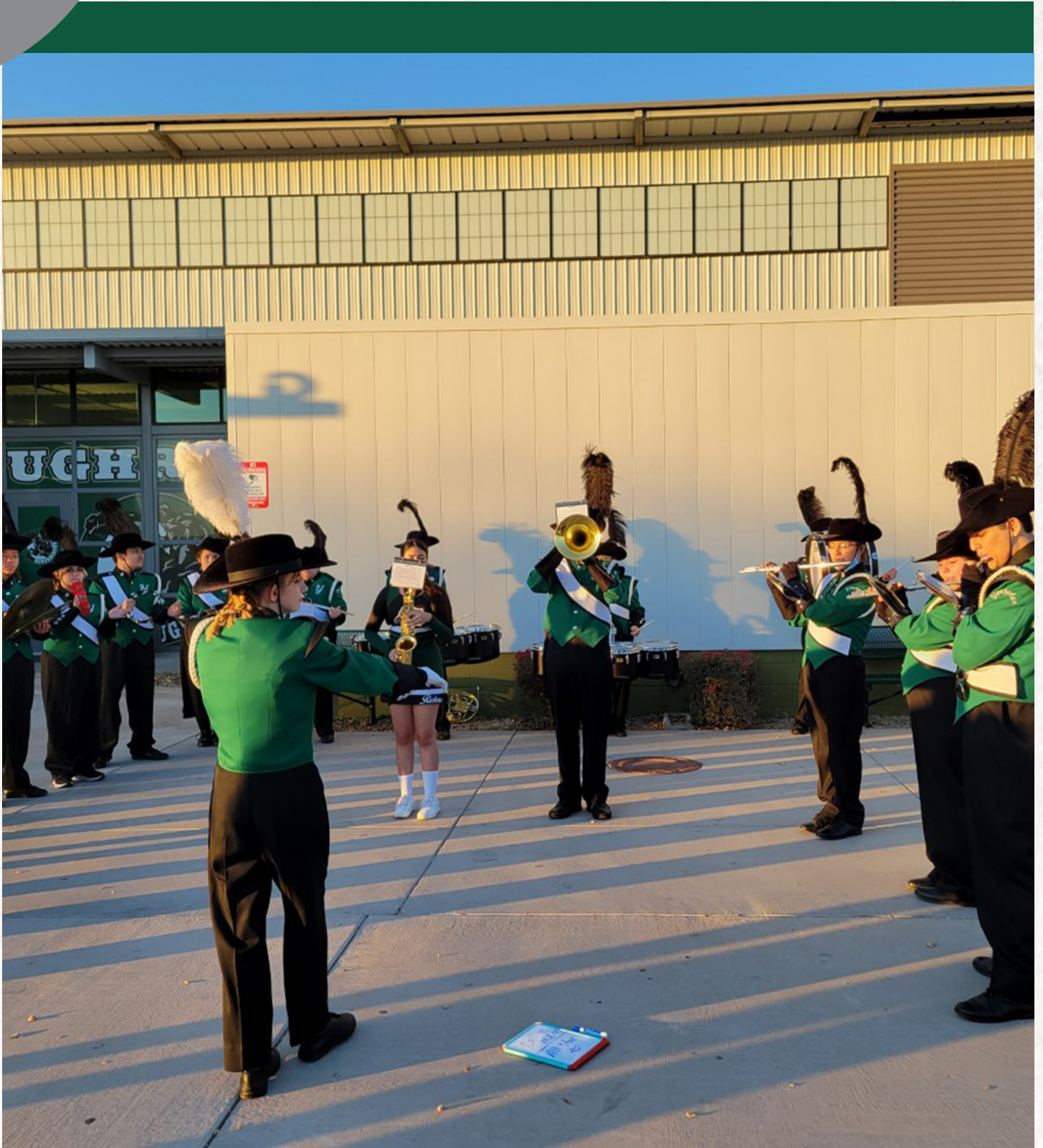




ROUGHRIDERS NEWSLETTER

Youngker High School - February 2022





The Contents

Message from the Principal	03	Career and Technical Education (CTE)	10
Staff Spotlight	04	Important Events	11
FAFSA Workshop Night	06	Roughrider of the Month	12
YHS eSport	07	Teacher Spotlight	14

