

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



October 2022

October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*

Dear Families,

## Upcoming Events:

1. Fall Break - October 3-14
2. School Resumes – October 17
3. School Council – October 17
4. 1:55 Release – October 19
5. Fall Picture Makeup Day – October 20
6. PTSO – October 20 (3:15)
7. Choir Concert – Oct 20 (5:00)
8. Kona Ice Treat Sale at Lunch/STUCO Spirit Day (Disney Day) – October 21
9. Battle of the Books #1 – October 25 (1:30)
10. 11:55 Release – October 26
11. Building Blocks Hay Ride – October 27
12. Spooktacular – October 28 (5:00-8:00)

## Infinite Campus Emergency Contacts & 'Annual Update' Instructions for 2022/23 School Year

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## Standards Based Grading



### A Family's Guide to Report Cards

#### Important Note

Report cards are available on the Infinite Campus Portal four times each year at the conclusion of each 9-week grading period.



#### Questions?

If you have further questions regarding the GPS Report Card, please contact your child's classroom teacher.



#### Providing the Best Information About Student Learning

This guide has been created to provide parents with the following information about Elementary Student Report Cards in Gilbert Public Schools:

- An overview of philosophy and purpose.
- An explanation of how to use and interpret the GPS elementary report cards, including the standards-based design and its connection to the Arizona Academic Standards.
- An explanation of the Academic Performance for Standards Proficiency
- Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about report cards.

Reporting student progress is an essential part of the communication and partnership process between home and school. It is the district's professional responsibility to provide families and students with comprehensive and useful information that thoughtfully reflects the learning process. Families and students should have information that accurately reflects students' levels of performance and their progress in meeting academic standards for each quarter. Report cards provide a "snapshot" of student learning reflecting grade-level standards, quarter to quarter progress, and where support and/or enrichment may be needed. Learning is the central message we wish to communicate to both families and students. Students should be evaluated on their individual progress toward achieving the standards and skills of their grade level.

#### Arizona Academic Standards

Gilbert Public Schools fully implements the Arizona Academic Standards supported by the Arizona Department of Education. These high-quality standards provide a rigorous and relevant education to children across our community. Designed with the understanding that learning begins at birth and continues throughout every stage of life, these standards ensure that children and students are supported in their learning from their entrance into school until their high school graduation. Arizona's academic Standards require students to engage in various types of reading, writing, speaking and listening for English Language Arts. Students benefit from mathematics standards that define knowledge, understanding and skills that need to be taught and learned so all students are prepared to succeed in credit-bearing, college-entry courses, and/or in the workplace as their high school career comes to a close.

Gilbert Public Schools' teachers and administrators look forward to a continued partnership with you as we help prepare your child for college and career readiness. We encourage you to visit <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/> for further information regarding the Arizona Academic Standards.

Teaching & Learning July 2022

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## GPS Grading Philosophy and Mindset

In Gilbert Public Schools, we believe:

- The goal of instruction is to ensure learning.
- Grades should communicate proficiency, mastery, and understanding of standards and skills as outlined by the Arizona Academic Standards.
- The pace of learning doesn't matter; the proficiency and mastery of that learning matters.
- The goal of a pretest is to determine what a student knows at a basic level and remembers from past learning.
- If a student masters all of the concepts in any quarter, the grade should reflect successful mastery.
- Students should have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery.
- Classroom quizzes are designed to measure learning.
- Homework is designed to practice a skill that has already been taught.

## A Brief Look at What Teachers Mark on Report Card

### Mathematics Sample

Priority Standards are listed for each Content Area Domain. These indicate the major areas of learning.

Standards-based language and indicators have become the basis for marking student performance and describes expectations.

MATHEMATICS 6				
	Term			
	QT1	QT2	QT3	QT4
<b>RATIOS AND PROPORTIONS</b>				
Constructs ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world problems				
<b>THE NUMBER SYSTEM</b>				
Fluently adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides multi-digit numbers with decimals using a standard algorithm				

A numeric mark (4, 3, 2, 1) is placed by the Priority Standard. A space left blank indicates an area not evaluated at this time.

### English Language Arts Sample

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 2				
	Term			
	QT1	QT2	QT3	QT4
<b>READING LITERATURE</b>				
Asks and answers such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text				
Recounts stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determines their central message, lesson, or moral				
Describes how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges				
By the end of the year, proficiently and independently reads and comprehends grade-level literary text				

Teaching & Learning July 2022

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## Understanding the Academic Performance Level for Standards Proficiency

To be accurate and fair in reporting both student progress and achievement, teachers use the Proficiency Scale pictured below to report individual progress of standards in each academic area each quarter.

