PUSD Page Unified School District

District Newsletter

May 2026



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PHS Students Use CTE Skills to Make CTE Sign





Page High School's CTE Department has a new sign welcoming visitors to its main building, thanks to three innovative CTE students who used skills learned in their CTE classes to design, fabricate and paint it.

The sign is 84 inches wide by 42 inches high. It stands in front of the CTE buildings' main entrance.

"We've always wanted a sign out front, and I've always wanted to have our own CTE students do it," said CTE Director Chuck Sharp. "I wanted the whole project – from start to finish – to be student-led, student-designed and student-made."

Lucy Byrom created the design in her Graphics Arts class using Adobe Illustrator. Daren Whitehat fabricated the design onto a metal sheet in his Welding Technologies class and Chloe Rivers painted it in her Auto Collision class. Sharp chose Byrom, Whitehat and Rivers because they are all interns in their respective CTE classes.

Sharp told the students to treat him as if he were their client.

The project started with a design concept meeting between Sharp and Byrom to discuss the general concept of what the finished sign should look like. Sharp wanted the sign to capture elements of what CTE classes provide, but he also wanted Byrom to maintain creative freedom while conceiving the look and details of the sign.

"I gave her some guidelines and showed her some signs other schools had done to give her an idea of the direction I wanted to go," Sharp said. "I was the customer. There was a lot of communication back and forth with the students about design elements, size, shape and color."

Sharp conveyed throughout the process of creating the sign that the back and forth of ideas between client and service provider was the same process as happens in the real world. As Byrom began creating the design for the sign in Adobe Illustrator, she would send versions to Sharp, who suggested a few tweaks, changes and variations.

"We went back and forth several times from early ideas to finished product," Sharp said.

In the end, Byrom went with an industrial theme. She made the C in CTE look like a gear, with two smaller gears to the side. The bottom portion of the sign also reads, YOUR PATHWAY TO A CAREER STARTS HERE.

CTE Students Earn ASE Certifications



Congratulations to some of Page High School's CTE students who, after much study and practice, received ASE Certifications last week.

In Auto Tech: Tyler Ellis, Andrew Cummings, Quentin Drake, Daniel Szabo, Taliana Morgan and Ainsley Kerr.

In Auto Collision: Azalea Boone and Owen Tsinnijinnie.

Way to go!





AVID Students Honored at Awards Banquet







The achievements and accomplishments of PUSD's AVID students were celebrated at a recognition ceremony in the CAB last Wednesday night. The evening began with a banquet prepared by Page High School's Culinary Club, which was held outside the CAB in the court yard.

Stacey Shropshire and Kimberly Codner are the Co-Site Coordinators for Page High School's AVID program. They are also AVID instructors. The other AVID Instructors are Ben Dalton, MaRizza Villamoor and Ricki Seschillie.

During the ceremony, AVID students received a certificate of completion and the seniors were given a stole they can wear at graduation.

PUSD has around 160 students enrolled in AVID, grades 7-12. One of AVID's primary goals is to encourage middle school and high school students to go to college and it provides support, tools and other means to help them prepare for that. It is geared toward students who come from families whose parents and grandparents didn't go to college. The AVID program can be crucial resource for students who want to go to college, but who may feel intimidated by the process of navigating the challenges can come with getting accepted to college.

AVID seeks to facilitate good study habits, beneficial learning techniques and inquiry-based study. This includes





good time-management and organizational skills.

Many of today's students possess a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but many of them lack the opportunity to be college-ready. These are often the students who come from families where they will be the first to attend college, or may be from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. AVID Secondary equips teachers and schools with what they need to help these students succeed on a path to college and career success.

The AVID program also includes visits to different college campuses. In recent years, AVID students have visited the campuses of Southern Utah University, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Stanford University and the University of San Francisco. Such visits help students experience campus life first-hand. When visiting colleges, students are given tours of the campus and its facilities, including a visit to dorm rooms. Such visits help the students visualize themselves in that environment. It plants the seed that college could be an enjoyable adventure, rather than an intimidating mystery.

By teaching and reinforcing academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at the middle school level, AVID teachers create a ripple effect that continues into later grades. Middle school students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in high school, and college in an age-appropriate and challenging way. During the first two years of the program, students learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy.

Beyond reinforcing academic behaviors, AVID also teaches its students other college and career-readiness skills, such as how to prepare for the SAT, how to dress for an interview, how to write a resume.

"We really focus on WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading)," said Ms. Shropshire. "We are AVID school wide so all of our teachers should be focusing on that.

