

Counseling Corner

OCTOBER

RED RIBBON WEEK



Red Ribbon Week: Empowering Our Students to Live Drug-Free Lives

As we approach the end of October, we are actively celebrating Red Ribbon Week at all of our schools!

The Origin Story

For those unfamiliar with its roots, Red Ribbon Week began in 1985 to honor DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who lost his life in the line of duty. The campaign aims to promote a drug-free lifestyle and educate students about the dangers of drug misuse. Picture it as a crash course in making wise life choices, complete with red ribbons to tie it all together—literally!

Why It Matters

Studies have shown that informed students are more likely to make responsible choices when it comes to drug use. Red Ribbon Week serves as a reminder that choosing a drug-free life is not only smart but also empowering. It's about arming our kids with the knowledge they need to say no when faced with tough decisions.

Parental Involvement

We encourage parents to get involved too! Discuss the daily activities with your children, ask what they've learned, and talk openly about the dangers of drug misuse.

Remember, it's a team effort, and your involvement is crucial for the initiative's success.

Let's Make It Memorable!

We're all set to make this Red Ribbon Week engaging and memorable for everyone. Together, let's empower our children to make wise choices and lead healthier lives.

Get to know our SROs

A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) IS A SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ASSIGNED TO A SCHOOL. THE SRO'S PRIMARY ROLES USUALLY INCLUDE MAINTAINING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT, ACTING AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND LOCAL POLICE, AND PROVIDING EDUCATION ON LAW-RELATED TOPICS. THEY MAY ALSO MENTOR STUDENTS, HELP RESOLVE CONFLICTS, AND ASSIST IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THINK OF THEM AS A BLEND BETWEEN A COP, A COUNSELOR, AND SOMETIMES EVEN A GUEST TEACHER, ALL AIMED AT KEEPING THE SCHOOL SAFE AND SOUND.



Favorite quote: "How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday you will have been all of these." -

George Washington Carver

Advice: Don't quit.

Officer Tracy Slider
Maricopa Wells Middle School



After graduation, I enlisted in the Navy in 1994 and retired from the Army National Guard in 2016. As a service member, I was fortunate to respond to and assist during State emergencies and deploy overseas several times to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. I began my Police career with the Navajo County Sheriffs' office in 2005 and transferred to the Maricopa Police Department in 2014. During my Police career, I was a detective for over nine years, mainly handling death investigations and Child crimes. I transferred to the SRO department in 2020 at Maricopa High School. I then transferred to Desert Wind Middle School in 2022, just after Winter break. I have been married for 29 years to my high school sweetheart.

Favorite Quote = One Team, One Fight

Advice = Just be Kind, look past Hate

SRO Ofc. Brian Brown, Desert Wind Middle School



Some advise I would give to youth: Never stop working towards your goals, and continue to build yourself up to the person you want to become, even through the challenges in your life .

Officer Zac Bittner
Desert Sunrise High School

Officer not pictured but still appreciated:
Officer Trina Clement, Maricopa High School