PUSD PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Newsletter



October 2025

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Vision

A community of learners who direct our collective actions and resources toward the unique learning needs of every child in order for all students to become college and career ready and successful in a global society.

Motto

Collectively Committed to Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.



Mission

Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.

Allie Hansen is Beacon of Hope for Kids Battling Cancer





Allie Hansen knows how to make an entrance!

Last Friday night a helicopter carrying Hansen landed at the high school football field's 50-yard line at the beginning of one of the most anticipated football games of the year. Allie stepped off the helicopter carrying the game ball and delivered it to the officials.

This is something Allie has done every year since 2017, the year Allie's Angels was formed and held its first fundraiser. This year marks the ninth year the Allie's Angels Foundation has joined forces with the Sand Devils football team and Page businesses to raise money for Page families who are battling cancer or other long-term illnesses.

The Allie's Angels Foundation is named after Allie Hansen who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in October 2016, a week before Allie turned nine. For the Hansens, it began a two and a half year odyssey of hospitals and mounting debt and they drove back and forth to Phoenix three times a week.

As the Hansens sat in hospital waiting rooms they met other families who had children with cancer, and they discovered that most of the families were also struggling with the finances that come from caring for a child with cancer. In September 2017, CJ and Brittany started the Allie's Angels Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money to help families who have a child fighting cancer, or other long-term illness.

In 2019, Allie was given the great news that her cancer was in remission, and since then she has taken on a larger role at Allie's Angels and is now one of its board members. In her capacity as a board member, she doesn't have a specific role but helps out where she can. This year she coordinated certain parts of the fundraising event, helped organize the SWAG bags and handles of the foundation's social media.

Perhaps the most important roles Allie and Brittany Hansen do for the foundation is offering empathy and words of comfort for kids and parents going through their own cancer battles.

"My mom is the definition of caring and giving," Allie said. "One day we said to each other, `Let's help as many people as we can, because we know how hard this is'. We play a good pair. She reaches out to a lot of cancer moms because she's able to mourn with them because she knows exactly what they're going through. It's also beneficial for me to reach out to cancer patients and tell them that I understand what they are going through. And unless you've gone through it yourself, it's hard to know what to say. That's one of my favorite parts about this. I love doing it for them,

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AVID Provides Students with Tools for College Success





David Dawavendewa, a senior at Page High School, vividly remembers visiting the University of Arizona for the first time. He was with the Page High School Marching Band in 2022.

"The earliest interest I had towards the University of Arizona was its marching band, the Pride of Arizona," he recalls. Dawavendewa has played in the Page Middle School and Page High School bands since sixth grade, and watching the precision and pageantry of the Pride of Arizona really caught his attention.

"The electric energy exuded by the band was a great experience that left a good aftertaste," he said. "Not overwhelming, but terrifically thrilling!"

It was a catalytic moment for Dawavendewa. It was a moment that solidified his interest in attending college. And deepened his resolve to do the necessary work to get there.

Dawavendewa has also visited Southern Utah University and Northern Arizona University as part of the AVID program.

Visiting college campuses is an important part of the AVID program. There is a special energy of excitement, positivity and creativity that can only be felt on a college campus and the AVID instructors want their students to feel that.

"It's a chance for students to see what college life is like," said Stacey Shropsire, one of Page High School's AVID instructors. "Most of our AVID students come families whose parents didn't go to college so college can be a very unfamiliar to them. Visiting a college lets them see how big they are, and also all the support that's there. The whole point of AVID is to make college a real dream, and a real possibility."

Page High School held its annual AVID commitment ceremony in September, signing 126 students – grades seven through 12 – into the college-readiness program. And it's a big deal. At the AVID contract signing night, the students sign a contract pledging to do everything in their power to prepare for college. The students' parents, teachers and counselors also sign contracts pledging to do within their power to help the student on their journey to college readiness.

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's a program that prepares middle school and high school students for college. The program provides academic and social support to students who have the potential and drive to succeed in rigorous college courses. It teaches essential skills such as writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading along with study skills, time management, and college application support. AVID The program promotes research-based strategies, and critical thinking that will prepare them for future opportunities in a global society.

Very often, the students enrolled in AVID are students who will be the first members of their family to attend college.

"The AVID Elective program gives students access to learning and thinking strategies they can use to stay engaged in their high school courses and attain the level of learning necessary to build a transcript for college admission and meet college entrance requirements," said Dr. Anne Martin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, and







the AVID District Director. "Some of those strategies include applying the writing process, attaining learning from lecture and direct instruction through the Focused-Note Taking Phases, advocacy skills, and so much more."