Message from the Principal

We are now about a month and half into our second semester of the school year and are grateful for the continuous commitment to student success that permeates from our school community. We look forward to continued academic growth throughout the second semester, as well as our preparations for the upcoming Arizona Department of Education state testing period this spring. Additionally, we are excited to begin after school tutoring starting on Monday, February 7 in our Media Center from 2:15 - 4:00. Tutoring services are free for all YHS students, but parents will have to transport their students upon the completion of the

tutoring day. Best of luck to our winter sports and activity programs as they are completing their seasons! We look forward to our upcoming spring sports who will be beginning practices on Monday, February 7. Thank you for your support of Youngker High School. We are a growing school that continues to be the place to be for students, faculty, staff, and our community! Go Roughriders!

Michael Sivertson
PRINCIPAL



Staff Spotlight: Sophia Saenz

Hello my name is Sophia Saenz, I am a mother of seven kids, five girls two boys. I am happily married to my husband for twenty-nine years. I have been working for the elementary school district for eleven years and soon after had the best opportunity to work for the Buckeye High School District, where my real journey begins. In 2007 I started off working for Buckeye Union High School as a Cafeteria manager for Chartwells, then made my way to Youngker High School

where I remained and still work to this day. Although it was a big change for me working with kiddos to young adults, I couldn't feel more at home. Not only working with the students but also the staff, I was welcomed with open arms! I was the happiest I had ever been in a very long time, not to mention working with some of the best employees. Without them I wouldn't be able to be where I am today and given this chance to tell you my amazing story. 15

years and counting I remain with Youngker High School as a cafeteria Manager for Chartwells and couldn't be more grateful. Couldn't be more grateful for Youngker High School for accepting me and especially grateful for Chartwells for giving me a chance to start my career for my family and myself. I am sincerely thankful to all of you.

Sincerely,

Sophia Saenz

8th Grade Visit YHS Event



Youngker High School

FAFSA NIGHT WORKSHOP

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

WHERE: YHS MEDIA CENTER

TIME: 5:00 PM (SESSION 1) OR 6:30 PM (SESSION 2)*

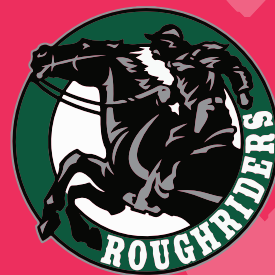
**Only need to attend one session!*



Did we mention *free* dinner?



Please RSVP using the QR Code to reserve your spot! Space is limited!!!



YHS Esports

Jeff Beuthin

Sports, what is a sport? In recent years, the idea of eSports has made its way into the forefront of what sports are. Several years ago, the idea of eSports/video games being a sport was non-existent and was only brought into fruition in recent years. Before recent years, esports was around it was just done in ways through college dorm rooms, hang-out groups, all-night video, game sessions, and even organized "underground" tournaments that would spread by word of

mouth. However, sports are not just about physical fitness, doesn't physical activity. It's about the connections that we make with other people with similar interests to achieve a common goal. Starting in the 2018-2019 school year the AIA launched their inaugural season for eSports. The YHS campus send a liaison, Jeffrey Beuthin, to the AIA, so that the campus would be able to hit the ground running. This was a very rough and bumpy start for the state of Arizona, YHS, and

gaming on other campuses. During this first year, the rough start was not due to a lack of participation or lack of Enthusiasm for the sport. At this time, the coaching team consisted of Lisa Schroer and Jeffrey Beuthin, in a group of approximately 25 students. When talking about esports at YHS high school, approximations will always be used because the campus often shares its athletes. This is because eSports is a year-long commitment, however,

