

## **Media Release**

### **Gila Vista Jr. High Recognized as a Purple Star School**

For Immediate Release  
May 14, 2025

YUMA, AZ - Gila Vista Jr. High School received the prestigious recognition as a Purple Star School! This achievement reflects the school's dedication to ensuring military-connected students have the resources, stability, and community they need to thrive.

The Purple Star Program is a national program that recognizes schools that go above and beyond to support the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. A school must meet all national and state requirements to qualify for a two-year designation, including proper staff training and providing peer mentorship opportunities.

At the monthly Governing Board Meeting on May 13th, a banner was presented for display at the school. Gila Vista is the 10th District One school to receive this honor, and joins the following schools in proudly displaying the Purple Star Badge: C.W. McGraw, Desert Mesa, Dorothy Hall, James B. Rolle, James D. Price, Mary A. Otondo, Palmcroft, and Sunrise Elementary Schools and Ron Watson Middle School.



At Yuma School District One we value our military-connected families. With a large military population in Yuma, our schools seek to ensure students feel welcome and experience a smooth transition to their new District One School. With a designated Purple Star point of contact and dedicated website, military-connected families can easily locate their school's resources.

"We're honored to receive the Purple Star School designation, recognizing Gila Vista's strong support for military-connected students and families," said Sandra Carbajal, District One Military-Connected Advocate. "This reflects the school's commitment to meeting the unique needs of military children as they transition to new schools."

To learn more about Arizona's Purple Star Program, visit <https://www.azed.gov/teach/azpss-parents>

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About Yuma Elementary School District One: Yuma Elementary School District One is dedicated to providing high-quality preschool - 8th grade education and fostering a supportive, innovative learning environment for all students. Serving the Yuma community, the district prioritizes academic achievement, student well-being, and community engagement.

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