Full Speed Ahead for Duncan High Heavy Truck Facility

The district unveiled a huge new training classroom for students at Duncan Polytechnical High School pursuing heavy truck maintenance and repair – the first of its kind in the nation.

Students in the new heavy truck program began using the new career technical education (CTE) facilities in March, with a grand opening held on March 21.

More than 150 attended the opening, including dozens of representatives from local industries and employers. The event included private tours for industry representatives and tours for the community.

The 10,000-square-foot facility – large enough to fit eight semi-trucks – provides the most modern equipment for preparing students for jobs in the valley’s growing transport industry.

No high school in the nation has a similar facility, said Duncan vocational education teacher Eric Rubio. “There are some high schools that transport students to local technical training centers or community colleges, but Duncan is very proud to offer a program within a wall-to-wall CTE school,” Rubio said.

The heavy truck program was sparked by the needs of local employers, including Mike Betts from Betts Company. Betts shared with Fresno Unified local businesses’ huge challenge in finding and retaining heavy truck technicians, said Jeremy Ward, principal at Duncan. “Mike recognized that youth growing up in the valley need the opportunity to be introduced to the heavy truck industry, and the opportunities that exist early on if we provide a program for students and industry is involved in developing the technicians they need,” Ward said.

The facility was paid for with funds from Measure X (passed by voters in November 2016) and Measure Q (passed by voters in November 2010), along with a $6 million California Career Technical Education Facilities Program grant.

The project also includes expansion of facilities for the Manufacturing Technology, Construction Technology, Automotive and Welding & Fabrication career pathways, which also provide unique opportunities for students. Improvements include adding a large outdoor and presentation space and expanding classroom shop space.

The heavy trucks facility includes a one-of-a-kind alignment pit with room for instruction using student seating area in the pit, a separate classroom.

See DUNCAN OPEN HOUSE
Continued on page 9
Families Invited to Enroll their Children in District Preschool

Fresno Unified School District offers no-cost preschool programs at all elementary school sites. The district encourages families to register their young children for this opportunity to learn in a high quality environment under the direction of skilled teachers.

Fresno Unified preschools offer:
- Instruction aligned with the California Preschool Foundations and a focus on social-emotional health and oral language development.
- Emphasis on early literacy, early math concepts, visual arts and social-emotional development.
- School readiness through developmentally appropriate, current research-based practices.

“Research shows that children who participate in high quality early learning programs are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond,” said Katy Madden, district preschool manager.

Classes are available in the morning and afternoon. Enrollment begins April 1 for the 2019-20 school year.

Step 1: Complete the enrollment packet
- The enrollment packet is available at all elementary school sites.
- Please review all program requirements and complete the packet in advance as much as possible.

Step 2: Schedule an appointment to turn in the enrollment packet
- Call (559) 457-3416 to schedule an appointment with an enrollment specialist.
- Gather all the required documentation. Please see the checklist on the enrollment form.
- The district will not accept enrollment packets with documents missing.

Step 3: Meet with an enrollment specialist (April 1-Sept. 20)
- Bring the completed enrollment packet and the required documentation to the scheduled meeting at the Early Learning Department Enrollment Center at McLane High School.

Se les invita a las familias a inscribir a sus hijos en preescolar

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno ofrece programas preescolares sin costo en la mayoría de los campus de escuelas primarias en todo Fresno. El distrito alienta a las familias a registrar a sus niños pequeños para esta oportunidad de aprender en un ambiente de alta calidad bajo la dirección de maestros calificados.

Las escuelas preescolares del Distrito Unificado de Fresno ofrecen:
- Instrucción alineada con las fundaciones preescolares de California y se enfoca en la salud socioemocional y el desarrollo del lenguaje oral.
- Énfasis en la alfabetización temprana, conceptos matemáticos tempranos, artes visuales y desarrollo socioemocional.
- Preparación para la escuela a través de prácticas basadas en la investigación actual apropiadas para el desarrollo.

“Las investigaciones muestran que los niños que participan en programas de aprendizaje temprano de alta calidad están mejor preparados para el kinder y más allá”, dijo Katy Madden, gerente de distrito de preescolar.

Las clases están disponibles por la mañana y por la tarde. La inscripción comienza el 1 de abril para el año escolar 2019-20.

Paso 1: Complete el paquete de inscripción
- El paquete de inscripción está disponible en todas las escuelas primarias.
- Por favor revise todos los requisitos del programa y complete el paquete de antemano lo más posible.

Paso 2: Programe una cita para entregar el paquete de inscripción
- Llame al (559) 457-3416 para programar una cita con un especialista de inscripción.
- Recopile toda la documentación requerida. Por favor vea la lista de verificación en el formulario de inscripción.
- El distrito no aceptará paquetes de inscripción con documentos faltantes.

Paso 3: Reúnanse con un especialista de inscripción (del 1 de abril al 20 de septiembre)
- Traiga el paquete de inscripción completo y la documentación requerida a la reunión programada al Centro de Inscripción del Departamento de Aprendizaje Temprano en la escuela preparatoria McLane.

Cov Tsev Yim Neeg Raug Caw tuaj Cuv Lawv Cov Me Nyuam rau hauv Preschool

Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tau qhìb muaj cov kev kawm preschool yam tsis tau them nqi nyob rau ntau lub tsev kawn ntawv them qis thoob plaws Fresno. Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv nqua hu cov tsev yim neeg tuaj cuv npe lawv cov me nyuam yaus rau lub cìb fwm qhìb muaj nò los kawm nyob rau hauv ib qho zòo los ntawm cov xìb fwb muaj kev txawj.

Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv preschools qhìb muaj:
- Ua ntau dau rau kev kawn ntawv thaum ntxov, pab cov tswv yim lej ntxov, ua duab pom thiab kev haum

See EARLY LEARNING REG. Continued on page 9
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

District Celebrates New Facilities, from Heavy Truck Learning Space to New Pool

All you have to do is drive around town to know that Punxsutawney Phil got it right – spring is here! The days are brighter, kids are out laughing, playing and competing on playgrounds and athletic fields all around our district and it’s clear we are nearing the end of another school year. We’re less than 50 days away from graduation season.

These last few months are packed with excitement and activities, including the completion of some major district investments. March 21 we held an open house to celebrate the completion of Duncan Polytechnic High School’s facility improvements. In addition to modernizing the existing building that housed automotive, welding and construction CTE facilities, a new 10,000-square-foot building was added to support construction, manufacturing and a large truck repair facility – the first of its kind at a high school anywhere in the country. This project provides students with a new formal classroom, maintenance pit for hands-on training, indoor garage workspace and covered exterior space for truck emissions testing. The new building also includes a construction trades education facility, including a large outdoor workspace.

This month we will host another grand opening, this one for brand new facilities at Roosevelt High School – a much-needed new pool, new tennis courts and a completely redone varsity baseball field. We’ve also added a new backstop to our JV baseball field and new bleachers for the softball field. In addition, all of our outdoor athletic fields will have access to new bathrooms. These modernizations complete several years of improvements at Roosevelt that have completely transformed a campus and its surrounding neighborhood. Come swimming this summer, and experience this brand new pool!

This month also means hundreds of Fresno Unified middle school students will be competing in our 12th annual Tournament of Technology on April 6. The competition challenges students in a variety of technology-based events, including engineering design and application, robotics, video production and computer applications. We’re extremely grateful for the many district staff and community volunteers who come together to watch and serve as judges at this day long competition – it truly adds to the excitement of the day.

See SUPT. MESSAGE
SPANISH AND HMONG

Continued on page 15

Message from Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Senior Director of Early Care and Education for the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Fresno County Educators work with District to Support High Quality Early Learning

Making the most of early learning moments can be the difference between a fragile beginning and a strong start in school. Learning begins at birth. The human brain undergoes rapid development, critically shaping the child’s brain architecture. By the time children turn 3, they have already begun laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

High-quality early education for all would significantly narrow the achievement gap. Very young children learn through play, the active exploration of their environment and, most importantly, through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. During those early years, how that child learns and develops mentally, emotionally and socially is critical. Research shows that children who attend high-quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college or complete vocational training and become self-sufficient.

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) partners with Fresno Unified to support quality in early care and education programs. Fresno Unified is participating in Early Stars, the countywide quality rating and improvement system for early care and education. Early Stars, operated under FCSS, provides training, coaching, and resources licensed centers and family childcare homes. Participating sites are eventually rated on quality indicators, such as teacher child interactions, teacher qualifications, the environment and more to determine their rating. Sites earn a rating from one star to five stars, with five stars awarded to sites demonstrating high quality across indicators. Due to the strong partnership, all Fresno Unified sites have a rating of four or five stars. This means that children attending district preschools are receiving quality early education.

FCSS collaborates with Fresno Unified in The Fresno Language Project. The project’s purpose is to ensure that all children have a strong foundation in both English and their home language upon entering into kindergarten. The project is implementing innovative practices, including Personalized Oral Language(s) Learning strategies (POLL), which are concrete approaches that support learning in all environments.

FCSS is proud to collaborate with Fresno Unified to expand access to quality care and education programs. The partnership is a strong demonstration of how to best leverage systems to ensure our youngest learners have the best start when entering school.
High School Construction Programs Build Promising Futures

Fresno Unified students in construction trades programs are not only learning valuable skills but are involved in several programs that help the community.

District construction students may work with Grid Alternatives, helping to install solar panels for low-income residents, or with the Marjaree Mason Center and Habitat for Humanity to help build and repair homes for those in need.

The students are also participating in a playhouse building competition that raises money for Fresno State’s construction program. Three of the district’s construction programs – at Duncan Polytechnical, Fresno and Hoover high schools – are building playhouses that Fresno State will auction at the university’s Vintage Days April 21-23.

“From the design of the structure to the materials used, our students are leading the way to develop a product from the ground up that will serve a family in our community for years to come,” said Cara Jurado, career technical education (CTE) coordinator at Duncan.

Duncan juniors and seniors also expand their awareness of community needs by working in groups with industry partners on projects that showcase their construction skills and solve a community need.

Fresno High’s program is also “based on community outreach,” said Keisha Shabazz, CTE coordinator at Fresno High.

“We pride ourselves on designing and building structures that we can donate back into our community and to local charities. During the spring, we will branch out to our region and work with senior citizens on their yards and small outside renovation or beautifying projects,” Shabazz said.

Hoover has created a construction program that is about serving the community first, said Melissa Rodriguez, CTE coordinator at Hoover.

“Hoover construction students do more than learn the skills needed to complete a project – they learn about the human element that the project is serving,” Rodriguez said.

High School Construction Programs

Duncan Polytechnical has offered construction courses since the campus opened in the early 1980s. In 2014, it created the four-year Linked Learning Construction Technology Pathway. The program moved into a new state-of-the-art facility in February.