The writing, time management and organization skills students learn from their AVID classes will continue to be used by them throughout their time in college and their professional life.

For Kimberly Codner-Gayle, one of PUSD's AVID instructors, the successes she has had with her AVID students have been some of the most satisfying of her teaching career.

"Every year has been a rewarding experience," she said. "I love being part of a program that truly equips students with the tools they need, not just for school, but for life beyond the classroom. Watching students grow in confidence and skills is what makes teaching AVID so fulfilling for me.

"It's been incredible to see their journey unfold as they take on new challenges and continue to develop their academic and personal skills. Being able to support them through these important years is such a privilege."

One of the things that makes AVID stand out from other college-prep programs is that it's aimed at students who aren't A students.

"The kids who are in AVID aren't straight A students, and we're not going after straight A students," said Shropshire. "We want the kids who are B and C students, who really want to go to college, but they need that extra guidance and push."

At Page High School, it's typical for AVID students to apply to and get accepted into several colleges. AVID students usually receive scholarship monies far higher than the student average.

Dawavendewa will attend the U of A in the fall of 2026 and plans to play the baritone in the marching band. He signed up for AVID when he was in the 7th grade. It was the same year as the COVID-19 epidemic and the school had shifted to online learning. AVID has played a key role in his scholastic success, he said.

"AVID has helped prepare me for college by benefitting my learning habits for the better of the future," said Dawavendewa. "Sometimes during AVID class we organize a group known as a tutorial group. In these groups, students will band together based on the subjects they need help with by rotating between each student and tackling their problems at hand together. From the years of doing tutorials, I have learned how to create studying habits and note taking instincts that better my learning process and time management for high school. Above that, we dedicate days of the month to scholarship search and application. This of course benefits our financial aim towards attending and paying for college essentials."

PUSD's AVID instructors are MaRizza Villamore, Ricki Seschillie, Kimberly Codner-Gayle, Stacey Shropshire and Ben Dalton.

Cafe Logo Winners



Congratulations to Kalyn Nalwood, Chloe Lively and Sabrina Bryant who are the winners of the Devil's Brew Cafe art contest.

The three Page High School students are all in Meredith Halvorsen's Graphic Design II class. The three graphic design students joined their ideas and art skills to collaborate on what would become the winning the design.

The Devil's Brew Café will serve Italian sodas, fruit-flavored teas and coffee, as well as a pancake and waffle bar and ready-to-grab burritos for breakfast, and a wing bar for lunch. Other food items such as cut fruit, parfaits and cheese trays will also be available. It will be operated by Ian Klay and her Chartwells team. The café, which will be located next to the high school cafeteria, is currently under construction but will open in early November.



Nalwood, Lively and Bryant began the design process by brainstorming ideas. Nalwood then began hand drawing several sketches. As the process progressed, the group selected their favorite elements from the sketches, then Nalwood combined them into a final sketch. They then scanned the sketch into Adobe Illustrator and used Illustrator to polish it into the final digital form. It took the girls three days in class to complete.

The design contest was open to all PUSD students grades 7-12. Chartwells received 38 submissions from students grades 7-12.

When Mrs. Halvorsen learned about the contest she emailed Mrs. Klay and asked if she could make the design contest an assignment to her Graphic Design Level II students. Four of the seven finalists were students from Halvorsen's Design II class.

As a prize, the three winning designers will receive a $50 gift card to the café when it opens.

