BACK TO SCHOOL
District Launches New Programs and Initiatives for 2017-18

Fresno Unified will launch the new academic year Aug. 14 with new and expanded programs and initiatives to support academic success for all students.

Changes will include:
- Expanded library tutoring at all elementary schools
- Health services at all school sites
- Nearly $1 million to close the achievement gap for African-American students
- Dual immersion Hmong language curriculum
- Funding for an all compressed natural gas bus fleet
- Launching the district’s first online school (see page 2)

The Fresno Unified Board of Education approved the investments during budget discussions last June. The new and additional academic programming will ensure the district’s 74,000 students continue to set record graduation and college going rates.

“These additional investments will impact every school in the district, all of our district goals and especially some of our most disadvantaged students, including our English learners and our students with special needs,” said Interim Superintendent Bob Nelson. “These investments not only support our students’ academic needs, but their social and emotional needs as well.”

Some investments are one-time commitments and others will be honored for years to come. The improvements will enhance schools in every region of the district in a variety of ways.

To provide additional academic help to students, $2.3 million has been allocated for math and English tutoring in elementary school libraries by library technicians. Elementary school libraries will remain open until 4 p.m.

To boost the health of students, $4.6 million will allow expansion of health services to hire more nurses and licensed vocational nurses and open more school-based clinics. The goal is to staff all schools with a health professional full time to better serve students’ health needs.

The district has set aside $900,000 for additional programs for African-American students to help close the learning gap.

Following in the path of a successful dual

See BUDGET INVESTMENTS
Continued on page 5
Fresno Unified Launches eLearn Academy Online School

Fresno Unified will launch the district’s first online school with the start of the 2017-18 academic year, offering students an alternative path to graduation.

The eLearn Academy will offer:
- Grades 7-12 program with flexible attendance options depending on student needs and program requirements
- On-site program for a grades 7-9 cohort
- Single courses for students who want to accelerate their learning through advanced courses while remaining at their home campus
- Site-based online classes

The first step for a student interested in the new program is to meet with their school counselor. eLearn Academy will hold regular informational meetings. Meetings will be held at the academy at 822 N. Abby St.: Aug. 1, 4 p.m.; Aug. 3, 5 p.m.; Aug. 7, 4 p.m.; Aug. 9, 5 p.m.; Aug. 15, 10 a.m.; Aug. 16, 1 p.m.; and Aug. 17, 5 p.m.

eLearn Academy will offer a full four years of digital curriculum. The courses meet A-G requirements for the University of California and California State University systems. The district will also offer dual enrollment (high school and college credit for the same course).

Credentialed teachers are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for chat through email or phone. Appointments are available for help outside those times and days.

The typical student works at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at home (or elsewhere) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Some students may work fewer hours on-site and some may work more depending upon a variety of factors.

Online learning may be an attractive option for students with outside interests that require them to be away from Fresno, or for students who prefer a small-school experience.

El Distrito Abre la Primera Escuela en Línea (Internet)

Cambridge High School students complete online assignments through the Apex program, which allows students to work at their own speed to get caught up on missing class credits. Fresno Unified is launching a districtwide online school in August.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno lanzará la primera escuela en línea (internet) iniciando el ciclo académico 2017-18, ofreciendo a los estudiantes un camino alternativo para graduarse.

La Academia eLearn ofrecerá:
- Programa cohorte en la escuela para los estudiantes de 7mo al 9no grado
- Cursos individuales para los estudiantes que desean acelerar su aprendizaje a través de cursos avanzados mientras permanecen en el plantel de su vecindario.
- Clases basadas en línea (internet) en la escuela.

El primer paso para el estudiante interesado en el nuevo programa es reunirse con su consejero escolar. La Academia eLearn llevará a cabo juntas informativas regulares. Las juntas tendrán lugar en: 822 N. Abby St.

1ro de agosto, a las 4 p.m.
3 de agosto, a las 5 p.m.
7 de agosto, a las 4 p.m.
9 de agosto, a las 5 p.m.
15 de agosto, a las 10 a.m.
16 de agosto, a la 1 p.m.
17 de agosto, a las 5 p.m.

La academia eLearn ofrecerá un plan de estudio digital completo de cuatro años. Los cursos reúnen los requisitos de la A-G de los sistemas de la Universidad de California y Universidad Estatal de California. El distrito también ofrecerá doble inscripción (crédito de la preparatoria y el colegio (college) del mismo curso).

Los maestros titulados están disponibles de lunes a viernes de 8:30 a.m. a 2:30 p.m. para platicar por medio del correo electrónico (email) o por teléfono. Hay citas disponibles de ayuda aparte de esos horarios y días.

El estudiante por lo regular trabaja en la escuela los martes y jueves y en el hogar (o algún otro lugar) los lunes, miércoles y viernes. Algunos estudiantes pudieran trabajar menos horas en la escuela y algunos más dependiendo de una variedad de factores.

