



# ROUGHRIDERS NEWSLETTER

Youngker High School - December 2021

## SENIOR SUNRISE



Photo Credited: Sinue Mariscal

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year at YHS. We are proud of all of the hard work and commitment to student learning that has been demonstrated by our faculty, staff, students, and parents as we began the new school year. Although the restart of the school year has had some challenges, we have maintained a steadfast commitment to teaching and learning from all stakeholder groups. A special thanks to the comprehensive YHS community for all of your support this semester!

We are continuing to move forward with our plans and preparations for

the second semester at YHS. Currently, we are finalizing the last week of our 1st semester classes, as well as preparing for final exams on December 16 and 17. We look forward to the start of the new semester, while working diligently to close out the first semester with the highest levels of academic achievement. On behalf of Youngker High School, we wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

***Go Roughriders!***

*Michael Sivertson*

**PRINCIPAL**



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:

## Jackie Garcia

Hello Roughriders!

My name is Jackie Garcia, and I am currently a Physical Education teacher and varsity softball coach here at YHS. In 2005, I began my teaching and coaching career at Agua Fria High School, teaching PE and coaching volleyball, basketball and softball throughout my 8 years there. In 2013, I made the move to Youngker also to teach PE, coach swim, basketball, softball and football and I was also the student government advisor during my time here. So, this is my 16th year teaching overall.

From the time I was in elementary school, 6th grade to be exact, I had already decided I wanted to be an athlete and make sports a major part of my life, so my end goal was to become a PE teacher and coach softball at the high school level and in order to get there, I had to stay pretty focused and involved.

I graduated from Agua Fria High School in 1997 where I stayed busy playing volleyball, basketball and softball, then attended Glendale Community College and played softball for 2 years there, then transferred to Barry University, a division II school in Miami, Florida on a softball

scholarship and I completed my junior year as a Physical Education major. Right before my senior year at Barry, life happened and I became a mother. I married my junior high/high school sweetheart, Hank Garcia, and by the time Makayla, my daughter, was 3, I decided I no longer wanted to settle for just any job. I went back to school and completed my teaching degree. I graduated with a Bachelors in Secondary Education with a minor in Biology and a specialization in physical education. I've also received a Master's in Educational Leadership, and a certificate of advanced studies in high school guidance counseling in 2010 which concluded all my schooling!

I was ready to start and finish my career at my alma matter. I enjoyed teaching at Agua Fria. I loved the students, the way I was able to watch the school grow and evolve and I was loving having an impact on students using sports and exercise as a motivator. During my time there, my family grew by 2! In 2008, I had my son, Jeremiah, and in 2009, I had my son, Alex. All my kids had been accustomed to being at practices either on the field or on the court at a very young age and they loved it! Sharing our love of sports has kept them extremely involved while

also keeping myself and my husband very busy but that's how we like it!

The transfer to Youngker from Agua Fria back in 2013 was a little tough, I was leaving my comfort zone, but it turned out to be a really good decision. I have had an exciting and eye-opening experience since I've been here. I've been able to expand my coaching abilities in different sports like swim, Student government, and even freshman football! I had the best time coaching freshman football! At first I was terrified! I felt underqualified, inexperienced, and a little out of place. Once I got onto the field my pop warner days came back! Yes, I played pop warner football when I was younger and needless to say, I had a great 5 years coaching football!!

On the flipside, and a more serious matter, during my 2nd year here at YHS in December of 2014, I was faced with one of the hardest battles of my life. I was unexpectedly diagnosed with stage 2, Hodgkins Lymphoma cancer and immediately began chemotherapy just after Christmas. It certainly was not part of my plan. However, it was to me, a time to do some self-reflecting. A time to redefine myself as a mother, wife, teacher, coach and person. All these years I had conversations with students about overcoming obsta-

cles, grinding even when they didn't feel like it, always improving attitude and effort, not quitting, facing adversity etc. and here I am having to deal with this heavy, scary, life-changing illness. It was time for me to do the only thing I knew how, relate it to sports. It was time for me to prepare for the biggest game of my life! I had to mentally and emotionally prepare and practice what I preached all these years. It was time to fight this fight and give my best effort to become victorious and I had to do it with everyone watching. It was a humbling experience at the same time it was overwhelming and difficult. The staff and students of Youngker High School were extremely supportive along with family and friends and the surrounding community, and I didn't fight alone. Fast forward to 7 years later, I am healthier, I am stronger inside, and much more confident in my abilities to continue to teach my students those transferrable skills they will need in life.