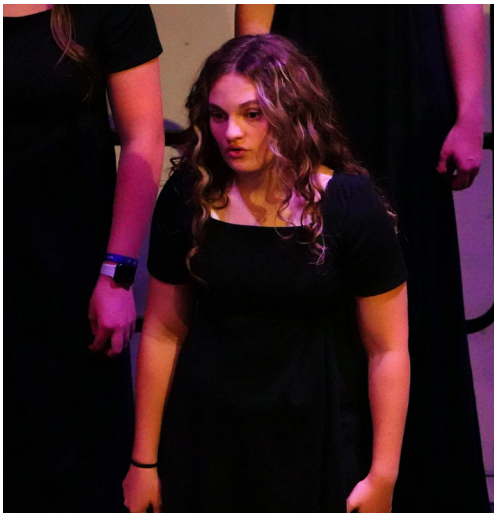
Photos From Fall Choir Concert

























Photos From Fall Band Concert





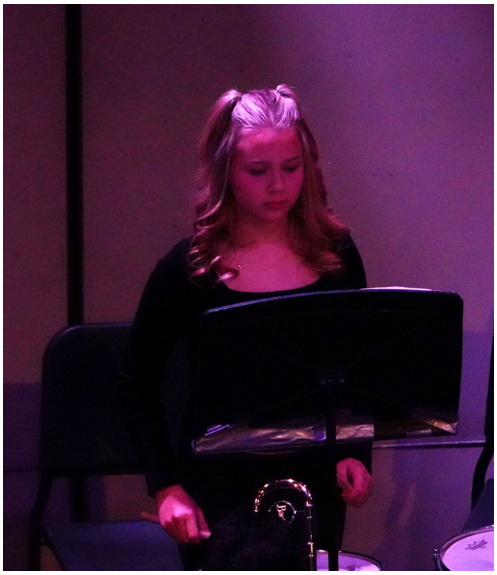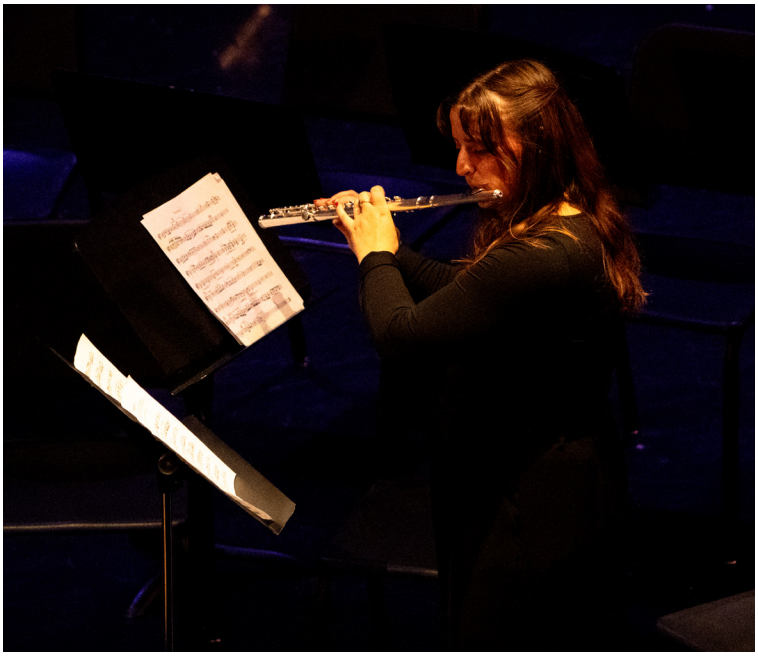




















Photos From Fall Strings Concert





















because I know how hard it was for me."

The two and a half years Allie went through chemotherapy was the hardest time of her life. But that terrible experience helped shape her into the compassionate person she is today.

"I like who I am today, but it was hard to get here," she said. "Chemotherapy is really good at killing cancer cells, it's also really good at killing everything else. It makes you feel so nauseous. I was sick for two and a half years. Besides the nausea, there were lots of scary new treatments."

On top of that, the chemo wrecks the body's immune system, making her highly susceptible to any virus or other germs going around. Because of that, she spent the two and a half years she battled cancer isolated from nearly everyone but her family.

Equally important as any words of understanding or solace she can provide to cancer kids and parents is that Allie is living, breathing, healthy proof that cancer can be overcome, and survivors can go on to live productive, healthy, happy lives.

The two and a half years Allie spent battling cancer really shaped her perspective and influenced her outlook on life.

"Was it incredibly hard? Absolutely. Am I still grateful it happened? Absolutely. Because I'm so proud of who I am today, and I know I wouldn't be the person I am today had I not suffered such trial."

Allie is a senior at Page High School this year. After graduation she plans to attend BYU-Hawaii, after which she'll transfer to BYU-Idaho where she'll pursue a bachelor's degree in public communication. After that she wants to do media production, podcasting, motivational speaking and entrepreneurial pursuits.

"I love motivating people, and helping people," she said. "I have such a passion for public speaking and a lot of that is because of my story, because of the things I went through during it and the opportunities and experiences that came with that shaped the direction I want to take in life. The person I am today is because of my story, because of having cancer. It granted me a different perspective that a lot of people don't have and gave me a purpose and drive and motivation in life."

The Allie's Angels Foundation raised $11,190 this year, the largest amount they've ever raised.

