Schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year following a unanimous vote by the Fresno Unified Board of Education, but the district continues to support students and their families.

The April 1 decision to close schools through June 11 was made after much consideration by the board and aligns with recommendations from California’s superintendent of schools and governor to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of students and staff.

“We are all grieving the loss of this school year, especially for our seniors. That mourning process is hard,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “We look forward to the time when we can all be physically together again.”

With planning already underway even prior to the closing of schools on March 13, the district moved quickly to continue to provide meals, academic materials for all grades, and tablets and laptops for those who needed them.

A COVID-19 call center (457-3395) opened on March 13 to provide information to families and continues to operate through employees working remotely from their homes. Help is available in English, Spanish and Hmong.

School psychologist Russell Raypon delivers a laptop to a student at Wawona School on April 15. In support of distance learning after the closure of schools, the district is making sure all students who want one have a tablet or laptop.

The call center, manned by employees from the district’s Parent University, had

See COVID-19
Continued on page 9

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 School Closures

What does the closing of schools mean for grades? Based on guidance from the California Department of Education and in collaboration with colleges, third quarter grades will be a student’s final second semester grade unless a student chooses to improve their grade. Students will be given multiple opportunities to improve their grades up until May 22 for seniors and June 1 for all other students.

No grade will drop below the grade issued for the third quarter. Teachers will issue letter grades of A, B, C, and F while D grades will be replaced with ‘Pass’ in the final second semester grade.

What can I do to help my student stay busy and learning? Since March 18, the district has provided online learning resources – Exercise Your Brain materials – for all grade levels, dual immersion and special education at fresnouified.org. For those without access to the online materials, paper packets are available every Friday at the 23 meal distribution sites (See page 5 list).

Will teachers be assigning new material and assessing student grades based on new content from the fourth quarter? Teachers may assign new content. They will encourage students to continue progressing so that they are prepared for the next grade level. They will provide feedback to their students to help them improve; however, no assign-
Enrollment is underway for Fresno Unified’s youngest learners for the 2020-21 school year. The district encourages parents to take advantage of the high-quality programs it offers for children as young as 3 years old.

- Enrollment began March 9 for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. Go to Online Enrollment to register a child.
- Families now have access to the new online registration for transitional kindergarten through sixth grade students who have not attended Fresno Unified previously: Online Enrollment.
- Enrollment began April 1 for preschool (3-year-olds) and pre-kindergarten (4-year-olds). There is now a PDF fillable application available on the Early Learning webpage https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/earlylearning.
- Please call 457-3416 to schedule an appointment over the phone.

The district offers preschool classes for 3-year-olds at 10 sites. The district offers pre-kindergarten classes for 4-year-olds at 61 sites across the district. Parents of preschool and pre-kindergarten students may schedule an over the phone appointment to help with enrollment by calling (559) 457-3416.

Research shows that children who participate in high quality early learning programs are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

- Instruction is aligned with the California Preschool Foundations and focuses on social-emotional health and oral language development.
- Emphasis is placed on early literacy, early math concepts, visual arts and social-emotional development.
- School readiness is achieved through developmentally appropriate, current research-based practices.
- The Early Learning Department also provides developmental screenings for children participating in play and learn groups. For more information about play and learn groups, call (559) 457-3623.

Llame ahora para inscripciones en prejardín de infantes (Pre-Kindergarten) y jardín de infantes (Kindergarten)

La inscripción está en curso para aprendices pequeños del Distrito Escolar para el ciclo escolar 2020-21.

El distrito anima a los padres a tomar ventaja de los programas de alta calidad que ofrece para los niños pequeños desde los 3 años de edad.

- Kev rau npe pib lub Pab Hlis Tim 9 rau Qib transitional kindergarten thiab Qib kindergarten. Nkag mus rau Online Enrollment mus cuv npe rau menyuum.
- Tam sim no cov tsev neeg nkag tau online rau npe tshiab rau Qib transitional kindergarten mus txog rau qib cov menyuum uas tisit mus kawm Fresno Cheeb Tsam Tsev Kawsawn Ntwawv: Online Enrollment.
- Kev pib cuv npe pib lub Plaub Hlis Tim 1 rau cov menyuum kawm preschool (3-xyoos) thiab pre-kindergarten (cov menyuum muaj 4 xyoo). Tam sim no muaj daim ntawv ua PDF nyob ntawm Early Learning webpage https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/earlylearning.
- Thov hu xov tooj 457-3416 mus teem sijawm.