In Duncan’s program, students not only learn the skills and knowledge needed for careers related to the residential construction industry, but can achieve post-secondary goals. The pathway aligns with construction and carpentry programs at many trade schools and post-secondary educational institutions, including Fresno City College and Fresno State. Duncan’s program includes:

- Pathway classes offered for sophomores through seniors
- NCCER Construction Core, Construction Technology and trade specific certifications, S/P2 safety certification, OSHA 10 safety certification
- Concurrent enrollment at Fresno City College for Construction 50A and Construction 50B

Fresno High launched its Construction Design & Applied Technology (CDAT) Academy last fall. The courses take the students on an educational journey from the design process with AUTOCad and Sketch-Up to the actual build and project management, Shabazz said.

Students also have the opportunity to learn about landscape engineering.

See CTE SPOTLIGHT
Continued on page 9
The Edison High School girls soccer team (middle left) won the Central Section Division II title with a 2-1 victory against Liberty-Madera Ranchos on Feb. 22 at McLane Stadium. Edison junior Abigail Borcher scored the winning breakaway goal with less than two minutes to go in the game. It was the Tigers’ second consecutive section championship. Below, Edison High’s Ariana Fischer competes in the playoffs. In wrestling, three Fresno Unified athletes placed at the California Wrestling State Championships at Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield Feb. 23, with Bullard senior Dawson Sihavong third at 145 (below middle), Edison senior Kwabena Watson eighth at 220 (left) and McLane High School senior Xanaysis Real seventh at girls 170 (below bottom). In basketball on Feb. 23 at Selland Arena, the Bullard boys came up just short in the Division I championship, losing 89-81 to Clovis West High School in double overtime. Far left, Bullard’s Jalen White goes up for a shot. The Fresno High School girls also were runner-ups, losing to Selma High School for the Division III title, 71-39. Left bottom, Fresno High’s Erin Williams pushes the ball up the court.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Carrillo Works with Families to Stem Truancy, Assists other Districts

Vangie Carrillo, a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) technician, is one of the district’s point people to help truant students get back on track. She serves as the chairperson at all SARB hearings, and meets with families. She began with the district in 1987 at age 18, working as a preschool aide for two years. She returned to the district in 1999 and has been a SARB tech for 10 years. She was a 2019 Excellence in Education finalist. Because of her vast experience, other districts frequently ask for her guidance. Kristi Jackson, attendance coordinator, said about Carrillo: “Despite the hard conversations that she has every day with families who are struggling to get their kids to school, she is able to build a relationship and engage the family in the process. I am grateful every day to have her on my team. She is irreplaceable and has a servant’s heart.”

How did you come to be a SARB technician? I have worked my way up from classroom to the school office, working at continuation high school attendance to adult school attendance to Fiscal Services auditing attendance to an attendance tech to SARB.

What does your job entail? SARB addresses chronic attendance and truancy problems. SARB offers students a last chance to improve attendance before a referral is made to juvenile court. When school sites have exhausted their resources and attendance has not improved, a family can be referred to the SARB office. The SARB office will then schedule a hearing before a panel and the student and parent/guardian are required to attend.

What are some of your strategies in working with families to improve attendance? SARB provides a wide variety of services that are designed to meet the needs of students and their families. The ultimate goal is to help students stay in school, attend regularly, and graduate. To that end, SARB:

- Collaborates with schools and counselors
- Recommends placements
- Connects families with agencies for counseling, tutoring and other services
- Works with probation and law enforcement
- Reinforces parental legal responsibility for student attendance, as required by the California Education Code
- Initiates subpoenas, citations and petitions to court

What are some of the main reasons that students miss school? There are many reasons why students miss school when they don’t have to – struggling in the classroom, having trouble with bullies, or dealing with challenges at home. But when a child misses school for any reason, it becomes harder for

See VANGIE CARILLO
Continued on page 11

Instructional Superintendent is Assembly District Woman of the Year

Misty Her, an instructional superintendent for Fresno Unified, has been named Woman of the Year for the 31st Assembly District and was honored March 4 at a ceremony in Sacramento.

Her, selected by Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno), was recognized for her distinguished career as an educator and administrator in Fresno Unified and as a trailblazer among Hmong Americans.

Her was the first vice principal of Hmong descent in Fresno Unified and, two years later, became the first Hmong female principal in the United States.

“Misty not only has been an outstanding educator but an inspiring role model for students in the Fresno Unified School District and beyond,” Arambula said. “Her story speaks to the powerful influence of caring teachers and school leaders. Misty benefitted from such educators and today herself is tirelessly working to change the lives of children and their families.”

Her was born in a small prisoner of war camp in Laos and was 5 years old when her family came to the United States, eventually settling in Fresno. Her attended Winchell, Lane, Calwa and Jefferson elementary schools, Fort Miller Middle School and Duncan Polytechnical High School.

She discovered a love for teaching and pursued a career in education after earning her bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies from Fresno State University. She also earned a master’s degree in Administration and Supervision from Fresno State.

Her’s career as an elementary teacher began at Burroughs Elementary School, where she became principal at the age of 29 in 2004.

In 2009, she was named principal of Southeast Elementary School, a temporary campus to ease overcrowding in Fresno Unified. In 2011, Her was named an instructional superintendent for the district, responsible for the academic achievement of all students by developing effective and strategic instructional programs. She leads and oversees district improvement efforts in areas such as implementing curriculum, staff development, evaluations, and student assessments.

