New High School Encourages Innovation

What is believed to be the nation’s first high school devoted to entrepreneurship will open Aug. 17, introducing a new style of curriculum designed to foster creativity and ingenuity.

The Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship will offer an exciting course of study that connects students to their passions and provides real-world applications for what they are studying. Students will make choices on their educational direction and learning path.

Ali Morin, 15, is part of the school’s first group of students. She has dreamed of starting a business since she envisioned her own line of hair bows as an elementary student. Her latest idea is to develop a hiking gear company. The School of Entrepreneurship is “a good fit,” Ali said.

“We get to create our own business and meet a new group of friends,” she said.

Students will meet regularly with mentors from the business community and will develop and test new ideas. These ideas will become businesses that students will run their senior year of school.

Students will learn real-world business skills through the traditional course subjects of math, English, social studies, and science and acquire the academic, entrepreneurial and technological skills they will need for college and career.

The school is working closely with leaders in business, higher education and job development to make sure the School of Entrepreneurship supports the region’s need for job-ready, educated workers. The school has already established partnerships with Geekwise Academy, Fresno State’s Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and INCubatoredu.

“Staff and students are excited to start the new year and tackle learning in a way that is meaningful and creative,” said Principal Brett Taylor.

The School of Entrepreneurship will open with 150 10th graders and each year add a new class of 10th graders. Students will attend their freshman year at their regional high school.

The new campus, built with Measure Q funds, is behind Ratcliffe Stadium at Cambridge Avenue and Clark Street. Classrooms reflect the entrepreneurial and innovation focus of the school, featuring walls designed as white boards for writing ideas, and group tables where students project their work from laptops onto high-def video screens and sit in rolling chairs to encourage collaboration.

The two-story school features eight standard classrooms and two incubator lab classrooms where...
This school year, all kindergarten teachers will receive training in dance and music and transitional kindergarten teachers will receive training in visual arts.

The preparation is part of a district-wide effort to weave the arts into English language and math lessons to help students make deeper connections and better understand concepts. The district is making a substantial investment in training teachers, adding more arts staff and purchasing equipment to support the district’s Goal 2: All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.

“I’ve been so proud of the district’s investments to provide arts education for students,” said Allan Kristensen, who recently retired as manager of visual and performing arts. “The arts not only provide pleasurable experiences both in and out of the classroom, but there are also cognitive, social, creative, emotional and brain-based outcomes as well.”

Teacher training is key to creating quality arts experiences for students that align with the state standards for what students should be learning at each grade level.

The effort got a big boost last fall when the U.S. Department of Education awarded the district and the Fresno County Office of Education a $1.3 million Professional Development for Arts Educators grant that will be used for training teachers at 10 elementary schools. The local project is called iACCESS – Integrating the Arts through Common Core to Ensure Student Success.

The “i” refers to the grant’s use of Internet-based technology both in the teacher training and in the assessment of student artwork. After a year of planning and field testing at the school sites, the district and Fresno County Office of Education will begin working with all third and fourth grade teachers at the pilot schools this fall.

The schools will also be using for the first time innovative technology for arts assessment created by the Fresno County Office of Education in collaboration with teachers from the district. The Mobile Arts Assessment Tool (MOBART) allows teachers to use their smart phone or tablet to assess student artwork. The student data is then uploaded to the iACCESS website, where it can be compared to student data from all 10 sites to determine best practices in teaching theater and visual arts skills. The MOBART also connects student data in the arts with achievement in English language arts to determine the benefits of using arts integration as a teaching strategy.

Kimberly Vang (left) and Marcelina Martinez from Homan Elementary School make music as part of a Link Up concert with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra in May. To prepare for the concert, students studied basic music theory, history, and notation.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

District Prepared for Successful School Year

Welcome back!

As summer quickly comes to a close, know that preparations to begin a new school year have been underway since graduation week! School buses will once again roll through neighborhoods, laughter will fill school playgrounds and our teachers will once again focus our students on classroom learning. About six short weeks ago we were just celebrating our more than 3,500 graduates who walked across the stage at their respective schools. I hope that our Fresno Unified students, families, staff and community took time to relax, slow down, and enjoy time with loved ones during the summer.

For our staff, the energy and momentum felt through the end of the 2014/15 school year has fueled our summer work and has set the tone for what I am certain will be a successful 2015/16 school year. A number of teachers and leaders spent time this summer increasing their knowledge around our new K-8 math materials, state standards and early learning initiatives. In our ongoing effort to ensure students have more time with an effective teacher, this year we will have a total of 30 elementary schools providing See Page 15 for Superintendents Message in Spanish and Hmong.

students with 30 additional minutes of instructional time per school day. As I continually point out, this shift will provide students with approximately 18 more days of learning each school year. Due to the Board of Education’s investment to double the spots available in our preschool programs, this can lead to nearly two years of additional instructional time before our students at these schools transition to their middle school years.

Thanks to our community’s support of Measure Q and other investments by our Board of Education, the pools at Hoover and Edison high schools, as well as the Baird Middle School gymnasiar were completed this summer. Along with those projects, this month we will open the doors to our newest high school, the Philip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship at 2000 E. Cambridge Ave., and McLane High School will start the year with a major renovation of 25 classrooms completed. Projects at Bullard High School and Hoover High School continue to take form as they draw closer to completion. These improvement projects have a lasting impact on our community and are reinvigorating our student learning environments. We are also proud to say that with our Measure Q funding, 90% of these tax dollars are remaining local with our contractors and sub-contractors.

