A new school year is about to get underway Aug. 12, Fresno Unified is prepared to welcome an expected 74,000 students through the doors of its 102 campuses, offering expanded programs and opportunities for all students. New for the 2019-20 academic year includes:

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**
- The district will invest an additional $11.4 million for expanded services and the equivalent of 110 new positions in support of the special education program.

**FACILITIES**
- Design Science Middle College High School has relocated to classrooms on the Fresno City College campus in the Business Education Building. The move gives students easier access to college classes and services.
- A makeover of the McLane Stadium is ready for the 2019 season, featuring new synthetic turf, infrastructure and utility updates, the addition of portable restrooms and improved accessibility. This is a Measure X project.
- Starr Elementary School has enhanced facilities in support of special education inclusion efforts. This is a Measure X project.
- Demolition is underway on the old juvenile hall, which the district purchased from the county of Fresno during the last school year for a future campus.
- At Bullard TALENT K-8 School, site and security

**BACK TO SCHOOL**
- New baseball and softball fields at McLane will be ready. With the restoration of adjacent practice fields and stadium work, all of the campus’ fields have new surfaces.

**TOP 10 TIPS**
1. **Meet the teacher and tour the school:** Participate in back to school events.
2. **Getting to school:** Have a back-up plan in case of work or car trouble.
3. **Homework area:** Figure out a quiet designated homework space.
4. **Backpack check:** Stock with necessary supplies. Some teachers provide a recommended list of school supplies.
5. **School calendar:** Go to fresnounified.org under “Schools” and print school calendar. (Or cut out the one on page 11.)
6. **Return to routine:** Have students start going to bed earlier and getting up earlier prior to the first day.
7. **Be on time:** Talk about what time you need to leave the house.
8. **What to wear:** Go through last year’s clothes and assess what is needed. Get in the habit of laying out school clothes the night before.
9. **Immunizations:** Check on vaccine requirements (see page 8).
10. **Expectations:** Talk about goals for the school year and how to achieve them.
Convenient Evening Registration Available to get Ready for School

Fresno Unified will open all of its schools for evening registration on Aug. 6 to accommodate families who have not yet registered new students for the 2019-20 school year.

The evening registration will be held from 4-7 p.m. Many school offices will also be open in the mornings for registration in the days leading up to the first day of school on Aug. 12.

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

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

“I hope that families take advantage of the convenient, after-work hours we offer through evening registration,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “When students are completely registered and ready to go, it eliminates some of the stress and anxiety that the first day of school can bring.”

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

Instrucciones por la Tarde Disponible

El Distrito de Fresno abrirá todas sus escuelas para la inscripción por la tarde el 6 de agosto para dar cabida a las familias que aún no han inscrito a nuevos estudiantes para el año escolar 2019-20.

La inscripción de la tarde se llevará a cabo de 4 a 7 p.m. Muchas oficinas escolares también estarán abiertas en las mañanas para registrar en los días previos al primer día de clases el 12 de agosto.

Para registrar a un nuevo estudiante, los padres / tutores deben traer:

- Certificado de nacimiento del estudiante o otra prueba de edad
- Transcripciones anteriores
- Comprobante de domicilio (como recibo de alquiler o factura de servicios públicos)
- Registros de inmunización que indican la prueba actual de polio, DPT, MMR y tuberculosis; la hepatitis B y una segunda de sarampión son necesarios para kindergarten y séptimo grado; la varicela también se requiere para los de kindergarten y entrantes fuera del estado de grados 1° a 12°

“Espero que las familias aprovechen las conveniencias horas después del trabajo que ofrecemos a través de inscripción por la noche,” dijo el Superintendente Bob Nelson. “Cuando los estudiantes están completamente registrados y listos, se elimina parte del estrés y la ansiedad que puede traer el primer día de clases.”

“Registrar a los niños antes del primer día de clases es una excelente manera de eliminar parte del estrés y la ansiedad que acompañan al primer día de clases,” dijo el Superintendente Bob Nelson.

