The district has completed renovations at two sites that serve students in special education and will hold open houses to highlight the improvements.

At the Adult Transition Program (ATP) at Fairmont, the district remodeled the facility into a variety of classrooms and student support spaces that provide more flexibility, depending on the activities. The drop-off area and entry were also improved.

ATP at Fairmont serves 133 district students ages 18 to 22 with developmental disabilities. The program focuses on training, support and an educational program with the goal to help the student become as independent as possible.

The new space was ready for students at the start of school, but an official open house will be held this fall. ATP is on Fairmont Avenue near First and Shaw avenues.

“The renovations are an indication of the value our district and community places on ATP and the investment in this program and our students,” said Derrick Flake, a manager who oversees ATP. “These students will now get to come to our site every day to updated buildings and technology, a viable curriculum, and appropriate amenities that can accommodate all

See REMODELING OF RATA
Continued on page 6

Students at the Adult Transition Program at Fairmont enjoy their newly remodeled classroom. ATP and Rata High School, both serving students with special needs, have undergone significant refurbishment and renovations to better serve students.

Hands On Learning for Health Careers Pathway Students

Students from health career pathways at their high schools participated in a mock organ transplant using a pig heart during “Day at the Hospital” on Aug. 29 at Community Regional Medical Center. The 24 students learned about organ transplantation protocol during this portion of the day, including rushing the heart in a special container to a waiting helicopter on the roof of the hospital. The day was spent learning about careers and opportunities in the health sector. The event was hosted by the district’s College and Career Readiness Department in partnership with the leadership team at Community Regional Medical Center and the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California. Students got to keep their scrubs. The event was one of the numerous activities the district offers to expose students to a variety of careers and get them thinking about their future. Through career pathways offered at Fresno Unified’s high schools, students can get a head start on learning about the real world of work and learn what steps they need to take to attain their career goals.

Students at the Adult Transition Program at Fairmont enjoy their newly remodeled classroom. ATP and Rata High School, both serving students with special needs, have undergone significant refurbishment and renovations to better serve students.
Parents Asked to Partner with District on Take-Home Tablets

The district is launching an exciting program this month that provides kindergarten and high school students with 8-inch tablets to use at home.

“It’s almost like a portable library.”
-- McLane High School parent
Christina Lopez

For students to be eligible for the eLearning Companion Device (LCD) program, parents will need to log into the ATLAS parent portal (parents.fresnou.org) and watch a short video and sign the parent agreement form. For information on how to access the parent portal, families should contact their student’s school.

Students in grades 9-11 will also need to agree to the student pledge, which can be accessed from the ATLAS student portal. The video and parent agreement explain device replacement and technical support. The video and agreement also explain parent responsibilities.

Parent Responsibilities:

- I will monitor my student’s use of the tablet at home.
- I will discuss the district’s Acceptable Technology Use Policy with my student and encourage them to be a good digital citizen.
- I will discuss our expectations regarding the use of the internet, digital communication and tablet apps.
- I will make sure the tablet is returned to the school when requested or upon my student’s withdrawal from Fresno Unified School District.
- If the tablet is broken or lost, I agree to pay up to $95 for repair or replacement of the tablet if we want to continue participation in the LCD initiative.
- If the tablet’s content filter app becomes disabled or is deleted, I will enable it after I am notified.

Parents interested in their child having a tablet to use at home will be asked to sign the agreement during the first two weeks of October, prior to tablets being assigned to students.

For those who don’t have access to the internet, Parent University will hold orientations in October and November. The district will assign tablets to all interested students over the next three years, beginning with pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 9-11 this year.

Anthony Golding, a sophomore at McLane High School, was part of a pilot for the program and has had his tablet since before school started. He is using the Kahn Academy program to help with his studies.

“If I get confused, it goes step by step on how to do it,” said Anthony, who wants to be a lawyer.

His family had an old laptop with outdated software. He can now use the tablet for all of his homework, including editing for his video class.

Anthony’s mom, Christina Lopez, is pleased with the program and gladly agreed to the parent responsibilities. The tablet provides Anthony with the technology he needs to complete research and get his homework done, Lopez said.

"It's almost like a portable library,” Lopez said.

Se les pide a los padres asociarse con el distrito en la iniciativa de tabletas para llevar a casa

El distrito está lanzando un programa emocionante este mes que proporcione a los estudiantes de Kinder y preparatoria con tabletas de 8 pulgadas para usar en casa.

Para que los estudiantes sean elegibles para el programa eLearning Companion Device (LCD), los padres tendrán que iniciar sesión en el portal de padres de ATLAS (Parents.fresnou.org) ver un video corto y firmar el formulario de acuerdo para padres. Para obtener información sobre cómo acceder al portal de padres, las familias deben ponerse en contacto con la escuela de su estudiante.

Los estudiantes de los grados 9-11 también tendrán que estar de acuerdo con la promesa estudiantil, a la que se puede acceder desde el portal estudiantil de ATLAS. El video y el acuerdo de padre explica el reemplazo del aparato y soporte técnico. El video y el acuerdo también explican las responsabilidades de los padres.

