

Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office



Trudy Berry
Superintendent

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[https://
www.cochise.az.gov
/schools/home](https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home)

Teaching kids to
count is fine, but
teaching them
what counts is
best.

-Bob Talbert



The County School Connection

SEPTEMBER 2015

Hi All,

Welcome back! Hopefully, everyone has had a good experience registering and assigning students to the right classes and teachers are eager and excited to be back. As we all know, teachers must have been born with huge hearts and a true sense of altruism that keeps them coming back to greet their new students every year.

I believe that teachers and the family environment are the biggest contributors to student achievement. This is common sense, yet no one seems to recognize the approaching precipice that looms on the horizon. With the lack of proper pay, the performance requirements, and the constant testing demands, many teachers are rethinking their career choices or moving to other states. And young people are looking elsewhere for suitable, decent-paying jobs.

The problem is what are we going to do when there aren't any teachers? Will students study at home on their phones and iPads? Will they attend virtual classrooms where an instructor will be teaching thousands of students over the internet? Certainly, most facts and lessons can be discovered online today and more knowledge comes through technology than from any person. Will we need someone to guide and motivate our students? Will counselors be around to monitor progress in subjects or help with career planning? This may seem like a long time in the future, but it may not be too far-fetched.

Our office is experiencing record numbers of parents wishing to home school their kids this year. Is online school the current trend? Certainly, charter and alternative schools have embraced this as a way to provide credit recovery and self-paced instruction. We even have a traditional public high school in our county that is totally online because of decreasing enrollment and lack of teachers.

According to Dr. John Pedicone, past superintendent of Tucson USD, "Today, the responsibility for preventing student failure falls more on the shoulders of educators than the students they serve, and the penalty for failure is so severe that both continued employment and certification depends on success. It makes perfect sense that quality educators feel under siege and the potential candidate pool is declining."

There is no doubt that we need education reform, that teachers need to be accountable, and that we need to use our money wisely, but what about student performance also being the responsibility of the students and parents? Even though polls show that voters now recognize education as the number one issue in the upcoming election, is it too late?

If you would like to discuss this topic, I can be reached at 432-8950.

We are here to serve you!
Trudy Berry

LIKE us! On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/CochiseSSO>

Congratulations!



Nidhi Mehta, the 2015 Cochise County Teacher of the Year, has also been named the 2015 Cochise County Rural School Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Rural Schools Association (ARSA). Mrs. Mehta, a 17-year veteran teacher, has taught in Arizona since 2007 and at the Willcox School District since 2011. She is a passionate and dedicated teacher who makes the difference by going above and beyond the normal work day, to tutor her students after hours and weekends. Mrs. Mehta uses her drive to motivate her students and to apply learning knowledge to their everyday lives.

The Arizona Rural Schools Teacher of the Year Program accepts nominations from all member schools districts and County Education Services Agencies. ARSA is a state affiliate to the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and promotes quality education for all students in rural schools throughout the state.

The Annual Rural Schools Conference in Flagstaff this Sept. 17-19 will recognize all county winners and announce a state winner.

Margie Looney, last year's Cochise County Teacher of the Year and the ARSA Teacher of the Year, will be representing the state at the NREA Conference on October 16th in St. Louis. Ms. Looney also taught in Willcox.



Bee Ready! Enroll before October 15, 2015

The 2016 Cochise County Spelling Bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016 and will be held at the Cochise College Student Union, Community Room in Sierra Vista.

In order to participate in the 2016 Cochise County and 2016 Arizona Spelling Bee, schools must be enrolled with the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The early-bird period for schools to enroll with Scripps is from August 14 to October 15, 2015. The enrollment fee for schools during the early-bird enrollment period is \$136, if paid by credit card. If paying by check, the fee is \$143.50. Scripps will not accept PO's. The extended enrollment period is from October 16 to December 11, 2015. The enrollment fee for schools during the extended enrollment period is \$211, plus \$7.50 if paying by check. To enroll visit www.spellingbee.com.

Enrolled schools receive many spelling bee resources directly from Scripps; a complete list is available on www.spellingbee.com. Links to both the 2016 Rules and the 2016 Instructions may be found on the AZ Education Foundation website <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/arizona-spelling-bee/>.

If you would like to receive *The County School Connection* by email, contact Nikki Madden at kmadden@cochise.az.gov or 432-8950.

New Superintendents

- Cochise Elementary: Karl Uterhardt
kuterhardt@cochiseschool.org 520-384-2540
- Douglas Unified: Ron Aguallo
raguallo@dusd.k12.az.us 520-364-2447
- Tombstone Unified: Robert Devere
rdevere@tombstone.k12.az.us 520-457-2217
- Valley Union High School: Kyle Hart
kyle.hart@vuhs.net 520-642-3492
- Willcox Unified: Kevin Davis
kevin.davis@wusd13.org 520-384-8600

“Critters, Squeals, and Ferris Wheels”



The 91st Cochise County Fair, located at the Cochise County Fairgrounds on Leslie Canyon Road just north of Douglas, Ariz. will be held September 24-27, 2015.

All teachers (K-12) are invited to have their students participate in the Education Exhibit at the Fair. The entry instructions, category and lot numbers, and 2015 Education Department entry forms are available at www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home.