Led by the district’s goals, core beliefs and commitments, we continue to provide our youth with a road map of academic learning. It begins with our youngest students and a focus on ensuring all students read at or above grade level by the third grade. We also begin exposure to career options beginning in fourth grade, electives in middle school, and completion of A-G college entrance courses in high school. The path to college and career starts early and Fresno Unified is committed to keeping students in school and on track to graduate every step of the way.

I am also pleased to report that I am looking forward to strengthening our work with State Center Community College District, Fresno State, UC Merced, and Fresno Pacific University to provide the best pathway forward for our students. These paths will include career technical education programs, two-year degrees, or the ability to quickly transfer to a four-year university. Welcome back to Dr. Cynthia E. Azari as President of Fresno City College.

Finally, I ask parents and guardians to have a conversation with your student(s)...

Message from Mayor Ashley Swearengin

City Applauds new Entrepreneurship High School

When the 2015-16 school year begins, Fresno will have what many believe is the nation’s first high school devoted to entrepreneurship. Its students will begin an exciting journey as the first class of the Philip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship. I couldn’t be more pleased for our students and more encouraged for our future.

The opportunities being given these students will only be eclipsed by their passion for success and their vision for what’s possible, in their own careers and in the marketplace as a whole. I experienced the same thing when I took my first class at the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State.

It opened a whole new world of possibilities, where innovation and creativity were linked hand in hand with strategy and application. Eventually, I worked for the Central Valley Business Incubator, a non-profit business and technical assistance program for new Fresno businesses. Those experiences gave me the tools necessary for success.

Having the right tools can make a powerful difference -- which is why the City of Fresno has invested heavily in technology and information. In fact, the Progressive Policy Institute recently identified Fresno as a tech/info leader in the state of California, with a 20% growth rate since 2011. We’re fostering excellence both at City Hall and at Fresno Unified.

It’s encouraging to see the Patiño School of Entrepreneurship working closely with leaders in business and higher education to make sure this program supports the region’s need for job-ready, educated workers. The fact that this school has already established partnerships with other local business training programs proves that Fresno is well on its way to creating one of the best ecosystems for entrepreneurship in the U.S.

It’s a breathtaking era for innovation. The best advice I can give our budding entrepreneurs is simple. Don’t despise small beginnings. Soak everything in because you’re going to need it when you start your own business. Fill those white boards every day. Embrace collaboration both inside and outside the classroom. Think about how exciting it will be when the first graduates of the Patiño School of Entrepreneurship launch their startups. Hopefully, they’ll choose Fresno as the starting point for their endeavors.

See SUPT. MESSAGE Continued on page 15
It's All Business for Duncan Student Aspiring to Open Teen Night Club

Duncan Polytechnical High School senior Omar Barriga will travel to New York in October to see how his business plan for a teen night club stacks up against business proposals from other young entrepreneurs.

Omar, 17, is so confident in his idea that he is making plans to actually open New Generations Teen Night Club in 2016.

“I’ve surveyed teens and parents, and they all feel like a teen night club would work. Kids wouldn’t have to go to house parties. It’s a safer environment,” Omar said.

Omar is among a growing number of Fresno Unified students gaining real-world experience by researching and developing business plans, then taking those proposals into competition against students from across the country through the Network of Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Last spring, Omar won first place in the regional NFTE business plan competition at the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State, competing against students from surrounding school districts.

He won $250 for the classroom competition portion and another $500 for the regional portion, and advances to the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in New York in October.

Omar is part of the Small Business Management career pathway class offered at Duncan. His business teacher is Karen Lopez.

“Omar researched, planned, and communicated his business idea extremely well,” Lopez said. “He proved that the opportunity is huge in Fresno for a safe, fun place for teens and demonstrated how he would do it.”

Lopez described Omar as an avid listener and learner who sought out advice not only in the classroom and at Duncan, but from community members and successful business owners: “I don’t need to push him. He truly wants to be a successful young entrepreneur.”

Omar began researching ideas for his business plan as a sophomore, first focusing on a clothing line then ultimately deciding that what Fresno really needs is a teens-only night club.

As part of his Small Business class at Duncan, Omar researched his target market and its buying power and the average incomes in the area. He created a business plan to support his night club’s goal to “provide a safe, exciting, and fun environment where teens can meet and have a good time.”

He has taken his idea beyond a PowerPoint. He is contemplating three possible commercial buildings to house his teen club and is working with potential investors -- his parents.

And if opening the night club in Fresno isn’t enterprising enough, Omar plans to move to San Diego and expand his business there while attending San Diego State.

“He has a true vision to start up and grow his company and is setting goals and taking steps to actually make it happen,” Lopez said.
Parents Invited to Register Children for Preschool

The new school year is just around the corner, and Fresno Unified families with preschool age children are encouraged to register their students for one of the high-quality prekindergarten classes available throughout the district.

The district also continues to register young learners for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. Enrolling students prior to the first day of school on Aug. 17 makes the transition far easier for the student and helps schools plan for an accurate number of students.

**Prekindergarten**

Prekindergarten (preschool) is for students who turn 4 by Dec. 2. Morning and afternoon classes are offered at most elementary schools. Teachers focus on early literacy and math concepts as well as visual arts. Fresno Unified prekindergarten is free.

Families with questions should call the Early Learning Department at (559) 457-3682 or (559) 457-3803.

**Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten**

Transitional kindergarten is for students who turn 5 by Dec. 2. TK provides opportunities for social-emotional and language development as well as basic mathematics and literacy concepts. After year one, transitional kindergartners progress into a traditional kindergarten classroom for year two.

Kindergarten is open to all children who turn 5 by Sept. 1.

For questions about TK or kindergartens, families should call their neighborhood school or the Early Learning Department at (559) 457-4573 or (559) 457-3803.

See **PRESCHOOL**  
Continued on page 12

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**Checklist for Parents: Ideas to Start the New School Year Strong**

- Make sure your student is enrolled at a school and the necessary paperwork is completed (see Parents/How to Enroll at www.fresnounified.org)
- Make sure necessary immunizations are complete
- Save the 2015-16 district calendar on page 13 or print out from www.fresnounified.org Schools/School Calendars
- Review the start and dismissal times for your student’s school
- Read up on the student dress code (under Students at www.fresnounified.org)

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Sadie Lujan, a preschool student at Malloch Elementary School last year, is getting a head start on reading and will be well-prepared for kindergarten this year.
**Teacher of the Year Finalist Makes Personal Connections with Students**

Angela Dryden has taught in the district for seven years and was a finalist for Fresno Unified Elementary Teacher of the Year for her work as a special education teacher at Heaton Elementary School. She joins the staff of Winchell Elementary School this academic year as a K-6 intervention coordinator.

Tell us about your journey to being a special education teacher.

After four years of teaching elementary general education, I decided to diversify my skills and add an Education Specialist credential. Never in my life did I think that this path would’ve been for me, but I felt a calling to travel down this road and to see what it had in store. After experiencing the rewards from working with our students with a wide range of exceptionalities, I have found my niche in education.

What’s the most difficult part about getting ready for a new school year?

This year, the most difficult part for next school year will be settling into my new site and position at Winchell Elementary School. I have much to learn about the staff, children and procedures of a new site.

What’s your favorite part about getting ready for a new school year?

I have always loved school, both as a student and an educator. I love the back to school excitement that the kids bring every fall. For me, it’s energizing! I am equally as excited to meet new students that I will work with as students are about meeting their new teacher.

What works best to motivate students?

In my experience, a personal connection is the key to motivating students. In any way possible, I work to connect with students to create a trusting relationship that we can build on. Once my students know that I am not here to make their day harder, but rather to build them up, make them more successful than the day before and provide a safe place to learn they respond positively to my challenges and redirection when needed.

What’s one thing most people don’t know about you?

I have a weird thing where I can impersonate people. I unconsciously pay extra attention to the way people speak and their mannerisms. But I can’t do it on the spot; the impersonations just come out at weird times.

If you were not a teacher, what career would you choose?

My dream career would be photographer. I love taking pictures of my kids, my students and nature. It’s something I have always loved to do.

Who knew? Teacher Angela Dryden would love to be a professional photographer.

What is your dream vacation?

For now, my dream vacation would be somewhere tropical with my husband. We have both been to Hawaii, but never together. It’s definitely time for us to take this trip!

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**Plant Coordinator, Avid Cyclist Goes the Distance for Students**

Donald Juvet, a finalist for Fresno Unified Classified Employee of the Year, has been a welcoming presence at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School for nearly 30 years. Principal Angela Balliet says of Juvet: “Donnie makes a point of connecting with students, especially those who need extra adult attention, to make sure they know they are important and cared for.”

What was your path to becoming a plant coordinator at Powers-Ginsburg?

I worked for 25 years as a night custodian and learned a lot from so many individuals in the past, such as principals, teachers, plant coordinators and so many other staff members.

What will you do over the summer to prepare your school for a new year?

I have an incredible team of custodians that I will be working with and we will be moving classrooms, scrubbing, waxing, shampooing floors, as well as cleaning furniture and keeping the outside campus looking clean and neat.

What’s the hardest part about getting ready for a new school year?

Coordinating all the different tasks that need to be done in a short time frame and surviving the heat.

What’s the best part about the first day of school?

It’s seeing the students so excited about the new school year and the plethora of high fives I receive from them.

What do you want people to know about being a plant coordinator?

It is a very fulfilling position because I have the privilege to interact with just about everyone on campus everyday.

You have been at Powers-Ginsburg for 29 years. What changes have you seen?

The biggest change would have to be the inclusion of special needs students into the Powers classrooms. Before, Ginsburg was strictly for special needs students and now most students learn together. It has been inspirational to see the kindness and the adaptive behavior of kids.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/donjuvet


See EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Continued on page 7
It really bothers me when:
People assume that not a lot goes into being a plant coordinator or custodian.
You go out of your way to connect with students. What motivates you to do this?
If I can provide a smile, a high five or a kind word that makes a difference that day to a child then that is my motivation.
If you had to choose another career, what would it be?
It would definitely be in the tech field.

The Art of Summer School

Trayvon King works on a project during a summer school art class at Sunnyside High School. Trayvon was among the more than 12,400 students who participated in the district’s Extended Summer Learning Program.

Main number (559) 457-3000
Transfers Office (559) 248-7538
Immunizations (559) 457-3294
Preschool (559) 457-3682 or (559) 457-3803
PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT: Duncan Offers Medical and Design/Technology Courses to Prepare Students for College and Career

At Duncan Polytechnical High School, students can take a series of classes in the medical or design/technology fields and graduate with job-ready skills and a head start on their college studies. The courses are available through linked learning pathways at Duncan known as MASH -- Medical Academy of Science and Health -- and IDATA -- Innovative Design and Applied Technology Academy (IDATA). This school year will be the second year for both.

