



# ROUGHRIDERS NEWSLETTER

Youngker High School - November 2021



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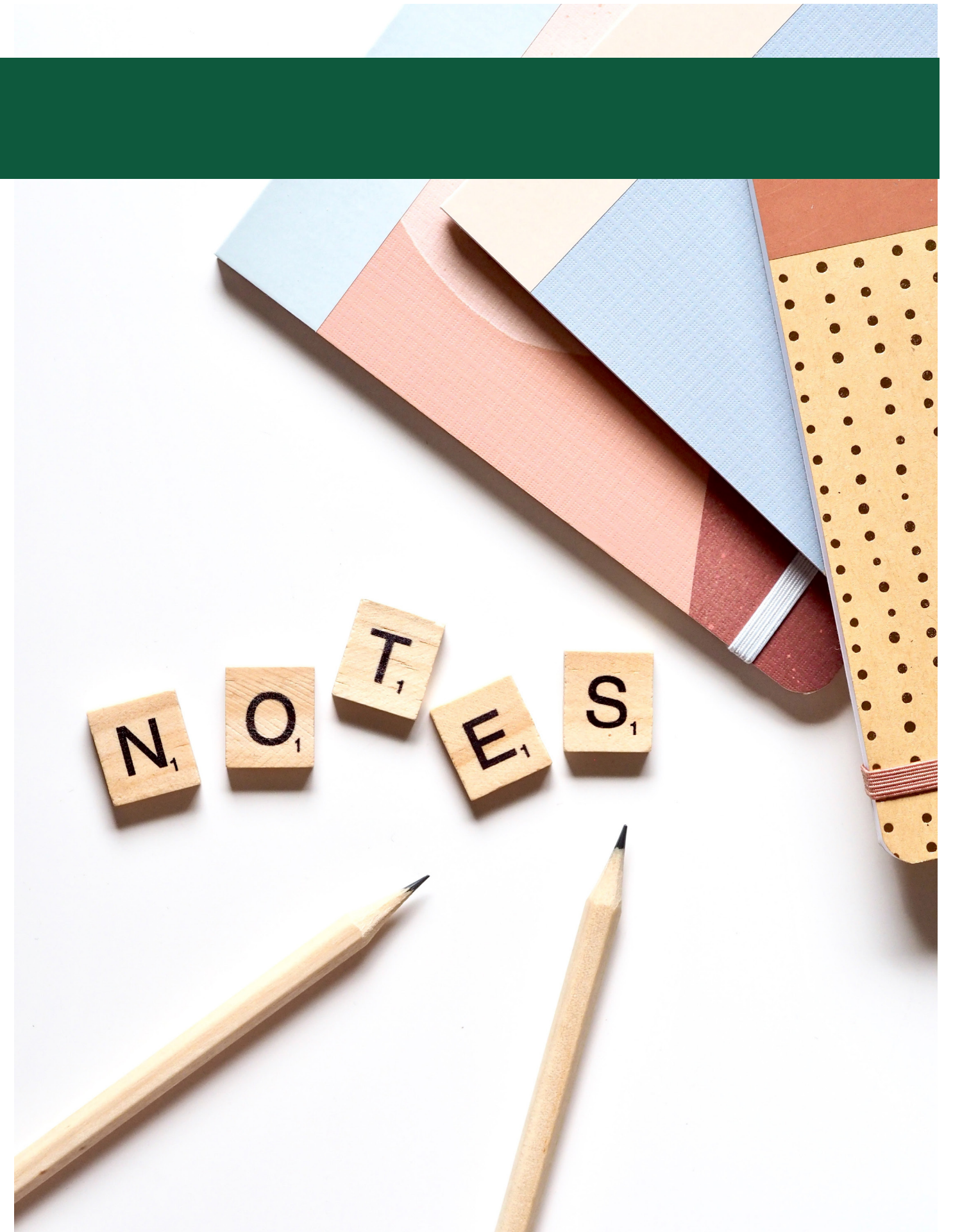
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# Message from the Principal



We are excited to continually progress as a collective school community this school year. The time has definitely flown by as we are already nearing the midpoint of the 2nd nine week grading period and are creeping up on the conclusion of the first semester. We encourage all of our students to stay focused on their classes and pursue the highest levels of academic achievement, as we finish our first semester of the 2021- 2022 school year.

Congratulations to all of our fall sports and activity groups as our students complete their seasons and best of luck to all of our winter activity groups as they begin their

seasons. We encourage everyone to come out and support our amazing students and staff members in the upcoming events that will be occurring here on campus. Also, please check out our additional YHS signage when you visit campus. We are continuing to build on our YHS brand, marketing, and collective celebration of Youngker High School's past, present, and future with additional signage on campus.