El aprendizaje en línea puede ser una opción atractiva para los estudiantes con intereses que requieran estar lejos de Fresno, o para estudiantes que prefieren una experiencia escolar pequeña.

See ONLINE LEARNING Continued on page 13
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Welcome Back -- It’s Going to be a Great School Year

In the blink of an eye, it’s August and summer is nearly over. Recollections of record high temperatures, splashing in the nearest pool and summertime activities will soon seem distant memories. While this time of year means the unofficial end of summer break, it also represents the kick-off to a new school year. Soon, neighborhoods will be bursting with excitement as students head to school anxious to meet teachers, make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

As a former teacher and school administrator, the anticipation of the first day of school always brought me nervous excitement as well as joy. The energy that the first day brings to students and staff serves as a launching pad and sets the tone for the entire school year. Relationships are formed and once again we’re back doing the work we love most, helping our 74,000 students find academic success.

While families have been enjoying their summer, district staff has been busy preparing for the launch of the 2017-18 school year, ensuring another smooth start. In June, our Board of Education invested $166 million in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) further supporting district efforts to ensure students are college and career ready.

Their investments expand supports for students, staff and district families including student interventions, supports for libraries, additional teachers, after school tutoring, eLearn Academy, career technical education, health services, dual immersion, and additional school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and safety assistants. Additionally, school site allocations have been expanded to $17.2 million allowing schools to prioritize site-specific resources that they feel students in their community need most. You can learn more about our complete list of LCAP investments in this month’s issue of Building Futures or by visiting www.fresnounified.org and viewing our LCAP Executive Summary.

School administrators and teachers have been busy this summer too, most participating in professional learning. In the coming days teachers will be back at school preparing classrooms, creating bulletin boards and stocking school supplies. Food service workers will begin prepping over 98,000 meals per day and bus drivers will finalize routes as they prepare to roll out bright and early on Aug. 14. Final preparations are being made at Bullard High School as they open the doors to their new library and administration building.

Message from Elizabeth J. Dooley, President/CEO of Educational Employees Credit Union

EECU Works with Students and Families to Make Smart Money Decisions

Summer vacation is coming to an end and a new school year is upon us. Soon our kids will be back in the classroom and settling into their daily routines. As the parent of a child in elementary school, I understand the importance of education in opening the doors to a future full of opportunities. And, as the president and CEO of Educational Employees Credit Union, I know the significance that financial literacy plays in opening those doors.

EECU is an education-based credit union that was established in 1934 by teachers and school administrators. Our roots are in education, and that’s why teaching people about money is such a passion of ours -- and we know we share that passion and commitment with the administrators and teachers in Fresno Unified School District. We actively seek out ways that we can make life better in the communities that we serve, and our financial literacy programs are a big part of our efforts to give back.

Good money management skills are essential for a healthy financial future, and it’s never too early to teach kids about saving and spending responsibly. At EECU, we place a high importance on helping people of all ages build smart money habits so they can achieve their financial goals and dreams.

Our partnership with the Fresno Unified School District has enabled us to provide our financial literacy programs in classrooms throughout the district. We have a team of employees who specialize in creating and presenting our financial literacy curriculum, programs and workshops to children of all ages throughout the central San Joaquin Valley.

Through our award-winning Wise Up program we teach students the realities of managing their money and expenses through real-life scenarios such as selecting a career, paying bills, and buying a house. The program is designed to help prepare middle- and high-school students for financial independence. The setting is fun, yet educational. We provide all of the resources for this exciting and educational training program, and we work with teachers to customize the program for their students. The program is presented on-site at schools throughout the Valley.

Included in our Wise Up program is the My Future Life workshop, where students learn about gross vs. net income and how to calculate take-home pay based on the annual salary for a wide variety of careers.

Our member education director teaches classes and workshops on a variety of topics, including budgeting, building credit, account security, online and mobile banking. He also creates fun workshops for younger students to get them excited and interested in money and basic saving and spending principles.

In 2016, we reached more than 18,000 people through our various financial education programs and we plan to reach even more this year.

If you’re interested in scheduling a Wise Up event, please contact Patty Martin at (559) 260-5681; for information about our free financial workshops, email Mike Jones at mj@myEECU.org.

See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG Continued on page 15
Fresno Unified’s Additional 2017-18 Budget Investments

On June 14, the board of education unanimously adopted a $930 million budget for 2017-18. Includes additional investments based on feedback from teachers, employees, students and the community. See below for partial list of investments aligned with district goals.

