

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter March 2023

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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

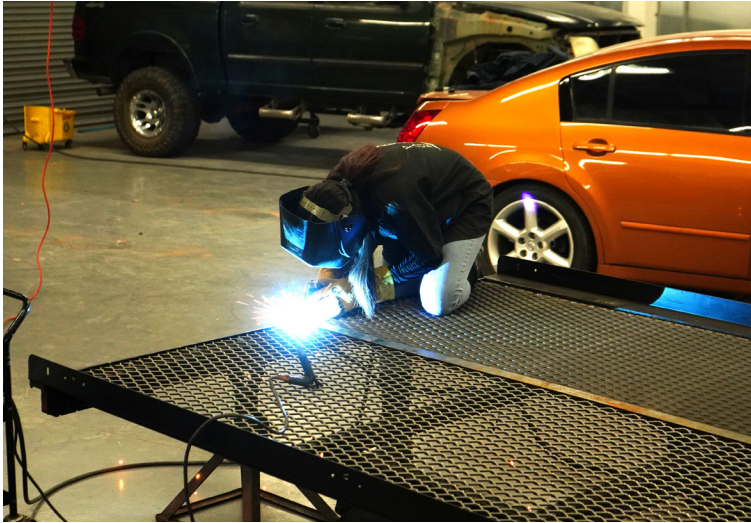
Collectively Committed to Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.



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.

CTE's Auto Tech and Collision Programs Prepare PHS Students for Lucrative Careers



A visit to Page High School's Auto Collision shop is exactly as you'd expect. It's loud. It's busy. It's industrious. On a typical day, class begins with Auto Collision teacher, Sylvester "Sly" Begay, instructing his students in the classroom, but the majority of the class happens in the shop, where the students apply what they've just been taught.

"This is the kind of thing where the kids are only going to learn it by doing it," said Mr. Begay.

The shop smells the ozone of the arc welder, and hot steel being bent and banged into place. In one section of the shop, a student welds a reinforcement bar to a trailer. In another section, students are applying filler putty to a dent that's too sharp to be pulled out. In another part of the shop, students weld pins to dents in a car hood. Later, the students use the pins with a slide hammer to pull out the dent.

Page High School's collision shop houses several cars or partial of cars, all of which have been donated to the program by members of the Page community. "These donations are crucial to the program," said Begay. "They allow our students to have real, hands-on experience in fixing a vehicle."

In Collision I, students are taught the different parts of the vehicle, how to analyze vehicular damage, the proper use of the tools, metal finishing and body filling, metal welding and cutting and plastics repair. In Collision II, students learn safety precautions when painting and refinishing, how to properly prep a surface for painting, spray gun operation, paint mixing and matching, and fine detail work. In Colli-

sion III, students learn cost estimation, shop management and selling skills.

Sylvester "Sly" Begay teaches Auto Collision, and Chris Green teaches Auto Tech at Page High School.

High school level auto tech and auto collision classes are very rare. Only two high schools in Utah have them, and Page is the only high school in northern Arizona that has an auto collision program. A couple others have auto tech programs.

Chuck Sharp, Page High School's CTE Director says there are a couple main reasons these classes aren't often taught at the high school level. First, it's very expensive for a high school to start and maintain industry-standard auto tech and auto collision programs. Sharp estimates the high school's Auto Tech shop has around \$750K of equipment, with another \$500K of equipment in its Auto Collision shop. Second, it's hard to find teachers in those fields because they can make a lot of money working in the trades.

"We're very fortunate to have Sly and Chris," said Sharp. "Experienced techs can make so much money in the trades that it's hard to lure them into teaching."

This is Mr. Begay's first year teaching. He has been working as a collision tech since 2011. He came in to register his daughter for high school last year and asked who the collision teacher was, and was told that the high school didn't have one. The idea of being a school teacher has always appealed to Mr. Begay. He gave it a little thought and applied to be the teacher.

Halfway through his first year, he's loving it and happy he made the decision.

Chuck Sharp is thrilled to have Mr. Begay as a teacher.

"It's great having a teacher with real life experience," said

Sand Devil Wrestlers Bring Home Hardware from State Tournament



The Sand Devils boys wrestling team had one of its best showings at the state tournament in its history.

The Sand Devils sent ten of its wrestlers to state this year and five of them medaled. Ashton Penrod (120) finished fifth, Conner Peterson (126) finished fourth, Mannii Green (132) finished fifth, Landon Mansker (165) finished sixth, and Ian Yellowhair (190) finished sixth.

The other wrestlers who qualified for state, but who were eliminated in pre-medal rounds were Antoine Mejia, Daniel Szabo, Connor Shirley, Hayden Charles and Sidrick Begay.

As a team, the Sand Devils placed sixth, which is also one of the highest finishes in the program's history. The wrestling team was also the 3A champions and placed second at sectionals.