During the awards ceremony, AVID instructors award students from each grade with certificates and awards. Some awards are light-hearted, such as Most Likely to be Tik-Tok Famous. The teachers also give out more serious awards in four areas to each grade level: AVID Greatest of All Time (GOAT), Binder Boss (the most-organized student), Hypebeast (the most enthusiastic student). And one student is chosen as the Bleeding Heart, which is the student who is most passionate about finding success.

TSW Club Visits "Out of Africa"





Page High School's Transition from School to Work (TSW) Club took a field trip to Out of Africa on April 16 and it was a big hit.

Ten students and four chaperones boarded a PUSD activity bus that morning, drove to Camp Verde and spent the day interacting with giraffes, lions, tigers and black bears. Out of Africa also houses pythons, leopards, zebras, gray wolves, rhinoceros and many other exotic animals. The group returned to Page later that same day.

"It was amazing!" said TSW Coordinator, Eileen Riordan. "It was a great day. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. They were very engaged. Just from start to finish they were positive and having a great time together as a team."

Besides being a fun-filled, relaxing day several students got introduced to new animal-related jobs they hadn't considered before.

"We have several kids who are interested in working with animals after high school, who aren't necessarily interested in being a veterinarian," said Ms. Riordan. "It was a really great opportunity for them to be able to see the animal handlers, the keepers, the trainers and the animal care-takers. They were able to see different types of jobs in the field outside of being a vet. It was a good career exploration day as well."

The TSW Club paid for their field trip to Out of Africa by selling concessions at football and basketball games. The TSW group was so friendly, hard-working and reliable they quickly developed a reputation as the go-to concession group. When it was other clubs' day to run concessions, they still sought the help of the TSW group to help with moving and set up."

TSW is a class that teaches its students practical work experience, and prepares them for life after high school. Whether a student chooses to go straight into the workforce or go on to college or trade school, the TSW classes helps them with those goals by teaching them hard and soft employment skills.

In many ways, the trip to Out of Africa was a celebration of TSW's triumphant return to the Page High School campus. The TSW program closed at the beginning of the pandemic, but was brought back July 1, 2025 under encouragement and guidance from Supt. Bryce Anderson; PUSD Governing Board President Desiree Fowler; and Director of Exceptional Student Services, Penni Case.

"Desiree could see the difference between when our school had it and when we didn't," said Riordan. "Desiree, Bryce and Penni were really big proponents in bringing it back."

"It was a great way to celebrate a successful launch to the return of our program!," Riordan said.

The TSW staff is Eileen Riordan, TSW Coordinator; Janna Kent, TSW Technician and Lorenda Grey, TSW Technician.






Purely
SEDONA



AJ Gayle Sets 2 Track Records







In a track meet full of stand-out performances Wednesday, perhaps none stood out more than those of AJ Gayle who set two new school records: one in the 200M and another in the 400M.

The new record time in the 200M is 24.1 seconds. In the 400M the new record time is 56.2 Gayle, who is an 8th grader at Page Jr. High, broke those same records last year as a 7th grader.

Gayle also runs the 100M and the 4x100M relay.

The records were set during the NAIC Championship meet held at the Page High School track.

Way to go, AJ!



Arizona Supreme Court Visits Page High School



As part of its community outreach program, the Arizona Supreme Court visited Page where they met with city officials, local judges and Page High School administrators and students.

"This is one of the Arizona Supreme Court's signature outreach events, and it's actually one of their favorites," said Alberto Rodriguez, Communications Director for the Arizona Supreme Court. "The reason we do it is because we want to connect with the public, connect with Arizona citizens, and make sure they have a full view of the court and what it does. It helps us connect the dots with Arizona's judiciary and the public, especially students who are still in that learning phase."

When doing its community outreach events, officially called Oral Arguments on the Road, the Arizona Supreme Court typically partners with a local court and a local academic institution. They do it twice a year, visiting rural Arizona communities.

During its visit to Page, the Arizona Supreme Court partnered with the Page Magistrate Court, and Page High School. While in Page, the Supreme Court met with local judges, Mayor Stephen Kidman and some city council members, and administrative staff and 35 students of Page High School.

This wasn't merely a meet and greet for the Supreme Court; while in Page the Supreme Court heard oral arguments for two separate cases. The make-shift court was held on the Page High School Campus on the stage of the Cultural Arts Building. These were not mock cases, presented for the case demonstration, but real cases, with real attorneys, real decisions from the court and real consequences. The Page citizenry was invited to watch from the CAB seats. PHS Principal Leigh Guenther and PHS Government teacher Rachel Willson, made sure all Page High School seniors got to attend.

Willson was happy her students had the opportunity to witness a real case in real time.

