this stirs a passion for students. "The future is right in this room, and I'm excited to see what our students choose to do with their lives," she said.

Ellsworth Elementary also hosted a career fair where students interviewed television station staff, veterinarians, medical personnel, and health consultants to name a few.

Are you interested in sharing your career path with students? Contact Kelly Guerra at kguerra@jocombs.org to get involved!



IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE SCHOOL?

Students at Ellsworth Elementary interview Shawn Gilleland, Rural Metro.



J.O. COMBS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Honors Classes – English Language Arts, Math, Science & Social Studies
Career & Technical Education • High School Credit Options in Algebra & Spanish

Electives – Art, Physical Education, Spanish & Yearbook

Music – Band, Choir, Guitar & Orchestra • Competitive Sports • Tutoring

Student Clubs – Aerospace Challenge, Chess, Drama, Student Council, Yearbook, National Junior Art Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Journalism Club, Social Studies Club

New Electives for 2017-2018 school year - Coding, Graphic Design, Introduction to Medical Professions, Leadership Development, Photography, Teens 'n Teaching, TV/Film, Production, Weight Training



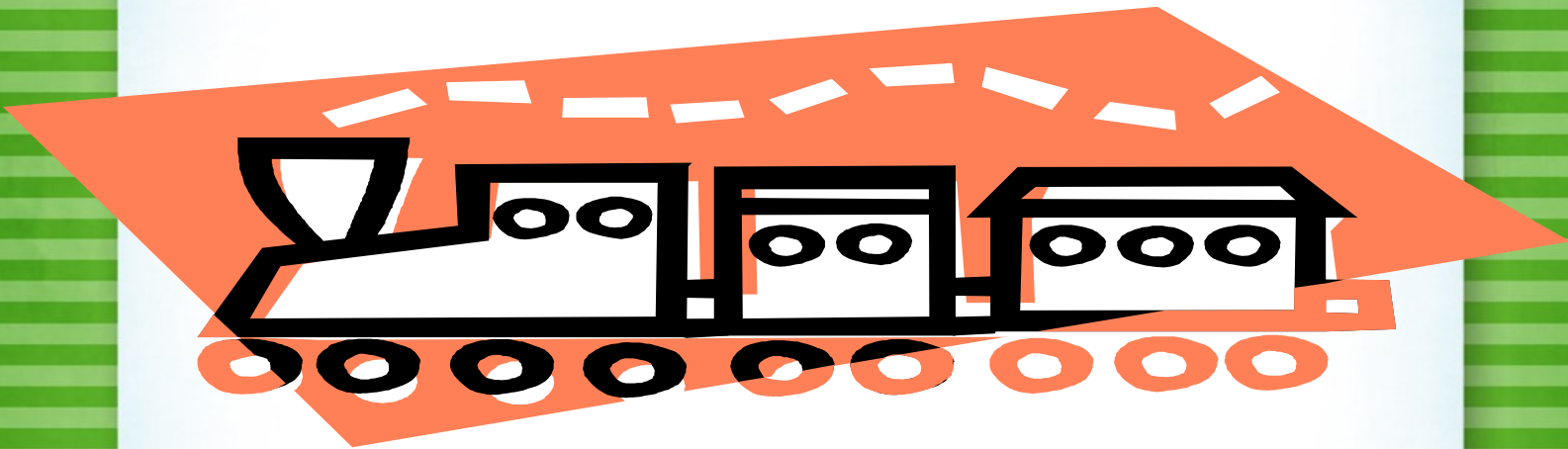
COUGARS CONNECTING WITH CHARACTER

37611 N. Pecan Creek Dr., San Tan Valley • CombsMS.JOCombs.org • 480-882-3510



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

ALL ABOARD FOR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN!



- **Core Instruction with a Highly Qualified Certified Teacher**
- **Developmentally Appropriate Enrichment & Extension activities with a Highly Qualified Paraprofessional**
- **Differentiated Small and Large Group Learning**
- **Technology in Every Classroom**
- **Civics and Character Education**

A Better Future Starts Right in Your Own Neighborhood!

Ellsworth Elementary School
38454 N. Carolina Ave.
480-882-3520

Simonton Elementary School
40300 N. Simonton Blvd.
480-987-5330

Ranch Elementary School
43521 N. Kenworthy Ave.
480-882-3530

Harmon Elementary School
39315 N. Cortona Dr.
480-882-3500

Combs Traditional Academy
A Back to Basics School
Using Spalding Phonics & Saxon Math
37327 N. Gantzel Rd.
480-987-5320

WHY CHOOSE COMBS?



"We Love Harmon because you make us feel like family. From the first day, you welcomed us with such kindness and love." - Mrs. Lyon, Harmon Elementary parent



"Ellsworth is the best school for my kids because the teachers and principal are the best at putting our children first and making them feel like family." - Mrs. Gonzalez, Ellsworth Elementary parent



"My son shows Rigor, Responsibility, and Respect daily at CTA. He loves school and it shows!" - Ms. Lord, Combs Traditional Academy parent



"My children have had incredible teachers who have gone above and beyond to help my children be successful in their education and prepare them for their futures." - Mrs. Wendt, Combs Middle School & Harmon Elementary parent