Students always ask why I chose Physical education. I chose this because it's the perfect environment to help those who are insecure, shy, or unmotivated to practice skills they will constantly face in the real world and to help those that embrace PE to learn self-discipline, control and awareness. It's how I connect with students to help



them grow into reliable, accountable young adults.

Life lessons in physical education is what I know best, I've taught and coached thousands of students and athletes which have included 4 nephews, 2 nieces, my daughter and a number of relatives. Still, with 2 sons, 2 nephews and 2 nieces to go! I am completely invested in Youngker High School. This coming semester I will expand my career by taking on a role in administration and strive to impact YHS in a positive manner. It's an ongoing story of exciting and unpredictable circumstances.

**Go Roughriders!!**

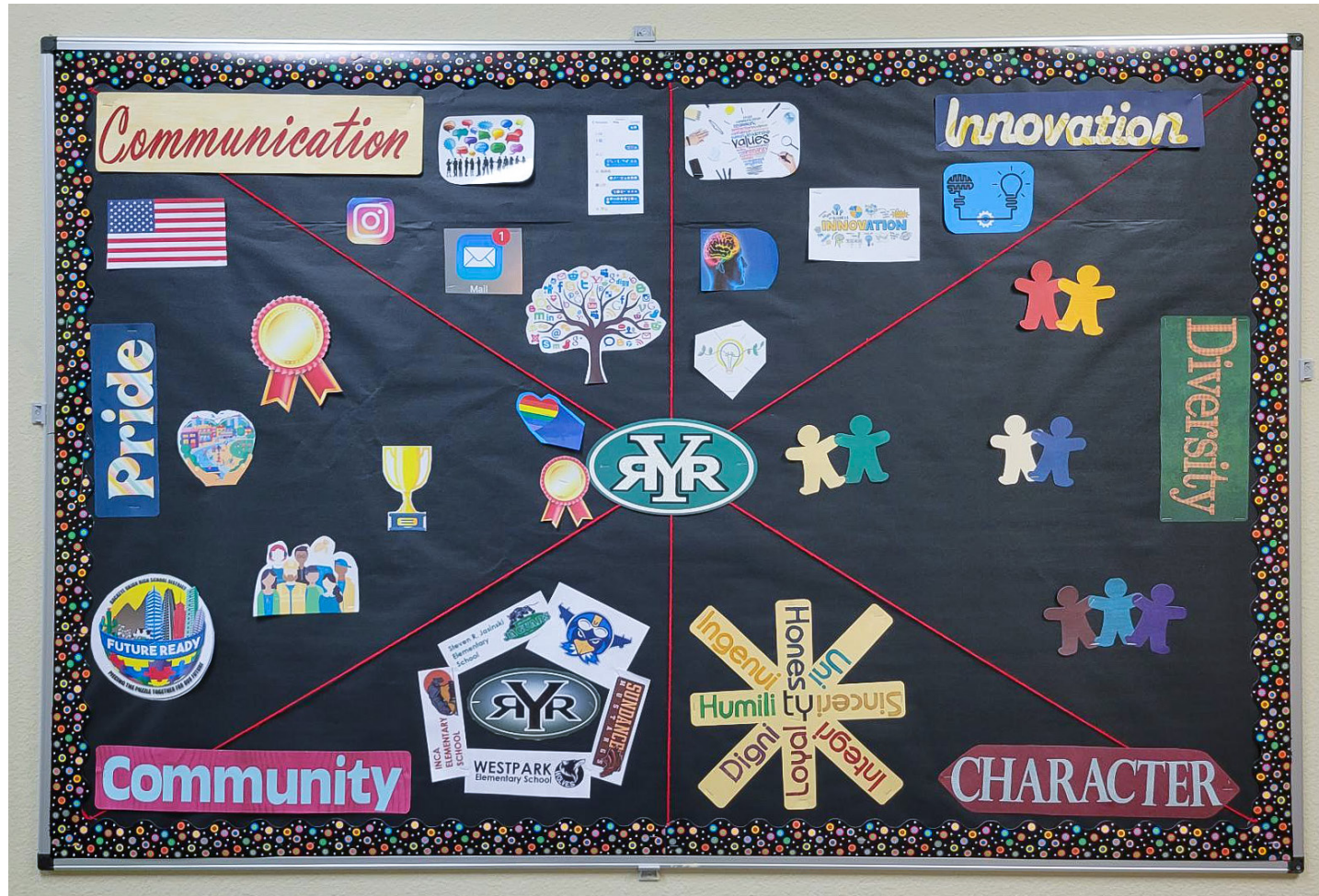
*Jackie Garcia*

# COMMAND AND DEMAND



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

# Rob Brown



Team E aka **TEAM COMMAND AND DEMAND** with Merie Candelario, Misty Moore, Nicole Malec, and Davlyn Edgett. Their bulletin board is in the 200 building in the Science Wing.