We look forward to seeing you on campus.

***Go Roughriders!!***

**-DR. MIKE SIVERTSON  
PRINCIPAL**

**“Education is the ticket to success.”**

**– Jaime Escalante**



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Blaisdell

### Hello Roughriders,

My name is Micah Blaisdell, and I am the English department chair at YHS, the English Curriculum Coordinator for BUHSD, and I teach English 1 and English III this year.

I was born in Detroit, MI, and lived in the city until I was 11, when my family moved to the idyllic suburb of Brighton, MI, about 35 miles west of Detroit. I graduated from Brighton High School in 1993 with no real plans for my future. I did a few semesters at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, MI, but the decided to pursue a career in radio and television. In 1995, I enrolled at the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts in Southfield, Mi, and in less than a year had a certificate in radio. I landed a job at WKHM radio in Jackson, MI, where I was an on-air personality, a producer, an ad salesperson; just about every job imaginable since it was a small station in a small market. I did radio and worked in restaurants throughout my 20s.

While I truly enjoyed my time in radio, I felt the urge to do more and wanted to go to college. So, in 2000, at the age of 25, I was accepted at Eastern

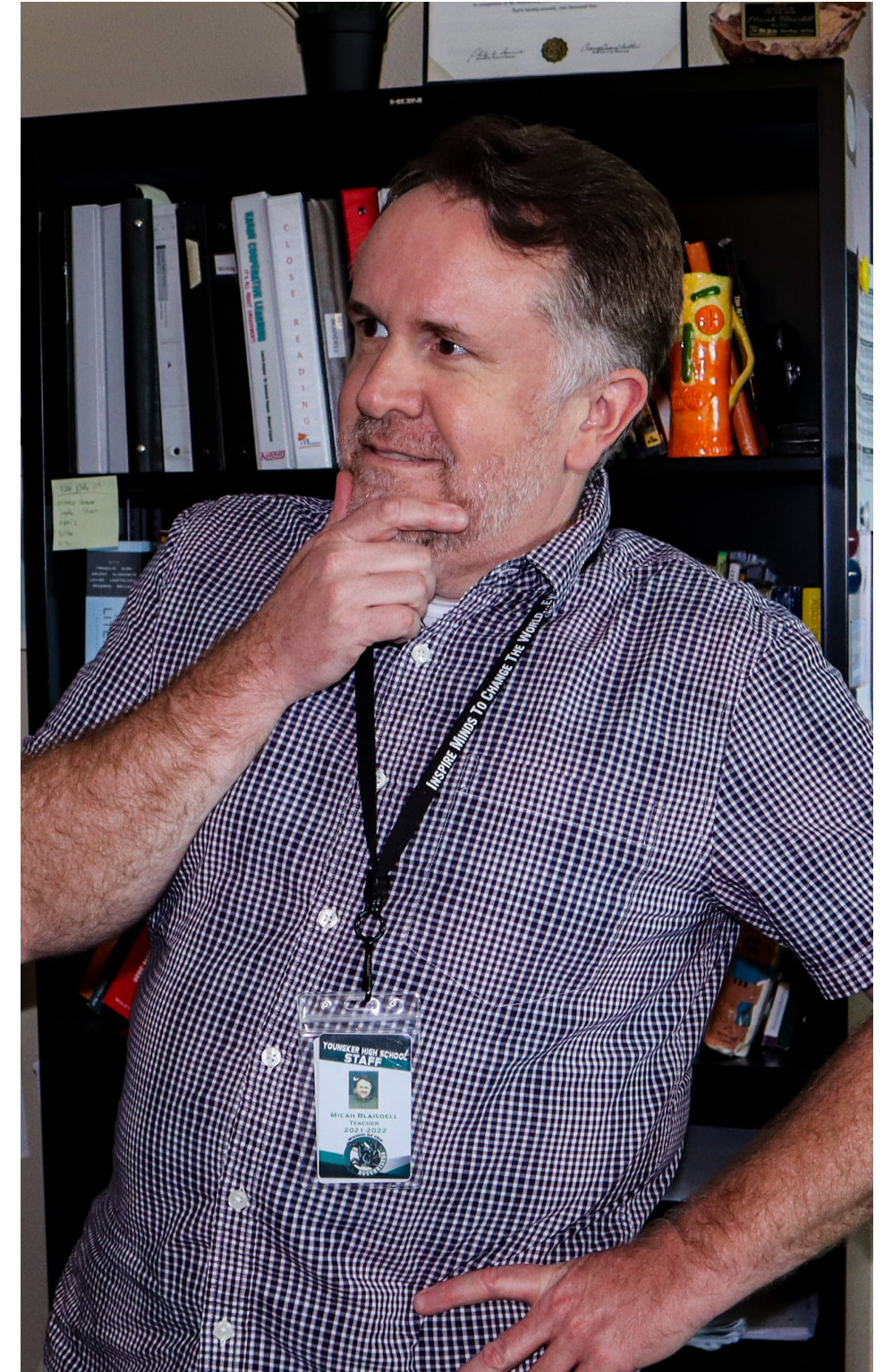
Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. I chose to pursue an English major in the College of Education to become a teacher. I knew my ability to talk, write, and read would serve me well as a teacher, so I went for it.