For more information about the Education Exhibit at the Fair, please contact Karen Enriquez, 520-432-8952 or kenriquez@cochise.az.gov.

Professional Development Opportunity

In partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, Read On Cochise County and the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office are pleased to provide this FREE professional development opportunity. Enhance your knowledge today by participating in this focused content workshop about early language and literacy.

Early Language Development and Bringing Early Literacy Standards Into the Home.

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2015
 Time: 9:00am-4:00pm
 Place: Sierra Vista Police Department Training Room
 911 North Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista

To register, visit <http://ems.az.gov/Home/Calendar>, select "Early Childhood Education" in the Program Areas drop down box, select September 29th in the calendar. You may be asked to create an ADEConnect Sign-In Account if you don't already have one.



The Cochise Education Foundation (CEF) members are selling raffle tickets for a new 2015 Ford Mustang, 50th Anniversary Edition. Jim Click is donating the car, and tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. All of the funds go directly to the Cochise Education Foundation which supports Cochise County teachers by providing mini-grants for the classroom and recognition at the Cochise County Teacher of the Year banquet.

Only 100,000 tickets will be sold and only 1,964 of these cars were made, so you will be the envy of the neighborhood. You can purchase tickets from any Cochise Education Foundation member. For more information, call 520-432-8950 or visit CEF's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cochiseefaz>

School Board News

When a school board member resigns their position before completion of their term of office, the vacant position is posted and interested applicants may send a Letter of Interest to the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office. The Cochise County School Superintendent, after reviewing the applicants, and following discussion with the existing board members and their school Superintendent, may appoint a new member to fill the position through the end of term or the next election. This process ensures local involvement in the appointment of a governing board member.

Welcome new board members:

- Frank Krentz-Apache Elementary School District
- Joe Farmer-Cochise Technology District
- Mario A. Ramos Sr.-Douglas Unified School District
- Mike Ramirez-McNeal Elementary School District
- Dusty Pierce-San Simon Unified School District
- Jason Sloan-San Simon Unified School District
- Bradley Haynie-St. David Unified School District
- John Campbell-St. David Unified School District
- Joanne Coppola-Tombstone Unified School District
- James Dotson- Tombstone Unified School District
- Kimberly Hoke-Valley Union High School District
- Danny Ortega Jr.-Cochise College, Precinct 2
- Timothy Quinn-Cochise College, Precinct 4

Language Solutions

If you are looking for resources that will enable you to provide a foreign-language experience at your school, Peter Shaver, the founder of Interactive Communicative Inventive (ICI), can provide brief or long-term language or ESL instruction for you. His offerings include basic or beginner language curriculum, language fairs, motivational language projects, community language and culture events, or immersion language courses in 14 different languages. Call Mr. Shaver to discuss any of your foreign language needs at 520-458-5073 or visit his website at www.icilangpro.com.

Dates to Remember

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| September 7 | Labor Day |
| September 10-11 | ASBA Law Conference
(Scottsdale) |
| September 17-19 | ARSA Conference
(Flagstaff) |
| September 24-27 | Cochise County Fair |



FALL 2015 Workshops

Teaching Reading Effectively – 30 hours

Audience: K-3rd grade teachers, K-5 ELL teachers, K-8 special education teachers
 Course Dates: September 15 & 22, October 20, November 3 & 10 8:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.
 Cost: \$160 for all 5-days (Assessment book plus choice of one of two additional books included. Breakfast, lunch and parking included each day).

K-2 Writing – 6 hours

Audience: K-2nd grade teachers
 Location: Office of the Pima County School Superintendent, 200 N. Stone Ave., Tucson
 Course Dates: October 29th, 8:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.
 Cost: \$75

www.sazrec.org



A.L.I.C.E. Training



The Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Sierra Vista Police Department are now offering training on the ALICE Program. ALICE is an acronym for, Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, and is a comprehensive preparedness program utilized in the event of a violent intruder attack.

The primary focus of the program of the ALICE program is survival for those who find themselves under attack in an active shooter / active killer incident, and provides them a set of proactive strategies they can utilize to survive until law enforcement arrives.

To arrange for this free training, please contact Sgt. Tod Linendoll or Deputy Allison Hadfield from the Cochise County Sheriff's Office at 520-432-9575, or email Sgt. Linendoll at tlinendoll@cochise.az.gov or Dep. Hadfield at ahadfield@cochise.az.gov

Save the Date

The Auditor General's office will be presenting a USFR Workshop in Cochise County on **Friday, November 6** for all school business office staff members. This full-day workshop will be hosted by the Benson Unified School District. More information will be available soon.

Professional Development for School Counselors "Climbing the Mountain"

Wednesday September 23rd
 4:00 – 6:00 PM
 Flowing Wells District Board Room
 1556 W. Prince Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85705

\$15.00
Registration due by September 16th

For more information, or to register:
<http://pimaregionalsupport.org/event-2020267/Registration>



Teachers guide to use Pinterest

<http://www.edudemic.com/guides/the-teachers-guide-to-pinterest/>

Inspiration

<http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2012/01/02/30-inspiring-pinterest-pins-for-teachers/>

Science classes by video conference

<https://www.pinterest.com/fizzicsed/science-classes-by-video-conference/>

Teacher Resources

<http://www.teachthought.com/social-media/25-of-the-best-pinterest-boards-in-education/>

Contact Us

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