



Distance Learning

Even though our district teaching staff is involved in "Distance Learning", they and all of our support staff is up close and personal!

Our teachers come to their classrooms every day, preparing a learning environment that is much more than a laptop with a screen. Our teachers are doing everything possible to create a learning environment that is engaging and interactive. They are using multiple devices, multiple cameras, and various screens to take advantage of all of the tools necessary to give our students the best learning opportunities under our current constraints.

Our support staff comes to work every day with open offices that continue to engage and communicate with our parents and community to make sure our student and parent-school experience are effective and positive. We have staff members who also safely visit homes to help verify students are online and registered.

Our grounds department continues to do a great job of keeping our grounds aesthetically attractive and clean, especially during a heat wave.

Many of our support staff continues to come to work every day to garner all the supplies and resources to ensure that we all work in a sanitized, clean, and safe work environment. We cannot take for granted everything that has been done to ensure this on all of our campuses and facilities. We can confidently say we have a safe work environment.

These people are not at a "distance" but are up close and personal to do their work to prepare for the time when students are no longer learning exclusively from a distance. The good news is the State has just recently allowed our staff to begin to work with small sets of students to receive in-person targeted, specialized support and services on campus under specific safe conditions.

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zoe3z-p-WavbItnA3VVGRpW1F6tz-t1b/view?usp=sharing>)

Even though our students are at a distance, our staff's hearts are closer to the hearts of our students and parents more than meets the eye.

IMPORTANT DATES

September



September 7, 2020
Holiday - Labor Day
No School



September 8, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
Board Room @ 6:00 p.m.



September 22, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
Board Room @ 6:00 p.m.

October



October 13, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
Board Room @ 6:00 p.m.



October 27, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
Board Room @ 6:00 p.m.



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Quotes and Proverbs

Impossible isn't something that can't be done. It's just something that hasn't been done before.

-Author Unknown

I am reminded of the Star Trek quote: "*Where No Man Has Gone Before!*" We are doing things that have never been done before compared to our own former experiences and expertise and compared to what most people have never done before.

Here is the full Star Trek quote that was stated at the beginning of every episode:

Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its continuing mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before.

Here is a play on how this applies to us:

Education: the future of our world. These are the exploits of Corcoran Unified. Its continuous mission: to explore exciting, innovative ways to learn, to seek out new opportunities for untethered growth and achievement using the best tools and strategies for all students and staff, to boldly go where no one has gone before.

Whether we realize it or not, this is where we are in many ways, not by choice. However, it has been our choice to be prepared for this challenge and moment.

We have never before had to teach whole lessons, engage every student, and create an interactive learning environment from a distance for each student. These "adventures" bring challenges, but they also provide excitement and opportunities for creating learning and achievement victories for teachers and students that are groundbreaking!

We have never before had to sanitize classrooms and offices in a manner that we have to do now on a daily basis, and we have never before had to provide sanitation stations, hand washing stations, food service preparation for pick up, etc. These have also been challenges, but these turn out to be landmark achievements that are unprecedented from which we can take great pride due to our staff members' response.

Thus far, we can admirably declare that the people who have shown up to work in our District are daring to boldly go where no one has gone before!