"It was really cool," she said. "It was cool to see the structure of how the cases proceeded. Most people don't get that opportunity, let alone at the same time they are learning about it. I'm hoping it really helps it stick on their brains. Hopefully it sparks some interest in careers in the judicial field. We have some really smart students here."

Willson spends a lot of time talking about the role of the judicial branch to her classes.

"Our Unit 2 focuses on the structures of government, so we go through legislative, executive and judicial branches, and in Unit 3 when we cover the Bill of Rights, that is very much focused around the Judicial branch. That's one of the best places to explore it, by going into different cases and how those cases shaped our understanding of our rights and our Bill of Rights."

One of the students who attended the court hearings was PHS senior, David Dawavendewa. He was intrigued by the procedure, rules and governance of it all.











"It was really awesome seeing it in person," said Dawavendewa. "I've never seen a court hearing before, so it was a really good opportunity. It was interesting to see how it works."

Following the hearings, the justices attended a luncheon in PUSD's District Offices with PUSD Superintended Bryce Anderson, Page high school principals and assistant principals as well as 35 high school students. The task of selecting which students could attend the luncheon with the justices fell to Willson. She chose students where were the most active, involved and showed the most interest in her government classes.

"It wasn't necessarily my top students or my students with the best grades, but it also included my students who are really into it," she said. "Some of my students are just really into it; they just really enjoy it, the really understand why it's important."

By arrangement the justices sat at tables with Page High School students, with one judge per table. The justices engaged in conversation with the students and encouraged them to ask questions.

Dawavendewa was one of the 35 students selected to join. He enjoyed sitting at the table with one of the justices. Dawavendewa had a few questions he was going to ask the judge, but "he answered all my questions before I could ask them," he said.

PHS Student to Attend National FBLA Conference

Ainsley Kerr, a junior at Page High School, has qualified for National Future Business Leaders (FBLA) of America after placing fourth in the state competition in April. The national FBLA conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas in late June.

At the state conference, FBLA students can choose from 76 business-related categories to compete in such as Career Portfolio, Coding and Programming and Event Planning. Kerr competed in three categories: Computer Applications, Customer Service and IT Support. It was her performance in IT Support where she placed 4th and earned a trip to the national conference. In the IT Support competition, Kerr sat at a support desk and was presented with mock IT issues to help customers resolve.

Trysten Christiansen also attended the state conference in Tucson, Ariz. Both Kerr and Christiansen are completers of the Technology Devices Maintenance program and are currently serving as interns, working with the IT department for one class period each day.

At the state conference, judges present all students in the competition with the same IT solution scenario, and give them 20 minutes of prep time to work out a solution and how they will present it to their client. Following the prep time, the students have seven minutes to meet face to face with a judge, who is acting as an IT client.

The test questions are based on the knowledge areas and objectives outlined for this event. The Technology Support & Services event challenges members to demonstrate their knowledge of help desk operations and IT support through both an objective test and a role play scenario. Participants apply problem-solving, technical, and customer service skills to address real-world technology issues in a professional business setting. Preparation involves hands-on troubleshooting, completing practice assessments, and participating in mock role play scenarios that simulate real help desk situations, allowing students to build both their technical knowledge and professional communication skills.

The judge can ask questions of the student and vice versa. The students are judged on how well they solve the IT problem as well as their level of customer service. There are two rounds of competition.

Misty Smith, who teaches Technology Devices Maintenance classes in Page High School's CTE department, accompanied the students to the state FBLA conference and will travel with Kerr to the national conference.



"The Technology Devices Maintenance program is a unique program, as very few schools in Arizona offer this type of pathway," said Smith. "It is a two-year program that prepares students for careers in information technology and active involvement in FBLA. In our area, many students traditionally pursue pathways like welding, auto, or construction because of family backgrounds, so choosing an IT course can feel intimidating at first. However, this program helps students build confidence while developing valuable, real-world technology skills."

In Year 1 of Technology Devices Maintenance, students learn foundational skills in hardware, software, operating systems, networking, databases, programming, and security, while working toward their first IT certification. In Year 2, students build on these skills by exploring remote access, virtualization, storage, mobile devices, security, malware detection and prevention, and Windows management tools, with the opportunity to earn their second IT certification. In their third year, students can complete

See KERR pg. 16

Middle School Track & Field Teams are NAIC Champs!









Congratulations to both the Page Middle School's boys and girls track teams for bringing home the NAIC Division 1 championship last week!

This is an amazing group of student athletes and humans.

Way to go! We are so proud of you!






