# PUSD Page Unified School District

August 2026



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# PHS Junior Prepares for Productive School Year

Page High School junior, Peyton Miller, attended the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Conference in early July in her capacity as the Arizona FCCLA Vice President of Finance.

During the week-long conference, Miller attended numerous classes that explained what to expect and what to do as an FCCLA state officer. The conference also featured workshops on careers, leadership and teenage car safety.

"I had so much fun," she said. "It was really cool to travel that far and to be with other students from all around the United States."

Page High School's Culinary Arts teacher, Wyatt Swinton, also attended the national conference as a culinary arts advisor.

In addition to classes and workshops, the FCCLA national conference also holds Challenge Tests in such things as fashion design, childhood development and hospitality services, and Skills Demonstrations in such things as fashion sketching, public speaking, pastry arts, and culinary knife skills, for students who placed at the state level.

At the national conference, Miller competed in the Culinary Knife Skills competition and took third place. She competed in Culinary Knife Skills at the state conference last March and took first place.

"I suggested that might as well give it a shot at the national level since we were going to be there anyway," said Swinton. "She had a full event already, but we looked at the schedule to see if we could fit it in."

Swinton was pretty sure Miller would say yes. Being productively busy is Miller's preferred state of being, and planning and scheduling are her superpowers.

"When Wyatt presented the idea to me, I knew I wanted to try it," Miller said. "So, I planned on doing it and I packed accordingly. Wyatt and I got together several times ahead of time and practiced."

Miller brought her own knife, cutting board and split board. At the competition, the judges have the students complete three out of 13 possible cuts. They had Miller do a Julienne, small dice and paysanne.

"There was a judge in front of me who watched how I did everything," she said. "I was judged on how well I demonstrated the cuts, how much usable waste was left and how much unusable waste was left."

The FCCLA conference was just one of two conferences contributing to Miller's busy calendar.

In June she also attended the American Association of Student Councils summer camp in Prescott, Ariz., a week-long camp that prepares high school student body leaders for their roles as student body officers.




Miller will be serving as Page High School's Student Body Vice President this school year. She will be the first junior to serve as Student Body Vice President; the position is typically held by a senior.

In addition to her new leadership roles, Miller will also be playing varsity golf and tennis for the Sand Devils this year. In March, she plans to run for a national officer for the FCCLA. If successful, she'll serve that term her senior year.

Wyatt Swinton, Miller's culinary arts teacher, is looking forward to watching the success she'll have this year and the years to come.

"Peyton is determined and a go-getter," said Swinton. "When she sets her mind to something she's going to do it. She knows what she wants and she's going to find a way to achieve those goals. I know she has some pretty lofty goals for her career and her life and I know she's going to get there. She's going to do well to whatever she's goes after. She's just a well-rounded, passionate kid.

Miller's parents are Kymberli and Cody Miller.

# Page Elementary Students Build Imaginative World's in Summer Filmmaking Class







It was one of the most popular classes of the summer.

Artists, makers and creatives were intrigued by the course description, and for good reason. The class would check a lot of boxes on the creativity list: writing, drawing, coloring, concept design, character creation and videography.

The class was Introduction to Claymation Filmmaking. It was STEM class offered to fourth and fifth grade gifted students. Fifteen students took the class. It was taught by Maddy Crane, who is a K-3 EL Teacher during the regular school year.

During the four-week course, each student created a short, stop-motion film.

"I thought it was awesome!" said Crane. "The kids had fun being super creative with their story lines. It was fun watching what they came up with."

Creating a stop-motion film is a very time-consuming process. Thirty frames of film are required to make one second of film. To film a claymation dog walking down a street, the student poses the dog in a walking position inside the Set Box. The student takes a photo of it. The student moves the clay or paper dog forward ever so slightly. She changes its leg configuration ever so slightly, and takes a new photo. Congratulations! Those two shots created 1/15th of one second of film.

But before shooting even began, the kids had to come up with an idea for their movie. They then storyboarded it.





They created the characters and props in the movie out of clay or paper. They sketched and colored the backgrounds of the set.

The movie set was a box about twice the size of a shoebox. It has no front or top because the camera shoots from those angles. Prior to shooting the student filmmakers take the background scene to the back, sides and floor of the box. They then pose their characters and props inside the box. When the student finishes one scene – which can take days in stopmotion videography – they swap out the backgrounds in the film box, and re-position the characters and props for the next scene.