Goal 1 All students will excel in reading, writing and math
- Extended School Day model at 40 schools: $18 million
- School site funds to be prioritized by each School Site Council: $17.2 million
- Additional teachers above base staffing: $6 million
- Student technology annual refresh: $5.3 million
- Additional library tutoring: $2.5 million
- Support and preschool programs for high needs students: $2.3 million
- GATE/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate expansion; SAT/PSAT fees: $2.1 million
- After school programs: $2 million
- Foster youth social workers: $1.3 million
- Additional vice principals for select middle and elementary schools: $1.2 million
- Dual immersion programs: $1 million
- Expand alternative education: $700,000

Goal 2 All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics
- Increase funds for athletics: $7.9 million
- District-funded field trips: $4.7 million
- African American students supports: $900,000
- Increased funding for music: $800,000

Goal 3 All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success
- Linking Learning, ROP and CTE pathway development: $13 million
- Design Science Middle College High School: $6 million
- Patño School of Entrepreneurship: $2.4 million
- Kids Invent!: $1.4 million

Goal 4 All students will stay in school, on track to graduate
- 25 new CNG buses: $5 million
- Expand access to high quality health services for students and families at school sites: $4.6 million
- School culture and climate expansion: $2.8 million
- Social/emotional supports: $1.6 million
- Parent engagement investments: $1.5 million
- Men’s and Women’s Alliance: $1.3 million
- Restorative practices investments: $900,000
- Five additional psychologists: $700,000
- Upgrade student access to technology: $650,000
- Student Peer Mentor Program: $400,000
- Expanded transportation services: $100,000
- Expand student, parent and community communications: $85,000
immersion program that teaches students to read, write and speak in English and Spanish, the district will introduce a Hmong dual immersion program. Parents interested in dual immersion should contact the Transfers Office at 248-7538.

The district will invest an initial $1 million for facility improvements as well as enhanced dual immersion instructional materials.

The district has also spent $5 million to finish converting its fleet of buses to compressed natural gas buses, which are better for the air. Replacing the last of the fleet, 25 diesel buses to natural gas, will eliminate approximately 1,100 pounds of particulate matter from the air each year.

The district will also continue to invest in its employees and high quality instruction by maintaining $18 million for 18 more days of instruction for the neediest students at 40 elementary schools and 10% more pay for teachers; $6 million more for additional teachers; and $1.2 million for additional vice principals for campuses with the largest numbers of highest poverty and English learner students.

“Fresno Unified is committed to providing more opportunities for our students in order to address their needs. These investments aim to boost our students academically and support them in every way we can,” said Ruth Quinto, deputy superintendent and chief financial officer.

For details on specific investments around the district’s four overriding goals, see page 4.

Budget investments include eliminating 1,100 pounds of particulates annually by converting remaining diesel buses to compressed natural gas buses.

As part of budget investments for the coming school year, the district will expand supports for African American students to help close the achievement gap.

Work-Based Learning: Industry Partners Help Connect the Classroom with the Real World

"Tell me and I’ll forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I’ll learn." -- Benjamin Franklin

The district’s College and Career Readiness Department works with local business partners and colleges to create industry experiences for students that connect the world of work to classroom.

During the past school year, Fresno Unified students were involved in more than 50,000 work-based learning student engagements. Students participated in job shadows with Sunrise Medical, RSD Total Control, PG&E, and Fresno Fire Department. They also took tours of a variety of local businesses, such as Grundfos Pump Co., Bitwise, Valley PBS, and Valley Children’s Hospital.

Work-based learning is an instructional strategy that connects student learning with the workplace skills and competencies necessary for success after high school. Engaging with industry partners gives students work-based learning experiences that help them make informed college and career choices and learn necessary college-and-career-readiness skills.

It connects classroom learning with the world of work and answers the question, “Why do I need to learn this? Work-based learning activities include industry guest speakers, job shadows, mock interviews, offsite industry visits, internships and volunteerism/service learning.

Now more than ever before, teachers, site staff and district personnel are engaging industry partners to help connect what is taught in the classroom to the world of work. Students are getting hands-on experiences that allow them to explore work sites and specific job duties and even participate in internships so they learn what skills and competencies are necessary for different careers in a variety of industries.

To Get Involved
Contact tara.loll@fresnounified.org or view the Opportunities for Involvement form: goo.gl/ErouUS

Sammie Rodriguez, who graduated from Duncan Polytechnical High School in June, examines equipment at Sunrise Medical during a tour last spring. The tour was one of the many work-based experiences students throughout the district take part in to learn more about potential careers.
Bullard High School students and staff will return to school Aug. 14 to a brand-new look at the front of the campus with the completion of an expanded library media center and new administration building.

The school’s new front features a relief sculpture depicting a charging knight on horseback, modern architecture and an angular design creating a clean, contemporary entrance on Palm Avenue.

The library media center includes a 100-seat lecture hall, new computer lab, career center, counseling and registrar’s office as well as several collaborative and small group work areas.

The administration building includes principal and office manager spaces, small and large conference rooms, vice principals offices that include a clear view of the main quad, nurse’s office, student resource officer/probation office, attendance and the athletic director’s office.