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.
‘Ravenous Reader’ from Manchester GATE Wins Spelling Bee

Manchester GATE Elementary School’s Jacob Hernandez took his time and calmly spelled “strenuous,” making his elementary spelling bee victory look easy.

Jacob, a sixth-grader, was among a record 62 spellers from grades 4-6 to compete Feb. 26 in the district spelling bee, held for the first time at the refurbished historic Royce Hall at Fresno High School.

The spelling bee continues to grow, with 31 schools participating this year, compared to 20 in 2015. Jacob and runner-up Marcos Vega Jr. from Addams Elementary School represented Fresno Unified at the Fresno County Spell-Off March 19 at Fresno State.

Jacob placed third in the county and will move on to the state spelling bee as an alternate May 11 in Stockton.

Jacob and Marcos won trophies and gift cards from Barnes & Noble at the district spelling bee. All spellers received a certificate, book and a swag bag. Community partners were ABC30, the Fresno County Superintendent’s Office and The Fresno Bee. The spell master was Corin Hogband from ABC30.

Jacob said his first emotion after winning was relief.

“There’s a lot of stress when you are spelling a word. Win or get out, you’re kind of relieved that you don’t have to spell anything else,” Jacob said.

Last year, he did not compete in the spelling bee, mishearing a word during the qualifying spelling contest at his school. He said he was better prepared to do well this year.

“I’ve been reading a lot more books and know a lot more words. I’m kind of a ravenous reader,” Jacob said.

He favors fantasy fiction like “The Hunger Games” and the Harry Potter series, devouring a book about every two days. His mother told him he began reading at age 2 and was reading chapter books by age 4.

Jacob’s parents, Jaclyn and Raul Hernandez, are extremely proud of his performance.

They said he began studying extra for the spelling bee about three weeks before the event. They helped by quizzing him using word lists and advised him to take his time, to visualize the word and speak very clearly.

His class at Manchester, under teacher Susan Milos, was proud of him as well, clapping and cheering for him when he returned to class.

He said, “I got kind of embarrassed.”

Baird, Design Science are Named California Distinguished Schools

Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School are among 162 middle and high schools recognized as California Distinguished Schools.

The California Department of Education (CDE) program recognizes schools achieving exceptional student performance for two consecutive years or closing the achievement gap between two years. Distinguished School award winners offer not only excellent teaching, learning and collaboration, but highly successful school climate efforts. The CDE announced the awards Feb. 25.

To assess schools and districts for the award, the state uses data from the California School Dashboard and includes test scores, suspension rates and graduation rates. Schools hold their title for two years.

“The state’s Distinguished Schools designation for Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School recognizes what we have known for some time – these two campuses are among the best in California. Both schools are producing academically strong, well-rounded students who outperform state standards,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

“The staffs and students at Baird and Design Science are to be commended for their achievements. This award is difficult to achieve, and only possible because of these schools’ hard work and commitment to academic excellence.”

Baird is a magnet school (with lottery selection) offering grades 5-8 with an emphasis on world languages and cultures, agribusiness and technology, and is an AVID National Demonstration School, only one of about 140 such schools nationwide.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college prep program that offers proven strategies to help students be confident, college-going scholars and graduates, and provides additional supports to students who are least likely to attend four-year universities.

Baird’s school culture respects and promotes the uniqueness of each individual. Baird is dedicated to the development of the whole child and committed to helping all students discover and learn through their strengths. Emphasis is placed on students developing mastery of grade level standards through an integrated team approach.

Baird offers students the opportunity to transcend the traditional school experience. Children emerge with respect for themselves and others, for education, for world cultures, and for the environment in which they live. They become unique, creative individuals who are prepared to accept the challenges and joys of lifelong learning.

Design Science offers students concurrent enrollment at Fresno City College, enabling students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate of arts degree. Since opening its doors in 2005, Design Science has soared in popularity and has a waiting list.

Design Science offers a highly successful Dual Enrollment Student Support program, with layers of academic support for students as they tackle college courses, while being cognizant of the needs of the whole student. A designated team monitors the entire support system for students.

The result is achievement well above the district and state levels, as well as community college student success outcomes. For the past three years, 100% of Design Science graduated and 100% of graduates have received admissions offers from four-year universities.
Measure X Builds New Pools at Roosevelt and McLane High Schools

Roosevelt High School has built a new pool, renovated its baseball and softball fields and replaced its tennis courts, creating excitement among students, athletes and staff and a fresh look for the district’s third-oldest high school.

Combined with past projects that added a new classroom wing, entrance, fencing and quad area, Roosevelt offers a modern campus while retaining the charm of the original Mediterranean Revival architecture that sets the campus apart.

Roosevelt will celebrate its new athletic facilities with an open house on May 17.

The projects were all made possible thanks to the community’s support for local school bond measures, including the most recent in November 2016, Measure X.

Along with Roosevelt’s pool, work is underway on a new pool at McLane High School. Demolition began March 4, with completion expected in January 2020. When the McLane pool is done, the district will have built new pools at all its comprehensive high schools.

At Roosevelt, workers completed the new 35-meter competition pool in March. It will be ready for use in early April, replacing a pool built in 1951. The pool accommodates swimming, diving and water polo.

The project includes a raised covered seating area, a new office for coaches, snack bar and locker and storage building. The project also includes a building that houses new offices for the school’s student resource officer and probation officer, pool equipment and campus golf carts. New restrooms at the pool will also accommodate the upper baseball field and tennis sports events.

We see your future in every heartbeat.