Si los estudiantes están interesados en transferirse fuera del sitio escolar de su vecindario, se les pide que sigan la política de transferencia del distrito. Para obtener más información sobre el proceso de transferencia visita, www.fresnounified.org.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Work over the Summer Included Addressing Racial Tensions

It’s here again -- the start of another new school year, and I couldn’t be more excited to welcome back staff and our more than 74,000 students. While summer vacation provides a much-needed break, many in our organization spent their summer hard at work to ensure a smooth launch of the new academic year.

Many of our students spent the summer hard at work as well. Over 14,000 students participated in summer school programs -- from credit recovery, to enrichment courses, to summer literacy and even summer bridge programs for incoming high school freshmen. No matter the program, students and teachers were invested in developing academic and social emotional skills, ensuring students started the new school year on solid ground. In addition, in our ongoing effort to reduce the food insecurities facing our youth, the district’s Food Services Department provided over 200,000 free meals at 50 school site locations. Our facilities team partnered once again with the city of Fresno’s parks department to keep six of our high school pools open for community swimming and swim lessons. With certified lifeguards from the city, Bullard, Edison, Fresno, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside high schools provided safe, supervised, low-cost swimming opportunities for our students, their families, and the community. Sprinkle in the opening of 40 school libraries, and our community members and students could grab a compelling book, eat a healthy meal and engage in outdoor activities.

Our operations crews took on the summer heat as they were out in full force tackling construction, maintenance, grounds-keeping and cleaning projects, helping modernize and improve district facilities. McLane High’s new synthetic turf football field, Fresno High’s cooling system, and safety improvements at Bullard TALENT are just a few of the projects that students will benefit from as they return to school later this month.

Message from Fresno Mayor Lee Brand

Don’t Let Others Define Your Life for You – Dream Big and Go for It

As we begin another school year, I wanted to share a few of my experiences growing up in Fresno that I hope will provide some perspective and encouragement as you continue your educational career.

I was a problem child who did not do well in school. My sixth-grade teacher told me that I didn’t have much of a future and I could end up in jail. I nearly fulfilled that prophecy when I was arrested at Yosemite Junior High and taken away in handcuffs. Fortunately, I woke up, took control of my life and never looked back. Graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1967 was a significant accomplishment for me, especially considering my history.

I took the opportunity to share that history with the Rough Rider Class of 2019 at their graduation ceremony this past spring and I shared this advice: It’s easy to let yourself be defined by family, teachers, peers, even strangers on social media. I am living proof that, in spite of outside forces trying to influence your choices, you can decide your own future. And never stop defining yourself. Write down your goals in detail and then work hard to achieve them. We are all capable of doing so much more than we think we can. Don’t be afraid to take risks and always challenge yourself to do your best. Once you choose the higher road, you can be anybody you want to be.

Remember, education is the great equalizer. It provides options, it opens doors, and it builds confidence. Education helps you look at the world from different perspectives and gives you real pathways to dreams you never thought were possible.

The world is much different, much more complicated and, in some cases, more dangerous than the world I grew up in. But the solutions are still the same. Hard work, achievable goals, and a focus on the future will ultimately get you everything you need.

I encourage you to take control of your life, just like I did. Don’t ever give up on yourself. I believe in you and I ask you to believe in yourself. On behalf of everyone at the city of Fresno, I wish you success and happiness this coming school year.

Continued on page 15
improvements include a revamped drop-off/pick-up and parking areas to enhance student safety. The project also includes new fencing and a relocated early learning play area to enhance overall campus security.

- Slater Elementary School has a new kindergarten building and two new classroom buildings, the final site improvements in a 1 1/2-year project that also includes a new campus entrance, new play courts and renovated field areas.

- District-wide Measure X projects include accessibility improvements, installation of security cameras and other safety/security upgrades, and replacement of aging electrical, water, gas and irrigation systems.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Two grants – $1.8 million each – will be used to expand career technical education (CTE) pathways, courses and programs.

- The district will add more than 50 new and revised CTE courses, including Pharmacy Technician Careers at Duncan Polytechnical High School and Social Media Marketing at J.E. Young Academic Center.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- Part-time preschool aide positions will be converted to fulltime, providing more continuity in preschool classes.