El distrito ofrece clases de preescolar para niños de 3 años de edad en 10 escuelas. El distrito ofrece clases de pre-kindergarten para niños de 4 años de edad en 61 escuelas alrededor del distrito. Los padres de estudiantes de preescolar y pre-kindergarten pueden programar una cita para ayuda con la inscripción llamando al (559) 457-3416.

Las investigaciones muestran que los niños que participan en los programas de aprendizaje temprano de alta calidad están mejor preparados para kinder y más allá.

- La instrucción está alineada con los Fundamentos de Preescolar de California y enfoques en salud social emocional y desarrollo de lenguaje oral.
- El énfasis es colocado en alfabetización temprana, conceptos de matemáticas, artes visuales y desarrollo socioemocional.
- La preparación escolar se logra a través de prácticas actuales basadas en investigaciones apropiadas para el desarrollo.

El Departamento de Aprendizaje Temprano también provee exámenes de Desarrollo para los niños que participan en actividades y aprendizaje en grupos. Para más información sobre actividades y aprendizaje en grupos llame al, (559) 457-3623.

Hu Tam Sim No Cuv Npe rau Kawm Pre-Kindergarten thiab Kindergarten

Kev cuv npe tab tom tuaj yuav muaj 4 rau Fresno cov me nyuam yau tshaj tuaj kwam rau luy xyoo kawm ntawm 2020-21.

Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv nqis hu cov niamb txiv khaws xyeem ntawm qhov kev kawn zoo nov rau cov me nyuam yaus yau li ntawv 3 lub xyoox.

- La inscripción comenzó el 9 de marzo para kinder de transición y kinder. Vaya a Inscripción en línea Online Enrollment para registrar a un niño.
- Las familias ahora tienen acceso a la nueva inscripción en línea para estudiantes de kinder de transición a sexto grado que no han asistido previamente a Fresno Unificado: Inscripción en línea Online Enrollment.
- La inscripción comenzó el 1 de abril para preescolar (niños de 3 años) y prekínder (niños de 4 años). Ahora hay una aplicación que se puede completar en PDF disponible en la página web de Aprendizaje Temprano Early Learning https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/earlylearning.
- Por favor, llame al 457-3416 para programar una cita por teléfono.

Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv qhib muaj 10 lub tsev kawn ntawv preschool cov chav kawn rau cov 3 xyoox. Hauv paus tsev kawn ntawv qhib muaj pre-kindergarten cov chav kawn rau cov 4-xyoox nyob rau 61 lub tsev kawn ntawv thob plaws. Cov niamb txiv uas muaj 4 cov tub kawn ntawv preschool thiab pre-kindergarten kuj yuav teem tau lub caij los tiaws kev pab cuv npe yog tias lawv hu rau (559) 457-3416.

Kev tshawb nhiaj pom tau tias cov me nyuam yaus nws muab kev koom tes cov kev kawn zoo thaum ntawv tau npaj tau zoo dua rau kev mus kawn rau kinder garden thiab dhau qhov ntawm.

- Kev qhia ntawb ntawv dhsos haum nrog California Preschool Foundations thiab ua ti sntsees rau kev sib haum xeeb zoo thiab xthim kho kev paub lus.
- Qhov tseem ceeb yog kev tso rau kev paub ntawb thaum ntawv, paub cov tswv yim ua lej thaum ntawv, tej kev ua duab zoo nkajj thiab kev loj hlob haum xeeb.

Kev npaj txhij mus kawn ntawv ua tiav los ntawm kev loj hlob tsum nyog, raws li tej kev tshawb fawb tam sim nov muaj.

Lub chaw “Early Learning Department” kuj npaj muaj tej kev kuaj kev loj hlob rau cov me nyuam yaus muab kev koom tes rau kev ua si thiab kawn ua ib paww. Yog xav paub txiv xog kev ua si thiab kev kawn ua ib paww, hu rau (559) 457-3623.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

In These Challenging Times, We have Much to be Proud Of

I cannot believe May is here and instead of preparing for our end of the year activities and enjoying our last few weeks on campus, we’re here preparing for virtual senior celebrations and engaging our students virtually in classes. This has been the hardest time of my career, especially being the extrovert I am, but mostly because I gain my energy every day from your successes, milestones, and smiles. I have been mourning the loss of the one this school year, the loss of a simple handshake or hug in the office and am so ready to have someone else in my selfies besides just me and my tacos! I know I’m not alone in that feeling of mourning and that many of you are trying to process these losses as well.