These buildings are part of the district’s robust campaign to ensure quality facilities in support of quality instruction. Bullard High master plan improvements represent one of the largest building programs utilizing Measure Q funds, which has funded $265 million in projects districtwide since it was passed by voters in 2010.

Bullard renovations began under Measure K with the modernization of classrooms, the performing arts center and North Gym. Under Measure Q, Bullard’s Southwest Academic Building was completed in January 2016 and the Northwest Academic Building in February 2017.

With the opening of the two academic buildings, the school was able to eliminate 30 portable classrooms.

With the passage of the $225 million Measure X in November 2016, the district is preparing to launch a new wave of projects.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education will continue to use the 2009 Facilities Master Plan to provide a vision for improving district facilities while anticipating future needs. In addition, last September the board updated high school master plans to reflect improvements completed, projects underway, and additional input from the community and the board.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education approved a list of Measure X projects last October. Projects include:

**New school:** In southeast Fresno for enrollment growth.

**District-wide:** Science and technology labs, career/technical education classrooms, music and arts classrooms, elementary school upgrading, parking lot gates.

**Cafeteria air conditioning:** Centennial, Del Mar, Ericson, Fremont, Gibson, Holland, Jackson, Manchester, Phoenix, Powers, Pyle, Roeding, Starr, Thomas, Vinland, and Wishon elementary schools; Baird, Computech, Cooper, Fort Miller, Scandinavian, Tenaya, Tioga, Wawona, and Yosemite middle schools; and Roosevelt High School.

**Classroom modernization:** Anthony, Balderas, Hidalgo, Leavenworth and Storey elementary schools and Rata School.

**Building infrastructure projects:** Upgrades to electrical systems at Burroughs Elementary School, Baird, Cooper and Tioga middle schools and Hoover, McLane and Roosevelt high schools; new gym lockers/bleachers at Ahwahnee, Kings Canyon, Scandinavian, Tehipite and Yosemite middle schools and Duncan, Fresno and Hoover high schools; plumbing improvements at Addams and Thomas elementary schools, Hamilton K-8 School, Wawona School and Roosevelt High School; and cooling and heating upgrades at Birney, Malloch and Mayfair elementary schools, Computech, Cooper, Fort Miller and Kings Canyon middle schools and Hoover, McLane and Sunnyside high schools.

**High School Master Plan Projects:**

**Bullard** -- Renovated or rebuilt south gym.

**Duncan** -- New and renovated career technical education classrooms, expanded ROTC facility, renovated library.

**Edison** -- New theater, new second gym, renovated/expanded existing gym.

**Fresno** -- Renovated academic and IB/CTE buildings, new second gym, renovated cafeteria.

**Hoover** -- New theater, renovated library, renovated/expanded administrative offices.

**McLane** -- New theater and second gym.

**Roosevelt** -- Renovated cafeteria, renovated library, new second gym.

**Sunnyside** -- Renovated theater/music complex, renovated CTE labs, security upgrades.

Project recommendations may change based on availability of local and state funds, site conditions, enrollment, program needs, building system assessments, and other district priorities. For more potential Measure X projects, go to www.fresnounified.org.
EMPLYEE SPOTLIGHT

Teacher will Bring his Love for Math, Tacos and Students to Patiño

Math teacher Pedro Enrique was recognized in February as an Excellence in Education finalist. After 12 ½ years at Kings Canyon Middle School, he will move this academic year to the Patiño School of Entrepreneurship.

Have you always enjoyed math? What drew you to the subject?

I have always been drawn to math but what really motivated me to do something in math was my calculus teacher, Mrs. [Janice] Ruiz who is now at Sunnyside High School. She never stopped believing in me, which is why to this day I am forever grateful to her. She told me that I could become a math teacher. So I majored in mathematics and liberal studies and received my single subject credential to teach math.

You have been at Kings Canyon your entire career. What are your thoughts on the move to Patiño?

When I first started teaching I wanted to start at the high school level and now I am getting my opportunity and am very excited about this wonderful opportunity. I want to continue to grow as an educator and this is the next step for me. I am grateful for everything that I learned at Kings Canyon and am ready for the wonderful memories I will create at Patiño.

Addicott Elementary School Office Manager is Welcoming Presence

Eufemia “Fifi” Sanchez has worked for the district for 20 years and for the past five years has been the office manager at Addicott Elementary School, which serves severely disabled students. She was one of the district’s Excellence in Education finalists last February. Principal Katrina Pleshe said Sanchez is “the heart of our school.”

What is the best part about your job?
The best part of my job are the kids! They are amazing! I look forward to seeing them every day.

What is the most challenging part about your job?
I have always been great at multi-tasking, but what I truly find challenging in my job is having coverage when I am away from my desk. In our front office, it’s only the principal and myself. Our families are extremely important to us so having someone in the front office to welcome them and address their concerns is a priority to us.

How do you maintain your positive approach to all you do? What is your secret?
I am calm and collected, according to my staff. I have learned over the years not to take things personally. I have also learned that my work stays at work, and my personal life stays at home, as well, and this has truly balanced me out.