Page Lumber and Dixie Ellis Lower Antelope Canyon Tours each donated $400 to Allie's Angels for every touchdown the Sand Devils score that game. The Sand Devils offense had a gigantic night last Friday, churning out eight touchdowns, which earned $6,400 for Allie's Angels.

And this year, Torgenson Law and The Dam Outlet each donated $200 for every extra point the Sand Devils kicked. Sand Devils kicker, Cole Tate, kicked six points after touchdown, which earned Allie's Angels $1,200 from each business.

Allie's Angels made an additional $763 during the Miracle Minute (when Sand Devils fans in the stands throw money into pots carried through the stands by volunteers), and $875 from the 50/50 raffle. Cody Woods won the raffle and gave his half of the money back to Allie's Angels.

At Friday's game, Allie's Angels created an honorary seat at Sand Devil Stadium to commemorate the longtime devotion and generosity that Dixie Ellis has given to Allie's Angels. Dixie passed away earlier this year.

This year Allie's Angels sponsored Aubrey Hammond and Raiden Lovett. Aubrey is currently in treatment for Stage 2 hepatoblastoma, a rare form of childhood liver cancer, and Raiden is recovering from severe burns he suffered at work.

"We 've been where these families are and we know how difficult how hard it can be," said Brittany. "Page just doesn't have the level of treatment these kids need. So, families have to go to Phoenix, or Salt Lake or Las Vegas to get the level of specialized treatment they often need."

In addition to the money, Allie and Brittany are uniquely qualified to answer the many questions that worried parents and children have.

"Moms want to know how to navigate the medical bills, the travel, time off work and the rest of the family who still have to go on with their regular lives," said Brittany. "It's a lot to juggle, it's exhausting and it can go on for months. My husband and I went through that. We lived that. We know what it like. I can tell them how to do it, and most importantly that it's going to be okay."

"We were so honored and touched when Brittany reached out about including Aubrey in the Allie's Angels program," said Amanda Hammond, Aubrey's mom. "I remember when Allie was little and her diagnosis was new. I was so inspired by her and her family's commitment to "fight like a girl." Allie is living proof that childhood cancer can be beaten.

"Having a child with cancer is devastating, life changing, and heartbreaking all at the same time. It's a horror I never imagined. But Allie's story gives us hope and encourages us to keep fighting. We are extremely grateful to the Hansens and so many others in the Page community who are helping us through this. If there's one thing we've learned this year, it's that Page people care, and when one member of the community is in need, they all rally to give support in every way possible. We are so grateful to be part of such a special community!"

Brittany Hansen is Founder and President of Allie's Angels. CJ Hansen is Founder and Treasurer. Kelly Hansen is Founder and Vice President and Jodi Tate is Secretary. The Board Members are Allie Hansen, Zoey Tate, Aaron Tate, Kenzie Hansen, Amanda Smith and Shandiin Begay.

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT




















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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Page Unified School District

HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' WEEK

13 OCT, 2025 — **HONORING OUR ANCESTORS:** TRADITIONAL DRESS UP DAY

14 OCT, 2025 — **SACRED STRANDS, STRONGER IDENTITY:** TRADITIONAL HAIR DAY

15 OCT, 2025 — **ROCK YOUR MOCS:** WEAR YOUR MOCCASINS

16 OCT, 2025 — **MODERN NATIVE DAY:** INDIGENOUS T-SHIRT & TURQUOISE DAY

For more information, please contact the Indian Education Program at 928-608-4286 or 4164

$5 PUNCH CARDS

10 PUNCHES PER CARD

1 PUNCH PER ACTIVITY

CASH ONLY

JUMPING CASTLE

HAYRIDES

COMMUNITY BOOTHS

FOOD TRUCKS

CRAFTS

ACTIVITIES

HAUNTED HALLWAY

GAMES!

GAMES!

GAMES!

DONATIONS NEEDED:
CANDY, CAKE, CUPCAKES & PRIZES

Please bring donations to Page Elementary School by the end of the school day October 30th

PECLC & PES INVITE YOU TO THE

FALL FESTIVAL

OCT 30

Page Elementary School (formerly Lake View)

From 5-7 pm

SEPTEMBER

Students of the Month



Brooks Bennett
Page Preschool



Alice Simpson
Page Early Childhood Learning Center



Brooklyn Oberbeck
Page Elementary



Harper Keisling
Page Jr. High School



Eli Lyons
Page High School



Leon Woody
Manson Mesa High School

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month

Sept. 2025



Florissa Peshlakai

Classified Employee of the Month

Sept. 2025



Kendra Whetsel