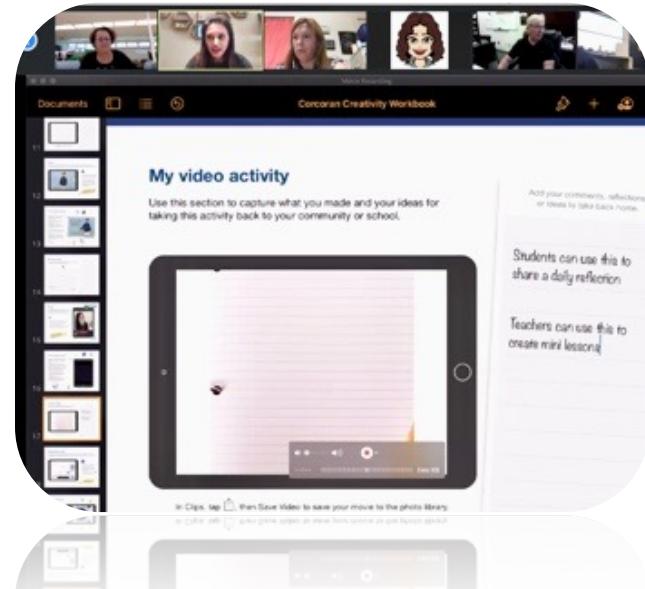


Apple Training: Supporting a remote teaching environment

Our Academic Technology Coaches participated in a virtual training on Thursday, Aug. 27th, with Sabba Quidwai, one of Apple's Education Leadership Executives. As our schools across the district adjust to distance learning, Sabba shared some new tools to ease the transition to distance learning, design, and creativity. The purpose of the training was to train our coaches to better assist our educators in our approach to online teaching and workflows. We developed techniques for creating student-centered learning environments and collected ideas on how to unite around a common vision for technology integration.

"Our Academic Technology Coaches Lisa Coleman, Dory Pearce, Roberta Andrade, Jari Stokes, and our newest coach Kristine Scott, have been working hard to support our staff during this time. It is very much appreciated. Their expertise and positive attitudes towards assisting others are invaluable!"

- Lora Cartwright, Director of Educational Services



*How teachers are preparing
for a year like no other.*

Distance Learning



Distance Learning in action - pictured upper left and right, High School teacher Dan DeCicco.
Pictured lower left, Bret Harte teacher Shereen Sawalha

2020-21 New Staff



Paola Andrade

What is your work history, including at CUSD?

I have been working as an LVN for almost two years. I started at an Alzheimer/Dementia Nursing home and was there for a year. I decided to apply as a Sub-LVN for Fremont and loved it, so now here I am as the new Bret Harte nurse.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job? The most rewarding part of my job is to know that I have helped someone.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job? We are trying to keep our students and staff safe from COVID!

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?

My biggest inspiration would have to be my mom. All her words of encouragement have got me to where I am today.

Tell us a little about yourself:

My name is Paola Andrade. I was raised here in Corcoran. I am an LVN currently taking classes to get into the RN program. I am a wife and mom of two boys. I love to bake and watch Disney movies with my babies.

If the world were listening, what would you say? Keep going. God hears all your prayers.



What is your work history, including at CUSD?

My work history is all nursing; I have been a licensed nurse for nine years, and all of those nine years I spent being the Lead LVN at the Adventist Health clinic here in Corcoran. This is my first year as a school nurse, but I am excited and confident in this new role providing care to the kids in our community.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is providing care, compassion, and kindness to any person that needs it.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job?

At this time, I am just prepping and working hard to make sure we are ready to give the best care to our students when they return to campus.



Mariah Ramirez

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?

The biggest inspiration in my life was my grandmother. Her occupation title was a janitor at a High School, but she was so much more than that. As the janitor, my grandmother was also the counselor, the nurse, the cook, the teacher .she would be anything to any student or person who needed it. As a person and nurse, she shaped me into the person I am today.

Tell us a little about yourself:

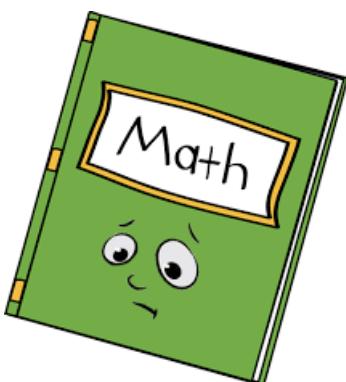
I am married and have two children who attend CUSD, a 2nd grader and 6th grader. I enjoy spending time with my family and being involved with my children in their school activities and sporting programs they are involved in. I love the outdoors, hiking, baseball, and anything Disney.

If the world were listening, what would you say?

Wake up and do your PERSONAL BEST each day!

MATH BOOKS FOR ALL: Bret Harte Staff hand out books

This year, Bret Harte Staff hosted a drive-by event for students to pick up their math books. The staff braced the scorching weather on Thursday, August 20th, just to catch a glimpse of all the students in their cars. The school is reaching out and encouraging students about Distance Learning.



**WHY WAS THE MATH
BOOK SAD?**

**BECAUSE IT HAD TOO
MANY PROBLEMS!**