- School site allocations have been increased, allowing more flexibility at sites for specific student needs.

- The district will convert health assistant jobs to licensed vocational nurse positions and add more nurses, psychologists, social workers and academic school counselors.

- The district will add vice principals to five schools with larger enrollments and more skilled trades positions, and all bus driver positions will be converted to fulltime.

Above, licensed vocational nurses (LVN) Julie Keller, left, and Ka Vang provide support at McLane High School over the summer. As part of the district’s new investments for the coming school year, all health assistant positions will be converted to LVN positions. Left, bus drivers like Ramona Godinez safely transport students to and from school. To better serve students, the district is converting all its part-time drivers to full time for the upcoming school year. Below, early Learning Center assistant Monica Constante works with Fearless Vang, left, and Elizabeth Sandoval. To better serve students, the district is converting all its part-time pre-kindergarten assistants from 3.5-hour positions to 7-hour positions.
Below, from left, Fresno Unified board members Valerie Davis and Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas, board clerk Carol Mills, board president Claudia Cazares and Superintendent Bob Nelson gather June 21 to launch the demolition of the old county juvenile hall. The district bought the site for a future campus. Bottom, when the McLane High School pool is completed in January, it will round out the construction of new pools at all of the high schools. The 35-meter pool for swimming, diving and water polo will feature a shallow section to accommodate teaching and community use. The project will also include team and locker building with a coach’s office and concession room; mechanical building with storage and office space; and bleachers with a shade structure. The pool replaces one built in 1957.
Robyn Scroggins
Years with the district: 32
Previous assignment: Regional instructional manager in the Special Education Department
No. 1 goal for students: To provide an enriched learning environment where students are able to develop to their full potential.
Most people don’t know that I: Was a long distance runner and ran the San Diego Rock N Roll Marathon and quite a few half-marathons.

Johnny Alvarado
Years with the district: Eight (prior to leaving in 2006)
Previous assignment: Director of charter schools for the Fresno County Office of Education
No. 1 goal for students: To work alongside the Bullard educational team to establish a successful learning environment for all students.
Most people don’t know that I: Married my middle school crush and high school sweetheart, Elly Laemmle, now Alvarado. Together we have raised three successful daughters; two are nurses and the third just completed her first year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Rachael Maciel
Years with the district: 16
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Bullard High School
No. 1 goal for students: To welcome ALL students who are in need of credit recovery by validating their story, building a formidable relationship and helping them discover the tools within themselves to become high school graduates.
Most people don’t know that I: Secretly admire musicians and enjoy going to lots of live concerts....any type of music!

Eric Martinez
Years with the district: 2.5 (vice principal at Bullard)
Previous assignment: Principal of Paso Robles High School
No. 1 goal for students: To ensure that ALL students receive unique and rigorous learning opportunities that will prepare them for success in any career and/or post-secondary education endeavor they may choose.
Most people don’t know that I: Played in a professional mariachi band while I was in high school.

Rosalinda Torres
Years with the district: 15
Previous Assignment: Vice principal at Leavenworth Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To provide them with a positive school culture that not only supports their academic needs, but also their social and emotional needs.
Most people don’t know that I: Learnto drive in a parking lot behind the police sub-station, in my mom’s little white Toyota stick shift car, when I was 12 years old.

Abraham Olivares
Years with the district: This will be his first
Previous assignment: Associate principal in Merced Union High School District for the past four years
No. 1 goal for students: Get connected! I want each of my students to feel connected in some way to Fort Miller. Whether it’s a teacher, sport, club, administrator, bus driver, something! When we connect kids with school they will have a great chance at success.
Most people don’t know that I: Worked at In-N-Out Burger for 10 years. That was a big part of my life, which I believe has helped to shape who I am. It helped to reinforce a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and to value the importance of customer service.

Andrea Alvarez
Years with the district: 14
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Easterby Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: They do not let anything get in their way academically or socially so they can strive to be the best that they can be. I want students to be on track to graduation and be college and career ready.
Most people do not know that I: Love to tap dance, although it’s been awhile since I have.