Responsabilidades de los padres:

- Vigilaré el uso de la tableta de mi estudiante en casa.
- Discutiré con mi estudiante la póliza aceptable de uso de tecnología del distrito y lo alentaré a ser un buen ciudadano digital.
- Discutiremos nuestras expectativas con respecto al uso de internet, la comunicación digital y las aplicaciones de tableta.
- Me aseguraré de que la tableta se devuelva a la escuela cuando sea solicitada o a la salida de mi estudiante del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno.
- Si la tableta se rompe o es perdida, estoy de acuerdo en pagar hasta $95 para la reparación o el reemplazo de la tableta si queremos continuar la participación en la iniciativa de LCD.
- Si el filtro de contenido de aplicaciones de la tableta se desactiva o se elimina, la habilitaré después de que se me notifique.

Low-Cost Internet Available to Students

Low-cost internet access is available through the San Joaquin Regional Broadband Consortium, starting as low as $9.95 a month. Call (559) 278-0702 for more information. Did you know? There is an 84% increase in attaining higher education for households with internet access.

Internet de bajo costo disponible para los estudiantes

El acceso al internet de bajo costo está disponible a través del grupo llamado San Joaquin Regional Broadband Consortium, comenzando tan sólo a $9.95 por mes. Llame al (559) 278-0702 para más información. ¿Usted sabía? Hay un aumento del 84% en el logro de la educación superior para los hogares con acceso a internet.

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Continued on page 11
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

State of Education Luncheon Opportunity to Learn about District Progress

Our community will come together on Oct. 8 at the DoubleTree Hotel for what is our single largest fundraiser -- our State of Education Luncheon.

Money raised each year provides scholarships for seniors as they embark on their post-secondary journey. Last year, the district raised enough money to award $61,000 in scholarship to 46 deserving students.

State of Education also provides a glimpse into the programs and initiatives supporting the youth of our district, ranging from eLearn Academy, to dual immersion, to our Individual Learning Initiative, to improvements in special education services. Our work in special education continues to expand, thanks in part to input from various stakeholders as part of a recent special education review by the Council of the Great City Schools. The 207-page review outlined several areas of strength as well as both short-term and long-term recommendations for continued improvement that we are using to develop a strategic multi-year action plan -- a comprehensive action plan that goes well beyond special education and ensures all students have inclusive opportunities to interact with their peers in meaningful ways.

The report, provided by expert educators in their field, has given us a new launching pad for further expanding our multi-tiered levels of support for students. Some actions already taken to enhance our services include modernization of facilities, expansion of social emotional support, additional school psychologists and the creation of our Special Education Committee.

Facility improvements include Rata High School, which will welcome some of our most medically fragile students back later this school year in grades 9-12 and adults up to 22. We also completed renovations at the campus for our Adult Transition Program serving students 18-22. Both facilities have seen major remodeling, improving classroom and life skills learning, accessibility and exercise activities.

Council of the Great City Schools also recognized other positive areas of support, including a well-defined vision for student success, an in-depth English Learner Master Plan that addresses our EL students with disabilities, early support for young students with developmental delays, a wide array of transition programs for students and a 96% retention rate with our special education teachers. These are just a few of the efforts recognized by the council that have helped improve services to students with disabilities.

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SPANISH AND HMONG
Continued on page 15

Message from Chuck Riojas, Business Agent for IBEW Local 100

Trades Organizations Partner with District to Create Career Opportunities for Students

Apprenticeship is not a new concept. It has been around for hundreds of years but has recently been over looked in our endeavor to prepare every student for college. I believe we can all agree that in theory this is a good idea but the results have been less than we expected.

The leadership within Fresno Unified saw an opportunity to engage the local Building Trades Council and started the conversation on the needs of the central Valley regarding career opportunities in the trades and apprenticeship. The need for a skilled and trained workforce for not only here in the central Valley but nationally has been widely publicized. Fresno Unified has started to fill in the gap with the introduction of a career pathway in the field of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and comfort systems.

Fresno High School launched the HVAC pathway last January with the cooperation of Fresno City College and the building trades, both providing resources and expertise. Ten students participated in the first cohort, with 15 scheduled for the second.

For the 2018-19 school year, two HVAC courses are available for students: HVAC 50 and HVAC 51. Students also take a Personal and Professional Skills course and participate with job shadowing and pre-apprenticeships. The program is available to juniors and seniors. It gives students a chance to earn college credit and – if they meet the requirements – guarantees them a seat in the HVAC program at Fresno City College when they graduate. They can complete HVAC certification or earn an associate’s degree.

With the success of this program, we hope to be able to expand the training to the other trades within the building trades family.

The outlook for the construction industry in the central Valley is very promising and that means more apprenticeship opportunities for Fresno Unified graduates. The better we can prepare students to successfully complete an apprenticeship in the trades, the better the chances for success.


Non-Discrimination Policy: Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital, pregnancy or parental status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment (BP 0410). For the full policy, a list of compliance officers, and Title IX information, go to www.fresnounified.org.
Lori Ann Infant Program Helps Children 0-3 with Special Needs

Fresno Unified even has a place for babies.

The district’s Lori Ann Infant Program serves children with special needs from birth to 3 years old and their families. The program serves children with disabilities such as complications from prematurity, syndromes, serious illnesses, and speech, motor and other developmental challenges.

