



PAGE UNIFIED PUSD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter October 2020



www.pageud.org

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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.

BOARD CORNER



Bob Candelaria
Board President

The Bottom Line is You

What terms are we wearing out during the pandemic –Unreal. Never Before in Our History, Unprecedented, and New Normal.

I'd like to lean on a few of our favorite things that we hear. It seems like there is a never-ending use of the word "fidelity" in our circles, but there are more endearing clichés that we are apt to hear and many that apply to the concept of, "Not wasting a perfectly good crisis (pandemic)..."

Some applicable phrases are: Let's address the elephant in the room, Suck it up buttercup, When the going gets tough the tough get going, Take the bull by horns, and If it ain't broke, I read something that might be no bull, but could help.

It's all about Inertia.

Inertia seems like it is keeping us from taking action. But inertia is really just a truth about physics. Bodies in motion tend to stay in motion. Bodies at rest tend to stay at rest. How does this truth about bodies affect us?

Let's go back to March 2020. When I switched to online teaching after the pandemic hit, I set up many zoom chats to check in with my students. Over and over I heard them say almost exactly the same thing: It's hard to work from my bedroom. I'm used to working at the library. I'm used to running into friends between classes.

My students had been using inertia to their benefit.

Most of us have taught our bodies to stay in motion once we leave the house, and to stay at rest once we are home. But while we shelter in place, the flow of inertia for many of us has changed. We easily feel trapped by the "body at rest" part of inertia.

So how do we work with inertia, not against it, to balance and energize our lives?

In the evening, use the "body in motion" force to set up your morning flow. Get your bed all comfy. Set your

alarm and prepare your bath for transition into "body at rest." Prioritize tasks for the next day. Prepare the space coffee and breakfast and self-care and children routines to be finished at a certain time, as if you had to leave the house at a certain time. Turn off your screens and turn on relaxing music. Transition into "body at rest." Use the warm water, tooth brushing, exfoliating, and moisturizing time to clean your body and soften your emotional defenses. It's effective and efficient to do emotional hygiene as you do physical hygiene. In the morning, meet "body at rest" energy with kindness. Massage your feet for a moment before getting out of bed. Stretch luxuriously. Set a timer for five more sweet minutes of body-at-rest. Do emotional hygiene again as you brush your teeth. Move and wiggle and dance a bit without any directed objective--just put your body in motion! (Bonus: you can include the kids in all of this, if that is what is happening. They will benefit from your healthy intentions to work with the flow of inertia rather than against it.) Then use the body-in-motion inertia to flow into your coffee and breakfast and priorities.

I have to admit that when I read this I was thinking about you and about our staff. I have heard 'you' talk about your stress levels, the difficulties you face with engaging students, and how tired of this you all are. I have also heard how you plan and work to make it the best it can be for your students and have heard so many parents talking about their appreciation for all you are doing to work with 'their' kids/families and how you are making this work.

So I just wanted to tell you (teachers and all our staff that make this year possible) and encourage you to continue to demonstrate PRIDE in everything you do. Make sure to treat yourself WELL and whether you massage your feet, sleep a few more minutes, or dance while brushing your teeth it is important, in the midst of taking care of everything else, remember our students are worth it. Let them experience the best of You!

Remember what Thomas Edison said: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

PUSD Transitions to Hybrid Learning Model Oct. 12th

During a special school board meeting Sept. 28th, PUSD's school board voted unanimously to move to a hybrid learning model beginning Monday, Oct. 12th.

Under the hybrid learning model, approximately half the students will return to the physical buildings or in-person instruction, while the other half attends the same class virtually as they have been doing since the new school year began.

Students will be divided into four groups under the hybrid model, known as A, B, C and D groups. A and C groups will attend school onsite Monday and Tuesday, and remotely Thursday and Friday. B and D groups will attend school remotely Monday and Tuesday and onsite Thursday and Friday. All four groups will attend school virtually on Wednesday.

The classrooms and schools will be cleaned each day after school lets out, and deep-cleaned Wednesday.

Even after the District moves to the hybrid model, parents can choose to keep their child remote all five days.

Moving to the hybrid model was not an easy decision for the board or the superintendent.

"Last night was one of the most challenging times in my thirty-five years in education," said PUSD Superintendent, Larry Wallen. "Given all the information presented, making a recommendation to return to school was not a decision that was made lightly. I stand by the decision and encourage all to prepare to meet the return of some of our students."

