

THE PAGE SCHOLAR

Monthly Newsletter
August 2020

PAGE UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PUSD's Mission Statement	1
Board Corner	2
Kevin Anderson is New AP at Desert View	4
District Unveils New Websites	5
Students Receive Chromebooks, iPads	6
Josh Brink and Kendra Tarket Create Teacher Resource Page	8
Desert View Hosts Gallery of Google Classrooms	9



PUSD Is...

Purposeful: Decisions will be made that are thoughtful and sustainable.

Intentional: Our conversations with students and staff are always about improving that person and leading them to be more successful. Teachers are encouraged to be innovative and “risk-takers” to push student achievement.

Visionary: Short and long term goals are SMART and selective. Our goals are known by staff, students, parents and the community.

Opportunistic: Providing opportunities for students and staff that will move the academic needle within our schools.

Trusting and transparent: This is the foundation of everything we do.

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



**School Board Member
Bob Candalaria**

The fight against COVID-19 continues and we are quickly moving to the virtual education piece for our families and students. Soon, August 17, we will be opening up space to meet the Governor's executive order to provide for students who need a place to go during the school day. As I understand we have space for about 300 students.

We all understand the importance of getting kids back in the classroom to provide them with their best opportunity to succeed in taking the next steps in the education. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in their July 14, 2020 newsletter state that "Evidence so far suggests that children and adolescents are less likely to have symptoms or severe disease from infection. They also appear less likely to become infected or spread the virus." They go on to make the case for the importance of schools to the overall well-being of the kids.

What is more important is their emphasis on the data and guidance provided by professionals to act as the lead indicator for health and safety. The latest American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advice says children learn best when they are in school. However, returning to school in person needs careful steps in place to keep students and staff safe.

Ideally, local school leaders, public health experts, educators and parents can work together to decide how and when to reopen schools. These deci-

sions will need to take into account the spread of COVID-19 in the community, as well as whether schools are able to make in-person learning safe. Schools and families should also prepare to go back to virtual learning if COVID cases increase in the community. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>

On our Coconino County COVID website, the daily dash board provides good information on the activity to date. Since July 4, the data suggests Coconino County has experienced an 89% decline in cases. (See Chart on pg. 3)

My purpose here is to assure you that your school board takes this very seriously and considers our staff's health concerns as the top priority as we launch into this school year. Healthy staff and Healthy students is our goal. In my opening welcome to our staff last Friday I said that it was our goal to not only make you feel safe in your jobs but give you the tools and resources to insure you are safe. Once that is done then it's up to each of us to be our brother's keepers. Watch out for each other!

To that end we have gathered a group of our local experts to walk with us side by side as we move through the school year. The biggest part of them belong to the Community Wellness Collaboration (CWC). It is chaired by Gwen Lasslo at Encompass. The