Program staff provide services in the family’s home and connect families to services in their community at no cost to the family. Interpreters are available.

The program also hosts parent-child learning groups at the program’s sites, 67 E. Ashlan Ave. (adjacent to Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School) and at Storey Elementary School, 5250 E. Church Ave. Once a month, program staff help families get involved in local community activities.

“Our vision is to support caregivers in providing environments conducive to the positive development of their children with special needs,” said Heidi Barbis, the manager who oversees the Lori Ann Infant Program (LAIP).

“We strive to prepare them with resources and knowledge so when they no longer have LAIP services, they feel competent as parents and are able to access resources within their community.”

The Lori Ann Infant Program provides:

- Coordination of services with other agencies
- Assessment of each child’s abilities
- Infant mental health therapy
- Help for deaf and hard of hearing
- Help for vision, orientation and mobility disabilities
- Help to families to understand the medical needs of their children
- Support for parents
- Identification of learning opportunities in the family’s daily routine to promote the child’s development
- Coaching for parents in speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy (to help with issues such as feeding and sensory challenges)

Lori Ann Infant Program staff includes credentialed teachers, trained aides, a nurse practitioner, school nurses, speech and language therapists, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, a deaf and hard of hearing specialist, a vision and orientation and mobility specialist, school psychologists and a mental health provider.

To determine if a child is eligible for services at the Lori Ann Infant Program, a multidisciplinary team conducts an evaluation of the child. Children showing delays in or more areas may be eligible.

If the child is eligible, staff completes a Family Service Plan.

The program is named for Lori Ann West, born more than 40 years ago in Fresno with Down syndrome. Her parents could not find an infant support program, so they started one of their own with other families at a local church.

When laws were passed requiring school districts to serve children from birth to 3 with special needs, Lori Ann’s father, Kale West, brought the group to the district.

Lori Ann Infant Program

(559) 248-7236
http://go.fresnou.org/loriann
67 E. Ashlan Ave. (Fresno)

Fresno City College holds Night Classes at Edison and Sunnyside

The district, in partnership with Fresno City College, initiated Community Campus night classes at Edison and Sunnyside high schools in late August. Classes at Edison, at right, include Intro to Business, Human Resources, Reading and Composition and a variety of other course. Far right, at Sunnyside, Lisa Vang is taking a photo class, with Sunprit Lidhar in the background.
High School Teams will Compete in Online Sports Gaming League

The district is launching an eSports league this fall at all high schools, joining districts across the country in tapping into students’ love for sports and online gaming.

Fresno Unified’s Information Technology Department and Goal 2 team are working together to develop the league -- Fresno Unified eSports League, or FUeL. Goal 2 states “All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.”

eSports is much more than a club. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, more than 200 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada are actively recruiting and offering scholarships for eSports athletes -- universities like UC Irvine, Indiana Tech and the University of Utah. The opportunities for college scholarships are growing each year, as are job opportunities.

In Fresno Unified, FUeL teams will compete in the Rocket League, a car-meets-soccer-meets-Indy game. PlayerShip is growing each year, with more than 25 million players worldwide.

The FUeL league began in September with team recruitment, practices and coaches meetings, preparing for scrimmages in October. A culminating FUeL tournament with all teams at a single location is planned for Dec. 1.

District Implementing New Strategies to Address Teen Suicide

Fresno Unified began implementing a new suicide prevention curriculum with eighth- and 10th-graders in September as part of a variety of new strategies to prevent teen suicide.

School Mental Health Teams (school social workers and school psychologists) are implementing the SOS Signs of Suicide Curriculum through classroom instruction.

The new curriculum is part of the district’s efforts to implement Assembly Bill 2246, a state law requiring school districts to adopt suicide prevention, intervention and postvention policies. The district’s Department of Prevention and Intervention and Special Education Department have been working collaboratively to lead the work.

The adoption of suicide prevention policies by the Fresno Unified Board of Education was the first essential step in preventing youth suicide, and is part of a holistic approach that promotes healthy lifestyles, families, and communities.

During the past year, community members and students gathered for a number of focus group meetings to gather feedback regarding the district’s Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Policy.

In addition, School Mental Health Teams have worked with parents, staff, and students on suicide intervention skills, warning signs, and how to seek help for those at risk of suicide.

Signs to Look For:
- Threatens suicide
- Had previous attempts
- Change in habits
- Giving away of possessions
- Self-destructive acts
- Social withdrawal or isolation
- Helplessness or hopelessness
- Making final arrangements

Resources:
- Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative http://www.fresnocares.org/
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
Fresno High School offers a new career program this year that introduces students to construction-related careers and jobs that employers are looking to fill.

The Construction Design & Applied Technology (CDAT) Academy offers a progression of classes, starting in the ninth grade. Approximately 221 students are enrolled this semester.

If students successfully complete the hands-on training, they are prepared to enter the construction industry as an advanced apprentice with masonry, framing, roofing, plumbing, or electrical skills. Throughout the program, students prepare for and may take National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) industry certifications.

Classes will also prepare students for construction and design careers that require college degrees.