Board member Desiree Fowler also wrestled with the decision to move to the hybrid model. "I'm fifty-fifty with this," she said during the vote. "It's a difficult decision."

Ultimately, Fowler voted yes to move to hybrid learning with the rest of the board members.

Supt. Wallen listed some of the reasons he believes returning to in-class learning is important.

"Many of our students are lacking resources and support," said Superintendent Wallen. "They are experiencing loss of family and friends, as well as the loss of school community. Teachers and school staff are a great source of emotional support. Students receive other school benefits, such as specialized instructional programming, nutritious meals, face-to-face social and emotional sup-



Teresa Billah, Megan Mackel and Chelsea Hendrickson use a laser marker and a yard stick to create travel lanes for Lake View Primary students. The yellow tape is spaced six feet apart. Students will move from one yellow tape marker to the next as they travel through the hallways.

port, and other services provided by an in-person collaborative educational environment. Teachers and students benefit from a consistent, predictable social structure virtually and in person."

PUSD is closely monitoring three metrics as they deter-

See HYBRID pg. 11

Preschool Para-pros Paint Playful Playground

Seven para-pros from Page preschool stenciled fun designs and patterns on the pre-school playground during the last week of September.

Using stencils, they painted pictures of dragons, flowers, mazes and colorful lines made of dashes, squiggles, arrows and dots.

But the dragons and flowers and mazes are more than dragons, flowers and mazes. They are more than art. The designs also have a practical purpose. Each design has a game or activity attached to it. For instance, the flower is also hopscotch.

“The idea is to encourage more movement on the playground by our pre-schoolers,” said Preschool Director, Penni Case. “The colorful designs really live up the playground, too.”

The stencils were provided by First Things First, a Phoenix-based non-profit that promotes and creates family-centered programs that support the development, health and early education of Arizona children from birth to age five.

The playground artists had the freedom to use their creativity and make their own projects and designs.

Case was very happy with how the project turned out.

“I’m looking forward to the day when our students return who will be able to enjoy the hard work our para-pros did,” she said.

The seven playground artists were Natalie Kawano, Lorie Frisby, Debrah Talliman, Briana Nez, Summerrain Curley and Rocehlla Yazzie.

“I really enjoyed doing it,” said Briana Nez. “I like how it turned out.”

“I think the kids are really going to enjoy it when they come back,” said Purcel Tallman.



Debra Luther and Purcel Tallman paint a hopscotch flower.



Natalie Kawano paints a dragons foot.



Lorie Frisby



Summerrain Curley



Briana Nez and Natalie Kawano

NTEC Grant Provides Money for Wi-Fi Hotspots



Navajo Transitional Energy Company

The Page Unified School District (PUSD) received a grant in the amount of \$14,442 from the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC), which PUSD will use to help purchase wif-fi hotspots and data plans for its students who live in remote areas of the Navajo Reservation.

There are many areas on the Navajo Reservation where connecting to the internet can be a challenge, and with PUSD's classes being held virtually, reliable internet connection is vital to a student's academic success.

The Page Unified School District services students from Kaibeto, LeChee, Inscription House, Bitter Springs and Gap.

PUSD will transition to a hybrid model on Oct. 12, which will see approximately 50 percent of its students returning to their physical school buildings on a rotating schedule. Even after the transition to the hybrid model students will still need to access their classes virtually for three days out of the week.

PUSD Superintendent, Larry Wallen, is very appre-

ciative of NTEC's support.

"That fourteen-thousand dollars helped us purchase 610 hotspots and a data plan for all those hotspots," he said. "That's an unprecedented level of support of our students that's much needed due to the poor infrastructure that borders Page. That contribution to our school and investment in our students will have a direct effect on the academics of our students."

Cortasha Upshaw, Community Affair Coordinator for NTEC, said NTEC saw a need in the community and wanted to generate a way that that could be of assistance.

"We're a company that was created by the Navajo Nation, and part of our mission is trying to provide any assistance for Navajo education," said Upshaw. "We are very pleased to provide the funds for the Page Unified School District. We're very excited to help students in any way we can, especially during the pandemic."

Creating a Productive Home Study Space



During the time of Covid-19 and remote learning, having an effective home study space has never been more important for your child's academic success. Even after the school district moves to a hybrid model on October 15th, with students returning to their classrooms for part of the week, students will still be attending class virtually three days a week.