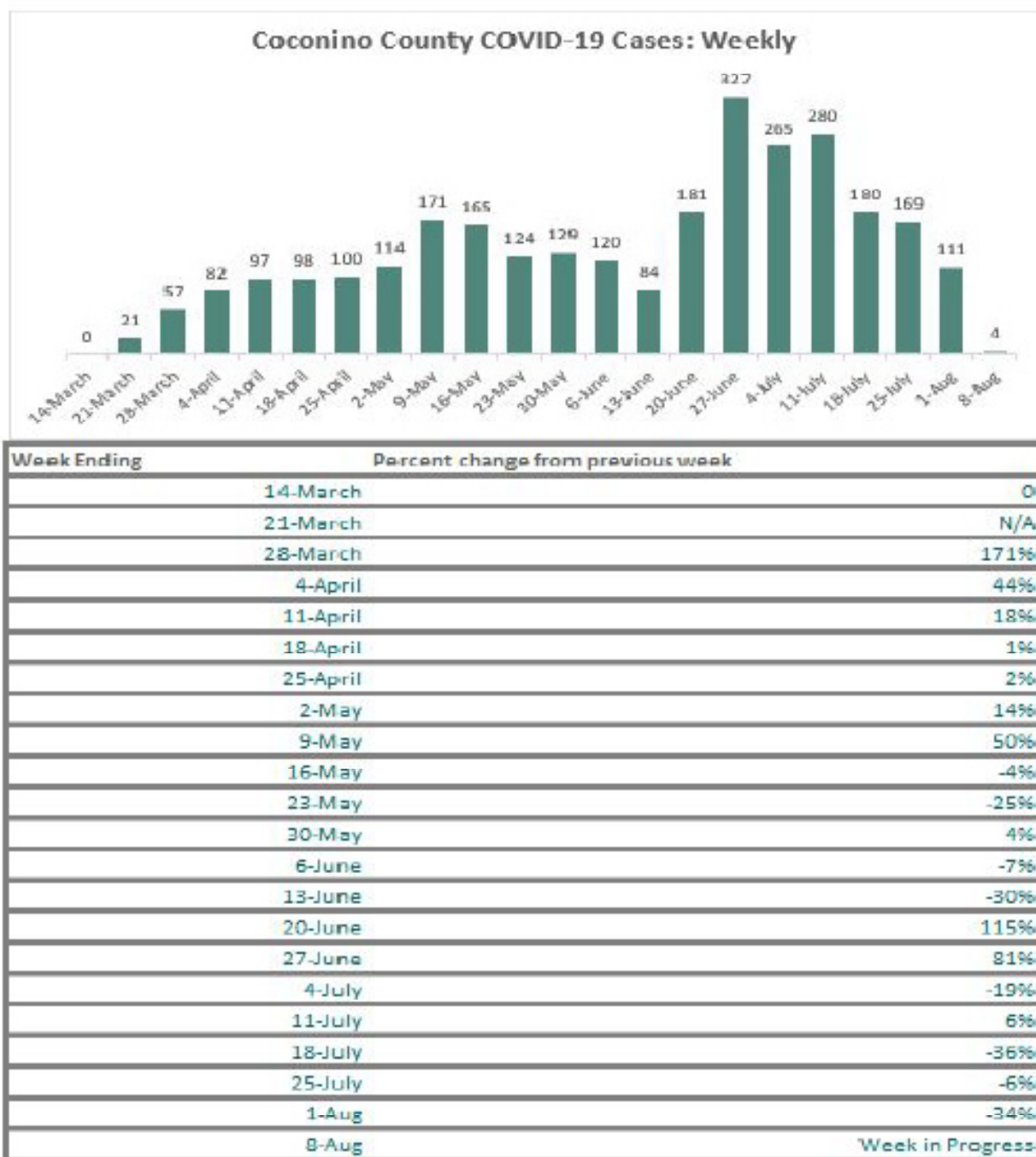
group represents Banner Health and Canyonlands Medical. Shannon Garrison is our PUSD representative on the CWC. Le Chee Medical is on-board and Superintendent Wallen has reached out to Dr. Hu from Tuba City Medical as well.

We will be hearing from Gov. Ducey and Superintendent of Schools, Hoffman, on August 7th concerning the triggers for schools to reopen. We will be meeting with the CWC group prior to our opening the Onsite Support Services on August 17, 2020, in order to best characterize our specific circumstances.

Our school district is huge covering 1800 square miles. We are concerned about our community and every square mile! We want to assure everyone that we are not functioning in a vacuum as a district and we want to be able to respond quickly to any of your health concerns and the needs of your kids.

We are in this together!

**Robert Candalaria
President of the School Board**



<https://www.coconino.az.gov/2376/Dashboard-Data>

Kevin Anderson is new Assistant Principal at Desert View



Kevin Anderson

Desert View Intermediate school is pleased to welcome long-time social studies teacher, Kevin Anderson, as its new assistant principal.

Anderson has been a teacher for PUSD since 2002.

He began his teaching career at Page Middle School teaching sixth grade language arts and social studies. He did that for one year, then taught seventh and eighth grade social studies, something he did for the next 16 years. He was also an AVID elective teacher and student council advisor for some of that period as well. Anderson has also coached middle school basketball, football and track, as well as baseball and volleyball for one year each.

"I've been teaching 18 years, all in this district," Anderson said. "I've never taught in any other district."

Anderson made the decision to move from teaching to administration to give himself a new challenge.

"Honestly, I felt like I was in a rut," he said. "I've been doing the same thing for the last sixteen years. During the school year I teach the same subjects, and during the summers I give tours at the dam. It felt like I wasn't growing or progressing. I felt like it was time to move into administration where I can still make an impact, still be around the kids, but maybe have a bigger impact on the school, not just the students in my classroom."

Because Kevin's wife, Jillyn, is from southern Utah, after graduating from SUU, he began looking for teaching jobs in southern Utah.

"I couldn't find any teaching jobs," he recalls. "It was mid-July. I was working the graveyard shift at Sam's Club and I thought, 'Man, what am I doing?' So I went online and started looking for teaching jobs and saw an opening in Page."

He originally applied for a position at Page High School, but it had already been filled, but that principal passed his information on to the principal at Page Middle School, which still had some open positions. After completing a phone and in-person interview, Page Middle School offered him the job.

"I said, 'Alright. Let's do it.'"

Kevin planned on being in Page for a year. But, toward the end of his first year teaching, he learned about the Teach American History grant, which paid for a Master's Degree. "This grant paid for everything, and it was too good to pass up. So that extended our stay in Page for two more years."