Thankfully, even in this new virtual world we have so much to be proud of and to celebrate. In this special edition you’ll find stories of teachers being creative in engaging their students, food service workers on the front lines every day, and students continuing to thrive, even in these tough times. We’re so proud of all of our seniors participating virtually in Signing Day on May 1, we were so blown away by our Roosevelt School of the Arts students and team who put on their first virtual concert on April 22, and have loved seeing all of your virtual spirit weeks, read-a-louds, and love for each other online. Thank you for leaning in and taking care of one another even when we’re physically apart.

If you haven’t heard, I need to brag on our teams for a quick minute. First, our food services team has been on the front lines every single weekday since school closures began on March 16. They have been providing breakfast and lunch for our students and their families and surpassed serving 1 million meals in mid-April. Since then they have opened more sites, up to 23 school sites now, and are serving over 60,000 meals daily on most days. Their perseverance and dedication have shone so brightly during this time and I couldn’t be more grateful for this team of superstars.

In addition, our technology team has been working hard to get technology and devices into the hands of our students to ensure everyone can engage in distance learning. They have reimagined, sanitized, and delivered tens of thousands of devices. From there, our site leadership teams have been distributing these devices from their school sites while practicing safe social distancing and we’re so proud to see that they have handed out almost 30,000 additional devices to students since campuses closed. In addition to the 20,000 tablets that were distributed before campuses closed, almost 50,000 of our 74,000 students have a device checked out to them so they can engage in distance learning. We will continue working to ensure every student has a device in their hands. Thank you so much to our technology team and our school site leadership for making this happen for our students – you all are the best of the best!

We are continuing to learn and adapt in live time to better our distance learning opportunities for our students and families. To stay up to date, I encourage you to visit our website at fresnounified.org frequently, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and make sure your phone number and email address are up to date in your ATLAS parent portal. If you are having trouble logging into your ATLAS parent portal, are having trouble with your district provided technology, or need to reset any passwords, please call our technology help desk at (559) 457-3733 or email Communications@fresnounified.org.

See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG

Continued on page 15

Message from Fresno Mayor Lee Brand

Fresno Residents Flattening the Curve by Sheltering at Home

We are living in unprecedented times. This pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives and challenged us all to review our behaviors and restructure our routines in ways many of us never imagined.

I believe we have taken sensible steps to ensure the city of Fresno is in the best position to protect our residents. We continue to monitor the coronavirus reports and support the Governor’s Office and Fresno County health officials as they work to do what is best for our community.

Staying at home is the one consistent choice that helps flatten the curve and reduce the risk for the entire community. What makes this virus so dangerous is the fact that whenever you decide to leave home, for whatever reason, you have no idea whether or not you or the people you come into contact with have COVID-19.

The good news is that, by all indications, the people of Fresno and our local businesses are doing an excellent job of sheltering in place and social distancing. I was especially encouraged by the public response to our emergency orders and the overall embrace of our new stay-at-home spirit, but we must continue these practices if we are to protect every man, woman and child in our city.

There is hope -- and lots of it. The people of Fresno are tough, smart and resilient. I know we are asking you all to make tremendous sacrifices, but I wouldn’t ask if I wasn’t willing to make the same sacrifices and if I didn’t think it was for the best for the protection of everyone in our community.

My hope, my prayer, is to get people back to work, back to school, and back to a normal life as soon as we safely can.

I know the people of Fresno can do this. We will beat this disease and not just get back to our normal lives but use this tremendous new opportunity to make our community stronger and closer and better.

I encourage everyone to stay calm and stay informed while we navigate the unsteady waters of this crisis. Be safe and stay healthy!

Lee Brand
Fresno Mayor

Fresno Unified School District

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www.FresnoUnified.org

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Fresno Unified is Only Local District to Pass School Bond Measure

Fresno Unified will move forward on dozens of modernization projects throughout the district, thanks to the community’s approval of the Measure M school bond on the March 3 ballot.

Measure M was the only Fresno area school bond measure to pass, with 59.77% of voters approving the $325 million bond.

This is the fourth Fresno Unified bond measure approved by the voters in the past two decades: Voters passed Measure K in 2001, Measure Q in 2010 and Measure X in 2016. This funding is essential to improving and maintaining school facilities.