Students shot their scenes one photo at a time with an iPad.

"It was fun to watch the project progress from an idea, to a storyboard, to clay characters and finally to the final movie," said Crane.

The first week of the class included the history of stop motion films and the origin of storyboarding, specifically the history of storyboarding for animation. This included watching some stop-motion movies as reference. The second week of the class was spent creating their storyboards, sets, characters and props. Students spent the last two weeks shooting and editing their films.

After a student had finished filming and editing, they ran it through an app in Canva that helped smooth together the shots. Students were required to produce a movie that was at least 10 seconds long. Most of the movies were 30 to 60 seconds long.

On the last day of class, they held a mini film festival in the Page Elementary Library. Students from other summer engagement classes were invited to attend the film fest.

"Having a screening added some motivation for them to do a good job," said Crane. "They stepped it up when they realized other people would be seeing it."

Crane said she and her students had fun showing off their creativity.

"A lot of time as teachers we do a really cool thing but don't get to the point where we actually get to present the cool thing we've done," she said. "I'm glad we got to do it this time."

Bridget Dalton, who will be in fifth grade this year, made a movie about a dog, Luna, who gets separated from its human, Charlie. After getting separated, Luna sets out to find Charlie.

Dalton made up the story in her imagination.

"Yeah, I made it up," she said. "I thought it would be really cool if a dog ran away from its human and they havdto find









each other."

In the end, the dog and family find each other.

Brooklyn Oberbeck, who will be in sixth grade this year, made a movie about a sleepover with friends. She chose to make her characters out of clay. She had around ten characters. She discovered that doing minute, subtle poses for ten characters per shot was a time-consuming affair. She loved doing it!

For Brooklyn Swinton, who will be in fifth grade this year, her favorite part of the process was making the movie set backgrounds.

"I really like drawing. I took my time on them and they turned out really great," she said.

Her movie about her perfect summer, and the three things she'd do to make it perfect.

"If I could do anything I wanted I would spend my summer playing softball, going to the Philippines and having pool parties."

She was happy with how her movie turned out

"I think it was funny and artistic, and that's exactly what I wanted it to be."

# Photos from First Day of School


















THE ORIGINAL Levi's EST. 1873
TN
TX
UT
VT

















# PUSD Recognizes Employees with 5 Years Employment



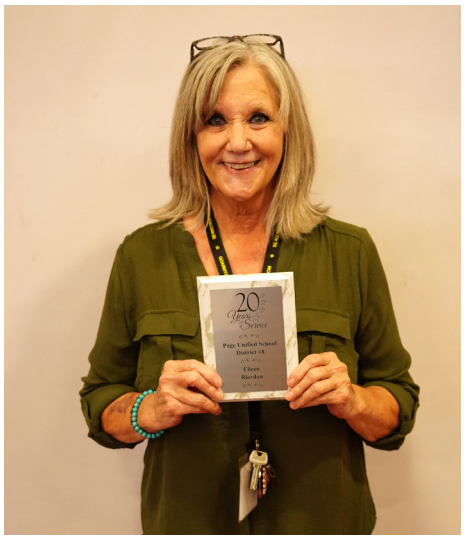
Thank you for five years of dedication and commitment, Barb Shields, Louella Yellowhair Barton, Brenda Harris, Julianne Hatt, Roberta Whitehat, Tamaretta Jim, Julian Aquero, Shelby Johnson, Taylor O'Neal, Roselyn Anderson, Celeste Claw and Erica Beam.

# PUSD Recognizes Employees with 15 Years Employment



Thank you for 15 years of dedication and commitment, Lori Wilson and Stephanie Hansen-Ramos.

# PUSD Recognizes Employees with 20 Years Employment



Thank you for 20 years of dedication and commitment Eileen Riordan.

# PUSD Recognizes Employees with 10 Years Employment




Thank you for ten years of dedication and commitment, Abraham Rodriguez, Judy Crank, Lisa Redman, Carlos Begay, Marcus Daw, Mariah DeJolie, Anne Cambridge, Wendy Gilbert, Tim Martin, Megan Young and Anne Martin.

# PUSD Recognizes Employees with 25 Years Employment



Thank you for 25 years of dedication and commitment Justin Smith, Olivia Benally, Marlene Hendrickson and Suzanne McClelland.

# 2026

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!




Congratulations!

# Logan Beam

# 2026

## CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!




Congratulations!

# Ben Dalton