Jennifer Thomas
Years with the district: 14
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Jefferson Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To ensure that all students have the skills they need to achieve success by providing clarity, high expectations, and structures.
Most people don’t know that I: Love nature! I love the beach and the mountains, swimming, fishing, and taking long walks.
Fresno Unified Building on College and Career Readiness Success

Fresno Unified continues to expand and enhance efforts to prepare students for college and careers. The results in a number of areas from the 2018-19 school year indicate the work of students and staff is paying off.

College Readiness

- 84.5% of graduates completed the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and/or Dream Act application to be eligible for financial aid, scholarships and Cal Grants
- Edison, Fresno, and Sunnyside high schools ranked in the top five for FAFSA completion in California for their school size category. Duncan Polytechnical and McLane high schools finished in the top 10
- 1,855 seniors met the criteria for the Central Valley Promise, making them eligible for two semesters of free tuition and priority registration at any State Center Community College District campus

Career Readiness:

- 687 students worked in a paid or unpaid internship
- 800 students earned college credit by taking dual enrollment courses
- 30,914 students in grades 3-12 participated in work-based learning experiences

Fresno Unified was awarded CTE Facilities Grants to build Duncan’s Health Science and Medical Technology pathways facility and modernize Hoover High School’s Construction and Building Trades space

- 660 community members supported CTE students, including CTE District Advisory Committee, subcommittees, Job Shadow Day sponsors, mentors, guest speakers, mock interviewers, portfolio panelists, and others

Students earned state and national recognition:
- Hoover High School: National KidWind 2019 Innovation Award Winners
- Duncan Polytechnical High School: Duncan’s nursing services senior Ileana Robles earned Gold in this year’s Skills USA competition and is moving on to the national competition, while two other nursing services seniors earned Silver
- Patiño School of Entrepreneurship: Students placed first, second and third at the Fresno State Entrepreneur Club pitch competition
- McLane High School: Students placed first and third at the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge
- Sunnyside High School: Janet Saldana won the 2019 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Excellence for Short Form Non Fiction – Video Production

- 93% of CTE courses meet A-G eligibility (for university entrance)
- Investments in CTE facilities included:
  - Edison High School: Information and Communication Technology computer labs; Engineering classroom
  - Duncan Polytechnical High School: Construction, Manufacturing, Automotive, Welding, and Heavy Truck facilities
  - Fresno High School: Career Center
  - Roosevelt High School: Video Production lab
  - Bullard High School: courtroom and Law and Social Justice classroom
  - McLane High School: ArtVenture Academy
  - Sunnyside High School: Sports Medicine and Athletic Training classroom

The district was awarded two major grants to support the advancement of CTE pathways, courses and programs: $1.8 million through the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant and $1.8 million through the Strong Workforce Program Grant

Alexis Gutierrez, who will be a senior this year, demonstrates equipment at Duncan Polytechnical High School’s new heavy truck facility during a March 21 open house.

Students at Edison High School celebrate their Seal of Biliteracy medals and certificates at a May 20 ceremony. They are among 637 students in the district to earn the seals, indicating proficiency in a language other than English.
District Immunization Requirements to Start School have Changed

As students prepare to return to school for the 2019-2020 academic year, families should be aware that immunization requirements have changed.

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

As of July 1, 2019:
- Two – not one – doses of the chicken pox (varicella) vaccination are required for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and seventh grade.
- Two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) are required for kindergarten through 12th grade at admission or transfer.
- Three doses of Hepatitis B are required for kindergarten through 12th grade at admission or transfer.

Vaccinations are available at private health care providers, pharmacies or the Fresno County Health Department by calling (559) 600-3550. Those on Medi-Cal or who are uninsured can call (559) 600-3550. Those on Medi-Cal or who are uninsured can call (559) 600-3550.

District Announces Executive Director of Special Education

The district’s new special education executive director is Sean Virnig, who most recently served as associate director for Special State Schools and Services for the California Department of Education.

Virnig, an educational leader for 15 years, started in his new position July 1. He has also served as site superintendent for the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, director of education for the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, director of strategic projects for the Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind in Faribault, Minn., and was director of education and K-12 principal at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault.