Superintendent Bob Nelson and school board members have expressed gratitude to the community for supporting Measure M.

“Our overarching sentiment is one of great gratitude. Fresno is an amazing place,” Nelson said.

Measure M will provide locally controlled funding for schools to help prepare Fresno students for college and good paying jobs in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, robotics, manufacturing and skilled trades.

Funding is needed to modernize and maintain district schools. More than two-thirds of Fresno schools were built before 1970 and require repairs and improvements to continue to provide a quality learning environment. Measure M will provide that funding.

“This bond measure will allow us to extend the good work we are doing for and on behalf of our students,” Nelson said. “Making certain we have the opportunity for our schools to be safe, welcoming, wonderful 21st century appropriate venues for our kids is how these dollars are going to be utilized.”

Measure M will provide funds to:

- Improve student safety and campus security systems
- Repair or replace aging classrooms and school buildings
- Improve educational technology
- Provide classrooms and labs for career technology education (CTE), including health sciences, engineering, technology, robotics and skilled trades
- Improve special education classrooms
- Provide spaces for social emotional support for students (counselors, social workers, psychologists)

- Fix deteriorating plumbing and restrooms
- Remove lead and asbestos where needed
- Repair deteriorating roofs, flooring, plumbing and electrical systems
- Add fencing and gates for increased campus security
- Enhance emergency communications systems

Measure M has strict fiscal accountability:

- All funds raised by Measure M will be used for Fresno Unified school facility projects
- A project list details how Measure M will be spent
- No funds will be spent on administrators’ or teachers’ salaries
- A Citizens’ Oversight Committee to review bond expenditures, independent audits, and an annual report are required

District Helps Students Keep on Reading through Free Digital Library

Campus and public libraries and bookstores are closed, but district staff is making sure students keep reading.

With the conversion of learning to online following the closure of schools, students’ use of the district’s free Sora Digital Library has soared. Students are taking advantage of the robust offerings for all reading levels that the Sora app for students offers. Books can be downloaded to tablets, laptops or cell phones.

The district has also partnered with the Fresno County Public Library so that students can check out digital books without a library card.

Teachers and library staff are also coming up with some creative ways to encourage and support students to keep reading.

For example, library media technicians have launched YouTube channels to read to students. This includes Tommy Rodriguez at Sunset Elementary School, Monica Jacobs at McCardle Elementary School, Nicole Potter at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School and Chelsea Parker at Pyle Elementary School.

Librarians are also posting videos with book recommendations.

Teacher librarian Sue Navarro is spearheading virtual reading groups at Fresno High School.

“This an opportunity for teachers to meet virtually with a group of their students to read and discuss books. The idea is for the students in the group to choose a title they all want to read to encourage free choice, high interest reading. I put the book choices on Sora,” Navarro said.

Navarro is also helping juniors in the International Baccalaureate program at Fresno High prepare for their required summer reading by making sure the books selected are available digitally. If not, she will drop off hard copies to students. She has also been stocking the Fresno High region’s Little Free Library at Heaton Elementary School with new, high interest books.

At Jefferson Elementary School, fourth-grade teacher Jana Bacon started a literature circle using Sora and other free digital book sources. Students checked out “James and the Giant Peach.” Using a reading schedule, the students read the assigned section then meet virtually to discuss. She is also assigning questions to answer.

Sora, said Library Services Manager Tom Nixon, “has been getting an amazing amount of traction. Families have really grabbed on to it.” Students and staff have checked out more than 96,000 digital books, with more than 20,000 of those since schools closed on March 13.
The district is serving 60,000 meals a day to students and families while schools are closed, helping to ease the burden brought on by the loss of jobs and income from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With 85% of Fresno Unified families living in poverty – and 100,000 meals served daily when schools were open – students’ needs have only increased with the closure of schools.

The district’s food services staff is assembling and distributing meals from 9-11 a.m. every weekday at 23 school sites. Breakfast and lunch meals are provided through a grab-and-go process to keep staff and recipients safe and healthy.

“Our district fills many roles, far beyond schooling, and it is crucial that we engage during this closure with an eye to how we can continually keep supporting our kids and their families, every day,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Since the closure of schools March 13 through the middle of April, Food Services served more than 1 million meals, with 85% going directly to students and 15% to their family members.

School staffs and food services employees are doing a great job coming up with efficient and safe practices to dispense the meals to the huge volumes of families arriving for food. Some schools are using a drive-through process.

