



SCHOOL DAYS



Members of the Orangewood Elementary School Band (some in orange T-shirts) joined with the Washington High School Marching Band for its homecoming football game performances (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

### High school band teams with middle schoolers

By Teri Carnicelli

The sea of purple and white that made up the section of the Washington High School Marching Band in the bleachers during the homecoming football game on Oct. 6 was strangely dotted, here and there, with splashes of bright orange.

That's because among all the high schoolers in their spiffy new band uniforms were members of the Orangewood Elementary School Band, sporting their orange T-shirts.

It's the second year that members from Orangewood, a K-8 school, have joined the high school band during the homecoming game. And it's all because the two band directors happen to be very good friends.

Jason Landaiche, director of instrumental music at Washington High, and Dominic Colonero, music and band teacher at Orangewood, met while in the marching band at Illinois State. Landaiche and his wife moved to Avondale in 2013. He got a job at an elementary school in Buckeye, but shortly after made the transition to Washington High School. All the while, he kept telling his friend back in the Windy City about the wonderful winters in Arizona, and the cheap home prices.

Colonero, in the meantime, was on the road a lot in Illinois, teaching music programs at six different private

schools. He was open to a change.

"Jason kept sending me job leads," he recalls with a laugh.

"The second I heard there was an opening for a music teacher in the Washington Elementary School District, I called him and told him to apply," Landaiche says.

Colonero was hired a year ago as the music and band teacher at Orangewood Elementary—which happens to be one of the "feeder" schools for Washington High. Students in grades four through eight can join band, though most members are in the middle school years.

It didn't take long for the two friends to come up with an idea for their two school bands to get together on occasion, for mentorship, training, and fun.

"Dom's teaching style is very similar to mine, and we both have similar professional experience as well," Landaiche explains. So why not bring the two groups together?

So far, members from both bands have joined for Washington High School's homecoming football games (last year and again this year), and marched in last year's APS Electric Light Parade, which they will be doing—together—again this year on Dec. 2.

The two music directors are looking for other opportunities for the bands to work together, including some possible joint concerts in the spring.

"The best part has been seeing the high schoolers help the younger kids

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**SCHOOL DAYS**

out, taking that leadership role seriously,” Colonero said.

## School Briefs

### GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Honors, AP Open House on Nov. 16

Student success and achievement are priorities at the Glendale Union High School District. Students are encouraged to enroll in Honors and Advanced Placement courses and dual enrollment for college credit. Last year, GUHSD students earned more than 7,763 college credits, saving thousands on college tuition. GUHSD also offers students an option to graduate with an AP International Diploma, a great choice for students who plan to study abroad after high school.

Incoming students and their families, or those interested in enrolling in the GUHSD, are invited to Honors Curriculum & Advanced Placement Information Night on Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The informational evening takes place at the Moon Valley High School Auditorium, 3625 W. Cactus Road. More information is also available by calling 623-915-8000.

### OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Aguirre receives Esperanza Award

Alexis Aguirre, who teaches second-grade Spanish Dual Language at Encanto Elementary, has been selected to receive a 2017 Esperanza Latino Teacher Award, given out annually through Chicanos Por La Causa.

“Esperanza” means “hope,” and his prestigious award celebrates outstanding educators who are the hope for future generations. The Esperanza Latino Teacher Awards is the only awards program that highlights outstanding Latino educators throughout Arizona.



Alexis Aguirre

### Program focuses on improved reading

In the spring of 2017, Osborn elementary schools teamed up with local

nonprofit Read Better Be Better, which works with schools to help third-grade students reach grade level proficiency.

Read Better Be Better’s model pairs “Bigs” (Osborn eighth graders) with “Littles” (Osborn third graders). Working twice a week after school, RBBB has seen success with this model, giving students the chance to help each other and learn together.

### PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Metro Tech teacher, alumni win Emmy

Two years ago, Natalie Torres of the Metro Tech Digital Film department and a couple of classmates submitted a video for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) contest, and in October, she won an Emmy at the National Student Production Awards for her production.

Torres, along with Cande Duran and Ashley Salazar, now alumni of Metro Tech (Class of 2016), were the only Arizonans to win the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) award in the

Commercial category for “Workplace Etiquette.” The awards honor student productions from across the country.

The piece initially won a video contest and Arizona CTE teachers used the video to address the workplace and employability standards. The CTE Arizona Curriculum Consortium liked the piece so much that they hired Torres part-time.

The trio won a Rocky Mountain Emmy Student Production Award last October, and the work was nominated for the national award. More than 200 students were nominated from the 19 regional chapters of the NATAS and selected by industry professionals and university professors to advance to the national competition.

Bob Marquis, Metro Tech’s Digital Film teacher also was recognized. He watched the live streaming presentation from Los Angeles with Torres and Duran at school on Oct. 3. “Metro Tech High School (and Phoenix Union) now has an Emmy Student Production Award under our belt. Natalie, Ashley, and Cande are making us proud,” Marquis said.

*Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.* JEREMIAH 33:3

## Open House

Come Check Us Out



Thursday  
**November 9th**  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday  
**January 27th**  
10:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday  
**March 8th**  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday  
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