Name one thing most people do not know about you.
I am a country girl. I love my meats to be fresh so I raise and consume my animals! I’m also a couponer! I love couponing!

If you could choose any career, what would you be?
If I had to do something different then what I do today, I would choose to be a border patrol agent.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to relax and spend time with kids, but I truly enjoy having time to myself.

Addicott office manager Eufemia Sanchez assists student Keyly Cabrera. Sanchez is a welcoming presence at the school for students with severe disabilities.
New Principals

Debbie Duran
Roeding Elementary School
Years with district: 15
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Webster Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: The No. 1 goal for my Roeding students in the upcoming year is for them to feel safe and loved everyday!
Favorite hobby: Spending time with family and reading.

Gina Boni
Rata High School
Years with district: 5
Previous assignment: Teacher on special assignment on the Curriculum & Instruction Professional Learning team for Special Education
No. 1 goal for students: My No. 1 goal for students at Rata in the coming year is for them to be engaged in meaningful learning to continue to progress and become the best that they can be.
Favorite hobby: Working out and continuously challenging myself to improve my health and fitness.

Blair Eliason-Sagardia
Patño School of Entrepreneurship
Years with district: 13
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Patño School of Entrepreneurship
No. 1 goal for students: I hope to continue to build a strong entrepreneurial culture in which students can excel both academically and in building their businesses.
Favorite hobby: Spending time with my family.

Kevin X. Her
Norseman Elementary School
Years with district: 20
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Norseman Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: For all my students to engage in an activity and/or club at school that will help them feel like they are a part of our school.
Favorite hobby: I love creating music and playing the piano.

Marilyn Lopez-Cuevas
Balders Elementary School
Years with district: 6
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Cooper Academy
Number 1 goal for students: Ensure academic and social emotional growth as well as creating an enjoyable culture and climate they can thrive in.
Favorite hobby: I enjoy jogging and traveling.

Matthew Phanco
Thomas Elementary School
Years with district: 21
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Lane Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: I want the students at Thomas to set and reach their academic goals that launch them to their future success in becoming college and career graduates. Remember, Tigers Rise Up and R.O.A.R.
Favorite hobby: Playing guitar.

Linda Ramirez
Greenberg Elementary School
Years with district: 22
Previous assignment: Principal at Williams Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To feel safe and connected at school.
Favorite hobby: Shoe shopping.
Years with district: 11
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Calwa Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: My goal for students will always be to see academic growth in the areas of reading, writing and math. In addition, it is extremely important that all students feel a sense of belonging and purpose when walking through the gates of Calwa every morning. Favorite hobby: I do not have time for a hobby, but I enjoy spending time with my family, especially if it is at the beach.

Corrina Rivera
Calwa Elementary School

Years with district: 21
Previous assignment: Vice principal on special assignment with School Leadership
No. 1 goal for students: To continue the current momentum of academic growth and achievement at Ericson through focused work in providing rigorous instruction that aligns with standards. Favorite hobby: Spending time in the mountains or at the beach hiking and enjoying nature.

Tina Rodriguez
Ericson Elementary School

Years with district: 20
Previous assignment: Principal at Greenberg Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To make Williams Elementary a center of learning where we can help students move on to middle school and high school, prepared to reach their dreams. I would like to make Williams a center where parents and students have opportunities to encounter experiences outside of the classroom together; a place where the community, the parents, the staff and the students all learn together. Favorite hobby: Traveling to new places and learning new things about different cultures, food and languages.

Bonifacio Sanchez
Williams Elementary School

Years with district: 16 1/2
Previous assignment: Executive director at Dailey Elementary Charter School
No. 1 goal for students: To help students achieve their highest potential: academically, socially and emotionally. Favorite hobby: Reading and crafts.

Gia Shirley
Storey Elementary School

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**2017 Important Dates**

- **August 8**  Evening enrollment at all school sites (4-7 p.m.)
- **August 14**  Start of 2017-18 School Year
- **September 4**  Labor Day Holiday
- **November 20-24**  Thanksgiving Break
- **December 1**  Deadline for Choice Schools
- **December 18-January 5**  Winter Break

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Fresno Unified School District

is Proud to Celebrate Academic Achievement

For the first time in more than a decade, 85% of Fresno Unified students are graduating from high school on time. In order to reach the ultimate goal – 100% of our students graduating on time college and career ready – it will take everyone’s support.

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**Pam**

**Principal**

Easterly is part of the Sunnyside region, and this entire region is moving forward together – Easterly, Kings Canyon, and Sunnyside. Teachers throughout the region are engaging and planning together. Our goal is for 100% of Easterly students to have the skills necessary to be A to G ready when they leave us. We are focused on literacy, especially helping students become effective and proficient writers.