Virnig received his doctorate and master’s degree from the University of Minnesota and his bachelor’s degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.
Successful Districtwide Art Initiative Adding Schools, Gallery Space

The district will expand its highly successful district art collaborative in 2019-20 to include more students and teachers and double the gallery space it uses.

In the coming year, approximately 50 classrooms from elementary to adult transition students will participate, compared to the pilot group of a dozen teachers in 2016.

This experience over the past three years has been incredibly powerful for students, teachers, families, and the Fresno community. Students are growing through literature and art, building empathy and developing a strong voice of advocacy across the district that is being expressed through curated art exhibitions each month during the school year at the M Street Arts Complex.

R.E.A.L. – Relevant Engagement through Art and Literacy – launched in the 2016-17 school year with 12 teachers from across the district participating in a collaborative project modeled after the McLane ArtVenture Academy work.

The goal was to connect powerful, socially relevant themes within a variety of texts and art culminating in exhibits of student art and writing at ArtHop. Students participating ranged from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade. By 2018-19, R.E.A.L. teachers and students from all seven regions were participating.

With the support of district leaders and the Fresno Unified Board of Education, art supplies, literature, professional development and supplemental contracts are provided to participating teachers.

In addition, the district leases gallery space at the M Street Arts Complex for high quality public exhibitions of student artwork and writing. Because the collaborative has been so successful, the district will expand the gallery space from 733 square feet to 1,804 square feet for 2019-20.

Visitors enjoy Fresno Unified student art during a Nov. 1 exhibit, one of several during the last school year. In the coming academic year, the districtwide art collaborative is expanding and the district will double the gallery space it uses at the M Street Arts Complex.

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GET THE FACTS ABOUT

Plastics, Metals & Glass!

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.

RECYCLE YOUR CRV BOTTLES & CANS!

Want to learn more about recycling? Call (559) 621-1111 to book a recycling presentation for your class!
Fresno Unified’s online school, about to start its third year, continues to offer students a high-quality, alternative path to graduation.

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

eLearn Academy provides:
- A small school experience
- Honors courses for highly motivated students
- College courses
- Flexible scheduling
- Early graduation options
- Spanish for all
- A-G pathway for students who plan to attend California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campuses

eLearn Academy offers a full four years of digital curriculum. The courses meet A-G requirements for the UC and CSU systems. The school also offers dual enrollment -- high school and college credit for the same course.

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

Middle school students come on Tuesdays and Thursdays. High school students come two to three days per week -- Mondays and Wednesdays and/or Fridays.

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

**eLearn Academy**
822 N. Abby St. Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 457-3190
Email: eLearnAcademy@fresnounified.org
Website: http://fresnou.org/schools/jeyoung

The district’s eLearn Academy online school offers honors and college courses, a flexible schedule and early graduation options. Students can meet with teachers two or three times a week for one-on-one help.

The district celebrated 120 graduates, including Fresno High School’s Amaya N. Bernal, during summer school graduation on July 12. During summer school, 162 seniors completed credits for graduation.

Christian Escalante-Suárez works on a project during a career technical education enrichment program at Heaton Elementary School on July 9. The program was part of a variety of summer school offerings to expand student learning and help students stay on track to graduate.
Spring Athletic Signings

Several athletes signed letters of intent to play college sports. Bullard High School: Anissa Villanueva, softball; Hope International University; Aaron Deleon, baseball; Menlo College; Keidra Hall, lacrosse, Whittier College; Jocelyn Hernandez, wrestling, MacMurray College. Edison High School: McKinley Lee, football, Fresno State; Daria Goss, competitive sport cheer, UC Davis; Bryan Bamuels, track and field, Fresno Pacific University.

Spring Highlights

Bullard High School: Fresno City Champions in lacrosse; County Metro Athletic Conference (CMAC) champions in softball, boys swimming and boys golf; Jazzy Contreras is CMAC Pitcher of the Year in softball; Jaime Maxie is CMAC Coach of the Year in softball; Keidra Hall is Fresno Unified Most Valuable Player in lacrosse.

