

Ganado Unified School District No. 20

Post Office Box 1757 • Ganado, Arizona 86505

Telephone: 928.755.1000 • Fax: 928.755.1012

District Website: www.ganado.k12.az.us

July 27, 2023

Dear GUSD Families, Teachers, and Staff,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year in Hornet Country! I hope that you had an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy the summer break. This is a great time to be a part of GUSD. If you are new, welcome to our school district in Ganado, where every student unique. If you are returning, welcome back!

As Superintendent, there is no better feeling than the start of a new school year. Regardless of your role or title, we are all family through shared values of K'e. I share in the excitement and anticipation that comes with most of our students back in the classroom very soon.


As we start the new year, our District Leadership team has planned throughout the summer to provide you with the tools and resources to begin our year together. My top priority, along with the Leadership Team, is to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff as well as structuring our newly implemented programs with fidelity. The District is fully in-person instruction. Masks are optional for all student, staff, and visitors. And as we know, our mitigation strategies could change as we continue to work closely with our Emergency Response Supervisor and our public health experts to make informed decisions.

District-wide, we want to ensure that we provide a rigorous and equitable educational experience to all students. We know that learning recovery will be a priority as we continue to navigate our district-wide framework- *Beyond Textbooks*. We have partnered with surrounding entities such as Sage Behavioral Health and TseHootsoi Behavioral Health to enhance student supports, including mental health support. *PAXIS Tools* is implemented at the GPS and GIS schools as a behavior management system. GMS and GHS also have the intervention program called *3rd Millennium* to support student health/well-being. Our new district wide benchmarks and assessment program is called *Performance Matters*. PM will take place of Galileo. Every program starting this school year has a purpose and is another step forward to be student-centered and innovative.

Together, we navigated last year's challenges and this year we have planned to bridge the gap between student and teacher needs by fulfilling our Mission and Vision to stay connected through professional development and structure. We built strong relationships and partnerships so that education and collaboration is successful to student achievement. There are changes happening school wide. I ask you to see these changes through with an open-mind. We shall continue to adjust and adapt to the unknowns, but also planning for what innovations we seek. As a district, we have great teachers and staff. We have to be supportive and respectful to one another in a professional setting. I look forward to working with you all.

I thank you for your dedication to our District, our community, and the students and families that we serve. I wish everyone a great first day and a productive school year.

Sincerely,


Dr. Leandra Thomas
Superintendent

"Our Mission is to Ensure All Students a Quality Education and Strengthen Diné Cultural Values for Life-long Learning"
"Our Vision is to be a Professional Learning Community that Focuses on All Students Exceeding Educational Expectations"