Career options include electrician, plumber, heating/cooling technician, general contractor, civil engineer, structural engineer, building inspector, fire prevention technician, fire investigator, code enforcement officer, carpenter, structural concrete technician, storm water pollution prevention technician, surveyor, architect, draftsman, landscape architect and environmental engineer.

The CDAT Academy has partnered with local industry unions to vet the curriculum, recruit teachers and acquire equipment, tools and shop space. Industry partners are supporting the program through mentoring, field trips, job shadowing and advanced curriculum development.

Students take classes in the Industrial Arts Building, which is scheduled to be replaced with a new building in 2019 or 2020 using matching funds from the state of California.

The program consists of:

- Ninth grade: Introduction to Engineering Design
- 10th grade: Construction 1
- 11th grade: Construction 2 and Design Technology (Computer-aided Drafting and Design -- CADD) or Introduction to HVAC and Design Technology
- 12th grade: Multi-core Curriculum or Advanced HVAC or CADD2

The classes introduce students to various materials used in construction. Students also learn about the fundamental principles of structural, physical and long-term performance, as well as material and product manufacturing techniques and how they relate to mechanical and non-mechanical properties of the various materials.

Additionally, students will learn about common construction methods and explore building details. Students learn about material capacity and behavior as well as construction methods in demonstrations and lab experiments. Students also explore material applications and detailing in structural and nonstructural building components.

CDAT Academy will also introduce students to blueprint design, home design and structures through the Introduction to Engineering Design and Design Technology courses. By bridging the gap between architecture and construction, students will have options to pursue Bachelor of Arts degrees, industry certifications, and advanced job placements.

Career Technical Education in Fresno Unified

- Career technical education (CTE) provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training for successful careers
- The district offers 130 CTE courses from 15 career industry sectors
- In addition to technical training, CTE courses develop critical thinking, technical literacy, public speaking skills, leadership and planning skills
- Qualifying courses offer college credits, industry certification and internships for students

REMOVING OF RATA
Continued from page 1

of our students’ needs. The students and staff are extremely excited about ATP’s future.”

Rata High School will reopen after the winter break following a $5.2 million renovation.

Rata, on Mesa Avenue near Bullard and Fruit avenues, serves students in grades 9-12 and adults up to age 22 with developmental disabilities, many of whom are medically fragile.

The project included remodeling the existing building (eight classrooms and two life skills kitchens) and adding two classrooms; adding two fully equipped nurse stations; providing new conference, laundry and support spaces; extending and widening the outdoor walking track; installing new concrete walks for access to the play courts and exercise apparatus; modifying the bus loading/unloading areas; and improving fencing and gates for access security.

Every classroom now has a fully accessible restroom and all doors were widened and the entry automated to accommodate wheelchairs and other accessibility equipment.
High Schools Honored for Help with Student Financial Aid

A state commission will honor the district this month in Sacramento for the work it is doing to help seniors complete the necessary paper work to receive state and federal aid and scholarships for college. The California Student Aid Commission has recognized three Fresno Unified high schools – Edison, Fresno and Sunnyside — as winners in the statewide Race to Submit campaign, with schools competing from October 1, 2017 to March 2.

The campaign aimed to increase the number of high school seniors who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act application before the March 2 Cal Grant deadline. The commission designed the Race to Submit to foster friendly competition among California public high schools.

Edison, Fresno and Sunnyside high schools were among the top five high schools in each of their respective school size categories for FAFSA completion and are among only 35 high schools recognized throughout California. The California Student Aid Commission will honor the schools on Oct. 4 at a special celebration in Sacramento.

Along with the achievements of Edison, Fresno and Sunnyside, four additional Fresno Unified campuses made the top 10 in their school size categories on the Race to Submit Dashboard: Design Science Middle College, Duncan Polytechnical, Hoover and McLane high schools.

The FAFSA and California Dream Act application are student financial aid forms that provide access to grants, work-study, and scholarships for higher education. The California Student Aid Commission is the principal state agency responsible for administering $2.2 billion in state financial aid for college and career training.

Academic counselors at all high schools supported students and parents during the school day and after school through evening workshops for parents and ongoing monitoring and follow-up. Additionally, College and Career Readiness department staff engaged with community partners to communicate with families throughout the district.

“Thanks to the efforts of countless adults at these sites, many students reached their post-secondary educational goals instead of being stalled because of their financial circumstances,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “Fantastic work done on behalf of our graduating seniors.”

Hoover High Students Get a Work Out at AP Boot Camp

Advanced placement courses are hard. What better way to prepare than a boot camp?

Hoover High School teachers and students gathered on a recent Saturday for AP Boot Camp, where they engaged in a variety of active learning exercises. Students then reflected on what they learned and how it applies to the classroom.

“We often see that students have the potential to succeed in these rigorous courses, but it’s a challenge sometimes to get the students to believe they can and to know how; too often their response is to try to drop the class,” said Hoover Principal Rebecca Wheeler. “We wanted to give them some skills and strategies they could pull out of their back pockets when they encounter difficulty -- even knowing that difficulty is normal -- and help them build connections with teachers and other students.”