students do have other sports that they're interested in playing. These students will often compete with those other sports and then work around the schedule to do eSports at the same time. So, with this being said, we often had 30 to 35 students at practice, but on any given day we would have between 20 to 25 students practicing. But back to the bumps in the road, a lot of the schools in Arizona. We're running to issues trying to compete in the program. Initially, the AIA partnered with a program called legacy esports. They were an excellent vendor that did a great presentation on how this sport would look in Arizona. Initially, the major game being pushed by the AIA and legacy esports was League of Legends and Rocket League. These were the major games being pushed with the AIA as their core games for competition. Legacy esports did offer several other games for competitive play but we're not offered as state competition. These were games such as Smite, sports games, the first-person

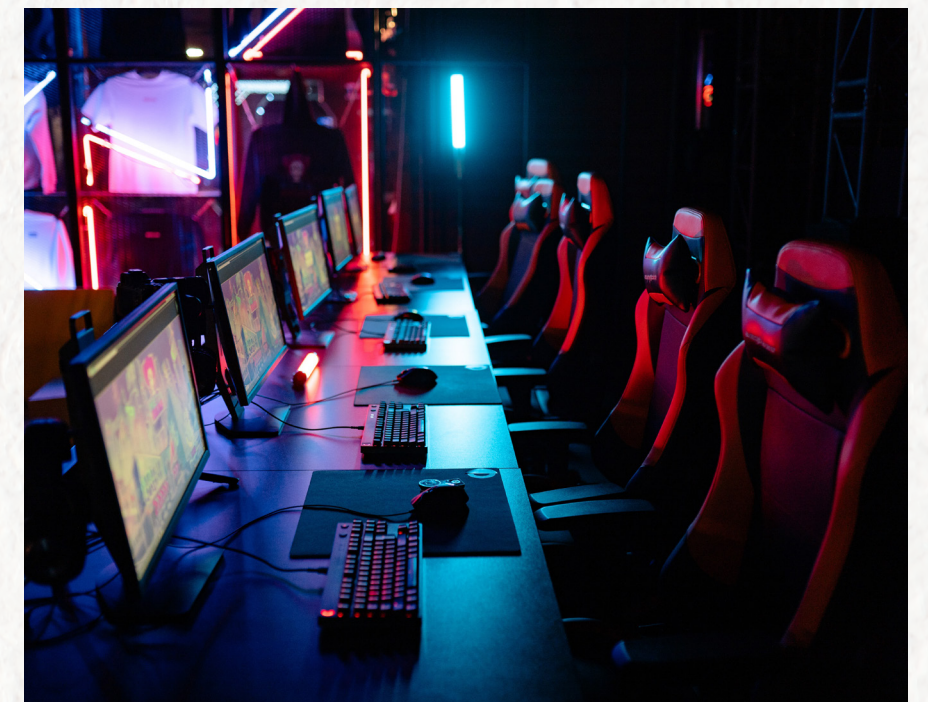
shooter named Overwatch, and looking forward to using games such as super smash Brothers. Being the first year, the vendor had difficulty facilitating games between campuses. This made it a difficult season for our team to compete. We still did field two teams for competition on League of Legends. However, we did get several games with our sister school Buckeye Union. This did give us a chance to expand our teams and develop a program. After that year, the AIA changed its vendor to PlayVS. After a seamless transition, the program started building more momentum. With a new vendor, they started pushing new games and kept similar old games. They're now two seasons of competition. A fall season and a spring season are not necessarily the same dates as your traditional sports seasons for fall and spring. Fall starts at the beginning of the school year with playoffs starting in December, and spring starts at the beginning of the first semester and goes till after spring break. At this

