



John Carruth has worked in the Vail School District since 1995. Starting his career as a special education teacher, his leadership was quickly recognized, and he was asked to move into the role of assistant principal, then Director of Special Education, and finally Associate Superintendent – serving in that role for the last 15 years.

When John began his work as Associate Superintendent, Vail was a small rural district with average academic achievement. As one of the pioneers of Response to Intervention, John and his team completely redesigned Vail’s instructional model. That model, still in use today, is responsible for Vail becoming a consistently top-rated school district.

John Carruth’s spirit of innovation, persistence, and ability to see the big picture have had a huge impact on students in Southern Arizona. John created Vail’s first program for at-risk high school students, helped plan and open the nation’s first 1:1 laptop high school, championed Vail’s model of “high school choice,” allowing any Vail student to attend any of Vail’s five unique high schools, and helped create Beyond Textbooks – a digital instructional playbook that is used by 325 schools in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, New Mexico, and Alaska.

Most importantly, John has been critical in building a culture where collaboration, hard work, and an expectation of excellence are the norm.

John also serves on the Boards of many local charities and non-profit organizations. He lives in Vail with his wife of 26 years and is the proud father of two daughters who both attend the University of Arizona.