More than 85 students attended the Sept. 8 boot camp, many of them taking AP courses for the first time. AP classes are college level courses. Colleges may accept a score of 3 or better on an AP exam at the end of the course as credit toward completing the corresponding college class.

The morning began at 7 a.m. for Hoover teachers, who arrived for training with San Diego consultant Jacob Clifford on how to lead boot camp stations for the students.

Students participated in "Marble Madness," "Cuffs," "Duct Tape Sking," "Communication Station," and "Silent Grid" -- all activities that teach the value of questioning, precision in communication, teamwork, goal-setting, breaking goals into manageable parts, picking the pace or strategy that’s right for the situation and the learner, paying close attention, learning from mistakes, persistence, and practice.

Staff members were assisted by student AP ambassadors -- juniors and seniors in multiple AP courses who are helping to strengthen the culture of AP at Hoover.

“Students learned they can do hard things -- if they use the right skills and strategies,” Wheeler said.

Students in AP classes at Hoover High School take part in AP Boot Camp on Sept. 8, learning skills that will help them succeed in advanced courses.
Wilson Elementary Special Education Teacher Embraces Challenges

Wilson Teacher Erick Rozigas is a special education teacher at Wilson Elementary School, working with emotionally disturbed children. He has been with the district for four years, all of them at Wilson. He was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Colleague Kristy Page said this about Rozigas: “His teaching is second to none and he is an inspiration to all around him.”

What made you decide to teach students who are emotionally disturbed? I wanted to work with students who need help identifying and resolving their emotions in an emotionally safe way. Students who are emotionally disturbed need a great deal of support to function in a productive manner. I was drawn to the program, did some student teaching and then they hired me full time. Teaching students who are diagnosed with severe social emotional needs gives me the opportunity to teach behavioral strategies and parts of the general education curriculum.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? Teaching provides all kinds of rewards, but in my classroom when I hear or see students utilizing strategies that I have taught them in their social-emotional classes, I am happy to be making a difference.

What is the most challenging part of your job? The most challenging part of my job is time management. I tend to work a great deal and there never seems to be enough time in the day to get everything done that I need to get done.

You mentor other teachers. What is the best advice you give other teachers? 1. Everything will be OK! 2. The first year can be stressful; do your best to keep in mind the reason you are teaching. 3. At the beginning of the year make only a few goals that will help you grow professionally.

Tell me about the after school club you and three other teachers formed. The name of the club is Wildcat Leaders. This club was created to give students an opportunity to develop as leaders on campus. We selected students who were categorized as at-risk. The club focuses on teaching leadership skills such as problem solving, communication, and empathy. The members get the opportunity to choose school based outreach projects.

A Voice for Students: Aide Supports Speech and Language Services

Patricia Carr is a para-educator in the Special Education Department, supporting online speech and language services to more than 600 students at 15 sites throughout the district. She has been with the district since 1986, and in special education for 27 years. She has worked in a variety of areas, including functional skills, autism, and behavior-intervention. Carr was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Susan Kalpakoff, a manager in the Special Education Department, said this about Carr: “Patricia values student differences and diversity. She is truly an advocate for all students, especially students with special needs. Students feel heard, valued and respected.”

How did you come to work in special education? While working in a kindergarten class, we had a student with some significant challenges. I found myself drawn to the student. My self-confidence was strengthened and I received great reward helping to meet the student’s needs. It is a joy working in the special education community. We think we are there to teach them, but they give so much more back.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? The opportunity to constantly be learning. Every student has their specific needs and the challenges can change from day to day. It keeps you on your toes.

What is the most challenging about your job? Pretty much the same as the joy. Each student is an individual and each day is different. You need patience and flexibility...and a good night’s sleep.

See EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT
Continued on page 9
Sunnyside and Duncan Seniors Represent Students on Board of Ed

Malak Sarama, from Sunnyside High School, and Eduardo Casarubias, from Duncan Polytechnical High School, are the newest representatives to the Fresno Unified Board of Education.

They were elected by their peers on the Student Advisory Board (SAB), which is made up of student leaders from throughout the district’s high schools. Their new responsibilities will require them to immerse themselves not only in their schools but the district’s activities as well.

Years ago, their stories were very different regarding school activities.

Malak’s inspiring story began five years ago when she arrived from Palestine, Jerusalem with limited English. Most of the time, “she never understood was she was being told,” she said.

Now, she describes herself as a “motivated and driven student who is very involved.”

Eduardo’s story is similar. Just a couple of years, he was shy and uninvolved.

“I wasn’t always as outgoing and talkative like I am now,” Eduardo said.

He now holds several titles, including being a Northern Director on the California Association of Student Leaders State Board, the first student from Fresno Unified to ever hold a position on that board.

Malak and Eduardo said that support from their parents, teachers, friends and family helped them get to where they are right now. As student members on the Board of Education, they will be the liaisons and student voice for the 74,000 students in Fresno Unified. They will serve one-year terms.

They have the right to attend all the board meetings and receive all materials provided to other board members and are able to cast advisory votes on all matters except those related to closed sessions.

Their faces show their excitement to serve and take on the responsibilities of student board members. As representatives for their high schools, all SAB members meet on the Tuesday prior to every scheduled Fresno Unified Board of Education meeting to review the board agenda, discuss items that affect schools, ask questions, and provide input to board members.