Technology enables the Heart & Vascular team at Saint Agnes to see every life-saving detail. As our doctors perfect the latest treatments, it’s the promise of your years to come that keeps us focused.

Caring for the Central Valley. With all our hearts.
DUNCAN OPEN HOUSE
Continued from page 1

indoor garage workspace and covered exterior space for truck emissions testing.

Staff and students will stay comfortable in central air conditioning and heating, and the facility offers “smart” lighting.

Duncan teamed with Freightliner Trucks and is a designated Get Ahead training school.

“We are the only high school in the nation with this partnership, which gives us access to industry level proprietary certifications, deep discounts on training aids and trucks and the most relevant information available,” Rubio said.

Duncan ranks 57 out of 185 diesel training schools, based on participation and course completions, Rubio said. The program offers students brake trainers from Freightliner, Detroit 15 liter engines, air brake brake trainers from Freightliner, said. The program offers students training and course completions, Rubio said. The business hired Duncan automotive graduate EdgarRosales last year. Students can pursue Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation that rivals post-secondary mechanic schools. Duncan offers ASE’s Truck Service Technology accreditation, which requires 740 hours of instruction and lab time. Students actually participate in more than 900 hours of instruction and lab time during the two-year Duncan program.

Carcaradex Power Institute, electrical trainers from Megatech Corporation, five current trucks (from a variety of makes) and a 53-foot trailer.

Thirty juniors and seven seniors are in the new heavy truck program, crossing over from Duncan’s automotive pathway. Seniors participate in jobsite or community classroom once a week, which gives them two hours of hands-on training with a mechanic at Affinity Truck Center. Rubio said Affinity Truck Center is a tremendous partner, offering an outstanding apprenticeship program. The business hired Duncan automotive graduate Edgar Rosales last year. Students can pursue Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation that rivals post-secondary mechanic schools. Duncan offers ASE’s Truck Service Technology accreditation, which requires 740 hours of instruction and lab time. Students actually participate in more than 900 hours of instruction and lab time during the two-year Duncan program.

Kauj Ruam 1: Ua kom tiav pob ntawv ua ntej ntau li ntau tao.

Kauj Ruam 2: Teem ib lub sjä hawm xa pob ntawv cuv npe rov qab

Cevnaj rub hawm xa pob ntawv cuv npe rov qab

Kauj Ruam 3: Ntsib nrog ib tug neeg saib cuv npe (Plaub Hlis tim 1-Cuj Hli tim 20)

Did you know...

Every year, Americans throw away 35 billion plastic bottles.

Recycling just 1 soda can saves enough electricity to operate a TV for up to 3 hours.

Glass bottles take over 1 million years to decompose in landfills.

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RECYCLE YOUR CRV BOTTLES & CANS!

Want to learn more about recycling?

Call (559) 621-1111 to book a recycling presentation for your class!
Applications for After School Programs Available at 58 Schools

Fresno Unified and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools operate daily comprehensive after school programs at 58 elementary schools across the district. Applications for the 2019-20 school year became available March 27, with applications due by April 26.

Applications are available at the elementary sites listed below.

The deadline to turn in applications for the district’s after school program is April 26. The district offers the program at 58 campuses.

Summer School will Boost Academics, Offer Enrichment

Fresno Unified is gearing up to offer summer school, with the goal of keeping students on track for graduation while preparing them for post-secondary education and workplace success.

Summer programs begin on Tuesday, June 11 and end on Thursday, July 11. Middle school programs begin on Tuesday, June 11 and will end on Tuesday, June 25. There will be no school on the July 4th holiday.

Last summer, more than 14,000 students participated in learning opportunities outside of the traditional school calendar that allowed them to recover credits for graduation, participate in summer enrichment or continue to develop academic skills gained during the regular school year.

The summer reading program helps kindergarten through second grade students stay on track to read at grade level. This program not only prevents summer learning loss but also provides needed skills that will get students ready to start the new school year strong.

Did you know that most students lose two months of mathematical skills every summer? The elementary mathematics program will provide fourth grade students with engaging project-based activities to build their math skills over the summer break.

The summer program for middle school students will include math instruction and other areas of academic emphasis.

The high school summer program offers credit recovery opportunities in all core areas and courses needed for graduation. Students who wish to open space in their schedules for advanced placement (AP) courses later in their high school career may wish to take advantage of a variety of acceleration options. Counselors will work with students to schedule summer coursework.

Qualified teachers who are committed to providing high-quality academic instruction teach all courses in a safe and structured environment.

McLane Student Overcomes Obstacles, will Pursue a Medical Career

Growing up, college seemed out of reach for McLane High School’s Makayla Sandoval. She moved frequently among family members and foster homes, with few role models in her life.

Despite those obstacles, Makayla is about to graduate from high school with a 3.45 GPA, two scholarships (so far) totaling $36,000, and an acceptance letter from San Francisco State.

The senior is surprised at herself when she realizes how far she has come. Makayla smiles frequently these days.

The turning point, she said, was being placed in a caring foster home her junior year. Since that moment, Makayla started a transition to become a better student and to be more involved in school activities, which helped her stay busy and positive despite her troubles.

She realized college was a possibility and began taking advantage of every opportunity to make that dream come true. She recently learned she had won a $10,000 Horatio Alger Scholarship, awarded to students who have overcome significant hurdles and have great financial need.

She has also received a $26,000 scholarship to Benedict College in Columbia, S.C.

Makayla said scholarships will allow her to get used to the rigors and newness of college life and be a fulltime student without being forced to find a job.