Each participant will be placed on a team made up of staff members. Each group will work with a team members to compete in various challenges (on campus during various times of the day). Each challenges will be different every month. Last month in November each team was challenge to design and put up a bulletin board that represents #TheYoungerWay.

I was born and raised in Madison Wi. Go Badgers. I graduated from Madison East High School in 1981, I went into the Great United State Navy for 4 years active and 2 years reserve. In 1987 I started working for Research Product Corp (Aprilaire) moved to Avondale Az in 1992 to run the maintenance department for the company (Research Products) became the plant manager in 2000 I retired from the company in 2018. I met my wife Christy in 93 and been married going on 27 years, we have son Austin he is 12 years old now. Yes

we had him late. LOL. I love all sports, baseball being my favorite to play. Big Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan. Cardinals are my Top team and the Suns, I always supported the home team were ever I have been. I really like jeeping and camping in the dessert with my family and friends.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS

## December 14th

Winter Music Concert  
Coco & Cram

## December 15th

COOP Holiday Concert

## December 16th

1st and 2nd period  
Final Exam

## December 17th

4th/5th and 6th period  
Final Exam  
Winter Play

## December 20-31

No School - Holiday Break

## January 12

Senior Picture Day  
Meet the Teacher Night

## January 19

Future Freshman Night

## January 20

Pickup Cap & Gown and  
Ring order during lunch

## January 25

8th Grade Visit YHS

## January 27

8th Grade Visit YHS



# ROUGH RIDERS OF THE MONTH


## CERTIFIED

Nicolle Craycraft

## FUTURE-READY STUDENT

Isabella Cicci





### SENIOR AND PARENT/GUARDIAN FAFSA APPLICATION WORKSHOP


Your student's appointment is scheduled for:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: Media Center

**PURPOSE:**  
Our records show your senior has not completed their FAFSA. Apply NOW for best financial aid options. We will have FAFSA representatives available to help you fill out the FAFSA and to answer questions!

**TIPS:**

- Parent/Guardian are Highly encouraged to attend. It is very difficult for a senior to complete the process for financial aid without parental/guardian help. Please attend **EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS and INFORMATION.**
- Please check in at the front office before proceeding to the Media Center.
- Questions? Call Mrs. El Habach, GEAR UP Coach, at 623-223-3403.



Scan this QR Code to make your FAFSA Appointment

**Please bring these to your appointment**

- Social Security numbers (Parent and Student)
- Parent **2020** Tax Returns and W2s (Parent)
- Access to PERSONAL email address (Parent/Guardian and Student)

**Apply now for best financial aid options!**

Seniors and Parents! Did you know you could earn \$6,495 for school of **FREE** money by filling out the FAFSA? Need help filling it out? Email Gear Up Coach Denise El Habach at [denise.el.habach@buhd.org](mailto:denise.el.habach@buhd.org) to schedule an appointment or come to our next FAFSA night Wednesday, February 16th at 5:30 PM in the media center!

If you're interested in completing it at home, go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)