After 4 years at EMU, I student taught at Huron High in Ann Arbor in 2004 and graduated EMU in 2005, at age 29, with a BA in English Language, Literature, and Writing. I was a long-term sub at Romulus High School in Romulus, MI (if you ever flew into Detroit Metro Airport, your plane landed in Romulus) for two years, but due to the economy in Michigan at the time, they were unable to offer me a full-time position. I had many other interviews in Michigan with similar results: we like you but we're going with someone else. So, after doing some research, the places where teachers were needed the most in 2007 were Phoenix, Florida, or Las Vegas. I had a friend in Glendale, came to visit in the winter, and was immediately impressed with the lack of snow! I bombed the entire metro Phoenix area with my resume, and YHS's first principal, Johnny Ray, called me one day and offered me a job on the

phone without ever even meeting me.

I have been here at YHS since the beginning: the 2007-2008 school year. We started out with about 300 freshmen students and about 15 teachers in that first year. There was only the 100, 200, and 300 building, along with the small gym, cafeteria, and media center. The PAC, 800, big gym, and even a full parking lot had yet to be built. Lower Buckeye Rd. did not go all the way to Miller at the time! Those 300 students became our first graduates in 2011. Only Mat York, Brad Jaycox, Ellen Aquino, and I are left from the OG Roughrider crew!

It has been amazing watching YHS grow from those 300 students to over 2000 today. Youngker, as well as the City of Buckeye, have changed incredibly since 2007, and it seems it will continue to change in the years to come. I'm glad to be part of the YHS crew.



**“ I knew my ability to talk, write, and read would serve me well as a teacher, so I went for it. ”**



**TODAY A  
READER,  
TOMORROW  
A LEADER.**

**-MARGARET FULLER**

# English Department



## **The English department**

is hard at work creating better communicators by building reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in our students. We start off by focusing on the key ideas and details of fiction and non-fiction texts, which involves analyzing how authors support and organize their ideas. Then, we move on to the craft and structure of writing: how authors use words and sentences as power to express their point-of-view.

In writing, students are learning how to not only use grammar properly, but how to construct sentences in new ways, which in turn helps them express their ideas at a deeper level. Also, students are learning how to

develop their ideas with more depth, which in turn helps them communicate more effectively in anything they do.

We have electives too! If you love to write, consider one of our electives to fill your schedule: Creative Writing, where you will compose, revise, and edit your own poetry and short stories; Film as Literature, where you will analyze classic films just like we analyze literature in an English class. Finally, there is Journalism, where you will be part of writing for and creating the school newspaper and yearbook.

# VETERAN'S DAY



## Bradley Allan Jaycox, MA Ed.

United States Marine Corps – 21 January 1977 to 28 July 1987 – Final rank: Sergeant/E5

Units - ITS – Camp Pendleton, CA

A Co., 1st Bn., 1st Mar., 1st MarDiv – Camp Pendleton, CA

H&S Co 1st Bn., 9th Mar., 3rd MarDiv – Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan

H&MS 42, MAG 42, 4th Marine Air Wing, NAS Alameda, CA

Marksmanship Instructor School, Quantico, VA

United States Army – 28 July 1987 to 28 July 1992 – Final rank: Specialist

Units - Food Service Specialist School, Ft. Lee, VA

HHC 2/66 2nd AD, 3rd Brigade (Forward deployed), Garlstedt, Germany

HHC 2nd AD, 3rd Brigade (Forward deployed), Garlstedt, Germany

Arizona Army National Guard – 1 October 1992 to 21 January 2003 - Final rank: Sergeant/E5