**Meals locations:**
- Addams Elementary School
- Ahwahnee Middle School
- Birney Elementary School
- Bullard High School
- Columbia Elementary School
- Computech Middle School
- Cooper Academy
- Duncan Polytechnical High School
- Ewing Elementary School
- Figarden Elementary School
- Fort Miller Middle School
- Hamilton K-8 School
- Kings Canyon Middle School
- Leavenworth Elementary School
- Lane Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Scandinavian Middle School
- Sequoia Middle School
- Sunnyside High School
- Terronez Middle School
- Tioga Middle School
- Wawona K-8 School
- Yosemite Middle School

**Food Services Employee Shows her Love for Children in her Work**

Olga Mendoza, with the district’s Food Services Department for 22 years, is among the dedicated team of Food Services employees making sure students still get nutritious meals every day. During the school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the district is now providing more than 60,000 meals a day through a safe grab-and-go process at 23 school sites. Mendoza is a staging technician at the Food Services Production Center, organizing the food to be distributed at the sites.

**What has your job been like during school closures?** My job during the closures has been a new experience. It has been extremely busy and out of my normal routine, but I am enjoying every minute of it.

**What has been the hardest part of the work?** The hardest part of my job is all of the changes that are being made daily to my department since I am used to my regular routine.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** The thing I enjoy most about my job is the people I work with. If it wasn’t for my staging team, I would not be able to get the job done.

**How have families reacted to the district continuing to provide meals?** The families I have spoken to are very grateful and are happy we are providing meals to not only the children but our community.

**If you could choose a different career, what would it be?** I have always wanted to work in an area that involves children, so I am happy with what I am doing, which is feeding the children.

**What do you like to do when you are not working?** I like to be with my family and relax.

**Name one thing most people do not know about you.** I am a very religious person.

**What is your dream vacation?** I would love to go to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and see the Christ the Redeemer statue.
Fresno High School Female Construction Students Win Challenge

Campuses are closed now, but Fresno High School is still savoring a big milestone for its construction program.

A team from the second-year program captured first place earlier this spring at a Women in Construction competition.

The four female team members are part of Fresno High’s Construction, Design and Architecture Technology (C.D.A.T.) Academy. Students in the career pathway learn valuable skills in the high-demand field of construction and design.

Arianna Arias, Ruby Mendez, Ayanna Moore and Gabriela Vasquez competed for the first time in the National Association of Women in Construction doghouse challenge. They beat female construction students from Clovis High School, breaking Clovis High’s win streak. The winner was announced March 12. The team donated the doghouse to a no-kill animal shelter.

The competition was held March 2-6, National Women in Construction Week. The competition was sponsored by Fresno Chapter 108.

“Winning this competition for our program shows our academy students that their hard work and persistence in learning a skill is worth the effort. For our young ladies to win the first competition for the C.D.A.T. Academy, it shows young girls that they have a place in the construction world as well,” said Keisha Shabazz, a College and Career Readiness coordinator at Fresno High.

The C.D.A.T. Academy has 225 students this school year, including 40 females. Successful completion of the program enables students to enter the construction industry as an advanced apprentice with masonry, framing, roofing, plumbing, and/or electrical skills. Throughout the program, students prepare for industry certifications.

Students can also graduate prepared for a variety of careers in the heating and cooling (HVAC) industry. Students can earn credits for Fresno City College construction and HVAC courses.

The C.D.A.T. Academy has partnered with local industry unions to vet its curriculum, equipment and tools, shop space and teachers. Professionals from the industry mentor students on projects, facilitate field trips and job shadowing, and help design advanced curriculum.

Record Number of Duncan Nursing Students Accepted into Fresno City College Program

A record eight seniors from the Duncan Polytechnical High School Nursing Services program have been accepted into the Future Nurses Program at Fresno City College for the fall semester.

Two additional students were selected as alternates. This is more than double the number of students admitted from Duncan in past years.

Duncan’s Nursing Services is a career technical education pathway in the Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH).

The Fresno City College Allied Health counseling team commended Duncan on how well it prepared students for entering the workforce and college.

“We are ecstatic with the news that a record-breaking number of Duncan students were selected this year for the Future Nurses Program at FCC,” said Karen Burrington, College and Career Readiness coordinator for MASH.

“This is such an amazing opportunity for our students in the Nursing Services pathway. The FCC program offers many future opportunities for students and it’s exciting to think about the impact this program will have on our students’ future. It’s a true testament to the dedication and hard work of our students and teachers.”