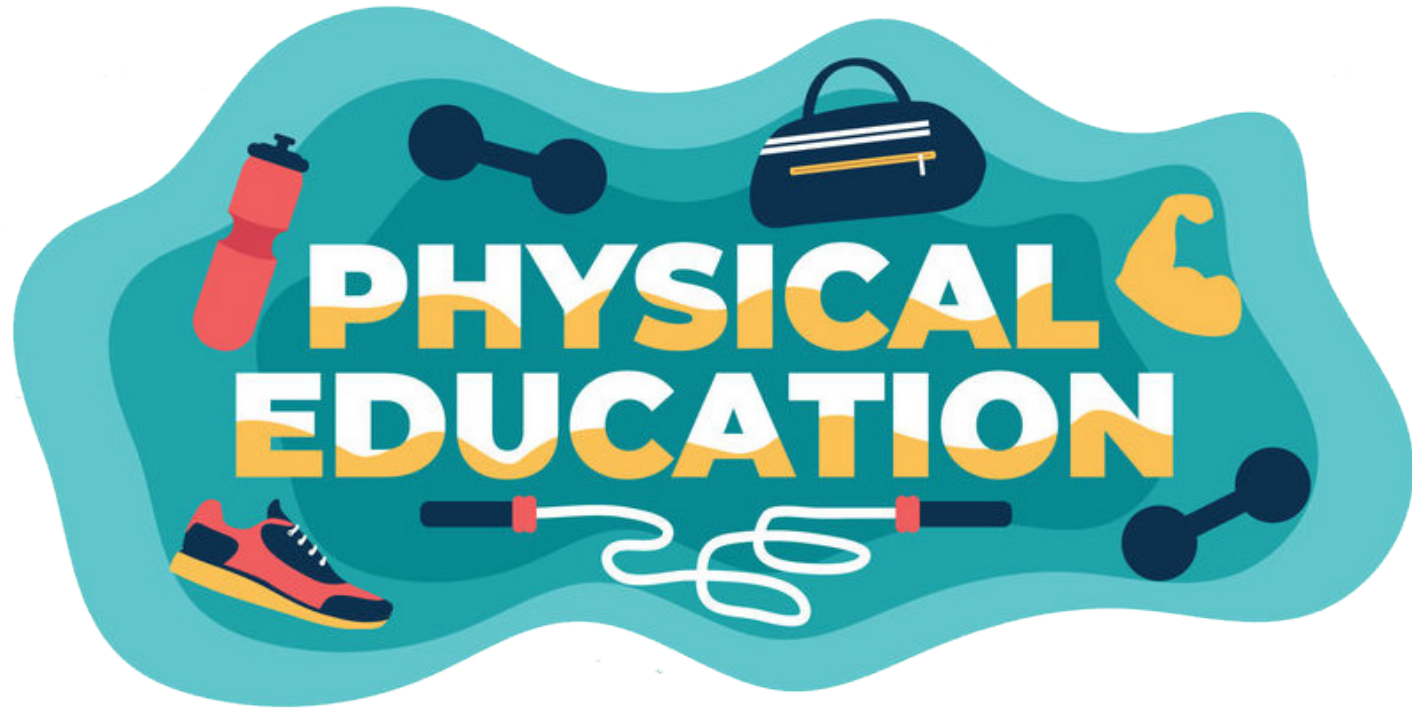
## CAP & GOWN INFORMATION

**ORDER YOUR CAP AND GOWN IN DECEMBER BEFORE PRICES GO UP IN JANUARY!**

You can order online with the link!

<https://www.balfour.com/arizona/buckeye/youngker-high-school>

Our Balfour Rep is Susan Fearnside and her email address is [susan.fearnside@balfour-rep.com](mailto:susan.fearnside@balfour-rep.com) Please email her if you have any questions!



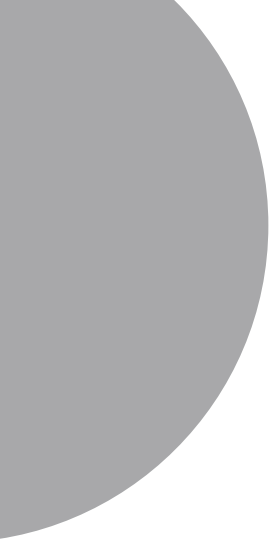
Twice a year students are given the opportunity to max-out and beat a record that is on the leaderboard. Bench, squat and clean are the three primary lifts. There are 7 weight classes for males and 5 weight classes for females. Once a student accomplishes the feat of beating a record, their picture is taken and the information regarding the lift is entered and then placed on the leaderboard. December (1st semester students) and May (2nd semester students) are the two months during the school year students are given this opportunity. Once a student qualifies, they will remain on the leaderboard until they are replaced by another student who has maxed more weight.

There are 7 students that have the honor of being added to the leaderboard. They have worked extremely hard since August. The following students have maxed out in one or more of the three lifts.



- Antonio Chavez– Squat 325— qualifies for 5th place**
- Daniel Zuniga– Squat 370— qualifies for 3rd place**
- Memphis York– Clean 255—qualifies for 1st place**
- Isreal Serrano– Clean 195— qualifies for 5th place**
- David Hicks– Squat 250— qualifies for 3rd place**
- Darius Wiley– Clean 215— qualifies for 4th place**
- Isaiah Atkins– Clean 205— qualifies for 5th place**
- Isaiah Atkins– Squat 305— qualifies for 5th place**
- Dorly Jovel– Squat 195— qualifies for 1st place**
- Dorly Jovel– Bench 90— qualifies for 1st place**





**YOUNKER HIGH SCHOOL**

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YoungkerHS



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