point, YHS had enough interest to continue fielding its teams for League of Legends and we're looking into expanding into competition for the game Rocket League and started developing that team. We had approximately 30 students coming to practice regularly and over 40 students on the team. The 2019-2020 school year was a great push for eSports through the YHS. That season for the fall season the YHS campus was able to rank 14th and State for League of Legends. The program was expanding at such a rate that we'd be able to have three legal legend teams, a rocket league team, and still have enough students to add to upcoming different additions to the esports gaming library. However, the 2019-2020 school year did have a big hurdle that all campuses had to go through. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down sports across the nation and this was no different for eSports. Unfortunately, the team did not get to compete for the 2020 spring season. Since then, it's been trying to rebuild

the program just like all other sports programs in the state. The 2020-2021 school year involved rebuilding a program. At this point Coach Schroer, move to another state, after seeing the team compete in state competition. It was sad to see her leave, but she was replaced by another great coach, Lillian McWaters. However, YHS numbers were dropping since this is a sport not everyone had accessibility to. The reason for this is even though video games can be played from home, not every student on campus has a reliable home computer or reliable internet. Practices were still held, and competitions were still enjoyed. However, the number of students on campus participating had dropped dramatically due to the COVID-19 epidemic. 2020-2021 school year only saw approximately 15 students in the play from both at school and home. Unfortunately, halfway through the YHS drop one of our League of Legends teams due to not having enough students. We still were able to go to the

state competition and finish in the top 16 like the year before. However, the spring semester was not better with the reintroduction of students on campus caused to scheduling conflicts and the YHS team did not make it's to playoffs during the spring semester. This brings us to our current school year, the 2021-2022 school year, we have approximately 20 students competing. For this year of competition, the competitive games for the state have been updated and changed. League of Legends and Rocket League were still available, and League of Legends we are competing with one team, and they did

make it to state and took 13th place. We did try to reintroduce our rocket league team this season, which they did win, but weren't unable to finish the whole season. This season brought us to the new game that was added which was super smashed Brothers. We were able to field a team for competition and they tried very hard. Going into our spring season. The YHS campus is now going competing with other students across the state for both the games League of Legends and super smash Brothers and are going to look forward to an amazing season to wrap up the year!



Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is an integral part of our Youngker High School campus. We have 10 programs available for students to choose from including Carpentry, Coding, Culinary, Early Childhood, Film and TV, Graphic Design, Law and Public Safety, Medical Assisting, Social Media Business, and Sports Medicine. CTE helps students be intentional in high school about their future by gaining career connected learning, skills, and workforce development. Students can earn industry credentials, earn dual enrollment credit, and earn leadership opportunities. Secondary CTE concentrators are 82% more likely to go on to post secondary

education, the workforce, military, or an apprenticeship. Each CTE program is linked to a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) that are nationally recognized. Our CTSO's include FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), and SkillsUSA. CTSO's offer students opportunities for leadership, travel, scholarship, and networking. Recently Buckeye Mayor, Eric Osborn, declared February as CTE month in Buckeye. CTE is good for students, good for business, and good for the community.



Important Events

February 11th - UTI Presentation
February 14th - Valentine's Day
February 16 - FAFSA Night Workshop
February 18 - No School- Teacher In-Service
February 21 - No School - President Day
March 7th- 11th - No School Spring Break
March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
March 29th - ACT Aspire (Part): Freshman Test and AzSCI Testing: Junior Only

In order to be grant compliant, the NAU GEAR UP State Office is asking for parent feedback on the YHS Gear Up Program by using the link below!

[**AZ GEAR UP High School Survey**](#)

The yearbook staff is hard at work on this year's yearbook. Be sure to order by 3/1 to guarantee your yearbook this year. We will not be ordering any extras for selling at the end of the year. Order your 2022 yearbook by clicking the link below.

[**ORDER NOW!**](#)

Cap & Gown for Seniors

We would like to clarify the delivery of Cap, Gown and Tassels with you today. They will be **BULK** shipped and delivered to the school this spring for distribution. They will not be delivered to individual homes.