The success the team had at state this year bodes well for the program's future. The medalers Peterson, Green, Mansker and Yellowhair will all return for next year's season, as will most of the other wrestlers who went to state but didn't medal.

Losing a match at the state tournament is one of the hardest losses of the year, said assistant wrestling coach Matt Penrod.

"I don't know why it is, but it's easier to remember big losses than the wins," he said. "You can spend a lot of time thinking, 'If I'd only done this or that I might have won.'"

One of Coach Penrod's highlights from the state tournament was watching Ian Yellowhair put together a big come-

back during one of the medal rounds.

"He was losing ten to one, and then he got a reversal," Penrod said. "Then he put the kid on his back with a screwdriver and ended up winning. Amazing!"

The defeats sting pretty hard in the moment, especially at state, but when looking back at the season in its entirety, both coach Keisling and Penrod are impressed by how well it turned out.

"We surpassed where we thought we'd be at the beginning of the season," said Coach Penrod.

"We were decent this year. We were respectable," said Coach Keisling after the tournament.

"The guys learned a lot this year. They were dumb as a sack of hammers this year but they won't be next year.

"We had a bunch of our young guys surprise us this year. We took eight underclassmen to state and four of them medaled. And they'll be back next year. That's what this season was all about."

The She Devils qualified four wrestlers for state this year: Te'a Nockideneh, Leyonna Sombrero, Trina Bennett and Ili-na Robbins.

Nockideneh has been with the girls wrestling program with Coach Steven Smith all four years.

None of the four She Devils qualified for the medal rounds,

Lake View Celebrates Read Across America Week



February 27 to March 3 was National Read Across America Week, and Lake View Primary recognized the week by having dozens of different guests visit the school and read to the students in their classrooms.

The week's events were organized by Lauren Viers, Lake View's Reading Specialist, who put in a lot of extra hours booking guest readers and matching them with classrooms.

"Learning to read is important because it unlocks a host of opportunities for our students," said Viers. "Without the ability to read, basic tasks like grocery shopping, driving, and applying for jobs would be very difficult. We love hosting community members during Read Across America Week in an effort to instill a love of reading in our students and to show them that they can pursue any career once they gain the ability to read."

The guest readers included members of the Page Public Library, City of Page, Page Fire Department, Glen Canyon Dam, Coconino Community College, Aramark, National Park Service, Lake Powell Crossfit, Native Strength and Resilience Project, Lake View Parents and PUSD staff and board members.

One of the volunteer readers was Caityln Andersen, who read to her daughter Bryn's, first grade class.

She was more than happy to help. "Reading is such an important skill to have for a child," she

Desert View Hosts First Career Day



Desert View Intermediate held its first Career Day Expo last week, and it was a big success.

Career Day was the idea of Jodian Brown, Desert View fourth grade teacher, with help from Seth Laughter, Jonalyn Diez and Dovey Castillo.

Career Day was something that happened annually at the school where Brown taught in her home country of Jamaica. It worked well there, and she thought it would make a great addition to Desert View.

“At an early age, we try to instill in the students that having a career, a job, a skill is necessary for being a successful adult, and in order to attain that, a person needs to have a good education,” said Brown.

Desert View and Lake View have both recently added AVID programs, which emphasize college and career read-

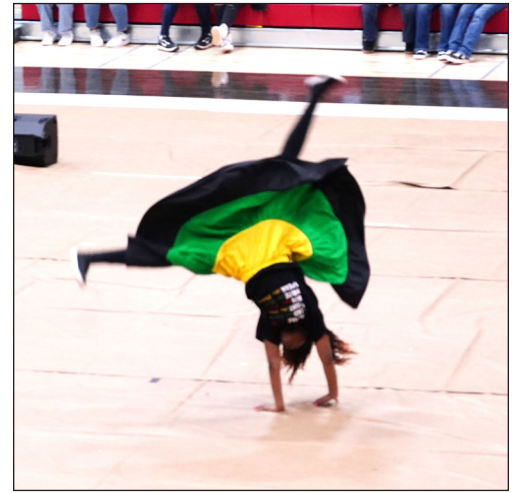
iness for students.

“When we have conversations with students about college or career, they often don’t have a true idea what that means,” Brown said. “When I ask them, ‘What do you want to become when you grow up?’ and they ask, ‘What do you mean by that?’

“I thought it would be a good idea to expose them to different types of careers and broaden their horizons, and start them thinking about what they might want to do as a career.”

Career Day helps students have a stronger concept about the path from education to career. “When students can see

PUSD's Cultural Day 2023



Page Unified School District recognized the many different cultures that make up its teachers, staff and student body during a Multi-Cultural Celebration Day. The event was organized by the U.N.I.T.Y. Club, with a lot of help and contributions from Page Middle School Principal, Alyssa Covington.