Duncan nursing students were highly competitive because of the courses offered in the MASH program: Basic Life Support Health Care Provider certification, OSHA 10 (health care) training, dual enrollment courses at Fresno City College, Medical Spanish, Medical Math, AP courses, community service opportunities and job-site training.

See DUNCAN NURSING
Continued on page 12
After School Program will Use New Lottery System Next Academic Year

In the coming school year, Fresno Unified will implement a new system for enrollment in the district’s high-quality after school program that will use a random lottery and give every student a chance to participate.

Fresno Unified, in partnership with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, operates daily comprehensive after school programs at 58 elementary schools across the district through the After School Education and Safety (ASES) grant.

Guided by the district’s objective for standardized eligibility and equity towards enrollment, ASES programs will adopt a randomized computer lottery for all the elementary sites listed. This lottery will be held during the first week of July.

Families do not need to apply. All students from each of the 58 school sites, from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, will participate in the lottery.

Parents of students who are accepted into the program will be notified via SchoolMessenger phone calls in July, and parents will be required to attend a mandatory orientation the first week when school is in session.

Students who are not selected during the lottery process will be placed on a waiting list and notified for enrollment at a later date as space becomes available.

Programs operate on school days from dismissal until 6 p.m. They are an extension of the regular school day, offering academic enrichment aligned with the regular school day core programs.

Students receive academic and literacy support through assistance with homework in language arts and mathematics. The enrichment component includes a variety of activities to engage students in new opportunities, such as community service learning, recreation and physical activities, science and technology, career awareness and other activities based on student interests.

The Fresno Unified Nutrition Center provides two healthy snacks each day for students participating in the after school program.

The after school program is funded by the state’s After School Education and Safety Program and the federal 21st Century Learning Community Center grants.

After School Program Sites

District Plans for Virtual Summer Learning and Senior Celebrations

Plans are moving forward to provide learning opportunities for all students this summer in a distance learning format. Plans are also underway for virtual senior celebrations, with a physical graduation planned for the future.

Summer learning: Learning opportunities for all students during the summer will be available online, with detailed information for parents on how students can register coming in early May.

Senior celebrations: Plans are underway to create virtual senior celebrations for each of the high schools that will recognize all seniors and include student/staff videos; messages from the board of education, superintendent and principal; certification of graduates; and even the turning of the tassel. Virtual celebrations will be broadcast on local television, the district website and available to download. Details on the celebration times will be finalized and communicated by May 15. The district will be providing graduating seniors with a special recognition package.

Virtual Senior Celebration Schedule
May 21 Design Science Middle College High School
May 28 Fresno Adult School, DeWolf High School, J.E. Young Academic Center, Cambridge High School
May 29 Rata High School
June 1 Sunnyside High School, Duncan Polytechnical High School, Roosevelt High School
June 2 Fresno High School, McLane High School, Bullard High School
June 3 Edison High School, Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, Hoover High School
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Design Science High Students Headed to Prestigious Universities

Meet two high-achieving seniors from Design Science Middle College High School, where every year 100 percent of students are accepted to a four-year college.

Paige Dote and Daniel Arango Sumano have different goals, but both have big dreams and are doing everything they can to achieve their goals.

Hard work, determination, planning, and commitment are active verbs in their routine. Design Science has motivated them to give more of themselves, and at the same time supported them in their efforts.

Paige has always dreamed of being a teacher. After considering various subjects over the years she decided to focus on mathematics. Her dream came true would be to become a professor at the college she graduates from. She will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“My ultimate goal in life is to earn enough money so my future kids don’t have to worry about what college they want to go because of the cost,” Paige said. She was involved in extracurricular activities at Design Science and took the most difficult classes as early as she could.

“I wanted to be challenged. I like working under stress and coming to Design Science was a challenge for me -- a good challenge to excel at difficult classes,” Paige said.

Daniel is also taking a very difficult road. He will attend Stanford University as a biology major. He will not only be the first one in his family to attend college, he is going to one of the nation’s most prestigious universities and pursuing a career that is underrepresented in the Latino population.

“I want to be a role model. Latinos have a very low percentage of having postgraduate degrees, so I hope I can be a role model for students like me,” Daniel said.

Daniel gave back to his high school by tutoring younger classmates. He loved the challenging atmosphere of Design Science.

“I came to Design Science to be in an environment where I can seek opportunities for myself, and to have more resources to do so,” Daniel said.