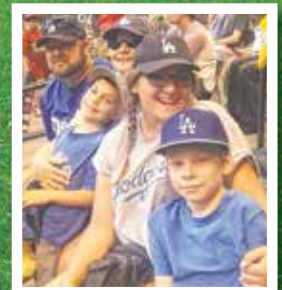
"We choose Combs to help build stronger sense of community; they provide diversity in preparation for a real world environment, preparing my family for the future. I love the staff at Simonton!" - Mrs. Nichols, Simonton Elementary & Combs High School parent



"Ranch Elementary is my second home; all the teachers and staff are caring, friendly and so helpful." - Ms. Warren, Ranch Elementary parent



"We Love the sense of community at JO Combs." - Mrs. Elrod, Combs High School & Ellsworth Elementary parent



Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Combs Staff Award of Excellence

Combs is proud to announce this year's recipients for the Award of Excellence. Awardees were surprised at their work site by Dr. Blanchard, Superintendent, Dr. Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Rupard, Director of Special Education.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Victoria Ramirez, a second grade teacher at Harmon is pictured with Dr. Rupard, left. '(Victoria) has learned how to reach each one of her students and constantly refers to her learning objectives as she teaches.'



CLASSROOM TEACHER

Amanda Webster, a math teacher at Combs High School, is pictured with Dr. Gayle Blanchard, left. 'Mandi is all smiles, all day! She is always welcoming and instilling confidence in us.'



NON-TEACHING CERTIFIED

Jette Thompson, CTA and CHS School Counselor, is pictured with Dr. Gayle Blanchard, left. '(Jette) is always there when anyone needs her. She is always willing to help.'



SUPPORT STAFF

Jeff Carsetter, School Bus Driver, is pictured with Dr. Gayle Blanchard. '(Jeff) encourages responsibility in his students to do their best and has great partnerships with kids and parents on his route.'

Combs' Students of the Month honored

Character Counts Program helps guide choice of which students to name each month

The J.O. Combs Unified School District continues to partner with Banner Ironwood in a Student of the Month program which

recognizes one student every month from each of our schools. There is a selection process in place where students are

recognized for the various pillars of the **Character Counts Program** which include Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship,

Caring, Respect and Fairness. The presentation takes place each month at the J.O. Combs Regular Governing Board Meeting.



← FEBRUARY FAIRNESS

In February, 'Fair' students were (in no order): Brookie Schnepf (CHS, 12th grade), Kyli Arnspiger (CMS, 7th), Waylon Deel (CTA, 4th) not pictured, Eva Tafolla (Ellsworth, 1st) not pictured, Estefania Mora (Harmon, 1st), Tryohn Lipford (Harmon, 2nd, January recognition), Kaila Solis (Ranch, 1st), Riley Arndt (Simonton, 2nd).

MARCH RESPONSIBILITY ↓

In March, 'Responsible' students were (in no order): Kymber Miller (CHS, 9th grade), Taniela "Bubba" Taunima (CMS, 8th), Dominic Vasquez (CTA, 2nd), Giselle Islas Sixtos (Ellsworth, 2nd), Emmett Meyer (Harmon, K), Margo Sam (Ranch, K), Chloe Gonzales (Simonton, 3rd).



← APRIL TRUSTWORTHINESS

In April, 'Trustworthy' students were (in no order): Jesus Polanco (CHS, 10th grade), Tessa Lawton (CMS, 7th), Brian "Bam" Miller (CTA, 1st), Dylan Chase (Ellsworth, 6th), Charley Vigneux (Harmon, 6th) not pictured, Cash Anderson (Ranch, Preschool) not pictured, Livia Lunt (Simonton, 4th).



J.O. Combs Calendar of Community Events

May 8, 2017
Nat'l Elementary
Honor Society
Induction @ CTA
6-7 p.m.

May 9, 2017
4th-6th Grade
Social Studies
Night @ Sim
5-6 p.m.

May 9, 2017
CMS Guitar
Concert
@ CMS
5 p.m.

May 9, 2017
CMS Band &
Choir Concert
@CMS
6 p.m.

May 10, 2017
Retiree & Staff
Award Reception
@ CMS
5:30-6 p.m.

May 11, 2017
Community
Arts Night
@ CHS
3-9 p.m.

May 11, 2017
Show What You
Know Night
@ Harmon Ele.
5:30-7 p.m.

May 11, 2017
Multicultural
Fair
@ Ranch Ele.
5-7 p.m.

May 11, 2017
Unified
Basketball Game
@ Chandler
High 6 p.m.

May 12, 2017
Powder Puff
Football Game
@CHS
4-7:30 p.m.

May 13, 2017
Unified
Basketball Game
@ Perry High
6 p.m.

May 15, 2017
CMS Science
Fair
@ CMS
6-7 p.m.

May 16, 2017
CHS Awards
Night
@ CHS
7-9 p.m.

May 18, 2017
Celebration of
Learning
@ CTA
6-7 p.m.

May 19, 2017
CHS
Baccalaureate
@ CHS
6-8 p.m.

May 23, 2017
CHS
Graduation
@ CHS
7-8 p.m.

J.O. Combs welcomes the community to a variety of events happening around the district. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

J.O. Combs

SUMMER CAMP

MAY 24 - AUGUST 1
HOSTED AT ELLSWORTH ELEMENTARY



OUR FUN ACTIVITIES

Weekly themes, Arts & Crafts, Ping Pong,
Technology, Indoor & Outdoor Activities, Science
Experiments, Water Days, Weekly Field Trips!

**LIMITED
SPACE!**

DAILY AND WEEKLY PRICING OPTIONS

WWW.JOCOMBS.ORG COMMUNITY EDUCATION TAB