I enjoy getting out in the morning and greeting parents. I ask them how it’s going and get to know their circumstances. Some of our families face tremendous hardships, and the school staff and families work together to find solutions, all with the goal of keeping the students on track. I am ready.

www.FresnoUnified.org

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www.FresnoUnified.org  |  PREPARING CAREER READY GRADUATES  |  Page 9
District Rolls out Nutritious Breakfast with Food Carts

Too many students come to school hungry, a barrier to learning. As the new school year starts, more than 9,000 middle school students will have the opportunity to grab breakfast from mobile food carts placed strategically in high traffic areas at 15 middle schools.

The middle school program builds on the success of breakfast food carts rolled out at high schools last school year.

Schools have traditionally served breakfast in the cafeteria prior to the start of the school day, but participation is often low. For example, at Ahwahnee Middle School, only 43.71% of students are participating in the federal School Breakfast Program.

All Fresno Unified students are eligible for free breakfast items such as yogurt, ham/egg/cheese bars, oatmeal raisin bars, fresh fruit, juice and milk through the Community Eligibility Program.

To increase access to breakfast, mobile carts will bring food to where students hang out, thanks to the support of the Fresno Unified Board of Education and a start-up grant from the School Breakfast Program.

Expanding breakfast beyond the cafeteria will increase the number of students eating breakfast and may improve student academic performance, attendance and their health.

The mobile food carts, with wireless point of sales machines to keep track of usage, will allow Food Services staff to offer food at any location to hungry students in a hurry.

Students arriving to school can grab healthy breakfast items from the mobile food carts stationed near entrance gates, and will be available for students who arrive later to school. Staff can easily move the carts to anywhere on campus where students gather instead of waiting for students to come to the cafeteria.

With breakfast being the most important meal of the day, Food Services Director Jose Alvarado is excited that more students will have access to breakfast beyond the school cafeteria. School breakfast provides the daily servings of fruit, whole grains, and milk, plus roughly ¼ the recommended calories needed for lasting energy -- energy students need to pay attention and think critically in class.

Fresno Teachers Build Minecraft Game into Curriculum

Fresno Unified will be one of the first school districts to sign up for Microsoft’s “Minecraft: Education Edition” as a tool in the classroom, tapping into the appeal of the hugely popular video game.

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

By signing up for MinecraftEDU, the district continues to expand and vary its approaches to learning. Minecraft players use their creativity by building objects, structures and communities using 3-D blocks. Ask any boy between the ages of seven and 12 and you can bet most of them have played Minecraft.

Starting this month, district teachers can install a custom version of Minecraft that allows them to set up an educational gaming world for students. While the teacher will retain oversight, MinecraftEDU will create additional personalized learning and collaboration opportunities for students.

MinecraftEDU’s website features hundreds of lesson plans that align with the district’s curriculum. Teachers can download the lesson plans for varying grade levels in subjects like math, science, history, social studies, and language arts with learning objectives tied to state standards.

Lesson plans include topics like blood circulation, creating an ecosystem, water cycles and much more.

Fresno Unified has already begun providing training for teachers who are involved with the Tournament of Technology and various school computer coding clubs because they are already familiar with the game. In addition, Microsoft has just released a new component to Minecraft that helps students learn to code.

“We all have different ways of learning and this is yet another modality beyond any type we’ve ever had. We know that studies show that video and multimedia really help students learn but now we can put them in a 3-D world, on a level that’s much more defined. To me that’s a huge benefit to teaching,” said Brian Dvorak, a leader with the Curriculum and Instruction Department who helped facilitate the training for teachers over...
The Doctor is in at Fresno Unified's Sunnyside High School

For 18 years, Fresno Unified has been helping to produce more doctors for the Central Valley through Sunnyside High School's Doctors Academy.

The Doctors Academy is a joint effort with the Latino Center for Medical Education and Research at University of California at San Francisco/Fresno, launched when Sunnyside High opened in 1999.

The Doctors Academy has 160 students with a roughly 50% acceptance rate among students.

The rigorous program requires students to take Advanced Placement and honors classes and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.8. Students participate in college field trips, listen to guest speakers coordinated by UCSF and are part of a Doctors Academy class through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID prepares students to be eligible for four-year universities, with a focus on closing the achievement gap.

During the summer, the Doctors Academy requires students to take a summer health course before the start of their junior year that includes hours at Community Regional Medical Center. The hours can be completed in various departments.

In the summer prior to their senior year, students take part in a research course, placed with a mentor such as a doctor or a nurse practitioner in the field of their choice. In July, students presented their summer research projects at a symposium.

Many students from the Doctors Academy have gone on to become doctors, dentists, nurses and other health-care professionals.

“It’s quite amazing to see how quickly the Doctors Academy students mature year after year,” said Michele Anderson, a Sunnyside vice principal who oversees the Doctors Academy.

“There’s a high level of expectation for our students and this program really pushes the students to excel. We are already seeing the fruits of our labor with a number of students coming back to the Fresno area to work in the medical field, and I believe we’ll continue to produce more doctors here in the Central Valley as time goes on.”