Both seniors agreed that the support from their families played a crucial role in their academic performance. They were always given the freedom to participate in the academic activities they preferred. Both Paige and Daniel have planned their path to college and said preparing for the future has been an essential part of their success.

But it hasn’t been all books and studying for these young and successful students. They also recognized the need to have fun while in high school, to take time for themselves and share memories with friends. The key, they said, is to find a balance that works.

Online Courses in Place, Easing Transition after Schools Closed

Online learning has been an essential tool for Fresno Unified high school students for a decade, but it’s become an even more critical tool after campuses closed for the remainder of the academic year.

Even prior to schools closing, students trying to make up credits in time to graduate were using Edgenuity online resources. But this spring, online learning expanded to allow students to complete Advanced Placement (AP) courses for college credit.

And for the first time in history, CollegeBoard will offer an AP online only exam during this unprecedented time of social distancing due to COVID-19.

To support students in the transition to AP online courses, Fresno Unified is contacting each AP student to share updates on the new 100% online format, said Chantea McIntyre, manager of AP programs. If needed, the district provides students with tablets and free Wi-Fi connections.

The district also connected students with CollegeBoard’s free YouTube tutorial at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCViAcUxxrflb-dH50USVHgw. Students are encouraged to communicate with their counselors if they have not received an email from CollegeBoard with instructions for registering for the new exam. All AP students are encouraged to take the AP exams online in May.

Qualifying scores will earn college credit. And this year’s online exam is significantly shorter, taking place within a 45-minute testing window.

While the AP component is new, the district’s robust use of online courses and support has helped many students graduate on time, or even early. For example, Athena Silvas, a student at eLearn Academy, will graduate a year early because of the opportunity to complete online courses on an accelerated schedule.

She has earned a prestigious $54,000 Dean’s Scholarship to attend Fresno Pacific University and is on her way to achieve her dream of being a pharmacist.

Prior to schools closing, more than 2,000 students were using Edgenuity courses for a variety of reasons.

“Our credit recovery students have continued to move forward even as we have had these COVID-19 challenges. It has not been without its challenges, but many students will graduate because they have worked so hard on these Edgenuity courses,” said Tom Nixon, online learning manager.
taken more than 7,500 calls through the middle of April.

**Academic Materials for Students**

New Exercise your Brain academic materials are added every week to the district’s website at fresnounified.org. Materials are available for all grades, as well as dual immersion and special education students.

For families without access to the online materials, new printed packets are available every Friday at the 23 school sites where meals are also distributed. The packet distribution launched on March 27, with more than 15,000 packets – more than 500,000 pages – available to students that first week. In addition, teachers are providing distance learning for their students to the greatest extent possible.

**Guidance on Grades**

With guidance from the California Department of Education and in collaboration with college partners, third quarter grades will be a student’s final second semester grade unless a student chooses to improve their grade.

Students will be given multiple opportunities to improve their grades up until May 22 for seniors and June 1 for all other students. No grade will drop below the grade issued for the third quarter. Teachers will issue letter grades of A, B, C, and F while D grades will be replaced with ‘Pass’ in the final second semester grade.

The district is especially focused on seniors who needed credits to graduate and staff has contacted these students and is working with them to ensure they have every opportunity to earn their diploma.

**Tablets and Laptops for Students**

The district worked quickly to distribute a learning device to every student who wanted one. Throughout March and April, 5,000 tablets were distributed to students in transitional kindergarten through third grade.

The district had already distributed 20,000 tablets prior to the closure of schools through the eLearning Companion Device (LCD) initiative.

For grades 4-12, 20,000 laptops were deployed to students in need of devices. The board of education had already invested in laptops for middle and high school students prior to the closure. But with the shut-down, staff worked tirelessly to execute a multi-year phased plan in just weeks. The deployment included the sanitizing of thousands of devices.

“With this bold move shifting to a full one-to-one model, every fourth through 12th grade student had the opportunity to obtain a district provided laptop, and every pre-K through third grade student will have a tablet,” said Kurt Madden, chief technology officer. “This was a Herculean task accomplished by our technology team.”