Four levels of progress are noted using a numeric marking system (numbers 1-4). On the Academic Performance Level, the numbers themselves are not the focus. Rather, the descriptor that describes each number. The descriptors represent the level of the individual student's skill, as well as the level of independence in which the student demonstrates the standard.

A mark of "4" indicates **Highly Proficient**. This means a student is demonstrating advanced mastery of the grade level content knowledge, concepts, and skills consistently on their own.

A mark of "3" indicates **Proficient**. This means a student is demonstrating mastery of grade level knowledge, concepts, and skills related to the content standards.

Academic Performance Level for STANDARDS PROFICIENCY	
Descriptors	Score
Highly Proficient	4
Proficient	3
Partially Proficient	2
Minimally Proficient	1
Blank Score Means Not Assessed	

A mark of "2" indicates **Partially Proficient**. This means that a student is sometimes able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the grade level knowledge, concepts, and skills with some support.

A mark of "1" indicates **Minimally Proficient**. This means a student shows no or very little basic understanding of the grade level knowledge, concepts, and skills even with assistance and/or significant support.

Standards Based Grading (SBG) focuses solely on progress toward master of the Arizona Academic Standards for the grade level. An SBG gradebook tracks learning through activities that focus on priority standards and does not include non-academic factors such as behavior, participation, effort, and attitude. These attributes are important and assessed and reported but through **Work Habits**, which is separated from academics and more appropriate.

Traditional and Summit Personalized Learning Platform classrooms will utilize Achievement Letter Grades (A-F).

Teaching & Learning July 2022



# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## Questions Frequently Asked by Parents About Report Cards

*How does the traditional letter-grade system compare to the standards-based grading system?*

Traditional Report Cards	Standards-Based Reporting System
Major subjects listed by name only.	Contents standards and grade-level indicators define major subjects.

*Won't most students receive the same grades, mostly 2's & 3's?*

Learning is a process and it should be expected that repeated experiences and exposures are necessary for students to acquire new skills and strategies. A score of "2" indicates the student is slightly below expectations, but is progressing towards the standard. Once the student demonstrates thorough understanding of the content and skills involved in the standard they will earn a "3". The process of moving from a "2" to a "3" is student specific and is characterized by the student independently performing the skills with accuracy and quality. The proficiency scale "continuum" guides teachers, informs parents and can motivate students to extend their learning and competencies further.

*How do I help my student "get a 4?"*

Remember, a mark of "3" indicates that a student is meeting grade-level expectations with independence and excellence. With high and challenging expectations, a "3" is exactly where a competent student should be. "Getting a 4" is not about what more a student does. It is what a student knows, and at what level s/he applies what s/he knows to new and higher-level situations that exceeds what is explicitly taught in class. The shift in thinking from the A, B, C, D, F letter grades is that "3" is the top for the grade level and should be celebrated as such.

*How is it possible for my child to "drop" from one mark to another?*

It is important to note that the student does not necessarily drop a grade. The proficiency score is an indication of performance with expectations of difficulty that increase throughout the school year. In other words, the concepts increase in difficulty as the year progresses. Therefore, a student who demonstrates a proficiency score of 3 in first quarter could earn a 2 in second quarter when the rigor of the standard has increased. This shift from a 3 to a 2 indicates the student understands the major elements of the concept, but may need more development of the finer details.

*Attendance Summary: On the report card the phrase, "Lack of attendance means there were no absences", why is this comment there?*

Infinite Campus automatically adds this comment to all of the report cards. It is telling you that if you see nothing in this area it means your child has no absences.

*Why aren't the grades just averaged?*

The purpose is to report what students know and are able to do. Averaging does not represent an accurate picture of where a student is in the learning process. For example, a student who struggles in a class at the beginning of a grading period may receive poor grades, but they keep working and learning. Eventually, they can clearly demonstrate competence in a standard and should receive a score that reflects their new ability instead of being penalized for not knowing the beginning.

Where can I find more about the Arizona Academic Standards?  
<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

Teaching & Learning July 2022

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## Message from your School Social Worker

Hello SSE Families! As the school social worker I provide several services to our families that include weekend food bags, support during the holidays, referral to other supports and much more. Should you have questions or need these services please contact me by phone or email.