The idea for the Multi-Cultural Day was first proposed by Ny'Asia Walsh, a student at Page Middle School, who asked if the district had anything planned for Black History Month.

The event included songs, dances and presentations from Page's Native American, African American, and Filipino communities. The Multi-Cultural Celebration Day was performed for the students of Lake View, Desert View, Page Middle School and Page High School during school hours, with an evening performance for the wider community.

The purpose of the Multi-Cultural Celebration Day was

to recognize the many contributions and accomplishments people of color have made to society.

Recognizing the achievements of all races is an important thing to teach in schools, said Ms. Covington. It's also important to recognize past wrongs that have occurred in the past.

"When we teach history, it's important to teach all of history, even the parts that may make us uncomfortable," said Ms. Covington. "A big part of this celebration was to show all of our students that they are wanted, they are needed, and they are valuable."

Covington hopes that the event will open some eyes and lead to further discussions about equality among the students and in the classrooms.

Covington feels like this year's celebration day was a great start and hopes to see it continue and grow in the future.

PHS Students Compete in Welding Competition



Five students from Page High School's welding program competed in a welding and fabrication contest in Holbrook last February.

Page's fabrication team took third place. The team was comprised of Maximus Nez, Davisonw Fuller and Dillon Whitehat.

"I think it was a very good experience for them," said Sam Rangel, Page High School's welding instructor. "The guys on the team fabrication were very excited and looking forward to the next competition."

In the fabrication competition, the team is given blueprints, a set of materials and supplies with which to construct it and six hours to complete the project. The project includes specific cutting processes, specific welding process and thickness. The winning team is that which follows the blueprint specs the closest and gets the furthest on the project. Teams very rarely finish the entire project in the allotted time. The specific cuts and welds the project requires are all industry standard skills the students will need to know if they do fabrication on a professional level.

The individual welding competition is intense. This year, Lyla and Payton Begay competed for Page High School.



Welders are tested on stick welding, mig welding, tig welding, flux core welding, plasma cutting, oxyacetylene, as well as a knowledge test and a blueprint reading test.

Lyla and Payton didn't qualify for state, but gained a lot by attending the competition.

"Even though they didn't do as well as they may have liked, they learned a lot about what to expect next year," said Mr. Rangell.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Certified Employee of the Month
January 2023

Classified Employee of the Month
January 2023



Cheryl Weiss



Yolanda Tibbs

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Ean Espinoza
Lake View Primary



Rory Begay
Desert View Intermediate



Makayla Nez
Page Middle School



Burgess "Cole" Christiansen
Page High School

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Austin Lopez
Manson Mesa High School



Jaiden Chee
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Brennon Redshirt
Page Preschool



but Coach Smith says it was a valuable experience for them to have.

At the state tournament level, there is only one division; it's not broken down into 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A divisions.

"Our girls wrestled girls from some of the big valley schools where they have big programs, and wrestle all year long," said Coach Smith. "It was a really good experience for our girls to see first-hand what it takes to compete at



that level."

Te'a Nockideneh graduates this year, but Coach Smith has many of his best wrestlers returning next year: Leyonna Sombrero, Trina Bennett, Ilina Robbins, Mya Tsinnijinnie and Persephone.

As a team, the She Devils took first place at this year's 3A North tournament, and 3rd at sectionals.

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said. "It expands a child's vocabulary, and their imagination."

Caitlyn and her husband, Spencer, require their two oldest children, Bryn and Eden, aged six and seven, to read 20 minutes a day. Caitlyn usually has her daughters read to her. During story time, they also have their two other kids, who aren't yet old enough to read themselves, join in.

"It shows them that reading is important and it gets their verbal and language started,"

Caitlyn said.

Reading and story time is something the Anderson family does together. Caitlyn says it greatly boosts their family's bonding, and is a part of the day they look forward to.

The first two days of Read Across America Week overlapped with the last two days of Black History Month, which was also recognized in PUSD schools. Page Middle School Principal, Alyssa Covington, found it the perfect opportunity to read books about African American culture to

the Lake View students. Covington was Lake View's Assistant Principal last year, and the students were happy to see her again.

Through stories, children are able to visit countries, cities and villages they wouldn't otherwise be able to, and experience cultures, traditions and ways of living different than their own, which can greatly increase their empathy and understanding of the wider world, said Lake View Primary Principal, Brian Henderson.

"Reading gives kids the power of possibility, and introduces them to everything that could be," he said.

Viers had help from her Read Across America Week committee, which helped recruit readers and provide the themed classroom activities throughout the week. The members are Jenise Bartholomew, Jan Fehr, Maggie Leatherbury, Maddy Crane, Mark Haynie, Leandra Sessions, Catherine Rasmussen, Jade Dales, Ximena Hendrickson and Erica Pullin.