The two course pathways are among the 17 linked learning pathways offered at high schools across the district as Fresno Unified continues to bolster efforts to prepare students for the real world of work. Linked learning provides technical courses integrated with rigorous academics, and combines career-based learning and real-world experiences to make daily learning relevant.

Cohort scheduling of academic and technical courses in support of industry and state standards provides an integrated approach to instruction. The district continues to offer career technical education (CTE) elective courses in addition to Regional Occupation Programs and California Partnership Academies.

“Our linked learning pathways prepare students for a wide variety of post-secondary options. Students leave Duncan with skills and certifications that enable them to obtain good paying jobs, if they desire, right out of high school,” said Katie Navarrette, Duncan pathway coordinator. “For students who seek more education, linked learning pathways build a strong foundation for the next step in their studies. Many of the programs and certifications we offer are unique to Duncan.”

Duncan’s MASH academy prepares students for careers in medicine while developing skills in science, analytical

One of the Board of Education’s goals is that “all students will stay in school on target to graduate.” In addition to the tireless work of our staff, teachers, and administrators, Fresno Unified partners with numerous community stakeholders to ensure students stay on track.

The Board Sustainability Sub-Committee values the partnerships with various stakeholders, including higher education institutions that help us prepare our students for success day one at their next step after high school. This means effectively implementing the equity and access principle: All students are given equal opportunity to graduate having the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

In practice, the equity and access principle is a call to action reflected in the board’s core belief that “every student can and must learn at grade level and beyond.” This means that Fresno Unified students not only graduate but they will graduate ready to perform at grade level. For our graduates, this translates into students being ready for college level work the first day that they arrive on their respective campuses and not requiring remediation. In order to effectively support our students, we built partnerships with institutions of higher learning.

One of our most meaningful partnerships is with Fresno City College (FCC). Through a variety of programs, FCC has provided critical support in our efforts to keep students on track for graduation and prepare them to make the move to higher education.

**Upward Bound**

Making the decision to pursue higher education can be tough, especially if a person struggles economically and has never had a family member attend college -- a difficult situation many of our students face. Fresno City College helps students who meet this criteria through the Upward Bound program, targeting students at Edison, Fresno, Hoover, McLane, and Roosevelt high schools. During the school year, Upward Bound services include after-school tutoring, study skills development, academic advising, cultural activities, motivational and cultural speakers, career development, financial aid workshops and advising, college admissions workshops and assistance, field trips to college campuses, and education travel. During the summer, the program offers educational, cultural and recreational field trips, classes in math, science, English and career exploration, and summer job shadowing.

**High School Enrichment Program**

Fresno City College offers the High School Enrichment Program, designed to provide eligible 11th and 12th grade students with an opportunity for advanced scholastic or vocational college level coursework and earn community college credit at FCC while still attending high school.

**Additional Support**

In addition to these excellent programs, Fresno City College has also invested heavily to ensure our students succeed. For example, they’ve increased the number of counselors going out to school sites to support enrollment into financial aid and universities. High school juniors and seniors also have the opportunity to visit Fresno City College’s career and technical education programs. FCC has also expanded its Summer Bridge Program to accommodate more Fresno Unified students.

It is important to note that all of this work is being done to support the district’s definition of career readiness which is: A career-ready graduate is a student who has all possible options available to them upon graduation from Fresno Unified School District. This student has a strong academic foundation, has completed required courses, and has acquired the workplace skills and competencies necessary for success after high school.

**The Board Sustainability Sub-Committee engages civic partners, provides an “on boarding” process for potential board members, and identifies additional board policy work to accelerate student achievement and engage community stakeholders.**
All Fresno Unified Employees will Gather to Kick Off New Year

More than 10,000 Fresno Unified employees are expected to gather under one roof at Fresno State’s Save Mart Center Aug. 12 to kick off the 2015-16 school year with Convocation 2015.

The keynote speaker this year is David Coleman, chief executive officer of the College Board. In his role with the College Board, Coleman is leading a redesign in SAT and ACT assessments and expanding access to college for minority and low income students.

He led the charge on the College Board’s newly-formed partnership with Khan Academy that will give every student in the country access to free test preparation resources. This will do much to support Fresno Unified’s mission of equity and access with Khan Academy that will give all students who simply cannot afford them.

Coleman’s work is led by his belief in providing opportunities for all students and his deep desire to support youth throughout the country in reaching their goals.

Fresno Unified’s Convocation -- the only time throughout the year that all employees gather in one place -- is a high-energy event that sets the tone for the year, reminding all employees of the tremendous role they play in developing career-ready graduates and strengthening the larger community. This is the third annual Convocation.

School staff will be seated by high school regions, and will have plenty of opportunity to express school and regional spirit. This year’s event will also include special entertainment and inspirational videos that highlight the importance of building relationships.

The event is funded by donations from community sponsors, including the Educational Employees Credit Union; Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Association of California School Administrators; Kaiser-Permanente Fresno; and Lang, Richert & Patch.

New on Menu for Students

Students at Rowell Elementary School enjoy a healthy lunch last spring. The district has new lunch items on the menu this academic year, including teriyaki beef and rice.

Egg and low-fat chorizo breakfast wrap sound good? How about teriyaki beef over steamed brown and white rice?