I would like to update families on our SEL classes. In Kindergarten and 1st grade we are working through our Being Successful at School unit. In this unit we discuss goal setting, skills that will help us be successful in the classroom and much more. We use video clips, books and pictures to go through the unit. In 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th we will be completing our Kindness Unit. We discuss what we can do at school to be kind to each other. We watch video clips, look at school pictures, and read books to go through how we can be kind at school. I hope your students are enjoying SEL as much as I am!

This month we will have our SSE Health Week where we discuss health choices we can make in our life. We will have a spirit week, different activities in the classroom and much more!

At GPS we use Common Sense Media/Digital Citizenship lessons to teach students about safety online and cyberbullying. Some of the resources for families are as followed:

For Parents/Guardians with students age 3 - 8 years old

It is absolutely FREE to sign up for this program. Text message charges from your mobile provider may apply. For more info, visit [www.commonsense.org/techbalance](http://www.commonsense.org/techbalance)



Should you have any questions, need resources, or support, please feel free to contact me.

**A+ School of Excellence™  
SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!**

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



October 2022

October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*

Shawnda Harmsen MS, RYT, RCYT  
Email: shawnda.harmsen@gilbertschools.net  
Phone: 480.641.6413 x 1408  
GPS Wellness Resources for Families: <https://www.gilbertschools.net/wellness>

## SSE Choir

Way to go SSE Choir! Singing the National Anthem at the Diamondbacks game!



## PTSO News:

Are you interested in joining us? Come to our next meeting on Thursday, October 20th after school in the library. Children are welcome!

**Spooktacular:** It's almost time for our biggest school/community event of the year!! We will be having a presale, so you don't have to wait in the long line the night of the event.

**A+ School of Excellence™**  
**SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!**



Superstition Springs  
Elementary  
480-641-6413  
Fax 480-854-8871  
[www.gilbertschools.net](http://www.gilbertschools.net)



October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*

Save the date: Friday, October 28th from 5:00-8:00pm

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS - PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES, OLDER SIBLINGS. If you are interested in helping out, please email [sseptsoaz@gmail.com](mailto:sseptsoaz@gmail.com) or be on the lookout for a sign up genius coming soon.


## SSE SPOOKTACULAR

### FRIDAY, OCT. 28TH - 5-8 PM

at Superstition Springs Elementary, Entrance by Parent Pickup



### Get ready for some family fun!!



**\*\*Due to District changes this year, we can no longer have Bounce Houses!\*\***  
**We WILL HAVE Inflatable Slides & Obstacle Courses, Rides, Life Size Dinosaur Show, a Photo Booth, Games & MORE!!**  
**A variety of food trucks will be there!**

### Enter if You Dare, Student Council's Famous SPOOK ALLEY

Spook Alley is a Student Council fundraiser & is an additional \$3/person to enter  
We recommend parents go thru Spook Alley with their students.

All Adults Free w/Paid Child Admission  
Age 2 and Under are Free

All Game Tickets are \$0.50 each  
Every Game 1 ticket/14 Games Total  
For \$7 play every Game one time!

**Pre-Sale Info: (Pre-Sale ends Oct. 25th)**  
\$10 per Child Admission  
Family Package: 2 Child Admissions & 14 Game Tickets for \$25

Family Package is not available the night of Spooktacular & Child Admission will be \$13 at the Gate.

### Can you help make this the Best Halloween Bash ever?!?

We need individually wrapped **CANDY** donated. All donated candy is appreciated!!  
Our **WISH LIST** donation is to have regular size candy/bars to give as prizes for games.  
Looking for volunteers for 30 minute intervals throughout the evening to help run games or help with inflatables.

Any questions or interest in volunteering, please email PTSO at [sseptsoaz@gmail.com](mailto:sseptsoaz@gmail.com)  
or look us up on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sseptso/](https://www.facebook.com/sseptso/)

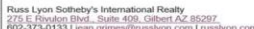
**Event Sponsors:**




Russ Lyon  
Sotheby's




Jean Grimes  
REALTOR




Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty  
275 E. Flagler Blvd., Suite 400, Gilbert, AZ 85297  
602-373-0193 | [jean.grimes@russlyon.com](mailto:jean.grimes@russlyon.com) | [russlyon.com](http://russlyon.com)



Mortgage Academy  
MORTGAGE CORPORATION  
480-818-1241



WinCo  
FOODS



Walmart

**Dinner Night Out:** Thank you so much for participating in these easy, free fundraising nights. Every little bit helps! Our next dinner night out is on Thursday,

**A+ School of Excellence™**  
**SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!**



Tim Moses, Ed.D  
Principal

Superstition Springs  
Elementary  
480-641-6413  
Fax 480-854-8871  
www.gilbertschools.net

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



October 2022

October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*

October 20th from 2:00-8:00pm at Rubio's on Power/Baseline.