Edison High School: Kennedy Jennings is back-to-back CIF 800 meters champion; Fresno Unified league champions in lacrosse and competitive sport cheer; Jamie Vargas is Fresno Unified Coach of the Year in lacrosse; CMAC champions in girls track and field.

Fresno High School: North Yosemite League (NYL) champions in baseball; Jordan Perez is NYL Player of the Year in baseball; Jason Papi is NYL Coach of the Year in baseball.

Hoover High School: Megan Carey is U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American (first in district history); NYL champions in boys swimming (eighth straight year) and badminton; Kyle Bunch is NYL Coach of the Year in boys swimming; Benjamin Hernandez and Tristan Henson are Tri-Sport Athletes of the Year.

McLane High School: Johndi Yang is NYL Most Valuable Player in boys volleyball.

Roosevelt High School: NYL champions in boys track and field and boys tennis (undefeated and back-to-back titles); Jefferson Tobar is NYL Player of the Year in boys tennis; Tony Diaz is NYL Coach of the Year in boys tennis.

Sunnyside High School: Jonae Dejohnette is Junior League of Fresno Senior Girl Athlete; Mitch Gaasch is NYL Coach of the Year in softball; NYL champions in boys volleyball (undefeated); Kee Xiong is NYL Coach of the Year in boys volleyball; Grace Her and Elizabeth Souvannarath are Fresno Unified All-Americans; Linda Thao and Marquay Williams are Senior Athletes of the Year.
SUMMER FUN AT SCHOOL

Below from left, Krysten Lee, Britney Romero and Kongching Her learn about science and engineering with teacher Diana Garcia by building a balloon-propelled race car during a fourth and fifth grade summer enrichment class at Vang Pao Elementary School. At right, students have fun cooling off at the Roosevelt High School pool, one of several district pools open over the summer for community swimming and swim lessons through a partnership with the city of Fresno’s parks department. Bottom left, students at Olmos Elementary School enjoy free summer meals. The district expects to serve about 200,000 nutritious free meals over the summer at more than 50 school sites and more than 100 Economic Opportunities Commission sites. Bottom right, Talya Boles, left, and Evelina Martinez enjoy using the Forkner Elementary School library. Libraries at schools that hosted summer school were open during the summer for community use.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sixth-Grade Teacher Changing Lives at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary

David White works with students during summer school on an “egg drop” project. June 24 at Tenaya Middle School. During the school year, White teaches at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School.

David White, a sixth-grade teacher at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School, is starting his third year with Fresno Unified after teaching in Sanger Unified School District for four years. He loves also living in the Powers-Ginsburg neighborhood. He was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Powers-Ginsburg Principal Angela Balliet said about White: “Not only does Mr. White raise achievement by providing high quality instruction, but he sets out to make a difference in the lives of our students and community. The relationships he develops and leadership that he fosters in others has a lasting impact.”

What made you go into teaching? I want to make an impact. Teaching is a position of influence and a unique privilege to mold future generations. I want my students to remember sixth grade as the year that changed their life.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? What brings me the most joy is real transformation. I think of how many parents take a picture of their child the first day of school and then another one on the last day. I wish we had a way of doing that for more than just the physical transformation a student goes through in a year. I get so much pride from watching students grow and develop as creative artists, thinkers and problem-solvers. Watching a group of students grow and become a family over the school year can’t be measured, but it makes me love my job.

What is the most challenging about your job? Saying goodbye. Giving them a hug on the last day of school while knowing that some will still struggle to be at grade level and others will make poor decisions in the future. I can only hope that my efforts have launched them toward successful years to come.

What do you enjoy the most about sixth graders? Sixth graders are moldable. Despite popular opinion, they are raw, real, and open to change. They also laugh at some of my jokes.