During that two year period, Kevin and his wife fell in love with Page. By then, they had three kids and had started building their house. "My wife and I both believe that you're brought to places for a reason, and both my wife and I believe we're here for a reason, which is my wife's family."

"And after three to five years here, we realized Page is a really nice town," Kevin said. "It's a really good community. Whatever your kids are interested – sports, music, piano lessons, singing lessons – you can find to do here."

In addition to working for the school district, Kevin also gives tours of the Glen Canyon Dam for Glen Canyon Conservancy during the summer time, and he works as a judge pro-tem with the Page Justice Court.

When he's not doing all that, he still finds time to play video games with his kids, fish and hike. He's hiked the Grand Canyon's rim to rim in a day six or seven times.

Kevin is very optimistic about the new school year, and is confident Desert View's teachers, staff and administrators will rise to the challenges that teaching remotely will bring.

See Anderson pg. 7

PUSD Unveils New Websites



[Home](#) [About](#) [Calendar](#) [FAQ](#) [Principal's Corner](#) [Contact](#) [Schools ▾](#)

[District](#)

iPad Pickup Information

August 3-5
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Curbside pick up at B door
(North Navajo Drive)

Parents and students
please remain in your vehicles during
device distribution.



The Page Unified School District unveiled its new websites in mid-July. Each school in the district and the district itself all have new websites to begin the new school year.

The new websites are dynamic and fluid and they conform to fit whatever device you're using to view it, whether it's a phone, desktop, tablet or laptop.

Another great feature of the new websites is that they're very user-friendly and much more interactive. The page format of the previous websites were static and the look of the page itself couldn't be changed very much. In contrast, the new websites are dynamic and fluid and they can be configured to look many different ways.

The new websites incorporate video, slideshows, graphs, and announcements and hyper-links much better than the previous platform.

The nimble new websites will be a great asset as the school district begins the school year doing remote learning.

Students Receive Chromebooks, iPads as Schools Prepare to Re-OPEN



Kris Worley delivers a Chromebook.



Brian Henderson arranges additional packets for students.

Parents with students attending Page Unified School District picked up iPads and Chromebooks this week in preparation for the new school year, which will begin remotely due to Covid-19.

When parents pulled up to the curb in front of Page High School to pick up their student's Chromebook and other materials they found a smooth, efficient delivery system. They were first met by a PHS staff member who took down the student's name and radioed it to another staff member waiting inside the school building, who found the student's items and brought them to the curb outside.

In addition to the Chromebook, the student also received a Remote Learning Kit, which includes information that will make the transition from in-school to remote learning easier. The packets include information for parents and students how to start up their device, how to log in to their Google classroom and tech support information, should they encounter problems along the way.

The binders contained a spiral notebook, pencil pouch with pencils, 8-tab page dividers, graph paper.

"This type of binder is part of our AVID strategy that helps our students stay organized," said Henderson.

Eight-hundred and sixteen of those binders were put together by PHS Band Director, David Johnson.

Delivering the Chromebooks and Remote Learning

Kit was merely the final item at the end of a very long organizational process. "We've been organizing the Chromebooks and packets for weeks," said PHS Assistant Principal, Brian Henderson. "The layers of logistics we've navigated to reach this point is kind of staggering. It kind of felt like we were preparing for D Day."

Each school in the Page Unified School District went through a similar preparation process.

Students from each school also received a Remote Learning Kit, which contained educational items pertinent to each grade level. For instance, the kits of Lake View students contained items they will use in their math, art, and science classes. Things such as crayons, whiteboards, dry markers, scissors and glue.

The teachers got together by grade level and decided what items to include in the kits that would make teaching easier for the teachers, and learning more effective for the students.

Desert View teachers and staff began organizing their Remote Learning Kits Friday afternoon. Two groups organized ELA files, and two more groups organized math folders.

"Fran Tucker was the one who rallied the troops

See CHROME pg. 7

and organized the groups,” said Desert View Principal, Mary Stahl.

“It was all hands on deck there for a few hours,” said Tucker.

The school district prepared 2,600 Chromebooks for students to take home. Preparing the iPads and Chromebooks has been a long process. Technology Director, Brian Osterink, has spent the last six weeks registering each one, updating the operating systems and loading the necessary apps to optimize each device for virtual learning.

Chromebooks are something that students throughout the district used on a regular basis, when classes were held on-site. As a result, the school district is able to utilize Chromebooks already in its inventory. But in recent weeks, the district has purchased an additional \$462,000 worth of Chromebooks, iPads, cases, mouses, flash drives, headphones and hot spot data points.

The District purchased 2,000 protective cases, 2,900 headsets, 2,250 flash drives and 2,250 mouses.