Once we get the estimated date this information will be passed on to you.

Thank you for your understanding and we apologize for any confusion.

If you still need to order please go **HERE**:

[**https://www.balfour.com/arizona/buckeye/youngker-high-school**](https://www.balfour.com/arizona/buckeye/youngker-high-school)

Roughrider of the Month

Employee of the Month:
Kelly Epley



Certified of the Month:
Charles Beard III



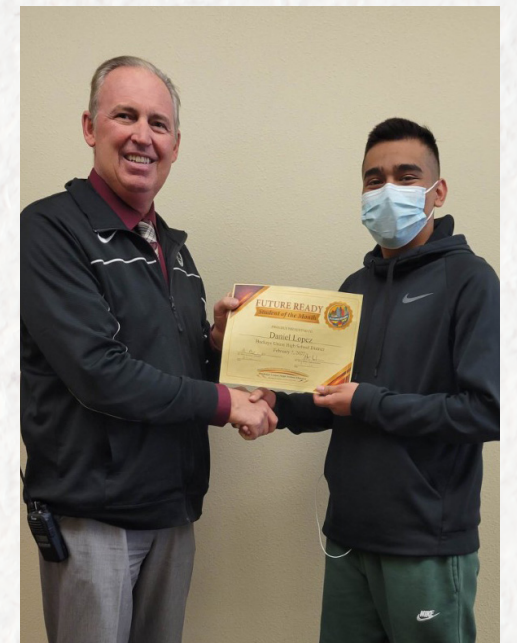
Classified of the Month:
Danielle Foley



Classified of the Month:
Ellen Aquino



Classified of the Month:
Rikki Garcia



Future- Ready of the Month:
Daniel Lopez



CTE of the Month:
Jason Perez

Teacher Spotlight: Christina Chadwick



My name is Christina Chadwick, and I am an English teacher and the Junior Class Student Council Advisor here at Youngker HS. I started my teaching career way back in 2006 at Agua Fria High School, in Avondale, where I taught all-levels of English, served as a department chair, and coached volleyball over the 11 years I was there. I made the move to Youngker for the 2016-2017 school year to teach English. If you add it all up, I am in my 16th year of teaching.

From the time I was young, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. My grandpa was a Math teacher at Alhambra High School and my aunt works as a Speech Therapist in the Peoria Unified District, so the educational profession was celebrated in my family. Couple that family culture with my

love of helping others and it just seemed to be the right step for me. It wasn't until I met my 7th grade English teacher, Dr. Judith Uselmann, that I started to think that maybe I could be an English teacher. Dr. Uselmann instilled in me a love of reading and writing and then encouraged me to help others in the class when they were struggling with a concept that came easily to me. She saw the potential in me, coupled with my desire to help others, and really solidified my future path.

I graduated from my alma mater, Grace Christian School, in 2001 and spent the next 2 years receiving my Associates Degree in General Studies from Glendale Community College before transferring to Northern Arizona University in 2003 to pursue

my teaching degree. I graduated cum laude from Northern Arizona University in the Fall of 2005 earning my Bachelor of Science in Education degree with an extended English major. I spent 1 semester working at a charter school as a long-term substitute and got married to my husband, Colin, before being hired at Agua Fria for the 2006-2007 school year.

While at Agua Fria HS, I was able to combine my 2 loves—teaching and volleyball, when I was hired on as the Freshman volleyball coach. Working outside the classroom with students allowed me to see a different side to students and I realized how important it is for teachers to be involved on campus. I coached volleyball—Freshman, JV, and as a Varsity statistician—for a

combined 9 years. I worked every home basketball game as the scoreboard operator, I attended the school plays, choir/band concerts, and chaperoned dances. I joined multiple committees to help better the overall culture of the school and even served as a department chair for a total of 5 years. During that time, I had my daughter, Charlotte (8 years old), and my son, Iain (5 years old), and they were a game-changer for me. I always strived to be the best version of myself each day at work but thinking about what I would do for my own kids if they were in my classroom took my teaching to a whole different level.