Job at Easterby Elementary no Joke for former Stand-Up Comedian

Randall Wallace is everywhere at Easterby Elementary School: noon-time assistant, an aide for students in the special education Resource Specialist Program, and is a coach for all boys sports teams. A nine-year employee of the district, Wallace has spent most of his career with Fresno Unified at Easterby. He was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Easterby Principal Pam Taylor said of Wallace: “Randall exemplifies our mission of preparing career ready graduates in all he does all day long. He knows that a connected student stays in school, on target to graduate. He pushes himself to ensure that all students at Easterby are connected to a caring adult each day.”

What role can sports play in students’ lives? The role sports plays in a student’s life is huge. It builds character, integrity and sportsmanship. These qualities are not just on the field, but they carry into the classroom and life in general. I personally have seen grades and attitudes improve as a result of sports. On a personal level, if it weren’t for sports, I don’t think I would be the man I am today.

Why is your morning greeting to students as you open the cafeteria important? My morning greeting to students as I open the cafeteria is important because I understand that I am one of the first school employees the students see. If I can start their day off with a big smile, a fist bump, a high five or a “let’s have a nice day, today,” I have found that goes a long way.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? What I enjoy the most about my job is the fact that I am able to be a part of the growth of so many youths alongside a fantastic staff at Easterby.

What is the most challenging about your job? The most challenging thing about my job is having to remember the likes, dislikes and characteristics of the many students I encounter on a daily basis. Knowing what makes them “tick” is huge.

If you could choose a different career, what would it be? If I could choose a different career, it would be either a high school baseball coach or a voice-actor.

What do you like to do when you are not working? When I am not working, I like to play baseball and watch TV/ movies.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. One thing most people do not know about me is that for six years I was a stand-up comedian.

What is your dream vacation? My dream vacation would be to tour all of the islands in the Virgin Islands.
teacher is to create an atmosphere of true family. I want my students to know they are loved, valued and wanted in my class. So, on day one, my goal is to make them feel like they have a special place on my roster. I tell them they are in Mr. White’s class because I chose them to be there (you should see the look on their faces).

**Name one thing most people do not know about you.** Besides sometimes wearing my socks inside out, I have been on a game show called “The Price is Right.” There is some fun proof on YouTube under the title “Wheel Spin Fail.”

**If you could choose a different career, what would it be?** I have always been fascinated with performance, and it would be awesome to travel the world performing in front of audiences. Maybe juggling or making people smile...Well, that sounds like a clown. Never mind; anything that invests in the future generations and people’s lives sounds good to me!

**Doing anything fun over the summer?** One word: familia. While I do my best to prioritize my family year-round, during the summer my family gets ALL of me. I like to pretend I am a monster and chase the kids around the house.

**Favorite restaurant and why?** My wife and I are foodies and there are plenty of incredible options in our beautiful city of Fresno, but the shrimp tacos at Don Pepe’s are killer.

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**Students have fun in the library at Gaston Middle School on June 28 during the Summer Literacy Program hosted by the district’s Office of African American Academic Acceleration.** The initiative offered five weeks of literacy support for kindergarten through fourth grade students and a three-week program for middle school students. About 600 students attended. During the program, parents also learned how they can support reading at home.

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**Neighborhood Campus**

**EVENING & AFTERNOON CLASSES STARTING AUGUST 26**

Only $46 per unit with FREE parking!

Registration events will be held on the following dates:

- **Edison HS** – August 14 & 22
- **Duncan HS** – August 19 & 21
- **Sunnyside HS** – August 15 & 22

Each event will take place from 5:00 – 7:00PM

www.fresnocitycollege.edu/FCCeverywhere
Talea Sib Haum Xeeb Kev Hais Txog Haiv Neeg Kev

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING

California will need more than 100,000 new teachers in the next few years.*

Gain the knowledge needed to help students with special needs engage their surroundings.

- Attend classes in the evening
- Complete a SPED Disabilities Minor and apply 6 units towards your special education credential
- Intern at local school districts
- Gain from one-on-one mentoring
- Complete your credential in two years
- Find out if you’ll qualify for the Teach Grant

*The Learning Policy institute Report

Learn more: fpu.edu/speced

“This program has shaped me personally just as much as it has professionally. I felt like all my instructors had only my best intentions in mind and were very supportive and helpful.”
— Whitney Turner, Special Education