Parents Support Summer Learning

Parents choose books at McLane High School June 3 as part of a new Parent University partnership with Valley PBS. English learner families were provided free literature books and information about how to support their children’s learning through the summer.
class. Yet they show up in the evenings eager to learn. They are appreciative of the teaching that goes on and let me know that I help them understand math better than they did when they went to school. When my students can’t make it to class I have opened up my doors to them throughout the day. They want to do better and want to get their GED so they can persevere in life. They want to show their kids that they are going back to school to get their diploma; they are highly motivated. I really enjoy working with my adult students because I try to make the math rigorous but attainable to everybody and they tell me that I do a good job at that.

**Do you still teach the Men’s Alliance class? What was that like?**

I taught Men’s Alliance the previous year and it was a different type of experience because I wasn’t teaching my kids math, I was teaching about life. I would bring in guest speakers every Friday, people that have gone through some of the same upbringings as them so they can understand that life isn’t dictated for you. They can carve their own path and make something positive out of a negative. They enjoyed all the speakers because every Friday we ate breakfast like a family.

I taught my kids how to cook, create a budget and fundraise. They really enjoyed fundraising because we would sell breakfast burritos and they would get really excited when they counted the money. We did a lot of volunteering at the Poverello House and made lunch at the Ronald McDonald House. They really enjoyed that because we made tacos, rice, beans, salad the whole works. All of the parents were very grateful and thanked the boys for what they did. My boys were taken back because they were not used to have someone say thank you and be generous for their help.

The tough part was that I couldn’t help all of my kids. Some unfortunately didn’t make it through their 8th grade year for various reasons and I feel like I let them down and it was my responsibility to make sure they were ALL successful and I failed some of them. I still feel the effects of that because I just hope that they are all ok in life.

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

Well, this is an easy answer because I would have wanted to do two things: Chef or a mechanic. I love to cook, it is a passion that I have. My wife and I have disagreements as to who can cook better, I think we both end up winning because we indulge in food as does our family. I would start a little taco shop if I could.

I have cooked for my Grizzlies plenty of times and if I had more time I would do it more consistently. I don’t think I have a specialty but my team would tell you that it’s the tacos.

My dad could never afford a mechanic growing up so we had to learn how to fix cars at a very young age. Eventually I would like to get myself a little VW Beetle and fix it up.

**Name one thing most people do not know about you.**

We did not grow up rich by any stretch of the imagination. My parents are immigrants from Mexico and it was very difficult for us growing up. My parents always had food and a roof over our heads but what most people don’t know about me is that I used to take food out from the dumpsters. I didn’t realize how poor we were until years later. That was normal for us. I would go and get food that stores considered bad and take it to the car. I am not embarrassed about that; I am stronger because of it. Now, it is a lesson that I will share with my daughter so she can understand the hardships that her dad had to go through.

**What book are you recommending to others?**

I’m not a big fan of reading because I am a very slow reader and my comprehension is not the best. However, I have read “Tattoos on the Heart” in which a priest helps former gang member leave that life and become positive people in society. He helps them out by giving them jobs and helping them in their everyday lives so they can persevere. One day if I do own a restaurant I would like to help out people who haven’t had the best of luck in life. I want everyone to believe that there is something better out there and people will not stop believing in you.
Hauv Paus Tsev Kawn Ntawv Qhib Kev Kawn Hauv Online Thawj Zaug

Fresno Unified yuav pib hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv qhov kev kawn hauv “online” thawj zaug rau lub xyoo kawn ntawv 2017-18, qhib muaj dua ib txoj hau ke rau tej tub kawn ntawv mus rau kev kawn tiav.

eLearn Academy yuav qhib muaj:

- Kev kawn qib 7-12 nrog kev xaiv mus koom yim yim nyob ntawm seb tus tub kawn ntawv kev xav tau thiab tej tseev kom kawn yog dab tsi
- Kev kawn nyob ntawm lub chaw rau rau qhib nia 7-9 qhab nia
- Tib zaj kev kawn rau tub kawn ntawv nws xav kom lawv kev kawn mus ceev ceev los ntawm cov chav kawn tshaj lij thaum uas nyob rau lawv lub vaj loog kawn ntawm tsev
- Cov chav kawn kawn nyob rau “online”

Thawj kauj ruam rau ib tug tub kawn ntawv twg muaj kev ntawm siab hauv qhov kev kawn tshaj kom mus tsiib nrog lawv tus kws qhao muaw ntawm hauv tsev kawn ntawv. eLearn Academy yuav muaj tej rooj sib tham muub lus qhia li ib txwm ntawm 822 N. Abby St.:

- Yim Hli tim 1, 4 p.m.
- Yim Hli tim 3, 5 p.m.
- Yim Hli tim 7, 4 p.m.
- Yim Hli tim 9, 5 p.m.
- Yim Hli tim 15, 10 a.m.
- Yim Hli tim 16, 1 p.m.
- Yim Hli tim 17, 5 p.m.

eLearn Academy yuav qhib muaj ib qho kev kawn puv nkaus plaub xyooos ntawm kev kawn digital. Cov chav kawn muaj ruam li A-G tej kev tseev kom muaj rau cov kev kawn University of California thiab California State University. Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv kuj tseem yuav qhib muaj kev cuy nee ob tog (high school thiab qhib nia college rau ib qho kev kawn).