They both want to be the voice for Fresno Unified students, but also want to inspire other students to do their best and take advantage of all the great opportunities that the district offers.

“My dream has always been in the medical field. Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a doctor, more specifically to be an OB/GYN,” Malak said.

Despite their demanding schedules, they both understand the responsibility of being student board members and role models for others. They want to set a good example for students their age, and to encourage their younger peers to achieve and grow. Getting involved, they said, is the best advice they can share.

Both are great examples of students doing their best to inspire others to excel and succeed at school and in life.

You support online speech and language services to 600 students.

What does that entail? My responsibility is to support the speech language therapist with the sessions. Since the therapist is on the computer and not normally in the room, I am with the student. I set up the computers and keep them functioning throughout the services. I bring the students to our room and supervise their behavior and participation during therapy. At times, I am needed to reinforce the therapist’s directions. I may participate in games or interactive activities. I am also responsible for supporting the therapist during the individual education plan (IEP) meetings. I set up the computers so the therapist can attend the meetings.

What are some of the speech and language issues students struggle with? The most common struggles for students who qualify for speech services are language, articulation and fluency. Some students’ goals may include strengthening their social skills.

If you were not a special education paraprofessional, what career would you choose? In 1995, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I would watch the coverage of the search and rescue efforts. In my younger years, when choosing my career path, search and rescue would not be an option for a woman. However, after watching the teams of people working endlessly to find survivors, I felt a disappointment that it was not me there helping. Since then, I have gone on a few mission trips. My retirement dream is to volunteer for the Red Cross and travel to disaster sites supporting the first responders.
Fresno Unified Hires Ramirez as New Public Information Officer

Fresno Unified has hired Vanessa Ramirez as the district’s new public information officer. Vanessa comes to Fresno Unified from Telemundo, where she served as anchor. She has extensive media background and comprehensive understanding of communication needs. Ramirez is an Emmy award winner and also placed second in the Fresno Farm Bureau’s Ag Annual Awards.

Duncan Polytechnical Cadet Completes Pilot Training over Summer

Angela Xiong, a senior at Duncan Polytechnical High School, has earned a private pilot license after completing training over the summer at Kansas State University through a Chief of Staff of the Air Force scholarship. Angela, a cadet in Duncan’s Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC), was among just 120 cadets selected for the program. There are 102,000 cadets around the world. The scholarship was valued at approximately $20,000.

The Flight Academy Scholarship Program is a new Air Force initiative to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage, in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry. The Air Force Aircrew Crisis Task Force directed AFJROTC to bring back the “luster of aviation” to high school students and to increase interest in the field of aviation.

Families Invited to School Choice Expo October 25

Fresno Unified will host a district-wide School Choice Expo to showcase all school options and highlight career technical education (CTE) pathways at each high school. The special event will take place at Duncan Polytechnical High School on Oct. 25 from 5-7 p.m.

Wawona Students Learn at Mobile Physics Lab

Wawona School hosted the Fresno State Physics Mobile Lab on Aug. 30. Students had the opportunity to engage in learning and experiments about physics from physics majors and college professors.

Malloch Job Fair Teaches Real World Skills

Students at Malloch Elementary School applied for school jobs at a job fair on Aug. 31, interviewing for positions such as Mail Sorter, Walkie-Talkie Crew, Green Thumb Club, Ball Cart Monitor, and Birthday Announcer. This is the eighth year for the jobs program at Malloch and the fifth year for the job fair. Last year, more than 130 students held jobs on campus each semester.

Healthy Minute

Take Action to Prevent the Flu

A flu vaccine is the first and best way to reduce your chances of getting the flu and spreading it to others. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a flu vaccine every year. Flu vaccination has been shown to prevent flu illnesses, doctors’ visits and hospitalizations and can be life-saving in children.

Everyday Preventive Actions to Stop the Spread of Germs:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like flu.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm

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.

Sign Up For FREE Flu Shots

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, dependents under 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.

For more information, visit the District’s Joint Health Management Board website at www.JHMBHealthConnect.com/free-flu-shots.
Los padres interesados en que su hijo tenga una tablet para usar en casa se les pedirá que firmen el acuerdo durante las dos primeras semanas de octubre, antes de que se asignen las tabletas a los estudiantes.

Para aquellos que no tienen acceso al Internet, la universidad de padres tendrá orientaciones en octubre y noviembre.

El distrito asignará tabletas a todos los estudiantes interesados durante los próximos tres años, comenzando con pre-kindergarten, Kinder y grados 9-11 este año.

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**Tej Niam Txiv Raug Hais kom los Koom Tes nrog Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv rau Kev Siv Lub “Tablet” Hauv Tsev**

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tab tom muaj ib qho kev kawm lom zem kawg rau lub his no uas tej tub kawm ntawv kindergarten thiaib high school muab ib lub “tablet” 8-inch rau siv hauv tsev.