Students in Fresno Unified will get to try out these and other new menu items this school year as the district’s Food Services Department continues to come up with delicious and nutritious menu items.

Offering new twists to school lunches is part of ongoing efforts to break down a barrier to student learning: hunger. If students have not eaten, they may have trouble focusing in the classroom. Providing healthy breakfast and lunch on campus at no charge supports the district’s efforts to eliminate roadblocks to students’ academic success.

This year, along with the breakfast wrap and teriyaki beef, new menu items include whole grain French toast for breakfast, whole grain French toast breakfast bar, breaded pork patty served with mashed potatoes and gravy, and pork Rib-B-Que sandwich on a whole grain hoagie roll.

The district will continue to serve local fruits and vegetables, including peaches, plums, pluots, grapes, nectarines, baby carrots, broccoli, cucumber coins, and orange wedges.

Linked Learning Pathways

- **Bullard High School**: Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology; Biomedicine
- **Duncan Polytechnical High School**: Medical Academy of Science and Health; Innovative Design and Applied Technology
- **Edison High School**: Biomedical Science and Technology
- **Fresno High School**: Warrior IDEA: Innovative Design and Engineering Academy; Marketing Academy
- **Hoover High School**: Public Safety Academy; Eco Technology
- **McLane High School**: Educational Careers Academy; Academy of Finance and Entrepreneurship
- **Phillip J. Patino School of Entrepreneurship**: Entrepreneurship
- **Roosevelt High School**: Teacher Academy; Cultivating Educational Careers; Health Academy
- **Sunnyside High School**: Agriscience and Technology; Multimedia and Marketing; Heath Services

High schools and middle schools also offer an additional array of career pathways and academies. Check high school course catalogues for more information.
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Continued from page 1

Students will create their own companies. Some classrooms are designed as team-teaching rooms, oversized to accommodate multi-disciplined learning in English and social studies.

**New High School Named for Longtime Educator**

Fresno Unified’s newest high school was named the Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship by the Fresno Unified Board of Education on May 27. Patiño was a longtime teacher and administrator who worked at Hoover, Bullard and McLane high schools, Webster and Calwa elementary schools, and Sequoia, Hamilton and Kings Canyon middle schools before his retirement in 1991. He founded the annual Si Se Puede Hispanic conference, a Fresno State program to inspire young Latino males.

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**Attention: The Fresno Unified Board of Education recently approved the following board policies:**

- BP 0420.4 Charter School Authorization
- BP 0420.41 Charter School Oversight (NEW)
- BP 0420.42 Charter School Renewal
- BP 0420.43 Charter School Revocation
- BP 1240 Volunteer Assistance
- BP 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures
- BP 5131.2 Anti-Bullying
- BP 5131.62 Tobacco
- BP 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
- BP 5141.21 Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions
- BP 5144 Discipline
- BP 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
- BP 5144.4 Required Parental Attendance (NEW)
- BP 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment
- BP 5145.7 Sexual Harassment
- BP 6142.7 Physical Education And Activity
- BP 6143 Courses of Study
- BP 6163.1 Library Media Centers
- BP 6170 Transitional Kindergarten

These updated policies can be found online at: http://www.fresnounified.org/board/policies/Pages/default.aspx. For additional information: (559) 457-3736.
Students and staff return to school later this month to big changes on several campuses, thanks to continued Measure Q funding for major projects throughout the district.

At McLane High School, a new academic building is ready for use, featuring 15 classrooms and five computer labs, while the brand-new Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship opens its doors to 10th grade students for the first time.

At Baird Middle School, the campus will for the first time have a gym for basketball, volleyball, and other sports, as well as school events. And at Edison and Hoover high schools, new pools are ready for students.

The Hoover, Baird, McLane and Patiño projects are among $175 million in Measure Q projects completed or underway throughout the district following the community's overwhelming support for the bond measure in November 2010. Measure Q is providing better teaching and learning environments, a boost to the local economy, and reinvestment in Fresno neighborhoods.

**Hoover High Pool**

The new $5.5 million pool complex at Hoover High will provide not only a high-quality venue for competitive aquatics, but will feature access for users with special needs that will be unmatched in the Valley.

Hoover’s new 38-meter pool includes an extended three-meter ramp allowing mobile devices to roll directly into the pool, lanes for swimmers with special needs, and changing and restroom facilities with a higher level of accessibility.

The pool complex also includes access to the varsity softball complex, an expanded visitor area for swimming events and a snack bar area that can benefit all sporting events on the north side of the campus.

“We are so excited about our Hoover pool,” said Michele Carmichael, a functional skills teacher at Hoover and head aquatics coach for Special Olympics in the Fresno area. “We have always been about inclusion through educational opportunities, so this pool is only an extension of Hoover’s philosophy of inclusion.”

With completion of the pool, Carmichael said Hoover will be able to host the Northern California Special Olympics Central Valley swim meet, expand swimming opportunities and swim lessons for Special Olympians, and provide a training facility for coaches who will be working with Special Olympics athletes.

**Baird Gym**

Baird’s new gym will accommodate basketball and volleyball, and also features striping for badminton courts and bleacher seating to accommodate 130. The project includes girls and boys locker rooms, athletic coaches office, storage, janitorial rooms and a

See MEASURE Q Continued on page 14
Physician Urges Parents to Keep Kids' Screen Time to a Minimum

As summer break comes to an end, many are gearing up for the new school year by purchasing school supplies, reconnecting with classmates and preparing for the busyness of homework and school activities.