Cambridge High School students tap into online courses to get back on track with classes they needed to graduate. The concept is being expanded, with the district launching its first online school this fall, eLearn Academy.

Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv twg hauv muaj ntsib nrog lawv tus kws qhao muaw ntawm hauv “online” thawj zaug rau lub xyoo kawn ntawv 2017-18, qhib muaj dua ib txoj hau ke rau tej tub kawn ntawv mus rau kev kawn tiav.

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Cov chav kawn kawn nyob rau “online”

Thawj kauj ruam rau ib tug tub kawn

Free Summer Lunches Across District Support Students

Students enjoy a free lunch at Roosevelt High School as part of the free summer lunch program Fresno Unified and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission provided at more than 45 sites. More than 200,000 meals were served to children ages one to 18. The program was part of the district’s effort to help students maintain good nutrition throughout the summer months.

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

- BP 0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities
- BP 1621 Home-Based School (Deletion)
- BP 3470 Debt Issuance and Management (New)
- BP 5113 Absences and Excuses
- BP 5121 Examination and Grading
- BP 5141.21 Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions
- BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention (New)
- BP 6159 Individualized Education Program
- BP 6159.3 Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students
- BP 6162.5 Student Assessment
- BP 6162.51 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program
- BP 6173 Education for Homeless Children
- BP 6174 Education for English Learners
- BP 6185 Community Day School

These updated policies/bylaws can be found online at: https://www.fresnou.org/sites/board/policies. For additional information: (559) 457-3736.
Evening Registration Available to Serve Families

Fresno Unified will open all of its schools for evening registration on Aug. 8 to accommodate families who have not yet registered new students for the 2017-18 school year.

The evening registration will be held from 4-7 p.m. Many school offices will also be open in the mornings for registration in the days leading up to the first day of school on Aug. 14.

To register a new student, parents/guardians should bring:

- Student’s birth certificate or other proof of age
- Previous transcripts
- Proof of address (such as a rent receipt or utility bill)
- Immunization records indicating current polio, DPT, MMR and tuberculosis skin test; hepatitis B and a second measles are needed for kindergarten and seventh grade; Varicella (chicken pox) is also required for kindergarten and out-of-state entrants grades 1-12

“Getting children registered prior to the first day of school is a great way to eliminate some of the stress and anxiety that goes along with the first day of school,” said Interim Superintendent Bob Nelson. “I hope that families take advantage of the convenient, after-work hours we offer through evening registration.”

If students are interested in transferring outside of their neighborhood school site, they are required to follow the district transfer policy. To learn more about the transfer process visit www.fresnounified.org.

Sowing Seeds of Learning

Students delve into theater arts in the district’s Expanded Learning Summer Program, making sock puppets as they learn about costume design, set-making and character development. More than 13,000 students participated in summer school, where students were able to recover credits for graduation, work on skills they had struggled with during the school year, prepare for middle school, learn more about careers, accelerate their learning and explore areas of interest.
S U P T . M E S S A G E
Continued from page 3

Bob Nelson
Interim Superintendent

Bienvenidos al Regreso a la Escuela

En un abrir y cerrar de ojos, es agosto y casi termina el verano. Los recuerdos de altas temperaturas, chapoteo en la piscina más cercana y las actividades de verano muy pronto serán recuerdos lejanos.

Mientras que esta época del año significa el final oficial de vacaciones de verano, también representa el inicio a un nuevo ciclo escolar. Mucho se ha planeado para que todo funcione perfectamente; se han establecido relaciones y se han establecido metas para el próximo año escolar.

Como maestro y administrador anterior de la escuela, la expectativa del primer día de clase siempre me da nervios y alegría anticipada. La energía que el primer día trae a la escuela siempre me da nervios y alegría anticipada. La energía que el primer día trae a la escuela siempre me da nervios y alegría anticipada. La energía que el primer día trae a la escuela siempre me da nervios y alegría anticipada.

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### Fresno Unified School District Academic Calendar

**School Year 2017-2018**

**JULY, 2017**

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**School Begins**

August 14, 2017

**School Ends**

June 7, 2018

**End of Semester Dates**

Elementary & Secondary

Dec. 15 (50 days)

June 7 (56 days)

### Fresno City College

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Public Schools Month – Aug. 2018

Got Questions? Call Us – May 6, 2018

Classified Employee Week – May 21-25, 2018