Units - 108th Army Band

Retired – 31 January 2003 – Total years: 26. Final rank: Sergeant/E5

### Awards (all branches)

Army Commendation Medal - with 1 Oak leaf cluster

Army Achievement Medal - with 1 Oak leaf cluster

Army Good Conduct Medal

Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal - with 1 Oak leaf cluster

Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal

Select Marine Corps Reserve Medal

Armed Forces Reserve Medal - with Hourglass device

Southwest Asia Campaign Medal - with 2 Campaign stars

Liberation of Kuwait Medal - issued by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Liberation of Kuwait Medal - issued by Kingdom of Kuwait

Arizona National Guard Active-Duty Service Ribbon

Arizona National Guard

Longevity Ribbon

Arizona National Guard Service Ribbon - with 1 Bronze star

Army Expert Rifle Badge (15 years in a row)

Army Expert Pistol Badge (2 years in a row)

Marine Corps Expert Rifle Badge (10 years in a row)

Marine Corps Expert Pistol Badge

Silber Schützenschner (German military marksmanship award)



## David Rossbach

Enlisted and served in the USAF during the early/mid 90's. My job was a Weapon Systems Specialist on B-52's and I did a fair amount of traveling. In the photo was me prepping an air dropped naval mine while deployed to Guam.

## Daniel Gaucin

MA1(SW/AW)  
U.S Navy Ret.1986-2006  
Desert Storm and Desert Shield/ Operation Iraqi Freedom



## Christopher Jerome Rank: Major

Army Reserve 2005-2015 (Still in the Army Reserve but inactive 2015-present).

Military Intelligence officer, various positions and duties. Earned "Wings" badge as aircrew, somewhat rare in the Army. Spent almost 2.5 years away from home/family on orders, including a 1-year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, earning a combat patch for service in Afghanistan.

## Julie Williams

I was in the U.S. Navy from 1999-2004 - I left the service as an O-3 (Lieutenant) with a Surface Warfare Qualification.

I served onboard the USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81) as the Fire Control Officer and the Strike Officer.

I also served onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) as the Assistant Weapons Officer.

## Robert G Brown

United States Navy, I served from 1981 to 1985 active 2 years reserve until 87 I was a Signalman 2nd Class. I'm a shellback, meaning I crossed the equator 2 times.



**WITH  
RESPECT,  
HONOR AND  
GRATITUDE**

*Thank you Veterans*

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

# ROUGHRIDERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulation to all awardee at Youngker High to be recognized of the month from Buckeye Union High School District!



Name from left to right: Isabella Mendez, Kamaria Wilburn, Hailee Padgett, Julissa Nunez, Zoey Rivera, Rence Rosario, Caden Eldredge, Liana Tolliver, Kazuya Talley, Kimberly Castillo Godinez, Michael Gulley, Evan Aguirre, Jonathan Olivarez, and Emilio Santos.

## **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!**

**Taylor Sackett**  
Sports Med Teacher

**Haley Custis**  
Social Studies Teacher

**Rebecca West**  
Department Chair  
Social Studies and  
English/Psychology  
Teacher

## **FUTURE READY DISTRICT STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

**Rence Rosario**

These amazing students has been nominated by teachers on campus dedicated to coming together to better the school culture and help define THE Youngker Way.

STRIVE FOR  
**PROGRESS, NOT  
PERFECTION**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS!

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>:**

DON'T FORGET ASVAB TESTING FOR ALL SENIORS. TO OPT OUT OF THIS CAREER ASSESSMENT, FILL OUT **THIS FORM** AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR COUNSELOR!

**NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>:**

UNIVERSITY LIFE WORKSHOP WITH MRS. EL HABACH FOR JUNIORS



## SENIOR AND PARENT/GUARDIAN FAFSA APPLICATION WORKSHOP

**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.



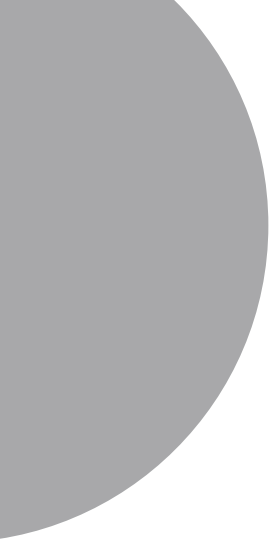
Scan this QR Code to make  
your FAFSA Appointment

**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!**





**YOUNKER HIGH SCHOOL**

3000 S. Apache Road,  
Buckeye, AZ 85326



YoungkerHS



@yhsroughriders