But with all of the hustle and bustle a new school year brings, it's also an opportunity to set some important goals for the coming year. One to consider is limiting the amount of time your children spend in front of the television, video games, tablets and cell phones.

"Screen time" has become quite a distraction for many children, and for some, it's even limiting the amount of time they spend with family and friends, talking, reading or enjoying special activities. While the advancement in technology is making so much of our lives easier and more efficient, it also can lead to some serious health risks.

Studies have shown that too much screen time can be linked to violent behavior, poor grades in school, lower reading scores, less sleep, weight gain, unhealthy eating habits and even smoking and alcohol abuse later in life.

As a pediatrician, I often have discussions with parents about the amount of time their children are spending on tablets, playing video games, watching YouTube videos or texting and playing games on their phones. For some children, time with these devices become excessive and addictive and for parents it can be a battle to get children to put the devices away.

At Kaiser Permanente, we support the recommendation of The American Academy of Pediatrics to limit screen time to less than two hours a day. For children under the age of two, we recommend no screen time at all, even though toddlers are getting savvier with these devices.

Children's brains at this young age are still developing and they need to be interacting with people, not screens.

So how do you limit screen time?

There are some simple things you can do to minimize the amount of time your children spend on their devices:

- Turn off the television during meal times and keep the cell phones away from the table. This encourages everyone to eat and to talk about their day, so you are taking the time to interact and connect as a family.
- Keep computers, televisions and video game consoles out of your child's bedroom and take cell phones, tablets and iPods out of their bedrooms at night. The bright lights of the electronics can signal to the brain that it is time to be awake and can disrupt sleep and wake cycles.
- Model good behavior. It's hard to keep your children off of these devices when you aren't doing the same. Limit the amount of time you spend on your phone responding to e-mails or taking calls in the evening. Demonstrate to your children that you are capable of shutting off the electronics, and they are more likely to do the same.
- Limiting screen time for your children, and even yourself, can free up more time for pursuing healthy activities together. Exercise as a family by taking walks after dinner. Ride your bikes to the local park. Play sports or board a game together. Encourage your children to read a book, write a story, draw or create an art project.

If you do have a toddler or preschooler who you need to occupy for a bit, try setting up a kitchen play station with plastic containers, wooden spoons, or other safe household materials or toys. Another idea is to let them create simple art projects using household materials, like toilet paper rolls, fabric scraps, cereal cartons, yogurt containers and lids. Put their creativity to work!

For older children, encourage them to help you plan and make healthy meals for lunches or dinners. They can also help with setting the table, clearing plates or writing grocery lists. Recorded storybooks are another great option -- check out the local library to see if they have some available.

If your children and teenagers do spend a lot of time using electronics and cell phones, you may have to reduce the amount of time they spend on them gradually. But setting limits now will only benefit them moving forward and keep them healthy, engaged and productive during the coming school year.

For more information on ways to keep your child healthy and active visit: kp.org/fresno

By Daniel Casey Gray, MD
Kaiser Permanente Fresno Pediatrician

PRESCCHOOL
Continued from page 5

Department at (559) 457-3682 or (559) 457-3803. For parents unsure where their child will be attending, call (559) 457-3351. For children currently receiving special education services, contact Fresno Unified’s Special Education department at (559) 457-3220.

Se Invita a los Padres a Inscribir a sus Niños para Preescolar, TK y Kindergarten

El nuevo año escolar está a la vuelta de la esquina y se anima a las familias de Fresno Unificado que tienen niños de edad escolar a inscribir a sus estudiantes en una de las clases pre-kinder-garten de alta calidad disponibles en todo el distrito.

El distrito también continúa inscribiendo a jóvenes pequeños aprendices para kindergarten transicional y kindergarten. Inscribir a los estudiantes antes del 17 de agosto, primer día de clase hace la transición más fácil para el estudiante y ayuda a las escuelas a planear para la cantidad precisa de estudiantes.

Prekindergarten

Prekindergarten (preescolar) es para los estudiantes que cumplen 4 años de edad para el 2 de diciembre. Se ofrecen clases en la mañana y en la tarde en la mayoría de las escuelas. Los maestros se enfocan en alfabetización temprana y conceptos de matemáticas así como también en artes visuales. Prekindergarten es gratuito en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno.

Las familias que tienen preguntas deben llamar al Departamento de Aprendizaje Temprano al (559) 457-3682 ó (559) 457-3803.

Kindergarten Transicional y Kindergarten

Kindergarten Transicional es para estudiantes que cumplen 5 años para el 2 de diciembre. TK provee oportunidades sociales/emoionales y desarrollo de lenguaje así como también matemáticas básicas y conceptos de alfabetización. Después del primer año los estudiantes de kindergarten transicional pasan al salón de clase de kindergarten tradicional para el segundo año.

La clase de Kindergarten está abierta para todos los niños que cumplen 5 años para el 1ro de septiembre.

Para preguntas acerca de TK o kindergarten, las familias deben llamar a la escuela de su vecindario o al Departamento de Aprendizaje Temprano al (559) 457-3682 ó (559) 457-3803. Para los padres que no están seguros donde asistirá su niño(a), llamar al (559) 457-3351. Para los niños que actualmente reciben servicios de educación especial, llamar al departamento de Educación Especial de Fresno Unificado al (559) 457-3220.