She wants to be a doctor, a highly competitive field.

“I will need to do well in college. I know where I want to go; it might take me many years, but as long as I get there, I will be fine,” Makayla said.

She is motivated everyday by her dream of becoming an OB/GYN, to help bring new generations into the world.

The way she sees it, “we all have been through trauma. I am just lucky enough to have a system in my life that helps me get to where I am going.”

She credits her foster mom, Denise Jamison, for being her rock these two years, and teaching her about life and determination. Her foster family has provided that necessary last push that Makayla needed to find her path to academic success.

Every day that passes, Makayla is a step closer to her goal, thanks to hard work and a network of support at school and at home. She is thankful others saw in her what she was not always able to see: a fearless fighting spirit.

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She is motivated everyday by her dream of becoming an OB/GYN, to help bring new generations into the world.

The way she sees it, “we all have been through trauma. I am just lucky enough to have a system in my life that helps me get to where I am going.”

She credits her foster mom, Denise Jamison, for being her rock these two years, and teaching her about life and determination. Her foster family has provided that necessary last push that Makayla needed to find her path to academic success.

Every day that passes, Makayla is a step closer to her goal, thanks to hard work and a network of support at school and at home. She is thankful others saw in her what she was not always able to see: a fearless fighting spirit.

Makayla Sandoval, a senior at McLane High School, credits her foster mother with helping her focus her goals on college and a career as a doctor.
DISTRICT ROUNDUP

Edison Softball Player Signs with Albany State

Edison High School student athlete Ciweya Tennison signed a letter of intent to play softball at Albany State University during a ceremony March 8. Ciweya has distinguished herself off the field as well. She will be recognized on March 21 at the Fresno County Board of Education as the Superintendent’s Superstar. Ciweya has a GPA of 3.17, is enrolled in the Biomed Pathway, serves as the secretary for her church’s Sunday school, is the youth commissioner for District 3, a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, peer helper on campus, assists special education students and is a translator for community food drives.

Edison Softball Player Signs with Albany State

Olmos Dedicates Buddy Bench to Principal

A buddy bench was unveiled at Olmos Elementary School on March 1 in honor of Principal Sherry Tharpe. The bench was paid for by the family of the late Mario Olmos, a judge whom the school is named for. The new bench will serve as a place for students to find a buddy.

Company Donates $2,000 to Scandinavian

KRC Property Management, LLC donated $2,000 to Scandinavian Middle School on March 1. Fresno City Council Member Paul Caprioglio presented a certificate of recognition from District 4 to the company for its community reform efforts and partnership. The property management company recently purchased three apartment complexes across from the school, renovating the units from top to bottom. KRC Property Management not only donated to the school but also a commitment to maintaining safe housing and promoting a healthier, safer neighborhood. Principal Julie Ellis said the funds will be used for a field trip for students in the Young Men’s and Young Women’s Alliance programs to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Bullard, Greenberg Honor Black History Month

Above left, Tatiana Asberry presents Sojourner Truth’s 1861 speech “Ain’t I a Woman!” during Bullard High School’s Black History Day program on Feb. 13, organized by the Black Student Union. The event featured speakers, student presentations and information on colleges. Above right, Greenberg African American Dance team members, from left, Kiara Lowe, Angel Smith, Sa’ni Shelby and Sicily Bland perform as part of Greenberg Elementary School’s Black History Month celebration on Feb. 8. Students presented information on prominent African Americans and entertained with singing and dancing.

Fresno Unified Switching to Online Flyers

Fresno Unified launched a new electronic flyer communication tool, Peachjar, on March 26.

Parents can now click on the Peachjar button on the homepage of their child’s school to view school-approved digital flyers. Flyers will also be sent via email to parents who have email addresses on file in their child’s ATLAS parent portal. While flyers will still be available in English, Spanish and Hmong, it does replace paper flyers.

Sending flyers electronically will save on paper and reduce copying costs by thousands of dollars, as well as remove a significant administrative burden from teachers, office staff, and volunteers.

For parents with email addresses on file, no action is required. Parents should have received a welcome email from Peachjar that included a username and password. This gives families the ability to manage their accounts and flyer delivery preferences, but it is not needed to login to receive or view school digital flyers.

To ensure smooth delivery of the electronic flyers, families should add school@peachjar.com to email contacts. When receiving the first flyer, click “always display images.”

Parents without an email address on file should update their contact information in their ATLAS parent portal. Families without access to a computer who want to update contact information can visit their school office for help on a campus computer.

This system is used exclusively for distribution of school-approved flyers. Email addresses will not be shared or used for any other purpose.
ROOSEVELT HIGH ANGLERS HAUL IN TROPHY

The Roosevelt High School Bass Fishing Club hit the water on Feb. 10 to compete in the Vista del Lago High School Folsom Lake Open, part of the California student angler circuit. The six Roosevelt anglers were among a 160-student, 80-boat field out in search of the five biggest bass they could catch.

Blast off was at 6:30 a.m. with temperatures in the high 30s, rain and even snow in the forecast. Eight hours later, the skies were clear, the boats were trailered, the scales were closed, and the Roosevelt team of Cesar Ruvalcaba and Jacob Lee were champions.

“It really is an incredible accomplishment,” said Mike Spencer, a Roosevelt teacher and club adviser.

Spencer launched the fishing club in 2012 and helped start high school fishing tournaments in California. With the growth of student anglers competing in tournaments, many of the teens have family boats, or even their own boat, and can fish every weekend.

