



---

Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

---

## For Immediate Release

**CONTACT: Molly Edwards**  
**602-364-2425**  
**Molly.Edwards@azed.gov**

### **Three Arizona Schools Earn 2012 *National 'Blue Ribbon' Recognition***

(Phoenix, Ariz. – October 29, 2012) Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal today proudly announced three Arizona schools were awarded the prestigious *National Blue Ribbon Schools* recognition. The three schools receiving this honor are Challenger Basic School in Gilbert, Copper Canyon Elementary School in Paradise Valley, and Manzanita Elementary School in Tucson. Representatives from each school were honored at the Arizona State Board meeting today and will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 12 and 13.

“I am incredibly proud of these schools and their students for their Blue Ribbon achievement, and they are models of excellence in both teaching and learning in Arizona,” said State Superintendent John Huppenthal. “I am especially proud of the principals, teachers and staff whose hard work and commitment to student success helped to earn their schools such a highly coveted national award.”

This prestigious national award is administered by the U.S. Department of Education and recognized 307 schools across the nation as 2012 *National Blue Ribbon Schools* for their overall academic excellence. Arizona’s three awardees were recognized as "Exemplary High Performing", which means they were among the state's highest performing schools on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

A *National Blue Ribbon Schools* flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence and a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in many communities across the U.S.

For additional information, please visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) or contact Public Information Officer, Molly Edwards at (602) 364-2425.

###