The delivery of the Chromebooks and iPads marked an important threshold for the school district. It was one of their first steps as they transition from their planning phase to their implementation phase.

“This is an important moment as we move from the physical classroom to the virtual classroom,” said Superintendent, Larry Wallen. “Exciting things are happening right now. I get so excited when I see hear about one teacher helping another teacher. Our teachers are willing and working hard to make this school year an extraordinary experience.”



Lake View staff prepare art, math and science supplies included with each student's iPad.



At Lake View Elementary rows of iPads in cases extend down many hallways.

ANDERSON from pg. 4

“All teachers are familiar with that feeling that new teachers get when they’re starting their careers. There’s a lot of that same energy this year because everything’s so new and different this year.

Anderson has enjoyed watching things develop and progress from the teachers, to the plans, to the group collaboration.

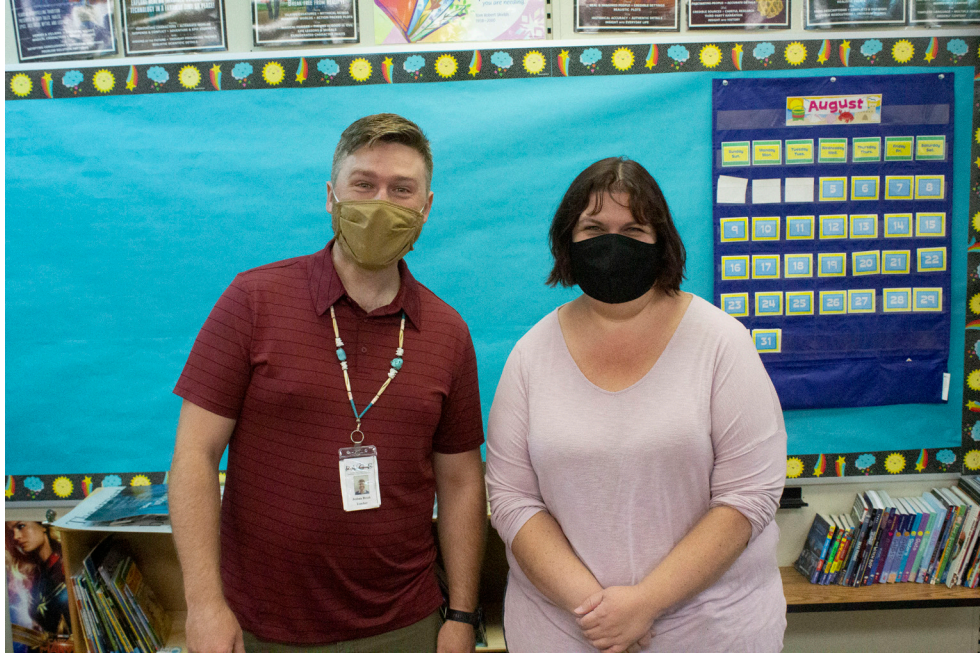
“The challenges have really brought our staff together,” he said. “I think this is a great opportunity for educators to re-evaluate everything.”

Kevin’s wife, Jillyn, teaches pre-school at PUSD.

Kevin grew up in Farmington, New Mexico. He received his Associates Degree from Utah Valley State College (UVSC), and his bachelor’s degree from Southern Utah University. He received his Master’s Degree in education from Northern Arizona University, and his admin certificate from Western Governor’s University.

Anderson met his wife, Jillyn, while attending UVSC. They have four kids ages ten to 22.

We are WOWED & PROUD!



We are extending a big shout out to Kendra Tarket and Josh Brink for their initiative creating a Google classroom and stocking it with useful videos and sharing it with their fellow teachers. Brink teaches music at Desert View, Tarket teaches 5th grade.

The Google classroom has videos, charts and useful links for teachers. Some of the videos are samples of how to run a successful on-line classroom, while others are tutorials showing how to share your screen, or making files available offline. Other videos and links are great resources for self-care.

Since its creation, the site has started growing into a hub of useful ideas and resources, and other Desert View teachers have started adding their own material to it.

Though the page started as a resource for teachers, Josh and Kendra have since added a resource page for students also.

The idea started with Kendra Tarket. "I was part of the Remote Learnign Team and we were starting to accrue a lot of information, and I thought, 'There's got to be a better way to organize this.' So I talked to Josh and asked him if he wanted to create a space to store all this information."

"We just thought it might be helpful for some of our teachers to provide this kind of information," said Josh Brink.

"Josh and Kendra are really comfortable and proficient with technology," said Devert View Principal, Mary Stahl. "They've been great role models for the staff and they've kind of become our in-house, go-to experts. They're good people and they're approachable, and always willing to help."

Desert View Hosts Gallery of Google Classrooms