SPEED
LIMIT
60






VOLLEYBALL
TENNIS

Photos from 3A North Track & Field









Congratulations to the Sand Devils boys track team for becoming the 3A North Champions yesterday! The girls team had an excellent meet too. They came in 3rd.

Boys Team Results
Page: 226.5 points
Chinle: 114.5 points
Window Rock : 106 points
Tuba City: 90 points
MV: 75 points
Ganado: 25 points

Girls Team Results
Chinle: 139 points
MV: 123 points
Page: 121 points
Ganado: 102 points
Window Rock: 80 points
Tuba City: 64 points


SECURITY
PAGE
PAGE
PAGE


PAGE


PAGE


PAGE


PAGE
VOLLEYBALL


6
5
6

Genius on Display at PES Science Fair













One of Page Elementary's favorite traditions is its annual science fair. It's a great opportunity to see in real life the brilliance, creativity and genius of the student body.

This school year Lake View Primary transitioned to Page Elementary and one of the biggest components of the re-configuration is that sixth grade moved from the middle school to the elementary school. So even though Lake View has held a science fair every year, this was technically the first Sixth Grade Science Fair.

This year's winners were:

1st place: Jocelyn Dalton and Orelanna Yazzie

2nd place: Alex Henderson and Boston Bartholomew

3rd place: Emmit John

Page Elementary Principal, Mary Stahl, was kind of blown away by what her students came up with.

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SCIENCE from pg. 15

"This year marked our very first 6th Grade Science Fair, and what a debut it was," she said. "Our students stepped into the role of young scientists—asking questions, designing experiments, collecting data, and presenting their findings with confidence and curiosity. From testing hypotheses to learning that real science often includes trial, error, and a little chaos, students experienced the full scientific process firsthand.

"More than just poster boards and projects, the Science Fair gave students the chance to think critically, solve problems creatively, and practice perseverance when experiments didn't go quite as planned—because that, too, is science.

This year's Science Fair was organized by Rosalina Aliboga (6th grade science teacher) and Selene Henderson (head of the social committee). But it was sixth grade student, Eli Lewandowski, who pushed for the school to have it. Anyone who knows Lewandowski knows that he is innovative, creative and ambitious and loves science, technology and inventing. He wanted a platform where he and his fellow students could display their ideas.

"We are incredibly proud of our sixth graders for rising to the challenge and making the first-ever Sixth Grade Science Fair a tremendous success," said Mrs. Stahl. "What began as a new experience may just become a beloved tradition."

2 PHS Students Perform at All State Choir



Samuel Robertson and Reed Nolan participating as State Champs at the All-State Chorale Festival at ASU. They performed on the Gammage Stage with 200 students across the state.

Their Director was Dr. Anthony Armstrong, a renowned director from St Olaf's in New York.

KERR from pg. 10

a 120-hour paid internship with the IT department, gaining real-world experience. Program completion requires instructor approval, and students are encouraged to earn the CompTIA IT Fundamentals or A+ Certification to demonstrate career readiness.

At the national FBLA Conference, Kerr will compete in IT Computer Services again, but that will only take a small portion of her time there. She will also have time to attend classes, lectures and presentations from nationally-renowned speakers, presenters and experts in the field. The conference will also feature a "block party" reception for all students and their chaperones to meet and greet each other.

Mrs. Smith expects Kerr to do well at the national competition.

"I have known Ainsley since she was a freshman, and I have seen her grow into a confident, driven, and capable young woman," said Mrs. Smith. "She is an excellent student who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a genuine curiosity for learning. Ainsley takes initiative in her work, asks thoughtful questions, and is always willing to go the extra mile to improve her skills. She is respectful, responsible, and works well with others, making her a positive influence in the classroom. Her determination and positive attitude set her apart, and she approaches challenges with maturity and perseverance.

"I'm excited to go," said Kerr. "I've never been to Texas. I think the whole thing is a great opportunity."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #8
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Page, AZ 86040

PUSD Schools Will Release Early Last Day of School

All PUSD Schools will have an Early Release day on the last day of school, Thursday, May 21st. Students will be dismissed at 12:40 p.m.

The reason for the Early Release is to allow PUSD employees with children graduating that night time to go home, prepare for the Page High School Commencement ceremony, and return to Page High School in time to take part in graduation.

Thanks!

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month
March 2025



Julia Redman

Classified Employee of the Month
March 2025



Chloe Neztsosie

March Students of the Month



Jhett Williams

Page Pre-K



Jayde Bennally

Page Early Childhood Learning Center



Brooklyn Bennett

Page Elementary



Ella Lewandowski

Page Jr. High School



Mattison Lane

Page High School



Elia Greymountain

Manson Mesa High School