Tej Niam Txiv Raug Caw tuaj Cuv Npe Cov Me Nyuam rau Preschool, TK thiab Kindergarten

Lub xyoo kawn ntawv tshiab los ze ze ntawm kaum kev lawm, thiab Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawn Ntawv tej yim tev neeg muaj tej me nyuam yaus hnub nyoog kawn preschool raug txhawb kom tuaj cuv npe laww tej tub kawn ntaww rau ib qho ntawm cov chav kawn zoo heev muaj thoob plaws hauv paus tev kawn ntaww.

Hauv paus tev kawn ntaww teem cuv

See PRESCHOOL
Continued on page 13
FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR
SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

JULY, 2015

Black figures denote days school will be in session
Red figures denote non-student days when school will not be in session

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

HOLIDAY
INSTITUTE DAY
BUYBACK DAY
CAHSEE AP TESTING
STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOW

AUGUST, 2015

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

District BuyBack Days: August 12, 2015 and November 2, 2015
Board approved February 26, 2014

INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

SEPTEMBER, 2015

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

INSTITUTE DAY
Cahsee AP Testing
Standardized Testing Window

OCTOBER, 2015

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

HOLiDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED Personnel

NOVEMBER, 2015

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

December 18...Period 2 ends (43 days)
January 18...Period 3 ends (46 days)
March 18...Period 4 ends (52 days)

DECEMBER, 2015

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

FEBRUARY, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

MARCH, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

APRIL, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

MAY, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

JUNE, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

JULY, 2016

S M T W T FS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days.
2 Institute Days: August 13 & 14, 2015
3 District BuyBack Days: August 12, 2015; November 2, 2015; February 1, 2016

END OF SEMESTER DATES
Elementary & Secondary
Dec. 18 (82 days)
June 9 (98 days)

Standardized Testing Window
High School
April 11-May 20

Visit us on the web:
www.fresnounified.org

Board approved February 26, 2014
STUDENT COLUMN

Duncan Polytechnical President Anticipates Rewarding School Year

Fresno Unified students will enter the 2015-16 school year with determination and assurance that will guide them through the upcoming academic year.

Student leaders from the district have some exciting news. Our Student Advisory Board (SAB) group will travel to Los Angeles Aug. 7-9 to be recognized at the NO BULL Teen Video Awards for our Human Element kindness campaign public service announcement video. For the second year in a row, our video was selected as one of the top 15 pro-kindness/bullying prevention videos from throughout the nation.

This video, produced by SAB members, continues to impact our school sites with the message of kindness. This achievement has allowed us to spread the Human Element nationwide and has also motivated us to continue this great work.

On a personal level, the 2015-16 school year will be a busy yet exciting year, with multiple learning opportunities. As ASB president of Duncan Polytechnical High School, I am very excited for this upcoming school year of change and innovation at our school and our district.

The Human Element continues to grow within our district as we attempt to implement human kindness on all of our campuses. The Human Element is unifying our school sites to stand up against bullying on our campuses. I have also had the pleasure to work alongside with my campus culture director, Mr. Curtis Bruno, who has changed our campus into what it is today.

MEASURE Q
Continued from page 11

Office space, and a large PE equipment storage area.

The building also features two classrooms separated by a retractable accordion partition wall that allows for the creation of a single, large multi-use area with a full length mirrored wall. The project at Baird also includes an overhaul to the existing baseball, softball and grass playfield areas, and a new parking area to accommodate additional staff parking and student drop-off/pick up.

McLane Academic Building

At McLane a three-story academic building with 15 classrooms has been built adjacent to an existing two-story building, where 10 classrooms were refurbished. The new building also features five computer labs. With construction of the new building, the campus will be able to remove 16 portable classrooms.

Other Measure Q projects around the district:

- Ongoing work at Bullard High School on a new academic building.
- Heating/air conditioning system upgrades underway at several schools.
- Modernization at Addicott Elementary School.
- New classrooms to replace portable classrooms at Figarden Elementary School.
- New kindergarten/preschool building to replace portables at Robinson Elementary School.
- New classrooms to replace portables at Turner Elementary School.

By Arturo Correa
Duncan High School
ASB President

Immunizations

Immunizations are Required for Pre-K, TK, and Kindergarten Entry and Tdap for Seventh Grade

- No appointment required
- Free for Medi-Cal, uninsured, or income eligible
- For private insurance, please see your health care provider
- Tdap vaccine free for all Fresno Unified seventh grade students
- Parent must accompany student and bring current immunization record
- Must bring current Medi-Cal card if your child has Medi-Cal insurance

Call (559) 457-3294 for locations and times of clinics

Watermelon, Arugula, and Pine Nut Salad

Makes 6 servings

3 cups seeded watermelon, cubed into bite-sized pieces
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
½ teaspoon salt or to taste
6 cups arugula
¼ cup pine nuts
½ cup crumbled feta cheese
Coarsely ground black pepper to taste

Drain cubed watermelon in a colander. In a large bowl, mix lemon juice, olive oil, vinegar, and salt, then toss in watermelon, arugula, and pine nuts. Sprinkle with cheese and black pepper.

Visit our Fresno Medical Center Farmers Market
7300 N. Fresno St., Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

kp.org/fresno KAIser PERMANENTE. thrive
Michael Hanson
Fresno Unified
Superintendent

SUPT. MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

and encourage them to start the school year off on a positive note. Attendance at school matters greatly, and is essential in our pre-school and K-3 grade years. Please keep the dialogue open throughout the school year so students are comfortable seeking support or when they encounter a struggle. Utilize district tools like EduText and the ATLAS Parent Portal to stay informed and engaged with your student’s attendance and academic progress. To gratify the communities that will see the youth of Fresno Unified cross the graduation stage and become active contributors to our great city. Welcome back to the 2015-16 school year!