I soon realized that I wanted to work somewhere closer to my home so that I had more time with my family. For that reason, I made the move to Youngker HS so I could do what I loved to do—teach English, while still having quality time with my own children. I swore I would just teach and avoid all the other commitments, but work wasn't the same.

I realized that to better know my students and the community I was serving, I needed to be involved outside of the classroom; I couldn't ignore that component to my job. It seemed only natural when I was asked to serve as the Junior Class Advisor for the 2017-2018 school year, that I should agree to be the advisor and work with these students to put on events, build school culture, and develop their leadership skills. Working as the advisor to these amazing students has helped me grow in ways I didn't realize I needed to grow. Our students at Youngker are absolutely incredible: they are creative, they are driven, they are supportive, and they are caring. Seeing these attributes in my Student Council students helped me approach my classroom teaching with a fresh perspective.

As an educator, I strive to create students who can think critically, communicate clearly, and argue effectively. Each day in my classroom, I try to

teach one, if not all 3 of these skills. English isn't just about reading novels and writing essays, in my opinion. Those materials are what we use to help students make connections with their own thoughts, their own world, and the world at large. In my classroom, you will see students engaging with a text in various ways: we read it, we annotate it, we draw connections to other texts or real-world events, we discuss it, and we write about it.

I love working at Youngker HS for so many reasons, but it boils down to the incredible students we serve and the supportive staff I work alongside each day. I am honored to work with your student(s) and I thank you for putting your trust in me. I promise that I am doing my best to uphold The Youngker Way in all that I do, in and out of the classroom.



YHS Prom 2022 ■ ■ ■

Prom is coming and here are the details you need to ensure your student doesn't miss out on this high school experience.

Who: Junior and Senior students are able to purchase tickets; underclassmen are allowed to attend but only as a guest of a Junior or Senior. They cannot purchase a ticket.

When: Prom will be on May 7th from 7 to 10:30 pm.

Where: The location and theme of the dance will be revealed at a special assembly on Monday, April 4th.

Tickets: This is where the majority of questions arise. Please read the information below;

if you have questions, reach out to the Junior Class Advisor, Mrs. Chadwick, via email. Her email is christina.chadwick@buhd.org

All tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. You must have your ID at the door to verify ticket purchases.

Seniors must have their account fees and fines settled prior to purchasing their ticket(s). Guest contracts (for guests who are not students at Youngker) are due before you purchase the ticket; this includes any student who attends a "sister" school in the district. Guest contracts can be picked up in the Bookstore.

Tickets will be sold before and after school only in the Bookstore; no tickets will be sold during lunch or class hours.

We will **NOT** be selling tickets at the door; all tickets must be pre-purchased from the Bookstore. Please note that sometimes students will purchase a ticket and realize they can't attend the event, they then "sell" or give their ticket to a friend. This will not work. If your student's name is not on our Bookstore list, your student will not be allowed entry to the event even if they can prove they purchased the ticket off of someone else. For that reason, only purchase tickets from our Bookstore.

At Youngker, we use an escalating model for our prom tickets so the earlier you purchase your ticket(s), the less it costs; prices and dates are listed below:

April 4th (after school only)= **\$50**

April 5-8th = **\$55**

April 11-22nd = **\$65**

April 25-29th = **\$75**

May 2nd = **\$80**

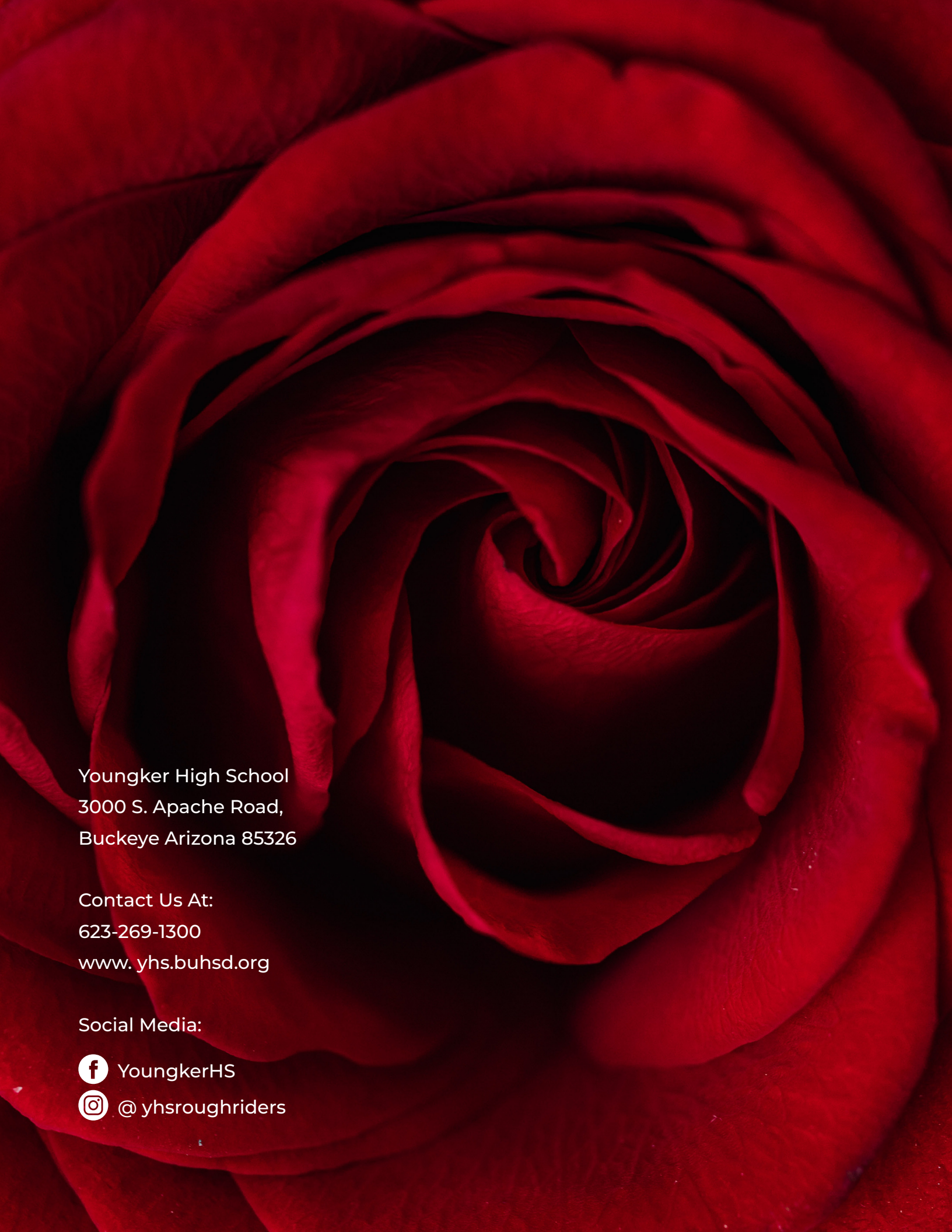
May 3rd = **\$85**

May 4th = **\$90**

May 5th = **\$95**

May 6th = **\$100**

Check our school's Facebook and Instagram accounts for updates as prom draws nearer. We will also be sending out email updates to our Junior and Senior students with more details.



Youngker High School
3000 S. Apache Road,
Buckeye Arizona 85326

Contact Us At:
623-269-1300
www.yhs.buhsd.org

Social Media:

 YoungkerHS

 @ yhsroughriders