With that in mind we have put together a list of things you can do to create a productive study space at home.

Have a Designated Study Area

It is beneficial to your student if you have an area in your house set aside specifically as the place your student goes when he or she logs onto their device and attends class virtually. Having a specific study area will

help keep that area clutter- and distraction-free.

The study area should be at a desk or table. Sitting at the desk or table will help your student pay attention, stay engaged and stay on task. Try to avoid letting your student attend virtual classes while sitting on a couch or while lying in bed. This promotes laziness and leads to inattention. A student may have a tendency to fall asleep if they attend their virtual class while lying in bed, or leaning back on a couch.

The study area should be quiet, spacious enough to contain the computer device and study items such as pens, notebooks, rulers, etc., without feeling cramped.

See STUDY pg. 7

Try to set the study area off from the rest of the house. If your child has their own room, you can turn part of it into their study area. If your student's study area is in their room, check in on them from time to time to ensure they're at their desk, and participating in the virtual classroom.

If you set up the study area in a room in the house that is shared space, try to enclose the space with furniture, plants or portable walls.

The study area should have ample, comfortable lighting.

It's okay to let your student personalize their study. Allow them to have fun items in your study area such as posters, artwork, banners and plants.

Keep Your Study Area Clean and Clutter Free

The study area should have its own small waste basket.

As part of the preparation routine, empty the wastebasket at the end of each day.

Prepare for Class Ahead of Time

Have your student take a few minutes before his or her class begins to get it ready. Have them clean it, and organize their study supplies.

Fill a water bottle ahead of time so they won't have to leave to get a drink in the middle of class.

It's okay to have a few snacks available. Try to avoid snacks that are messy.

Remove Distractions from the Study Area

The study area should contain no toys. Your child's phone should be kept in a separate room so they're not tempted to look at it. Only have open tabs on your child's device that are needed for the classroom.

If the area around your child's study area is too noisy, have them use headphones during class time to block the outside noise.

Other family members need to be mindful of the student and not make the surrounding environment too noisy, too busy or too chaotic. Remind the family members to be respectful of the student's space and time.

Dress for Success

Since you're attending class on-line, it may not seem important or necessary to get dressed up. But

studies show that students who dress as if they're attending in-person school, treat the virtual classroom experience more seriously, and makes them feel prepared and ready for the day. This should also include attire that won't be seen on the monitor, i.e. pants, shoes and socks.

Stay Organized

Find a method that works for your student to help him or her stay on task and keep track of their assignments. Have a list of their classes and what days and times are taught. Keep a to-do list.

Some students do better with traditional paper calendars and planners, while others do better with an online planner, such as Google Calendar, Google Docs, etc.

As a parent, check in with your student regularly to determine if they're turning in their assignments, completing their tests and participating in class. PowerSchool, which is used by PUSD schools, has several tools for parents to track all of the above and more.

Create a Routine and Stick to It

Creating and maintaining a daily routine is a great tool for helping your child stay organized and focused. Wake up at the same time every day. Eat breakfast, brush your teeth, and take a shower if that's a part of your normal morning routine.

In the afternoon or evening, have designated times to do your homework.

Going to bed at the same time every night will set up the following day to begin successfully.

Leave

One great advantage of in-person learning is that your student can leave it at the end of the day. Even though your child may have homework to do when they get home, attending in-person school helps create a healthy school/life balance. When attending school virtually from you home, attaining that school/life balance is harder.

Another advantage of having a separate and designated home study area is that it is easier to find that school/life balance. When classes are done, have your child go outside and play, or engage with family members in an activity and in an area outside the home study area.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Classified Employee of the Month - August 2020



Georgie Mowbray

Certified Employee of the Month - August 2020



Jeremy Poole



PUSD'S Website Contains Useful Information for Moving to the Hybrid Model, as Well as Virtual Learning

Page Unified School District's website contains a lot of information that parents will find beneficial as they prepare to send their children to school for in-person learning. The page also contains information pertinent to virtual learning.

At pageud.org/schoolreopeningplan parents will find graphics, how-to videos and short articles. On the website you'll find documents about PUSD school reopening plan, its Onsite Support Services, and numerous sources of information to help you get the most out of Remote Learning. The website also includes links to Coconino County's and the Arizona Dept of Health Services.