“That is not the case for the kids here at Roosevelt. Honestly, I wasn’t sure one of our teams would ever win one of these open events again,” Spencer said.

But Jacob, a junior, and Cesar, a senior, hauled in 14.44 pounds of bass to take the trophy. Jacob had the tournament’s biggest fish at 5.2 pounds.

“Waiting to see if we won seemed to last forever. We had a great day with our boat captain [Terry Rock], but we didn’t really think we would win. I felt so honored when it was over,” Jacob said.

Cesar, a four-year member of the club, felt the same way.

“I didn’t think I would win one of these, but we have so many people helping us. I’m just proud we could come here and show everyone we’re good enough,” Cesar said.

Spencer credits the generosity of local anglers and businesses for the prolonged success of the club.

“If it wasn’t for so many great people out there, donating their time and money, this wouldn’t be possible,” Spencer said.

From left, front row, Keith Yang, Chee Moua Vang, club president Lisa Thao, Amenda Lor, Cesar Ruvalcaba and Jacob Lee and back row from left, boat captains Morel Bagunu, Mike Spencer (also adviser) and Terry Rock following Roosevelt High School Bass Fishing Club’s participation in a tournament at Folsom Lake. The team of Jacob and Cesar won the tournament, with Jacob hauling in the biggest fish.

See ROOSEVELT FISHING CLUB
Continued on page 14

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Saturday, May 4 • 7:30PM • OAB Auditorium
Tuesday, May 7 • 7:30PM • OAB Auditorium
Thursday, May 9 • 5:00PM • Recital Hall
Saturday, May 11 • 7:30PM • OAB Auditorium

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State Center Community College District
ROOSEVELT FISHING CLUB  
Continued from page 13

resources, believing in our mission, we wouldn’t be able to have the opportunity. We fish in tournaments at Folsom, over on the California Delta, New Melones, Berryessa, Clear Lake, all over the state,” Spencer said.

“I have boaters who drive from Fresno to all these places, six-plus hours, just to take kids fishing. I have sponsors who pick up the tab. It’s mind-blowing to me, but that’s how important we all feel it is to get our students outside and on the water. Fishing can transform lives.”

One of those angler volunteers is Morel Bagunu, general manager of Manchester Center and past chairperson of the board of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Bagunu said supporting Roosevelt’s fishing club for the past five years allows him to enjoy his passion and give back to the community. He said it’s not all about the fishing.

“These students learn to give back to their community as a part of it all. Who wouldn’t want to be aligned with this club?” Bagunu said.

To be part of the Roosevelt Bass Fishing Club, students must maintain good grades and participate in community service.

“Fishing is the hook to get kids to see they are connected to the world -- they can make themselves better, which makes the world better,” Spencer said.

The club strives for 1,000 hours of community service a year, and has started two community events: Trunk-o-Treats Night and an Easter egg hunt at Jackson Elementary School. The club also often teams with Roosevelt’s Ecology Club for monthly Neighborhood Beatification Walks, helps the Clovis Lyons Club with its spaghetti dinner, and volunteers at Pancakes with Santa, and Breakfast with the Animals, Kids Day newspaper sales, National Public Lands Day, habitat improvements at Pine Flat and Sycamore Island, and the Kids’ Fishing Pool at Bass Pro Shops in Manteca during their Spring Days event.

Spencer hopes that one of Roosevelt’s teams qualifies for the National High School Fishing Finals in Alabama by finishing in the top 10% of the State Championship field in May on Clear Lake.

“A trip like that would test our abilities as an organization on every level. That’s a long way to tow a boat,” Spencer said, “but I believe in us.

Serving the Community: Patiño Cooking Club Prepares Dinner for Ronald McDonald Guests

Seven students from Patiño School of Entrepreneurship darted around a kitchen at the Ronald McDonald House, hunting for a mixer, spoons and various cooking tools as they began preparing dinner for 30.

It was the Patiño Cooking Club in action, giving back to their community by providing a home-cooked meal on March 1 to families who were living temporarily at the Ronald McDonald house because their children are being treated at nearby Valley Children’s Hospital.

“It’s a really good feeling, helping out with families, making them feel good,” said Julian Flores, a junior at Patiño.

Patiño is Fresno Unified’s newest high school, launched in 2015 to give students the option of an integrated project-based curriculum focused on critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Before they graduate, all students will have developed, pitched and launched their company.

Although the school is small – 260 students – Patiño Cooking Club members said the group gives them the opportunity to meet other students. They meet every Friday at lunch to discuss events, fundraisers and activities.

The club has earned money by catering various school events, from desserts for a school dance to breakfast burritos for the Senior Breakfast. This allows them to purchase supplies, food, and ingredients. They also plan to buy Patiño Cooking Club aprons and get food handling licenses.

Their dinner for Ronald McDonald House families, however, was strictly about serving others. They barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs, made Mexican rice and chocolate chip cookies from scratch.

“I think it’s a good, humbling experience,” said Patiño teacher Pedro Enrique, adviser for the club. “It’s part of being united, working as a team.”