Rau cov tub kawm ntawv muaj kev tsim nyog rau “eLearning Companion Device” (LCD) qhov kev kawm, tej niam txiv yuav tsam tau nkag mus rau hauv ATLAS parent portal (parents. fresnou.org) thiaib saib ib qho yeeb yaj kiab lub tleib xee niam txiv daim ntawv pom zoo. Rau lus qhia txog yuav nkag li cas rau “parent portal”, cov tsev yim neeg yuav tsam tau hauv lawv tus tub kawm lub tsev kawm ntawv.

Cov tub kawm ntawv hauv qib 9-11 kuj tseem yuav muaj kev pom zoo rau tub kawm ntawv kev cog lus, uas yuav nkag tau rau “ATLAS student portal”. Qhov yeeb yaj kiab thiaib niam txiv kev pom zoo piav txog hloov lub twj tshiab thiaib kev txhawb phab. Qhov yeeb yaj kiab thiaib qhov kev pom zoo kuj tseem piav txog niam txiv kev ris dej num.

Niam Txiv Kev Ris Dej Num:

- Kuv yuav saib xyuas kuv tus tub kawm ntawv qhov kev siv ntawm lub “tablet” hauv tsev.
- Kuv yuav muab haun paus tsev kawm ntawv Tsab Cai Siv Txuj Siab Tsim Nyog coj los tham nrog kuv tus tub kawm ntaww thiaib txhawb laww kom siv raws li ib tug yam ntxwv zoo.
- Kuv yuav muab peb tej kev cia siab txog kev siv “internet”, kev sib txuas lus hluav taws xob thab “tablet” tham nrog kuv tus me nuaym.
- Kuv yuav ua zoo saib kom lub “tablet” raug xa rov qab rau tsev kawm ntaww thau lu thau los yog tham kuv tub kawm ntaww tawm hauv Fresno Unified School District.
- Yog tias lub “tablet” puas los yog ploj, kuv pom zoo los them txog $95 rau kho los yog hloov duau lub “tablet” tshiab yog tias we tseem yuav muab kev koom tes ntxiv hauv chiv LCD.

Yog itas lub “tablet” cov khoom siv lim tej kev tis zoo rau yuav siv tus yuav suv rau yuav suv tsev. Cov niam txiv uas muaj kev ntxim siab laww tus me nyuam tau ib lub “tablet” los siv nyob hauv hauv tsev yuav rau hais kom xee ib qho kev pom zoo lub sij hawm ib ob lim tiam ntawm lub Kaum Hli, ua ntej muab lub “tablet” rau cov tub kawm ntawv.

Rau cov uas nws nkag tis rau “internet”, Parent University yuav muaj kev tej kev cob qhia nyob rau lub Kaum Hli thiaib Kaum Ib Hlis.

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv yuav muab tej “tablet” rau txhua tus tub kawm ntawv txuas siab rau peb lub xyoos tom ntej no, nib nrog pre-kindergarten, kindergarten thiaib qib 9-11 rau lub xyo no.

**Muaj Tus Nqi Internet Pheej Pheej Yig rau Tej Tub Kawm Ntawv**

Duncan Polytechnical High School holds its annual 9/11 ceremony to honor the victims of 9/11, as well as public service employees and those who have served in the military. Cadets from the school's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) led the ceremony.

Duncan Students Honor Public Servants on 9/11

FACTS about Fresno Unified

- All second- and third-graders received music instruction in the last school year
- About 70 percent of students are involved in arts, activities or athletics

We offer the following services:

- Well exams
- Immunizations
- Same-day appointments
- Sick visits
- Sports physicals
- After hours on-call
- Expectant parent interviews (at no cost)

Accepting all PPO, Medi-Cal and Blue Shield HMO

valleychildrenspediatrics.org
State of Education Luncheon Raises Money for Student Scholarships

A broad spectrum of community members, city leaders and Fresno Unified staff are expected to attend the annual State of Education luncheon on Oct. 8, the district’s largest single event to raise money for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund.

The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Fresno. For ticket information, call (559) 457-3733 or go to fresnounified.org.

The keynote speaker will be Superintendent Bob Nelson, who will share his vision for a united Fresno Unified. The event will also highlight the district’s progress and showcase student talent.

Last spring, the district awarded $61,000 in scholarships to 46 students, all of whom overcame significant obstacles on their journey to academic success. Stories of 2018 scholarship recipients will be shared at the luncheon, giving guests an opportunity to learn first-hand how important their support is to Fresno Unified students.

Many of these students struggled with poverty, illness, losing family members, mastering English, and countless other obstacles -- but managed to excel academically and become leaders of their high schools.

Scholarship winners last year went on to attend a variety of colleges, including American University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, University of Michigan and a variety of other community colleges and universities.

The district’s scholarship fund, established in 2009, has made a difference in the lives of Fresno Unified students by not only helping to defray college costs, but by shining a spotlight on their success and singling them out as worthy of distinction.

Transfer Application Deadline

Fresno Unified offers a wide variety of school choice options, including popular magnet schools and specialized programs. For the 2019-20 school year, applications received on or before Dec. 3, 2018 will have priority in the selection process.

Families may apply for a transfer to any district school by completing an application. Learn more and print an application at https://tinyurl.com/fusdtransfers, or call (559) 248-7538, or drop in at the Transfers Office, 4120 N. First St., for more information.