Sharp. “He knows what the students will need to be ready for the technical colleges and he gets them ready for that. And he knows what it’s like working in shops in the real world, and he passes that knowledge and expertise on to his kids.”

It’s a great time to have auto tech and collision programs. Certified technicians in those fields are in high demand and they’re highly-paid.

“Right now, auto tech, collision tech, welding, construction, electricians and all the labor trades are in high demand,” said Sharp. “In all the trades, worker pay is going up because of high demand. Any student who goes into one of those fields know they are going to have a job waiting for them when they graduate and their salaries will increase as they progress through their career.

Dixie Technical College, in St. George, Utah, trains its students in several different industrial trades, including automotive, computer, healthcare and construction fields. Andy Morgan, a recruiter for Dixie Tech, says dealerships and automotive repair shops are practically knocking down his door searching for qualified techs to fill position in their shops.

“The demand for auto and collision technicians has always been in great demand,” Morgan said, “but since the labor shortage that hit a year before Covid, the demand is even higher. The shops are all competing for labor and because of that high demand, we have 100 percent job placement for our students.”

A student entering Dixie Tech’s Auto Collision or Auto Tech programs will complete 1,000 hours of training, which is done in a year, to get their necessary I-CAR certifications. The cost for the year-long program is just over \$5,000. They graduate as an entry-level technician and start making \$15 to \$18 per hour.

“After graduating from a technical college, they’re still three to five years from getting their journeyman status,” said Morgan. “But once they’ve gained that experience and move from an hourly rate to flat rate, they start making really good money. It’s common for a 25-year-old auto techs and collision techs to be making \$65 to \$80 thousand a year.”

At a time when it’s common for many college graduates to begin their careers saddled with student loans ranging from \$40 thousand to \$120 thousand, it has a lot of high school students taking a second look at the trades.

Because of the high demand for collision techs and auto techs, Dixie Tech and Page High School are in the process of creating an Open Articulation Agreement, which will streamline the process for getting Page High School students into Dixie’s Tech’s programs.

Representatives from Dixie Tech visited Page High School’s auto collision and auto tech facilities last December.



Chuck Sharp was more than happy to help facilitate the mutually beneficial relationship.

“In addition to showing them our facilities, we also supplied them with our standards, which they reviewed to make sure it meets what they’re teaching in their program,” said Sharp.

Morgan said he and the others from Dixie Tech were impressed by what they saw during their visit, and they’re equally impressed by the students Page High School is sending them.

“Sylvester is running a great program there,” said Morgan. “I want his students to come to us when he’s done with them.”

One of those students is Levi Telshaw, who graduated from Page High School in 2018. He took Auto Tech and Auto Collision classes at Page High School and then did a year with Dixie Tech to complete his education and get the necessary certifications. He graduated with no student debt and now, four years into his career, has moved beyond entry-level wages and is making over \$65K per year.

“I’ve always had a fascination with automobiles, how they work and how to repair them,” he said.

Telshaw says his interest in automobiles took a giant leap forward during high school when he began working on cars in his Auto Tech and Auto Collision classes.

“Any student who goes to these and apply themselves will have employment when they’re finished,” said Sharp, “and it’s a field with lots of opportunities for career advancement, and you can work anywhere in the U.S.”

Page High School’s Auto Tech and Auto Collision programs also work closely with Universal Technical Institute, WYOTech and Lincoln Tech.

Page High School currently has 112 students in its Auto Tech classes and 68 in Auto Collision classes.

the end result of education, I think it helps them see why reading is important, why math is important, why science is important,” said Brown. “Any path they take they will need strong reading skills, they will need strong math skills.”

More than 20 businesses and professionals from Page came to the Desert View Career Day at the invitation of Brown and Wright. They set up tables and booths inside the Desert View gym. Students visited the gym in groups and had a chance to talk with people at the booths and ask them questions.

Desert View Principal, Mary Stahl, was very happy with how the event came together, and how much her students gained from it.

“The students were so engaged,” said Ms. Stahl. “It was cool to see them interacting with community members. I saw them asking a lot of questions. After school I overheard a group of them talking about it. One



said he wanted to be a policeman, and another said she wanted to be a nurse.”

Following the success of this year’s Career Day Expo, Desert View plans to make it an annual event.

This is Brown’s fourth year teaching at Desert View. Prior to moving to Page, she taught school for several years in Jamaica.

“I love working here,” she said. “Page is a lot like my home. It’s relaxed and easy-going. I left home because I wanted to re-ignite my passion for teaching, and Desert View has done that for me.”

Being at Desert View has given Brown the opportunity to grow into leadership positions, something she is enjoying doing.

“Jodian did an excellent job putting this together, and exposing our students to some of the opportunities that await them,” said Ms. Stahl.