Patiño Cooking Club members Desiree Hernandez, front, and Lizette Espinoza prepare the condiments for barbecued hamburgers for families living at the Ronald McDonald House. Club members prepared dinner for 30 on March 1.
This time of year also provides new opportunities for our youngest Fresno residents as the district is now accepting applications for parents looking to register their children for pre-kindergarten. Children who turn 4 by Dec. 2, 2019 can begin pre-kindergarten this coming school year. Research shows that early learning programs can make a big difference in children’s future, helping launch them on a path to academic success. Pre-kindergarten gives students a leg up on reaching key academic and social emotional targets that will help ensure they are reading on grade level by third grade and successfully matriculating one year forward each year. Our goal as a district is to accommodate every family that wants to provide their child a jumpstart to long-term success! Setting the stage to graduate on time, college and career ready, begins early and I encourage all of our city’s parents to take advantage of the many opportunities Fresno Unified provides. To learn more about early learning opportunities or other vital work going in within Fresno Unified, visit our district website at www.Fresnounified.org. Enjoy your spring break holiday!

El Distrito Escolar Celebra las Nuevas Instalaciones desde un Espacio de Aprendizaje de Tráileres/Trocas de Carga Pesada hasta una Nueva Piscina en Roosevelt

Todo lo que tienen que hacer es conducir alrededor de la ciudad para saber que Punxsutawney Phil lo hizo bien – ¡ya está aquí la primavera! Los días están más radiantes, los niños están afuera riendo, jugando y competiendo en las áreas de recreo y en los campos de deportes todo alrededor de nuestro distrito y está claro que nos estamos acercando al final de otro ciclo escolar. Nos encontramos a menos de 50 días de la temporada de graduación.

Estos últimos meses están llenos de emoción y actividades, incluyendo la terminación de algunas inversiones importantes del distrito. El 21 de marzo se llevó a cabo una exhibición (open house) para celebrar la terminación de las mejoras de la instalación de la Escuela Preparatoria Duncan. Además de modernizar el edificio existente CTE que albergaba la automotriz de soldadura y construcción, se añadió un nuevo edificio de 10,000-pies cuadra-

Hauv Paus Tsev Kwam Ntnaw Ua Kev Lom Zend Cov Chaw Hauv Pas Dej Tshiab Hauv Rooseveet

Qhov kou ja tau yog tsav thshub mus nicig lub zos pab txog tias Punxsutawney Phil wys yog – cjup nploog hlaw los txog lawm! Hnub ci ntsa ib, cov me nyuaw tawm tua ji si lug cntshi, thshub muaj kev sb tw nyob rau tom tua ji si thshub tej tua ji si las ib nicig lub hauv pajaw tsv muaj kwam Ntnaw thsiaw ntsaw pab txog tiaj pb peb zeb xaus dawnmu ib lub yxoo kuow nawm. Tshaub tsis tsib 50 hnbu hauv kawg caij tiaw.

Ob peb lub hlis xaus no punk nkaus teb kev tom lem zem thsiaw tej dej num ua, xam nrog rau ua tiaw qee yam loj hauv pajaw tsv muaj kwam Ntnaw tau nqiis peeb ua tiaw. Peb hlis tim 21 peb yuaw muaj ib qho qhib u kev zoo siab kev ua tiaw kwam Ntnaw Duncan Polteknich High School lub chaw tximho kham. Ntxiv rau kev hlaw kham kou cov txaw maw uaw tsv kev sib tw, chaw hlaub sib tsiaw CTE tej vaj tsv, ib lub tsiaw thshub 10,000-square-foot tau ua txaw maw thxaub pb keb tsiv vaj tau, kev tsiv kham thshub ib lub chaw chaw thshub tuaj loj – thawj thawz zajg nyob hauv lub tsv muaj kwam Ntnaw heern sib kwog twq nyob rau hauv teh chaw. Qhov dej num now ua rau tej tuaj kwam Ntnaw muaj ib lub chaw chaw thshub, lub qho qhib kou cov tsiv kev nqiis tes kawm kawg, lub chaw chaw thshub nyob sab hauv thshub chaw vov sab raum kev kuaj “emissions testing”. Lub tsiaw thshub kou muaj ib qho qhib thshub bub paj lag luam, xam nrog rau ib lub chaw loj nyob sab raum zooz.

Nyoob rau lub hlis now peb yuaw muaj dua ib qho qhib thshub, lub no rau cov tsev thshub nyob rau hauv Rooseveet High School – xav tau ib lub pas dej thshub heev, cov chaw ntaus tennis thshub kou dua thshub “varsity baseball” lub chaw ntaus npas. Peb kou tsim tntxv ib lub tiaj “backstop” thshub rau peb cov JV baseball field thshub cov rooj zaum thshub rau lub chaw ntaus softball. Ntxiv tntawm, tag nhrp peb cov tiaj ua kis las sab nraum roob mus wns lau. Thshub Cov kev hvloob kou tau taiv ob peb lus yxoo noom kwav txhmi kou nyob rau hauv Rooseveet uas hvloob lub vaj loog kwam dua thshub ib puag nqiis tej zog. Tuaj ua luam dej nyob rau lub caaj ntuj so no, thiam sim lub pas dej thshub thshub no!


Ntxiv rau kev saib thshub baw chaw thoob Thawj xu xawi dawb luam yuaw.

This time of year also provides new opportunities for our youngest Fresno residents as the district is now accepting applications for parents looking to register their children for pre-kindergarten. Children who turn 4 by December 2, 2019 can begin pre-kindergarten this coming school year. Our goal as a district is to accommodate every family that wants to provide their child a jumpstart to long-term success! Setting the stage to graduate on time, college and career ready, begins early and I encourage all of our city’s parents to take advantage of the many opportunities Fresno Unified provides. To learn more about early learning opportunities or other vital work going in within Fresno Unified, visit our district website at www.Fresnounified.org. Enjoy your spring break holiday!
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