## JOIN US FOR A GOOD CAUSE WITH A SIDE OF TACOS

Come in and enjoy our coastal-inspired tacos, burritos, bowls and salads made with responsibly-sourced seafood, all-natural chicken or USDA Choice steak.



*Salsa Verde  
Shrimp Tacos*

Order online at [rubios.com](https://rubios.com) and use coupon code **"DONATE"** at checkout.

### FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF SUPERSTITION SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSO

Date: 10/20/2022	Time: 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Location: 6736 East Baseline Road Mesa, AZ
---------------------	----------------------------	--



Scan QR code at register.  
For restaurant use only.

Order online at [rubios.com](https://rubios.com) or through our mobile app, and enter coupon code **"DONATE"** at checkout or present this flyer for orders placed in the restaurant.

We will donate 30% of the proceeds from your meal to the cause (alcohol & gift cards excluded).  
24 hours' notice requested for Catering orders. Third party delivery orders or orders placed at a different time/location than your scheduled event will not count towards your fundraiser.

A+ School of Excellence™  
SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



October 2022

October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*

**Kona Ice** will be here during lunch on October 21st. \$4 each

Don't forget to buy your yearbook before prices go up on January 1st!  
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1409092/Superstition-Springs-Elementary-School/>

Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/sseptso](http://www.facebook.com/sseptso) or our new Instagram page [@SSEP\\_TSO](https://www.instagram.com/SSEP_TSO) to stay up to date on all the things happening at SSE!

Save the date for Turkey Bingo: Thursday, November 17th at 5:30pm. We are looking for donations for raffle prizes, so please let us know if you want to donate an item.

**Box Tops:** No more clipping Box Tops - everything is digital! If you download the Box Tops App, you will scan your receipt when you buy a qualifying item. Easy peasy!

## Character Counts Golden Ticket Winners



Sophia Flores  
Leah Yanez  
Camber Leal  
Audrey Veeder  
Ruby Webb

Graycen Molaskey  
Owen Covert  
Brevan Banfield  
Rebecca Flores

**A+ School of Excellence™  
SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!**

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder

October 2022

Superstition Springs  
Elementary  
480-641-6413  
Fax 480-854-8871  
www.gilbertschools.net

October  
Character Trait:  
*Responsibility*



## Character Counts Winners

Jaxson Christmann  
Brees Boudreaux  
Noah Frost  
Charlee Williams  
Gonzalo Lopez  
Piper Durrant  
Rylie Kennedy  
Allie Sawyer Sullivan  
Tana Throckmorton  
Aynslee Pacific  
Emily Yubeta  
Michael Bullard  
Felix Lopex  
Holly Starlin  
Eleanor Miller  
Phinley Porter  
Lora Carlson  
Blake Osuna  
Piper Cox  
Lucy Skiles  
Ava Onken  
Matthew Craig  
Jaxson Butter  
Alijah Marrujo  
Owen Covert  
Emma Spanier  
Eli Mineer  
Christian Kambool  
Becket Castle  
Natalia Molina  
Bella Meyer  
Brianna Bray  
Xander Arvizu  
Ethan Quintanar  
David Tennison  
Makayla Thomas  
Ashtyn Towne  
Ariana Sanai  
Sage Goodwin

Parker Hovey  
David Guterrez  
Kenzlie Staggs  
Braylynn Wood  
Ben McCormack  
Andy Clark  
Tabor Loeffler  
Bella Gudino  
Olivia Durrant  
Alora Bandin  
Parker Hovey  
Aidan Amaya  
Jordan Briggs  
Wyatt Earhart  
Judah Hawkins  
Zayden Rogers  
Piper Cox  
Ethan Kent  
Aizen Patton  
Doc Hollie Vann  
Ja'lill Jackson  
Justin Cortes  
Corbin Hunter  
Ellany Rosser  
Axton Sterling  
Neo Santana  
Colton Welty  
Kaleb Schaffner  
Parker Prescott  
Andres DeLeon  
Lillian Leichtman  
Amelia Aguayo  
Evan Kent  
Elise Spearman  
Ricardo Flores  
Abigail Rogers  
Ashytyn Towne  
Elizabeth Connoly  
Piper Robinson