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**Manson Mesa High School
Parent Teacher Conference**
October 8th 1-4 pm
October 8th 5-7 pm

Parents please call and schedule an appointment to meet with your child's teachers. Parent teacher conferences can be held virtually, over the phone and in person in a safe environment.

Please call Jessica Dickson to schedule an appointment.
928.608.4353

Or e-mail your child's teacher

English Kori Fitch kfitch@pageud.org	SPED Chastina Jutras cjutras@pageud.org
Math Joanna Adakai jadakai@pageud.org Phone number: (858) 630 1765	Music Spencer Kimball skimball@pageud.org



The next Saturday ACT Test will be held on **October 17, 2020** at Page High School.
ACT Test Registration is Now Open.
Deadline for all October test dates has been extended to October 5.
No late fees!

To register for **10/17/2020** test, please visit:
<http://www.act.org/>

ACT Test no writing - \$55.00
ACT Test with writing - \$70.00

**Fee Waivers may be available for students on free/reduced lunch.
 Please contact your counselor for more information.*

ACT Test Registration is Now Open

Deadline for all October test dates has been extended to October 5. No late fees!

VIRTUAL PARENT CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 5-8, 2020

We are excited to share your child's accomplishments for the 1st Quarter!



Please call or email Lori Wilson to schedule a conference time with your child's teachers.

(928) 608-4306

lwilson@pageud.org

Monday, October 5	Tuesday, October 6	Wednesday, October 7	Thursday, October 8
1:15 to 3:45	1:15 to 3:45	1:15 to 3:45	1:15 - 3:45
	5:30 to 7:30		



PUSD is Holding a Virtual Town Hall To Answer Your Questions about the Hybrid Model

PUSD schools will transition from remote learning to hybrid on Monday, October 12th.

Superintendent Wallen and Principals for all schools will be present to answer your questions about how that will work during a virtual town hall.

The virtual town hall will occur Thursday, Oct. 8th from 6-7:30 p.m.

You can watch the live town hall on the district's YouTube channel.

Send your questions to Supt. Wallen or your student's principal ahead of time to:

questions@pageud.org

mine whether it's safe to bring students back on its campuses for in-person, in-class instruction.

The metrics are:

1. Decline in cases, or less than 100 cases per 100,000 individuals for two consecutive weeks.
2. Two consecutive weeks with percent positivity below 7 percent.
3. Two consecutive weeks with hospital visits for Covid-like illnesses in the region below 10 percent.

When all three metrics are green, it will be safe to return to in-school curriculum.

As mentioned above, students will be divided into four groups under the hybrid model. They'll be known as A, B, C and D groups.

A group will be students who live on highway 98, bus routes 16 and 21.

B group will be students who live in Coppermine, LeChee, Greenhaven, Big Water and Wahweap.

C group will be students who live in Page, north of Aero St., including the north side of Aero Street.

D group will be students who live in Page, south of

Aero St., including the south side of Aero Street.

Class will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, except for Wednesday. On Wednesday, class will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Each school will also have its own Onsite Support Services. Until now, Onsite Support Services for all students has been held in the high school gym, regardless of what school the student attended.

How will it work now? A student attending Lake View Primary who uses Onsite Support Services, will receive that service at Lake View. On days when that student is scheduled to attend school onsite, he or she will attend school in their classroom. On days that student is scheduled to attend remotely, he or she will still attend virtually, but from the place where Onsite Support Services is held.

Onsite Support Services will move their program to each school starting Monday, October 5 to allow each school to implement the new system and get measures in place before students return on Oct. 12.

PUSD has listed additional information and resources on its webpage, which includes links to Coconino County's and the Arizona Dept. of Health Services Covid-19 resource pages.

PAGE

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Hybrid Schedule

	MONDAY 8 am - 3pm	TUESDAY 8 am - 3pm	WEDNESDAY 8 am - 1:30pm	THURSDAY 8 am - 3pm	FRIDAY 8 am - 3pm
A/C Groups	 On Site	 On Site	 Virtual	 Virtual	 Virtual
B/D Groups	 Virtual	 Virtual	 Virtual	 On Site	 On Site

A GROUP	B GROUP	C GROUP	D GROUP
Hwy 98, Route 16 & 21	Coppermine, Lechee, Greenhaven, Big Water, Wahweap, Hwy 89	In Page, North of Aero	In Page, South of Aero
492 Students	491 Students	675 Students	676 Students