Mensaje del SUPERINTENDENTE

¡Bienvenidos!

¡Mientras que termina el verano, sepan que las preparaciones para iniciar el nuevo año escolar se han estado llevando a cabo desde la semana de graduaciones! Una vez más, los autobuses escolares rodarán por todos los vecindarios, rutas llenarán las áreas de juegos en la escuela y nuestros maestros una vez más se enfocarán en el aprendizaje del salón de clase. Hace más o menos seis semanas estuvimos celebrando a más de 3,500 de nuestros graduados, quienes caminaron por el escenario de sus respectivas escuelas. Espero que nuestros estudiantes, familias, personal y comunidad del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno hayan tomado tiempo para reflexionar, con lentitud y disfrutar del tiempo con sus seres queridos durante el verano.

Para nuestro personal, la energía y el impetu que se sintió durante el final del año escolar 2014/15, ha alimentado nuestro trabajo de verano y ha establecido la armonía y tengo la certeza de que será un año escolar 2015/16 exitoso. Varios maestros y líderes pasaron tiempo este verano aumentando su conocimiento en relación a nuestros materiales nuevos de matemáticas para K-8, estándares estatales e iniciativas de aprendizaje temprana. En nuestro esfuerzo continuo para asegurar que los estudiantes pasen más tiempo con un maestro(a) eficaz, este año tendremos 25 de nuevos salones de clase terminados. Los proyectos de las Preparatorias Bullard y Hoover continúan tomando forma y están próximos a finalizar. Estos proyectos de mejora que se están haciendo en nuestras escuelas permiten que nuestro tiempo de instrucción adicional por un maestro(a) eficaz, este año tendremos cas para K-8, estándares estatales e incrementando su conocimiento en relación a trabajo de verano y ha establecido la arquitectura que se sintió durante el final del año escolar es muy importante y es esencial desde nuestra preescolar y kindergarden hasta tercero grado. Por favor, mantengan el dialogo abierto durante todo el año escolar para que los estudiantes se mantengan cómodos buscando ayuda si, o cuando se encuentran en problemas. Use las herramientas del distrito como Menus de Texto (EduText) y ATLAS Portal de Padres para seguir involucrado con la asistencia y progreso académico de su estudiante. Juntos podemos y veremos a los jóvenes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno cruzar el escenario de graduación y convertirse en colaboradores activos de nuestra gran ciudad. ¡Bienvenidos al año escolar 2015-16!

Thajw Coj Tsev Kawm Ntawv Cov Lus Tshaj Tawm

Zoo Siab Txais Tos Sawv Daww Dovs Rov Qab Tual


Healthy Minute

Take a Minute for Your Health

Preventive Care & Immunizations

How healthy you'll be in coming years can be predicted by your number of risk factors for disease. Having one risk factor doesn't necessarily doom you to poor health, but your odds increase dramatically when several risks are combined. For example, high cholesterol increases the likelihood of developing heart disease. People who smoke, have high cholesterol and high blood pressure dramatically increase their risk for heart attack.

Your disease risk is determined by factors that fall into these three categories: 1) Medical indicators, 2) Lifestyle behaviors, and 3) Environmental conditions. No matter how many years you've practiced bad habits and no matter your age, you can make a fresh start and improve your health.

- Information from Claremont EAP Personal Advantage.

$0 Preventive Health Services Available to You & Your Family

Your health is your most important gift and your most important asset. The Joint Health Management Board (JHMB) is committed to making sure you have resources and information to stay healthy and take the steps necessary to protect your most valuable resource.

Under the Affordable Care Act, there are numerous annual screenings, immunizations, and counseling services that you can receive for free – as long as the services are delivered by a network provider. That means no deductible, no copay, and no coinsurance.

These free preventive care services include annual physical exams, eye exams, family planning counseling, hearing exams, immunizations, prenatal care exams, STD prevention counseling, TB tests, well-women and well-child exams, and much more. For more information, visit JHMBHealthConnect.com/preventive-care-services.

Sign Up For a Flu Shot This Fall

This fall, the WellPATH program is partnering with Kaiser Permanente to offer free flu shot clinics at sites throughout the District. The vaccine is free and available for employees with district medical insurance, covered spouses, dependent children age 18+, domestic partners, early retirees (defined as a retired individual under age 65 and not eligible for Medicare), and retirees (age 65+). Registrants must present district-issued medical ID card.

Spots fill up quickly, so schedule your appointment soon. For more information and to schedule your appointment this fall, visit the District's Joint Health Management Board website at JHMBHealthConnect.com/wellpath.

WellPATH seeks to foster a healthy work environment and engage Fresno Unified School District employees in their health and well-being. Participation in program activities is open to active employees, spouses, domestic partners, dependent children age 18+, early retirees, and retirees covered under the District’s health benefit plan.

Computer Loans

as low as 3% APR*

Start the School Year Right with a New Computer!

- Payments as low as $20 per month
- Loan amount between $500 and $2,500
- Convenient payment options
- Ideal for students

*Special rate effective 5/1/15 - 9/30/15. Rates are subject to change without notice. Must qualify for membership.
Payment example: a 60-month loan at 3% APR would have an estimated monthly payment of $17.97 per $1,000 borrowed.

www.FresnoUnified.org