Nancy Chandler  
Paige Zehring  
Kaleb Schaffner  
Eleanor Miller  
Kanani Unchangco  
Chloe Pratt  
Makayla Thomas  
Malia Herron  
Tyler Burney  
Zack Williams  
Anna Ugarte  
Emily Yubeta  
Jonah Webb  
River Takagi  
Braelyn Mooney  
Olivia Durrant  
Jack Gardiner  
Leiloni Morales  
Michael Andreas  
Eleanor Miller  
Jasmin Dorantes  
Campillo  
Bentley Derby  
Bradley Skousen  
Harper Durant  
Oliver Clark  
Samantha Martinez  
Paisley Wood  
Parker Roberts  
Anishka Hoti  
Makayla Norman  
Josh Bentley  
Rai Camacho  
Allie Summerhays  
Shane Kent  
DJ Graham  
Jaxson Christmann  
Danny Towner  
Mayo Guevaro



# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



Abby Ibarra  
Ivan Arcos  
Gage Moody  
Brighton Boudreaux  
Kiana Hartman  
Allie Sawyer Sullivan  
Isabella Delatorre  
Jayden Butter  
Isabella Lipert  
Wyatt Dettman  
Brooklyn McClard  
Ruby McKellar  
Justin Cortes  
King Jones  
Roux Dunford  
Aiden Mendoza  
Henry Werner  
Chloe Hester  
Daniel Lehrich  
Gracyn Molaskey  
Jayden Butter  
Leo Ibarra

Caleb Hoopes  
Liliana Watt  
Jazlynn Cardenas  
Piper Robinson  
Silas Marshall  
Remy Freeburg  
Tamzyn Curtis  
Marleigh Montoya  
Kaleb Schaffner  
Jack Gardiner  
Rylie Kennedy  
Lilly Leichtman  
Colten Takagi  
Allie Sawyer Sullivan  
Rigdon Moody  
Tamzyn Curtis  
Finn Folger  
Sienna Mahiya  
Milah Brown  
Corban Webb  
Everette Ruthem  
Estevan Kent

Lyla Roberts  
Preston Prescott  
Paige Zehring  
Parker Ostermeyer  
King Jones  
Bentley Derby  
Nash Karges  
Zoey Hemphill  
Tegan Morrow  
Brayden Hudon  
Henry Werner  
Max VanCleave  
Olivia Durrant  
Brynn Burdick  
Doc Hollie Vann  
Judah Hawkins  
Owen Covert  
Daniel Lehrich  
Wyatt Dettman  
Everette Ruthem  
Brooklyn Stratford



## Library Link

# THE LIBRARY LINK

*good things are happening in the library*

NEW BOOKS ON SHELVES SINCE SCHOOL STARTED: 68



## DONORS CHOOSE PROJECT & ONGOING DONATIONS

*Graphic Novels for Eager Readers*

This month, our generous community helped raise over \$500 through a site called Donor's Choose. The money was used to buy 29 brand new, high demand graphic novels for our library. I wish I could have recorded the students reactions to the news! A HUGE thank you to anyone who donated or shared our project so we could reach our goal.

One of our biggest goals in the library this year is to stock the shelves with new (or new to us) books!

Want to help us reach our goal?

Here are two ways you can help:

- 1) Drop off your new or gently used books to the front office and let them know they are for the library.
- 2) You can use all or part of your educational tax credit to help us buy new books. Just go online to **[www.gilbertschools.net/taxcredit](http://www.gilbertschools.net/taxcredit)** to make your donation.

Every penny raised will go directly to getting new books for our library and into the hands of students!

# News from Stormy the Sidewinder



## Battle of the Books



Battle of the Books is a nation-wide reading program. At SSE, teams are composed of groups of 2-3 students from fifth and sixth grade. Students read four books per quarter for three quarters, after which a District-wide battle is held at the end of the school year.

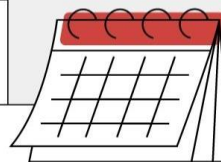
Battles will test the student's knowledge and memory of the books they have read including title, author, and key details of the text.

### 2022/2023 BOOK LIST

*Picture of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Giff  
*The Girl Who Could Fly* by Victoria Forester  
*Earthquake Terror* by Peg Kehret  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Poppi* by Avi  
*Bridge to Terebithia* by Katherine Paterson  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman  
*Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*The View from Saturday* by EL Konigsburg  
*Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop



### BATTLE DATES

All Battles will be held in the SSE Library at 1:30pm. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Battle #1  
October 25th

Battle #2  
January 10th

Battle #3  
March 28th

Our District Battle will be held in April.

FOR MORE VISIT: <https://sites.google.com/view/superstitionspringslibrary/home>