

## PRESS RELEASE



December 13, 2022

Contact: Maria Simon, Public Information Officer  
maria.simon@coronadousd.net

### **Village Elementary Third Graders Celebrate Computer Science Education Week With Coding Lesson From Eric Sailers**

Coronado Unified School District parent Eric Sailers visited his son Levi's classroom to celebrate Computer Science Education Week by teaching a hands-on lesson in computer coding. Levi is a third grader in Holly Sibert's classroom at Village Elementary School.

Sailers is passionate about early exposure to coding. "I really want to engage kids and show teachers how easy it is. By coming into the classroom and doing these lessons I get to expose kids to coding, and introduce it at a young age," he said. Sailers uses the free resources available through Google CS First curriculum, because the lessons are simple, easy to teach, and fun for students.

"Our class is very excited to have Mr. Sailers here," said Sibert, as her students eagerly prepared for the lesson. A few of the students recognized the visitor as 'Levi's dad,' which added to the excitement.

Sailers is a former educator turned app creator who now works as an IOS software developer for Chipotle (he is part of the team that recently rebuilt the Chipotle phone ordering app).

"Actually my career started in education. I was working as a Speech and Language Pathologist for non-verbal students," said Sailers. He was intrigued and impressed with the technology the students were using and he connected with the education technology vendors. "I learned to code and ended up creating my own apps for kids with communication disabilities."

He has since moved to the corporate world, but CUSD is a family affair for the Sailers. Eric's wife Kelly is a History teacher at Coronado Middle School, and their two sons, Levi and Jack, attend Village Elementary (Levi in third grade and Jack in first grade). "I have been doing coding lessons in Levi's class since he was in preschool," said Eric.

Sailers says that, 'Early exposure to coding is definitely an advantage. It's like any language, the earlier you learn it the easier it is to pick up. I didn't learn until I was in my thirties, but I see how easy it is for kids. We code at home with the boys all the time,' he said.

In order to facilitate the lesson, Sailers coordinated with Sibert as well as CUSD's Senior Director of Learning Dr. Megan Battle, Technology TOSA Jennifer Landry, and IT Supervisor Jason Ramos, to make sure the technology part of the lesson was available and accessible in the classroom.

#####

PHOTO: Eric Sailers and his son Levi in Levi's third grade classroom at Village Elementary. Eric is a software developer who creates IOS apps for Chipotle and volunteered to teach computer coding to the class during Computer Science Education Week.