FREE EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP for Parents with High School Students

Tuesday, October 16 and Thursday, October 18 / 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Bullard High School / Library
5445 N. Palm Ave. Fresno, California 93704
Oct. 16 RSVP Code 125629 / Oct. 18 RSVP Code 125619

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, REGISTER ONLINE AT: MYLOCALWORKSHOP.ORG

In this workshop, you will learn:

- How to increase your college-related tax deductions and tax credits
- How to pick colleges that will give you the best financial aid packages
- How to send your child to an expensive private university for less than a state school
- Which assets are taken into consideration when the U. S. Department of Education calculates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- How to pay for college in an ever-changing economy without relying on 529 plans, expensive private student loans or raiding your retirement accounts
- How to get ahead by developing a customized plan to meet all the college costs you may incur as a family
- How to lower your “out-of-pocket” costs and get the maximum amount of money from each school

www.scottkarl.com 559.307.6103

Interested in Placing an Ad?

Directly mailed to more than 155,000 residences and businesses in Fresno Unified

For more information about placing an ad, call (559) 457-3733
Students Can Get Vaccinations and Physicals at Mobile Health Unit

The district’s mobile health unit is available at several Fresno Unified high schools throughout the school year (see schedule at right) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for physicals and immunizations for district students. Parents can call (559) 457-3294 to schedule a physical (physicals are by appointment only). Immunizations are available on a walk-in basis, with no appointment necessary, for students who are uninsured or have Medical insurance. Parents need to bring their student’s immunizations records and Medical card.

“Our mobile health unit is a great way for families to make sure their students are up to date on their vaccinations and physicals. We want to encourage our families to take advantage of this resource,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

### Mobile Health Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday (8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.)</th>
<th>Wednesday (8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresno High School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunnyside High School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2, Nov 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, May 7</td>
<td>Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bullard High School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hoover High School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duncan High School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Edison High School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>McLane High School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roosevelt High School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23, Nov. 27, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26, April 30, May 28</td>
<td>Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, May 1, May 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cheryl Martinez, a registered nurse practitioner for Fresno Unified, examines a student in the district’s mobile health unit during a stop at Fresno High School Sept. 4. The mobile health unit visits different high schools on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to provide physicals and immunizations.
Add to that, last year the district added Unified Sports for high school students, increasing inclusion options for students interested in playing after school athletics. Students in both special education and general education come together on the same team to compete on the soccer field and the basketball court. Nothing is more rewarding than watching students team up in this arena as they compete side by side and learn what makes each one of them unique.

Our Board of Education continues to commit resources that expand a child’s learning well beyond the traditional classroom. I am forever grateful to the parents, staff and teachers who ensure our students with special needs remain at the core of that effort.

El almuerzo del Estado de la Educación, una oportunidad de aprender sobre el progreso del distrito

Nuevamente nuestra comunidad se une el 8 de octubre en el Hotel DoubleTree para la que es la más grande recaudación de fondos para becas del distrito nuestro almuerzo del Estado de Educación. El dinero que se recauda cada año sirve para ofrecer becas a los alumnos que están a punto de graduarse para que se embarquen en educación superior. El año pasado, el distrito reunió suficiente dinero para entregar $61,000 dólares en becas a 46 distrito nuestro almuerzo del Estado de Educación. Reconocían programas de transición, la expansión de apoyo social y emocional, así como psicólogos adicionales y la creación de un comité de Educación Especial. Mejoras a nuestras instalaciones incluyen la preparatoria Rata, que recibe a nuestros alumnos medicamente fragiles, en los grados noveno al decavo y adultos de hasta 22 años. También hemos terminado con las renovaciones en el campus de nuestro Programa de Transición de Adultos que sirve a alumnos de 18 a 22 años. Ambas instalaciones han visto una remodelación mayor, mejoras en los salones de clase, el aprendizaje de habilidades para la vida diaria, accesibilidad y actividades físicas.

El concejo de Escuelas de Grandes Ciudades también reconocieron áreas positivas de apoyo, entre ellas; una visión bien definida para el éxito de nuestros alumnos, un Plan maestro, a conciencia; para nuestros aprendices de inglés con discapacidades, apoyo temprano para estudiantes con retrasos del desarrollo, una amplia variedad de programas de transición para estudiantes y un 96% de permanencia de nuestros maestros de educación especial. Esos son solo algunos de los esfuerzos que han sido reconocidos por el concejo y que han ayudado a mejorar los servicios para nuestros estudiantes con discapacidades.

A todo eso, hay que agregarle que el año pasado Deportes Unificados para estudiantes de preparatoria, aumento sus opciones de inclusión para estudiantes con interés en participar en actividades atléticas después de escuela. Estudiantes tanto en educación especial como general se han unido en el mismo equipo para competir tanto en la cancha de fútbol como en la de basquetbol. No hay nada más satisfactorio que el ver a los equipos competir, hombro con hombro; y aprender que es
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“...As a middle school principal, my education has allowed me to contribute more to the teachers I work with and offer a better education to our students. FPU has provided me with the knowledge and experience I need to lead more confidently."

— Joe Bracamonte, STEM Education M.A.