**Staying in Touch with Schools**

Families are invited to check out a variety of ways to stay in touch with the district and schools during the closures:

- [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) and the district’s social media
- Superintendent Bob Nelson’s video messages in English, Spanish and Hmong every Monday and Friday
- Health Services Director Jane Banks’ health update videos in English, Spanish and Hmong every Tuesday
- Exercise Your Brain instructional videos in English, Spanish and Hmong every Wednesday
- 60 Second News updates in English, Spanish and Hmong every Thursday
- Peachjar parent letters and flyers in English, Spanish and Hmong on a variety of topics
- SchoolMessengers and RAPID ALERT text messages in English, Spanish and Hmong provide updates

**COVID-19 FAQS**

Continued from page 1

- [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) and the district’s website.
- [www.fresnounified.org/dept/dpi/sews/](http://www.fresnounified.org/dept/dpi/sews/)
- [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)

**Questions & Answers**

- What if my student hasn’t heard from their teacher? First, check your Fresno Unified student email. If your teacher has not yet contacted you, email your teacher on their district email. If you don’t get a response, contact your school counselor and/or principal. Links to email addresses can be found on the Summary page in ATLAS or on your school website. If you had a long-term substitute teacher in one of your classes, he or she should also be available by email. If you are unable to contact your child’s teacher or counselor, email the principal.

- What does the closing of schools mean for graduating seniors? Seniors on track prior to closures will graduate. Students needing credit recovery to make progress towards graduation will have that opportunity up until May 22.

- What about graduation ceremonies? Virtual senior celebrations are being planned; a physical graduation will be held when health restrictions are lifted. Seniors will be getting gowns, medals and diplomas.

- How are students in special education being supported during the closure of schools, including individual educational plans? On April 8, letters were sent to all families with students receiving special education services. The district remains committed to meeting the unique needs of students in special education. Special education case managers contacted families following the spring break to discuss providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education, or FAPE, to the extent possible via a distance learning model. For more information, call the district’s COVID-19 call center at (559) 457-3395.

- How can my child access a tablet or laptop to do educational work? March through April, the district distributed tablets to students in grades transitional kindergarten-3 and laptops to students in grades 4-12 who requested them. This was in addition to the 20,000 tablets that had been assigned to students prior to the closure of schools through the eLearning Companion Device program. Tablets and laptops are still available by contacting your school site.

- My child doesn’t remember their ATLAS log on information. How do they update or reset their password? For students in grades 5-12, on the ATLAS sign in page, to the left of their username and password, is a Forgot my Password link. For students in grades kindergarten-4, call the COVID-19 call center at (559) 457-3395.

- My student is having issues with their Fresno Unified tablet. Who should I contact for support? Call the LCD help desk at (559) 457-3939.

- Where can I pick up meals while schools are closed? Immediately after the closing of schools on March 13, the district set up meal distribution to support students and families. Grab-and-go meals are available from 9-11 a.m. at 23 sites (see list on page 5).

- Are non-emergency social/emotional supports available for my student during school closures? Yes. For non-emergency social/emotional concerns related to your student, call the district’s COVID-19 call center at (559) 457-3395 during normal business hours. If it is an emergency or you feel that your student poses an immediate risk to himself/herself or others, call 911 immediately. Resources are also available on the Department of Prevention and Intervention website. [https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/dpi/sews/](http://https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/dpi/sews/)

- With schools closed who can I call with questions? You can call your school as school staff are taking calls from their homes. The district has also established a call center to field parent and employee calls that is open daily from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The number is (559) 457-3395. The website Fresnounified.org also provides pertinent resources.

- Will the district’s health clinics be open while schools are closed? The school-based health clinics at Gaston Middle School and Addams Elementary School are open to ages birth to 19 years old. Gaston is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and Addams from 12:30-4 p.m.

- Will there still be summer school? Summer learning for all students will be offered online.
Students Connecting and Learning during COVID-19 Closures

Using a variety of distance learning platforms, teachers are connecting with students to provide daily lessons, virtual “office hours,” answer questions and more after schools closed to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Following guidelines from the state Department of Education, Fresno Unified will use third quarter grades as students’ final grades for this year, unless they want to improve their grades. But the district is still encouraging all students and families to tap into learning resources.

The district offers a variety of online resources at fresnounified.org and paper packets at 23 sites for families without internet access. Teachers are also trying to connect with students to provide continued learning. Below is just a sampling of what teachers and staff have been doing:

**Anthony Elementary School:** The autism classroom is using Hello.Smart. com lesson on Microsoft Teams using Smart Board technology for Calendar and Star curriculum lessons.

**Bullard High School:** Teachers Matt Brown and Mike Sosa have been diligent about calling their students in the Algebra 1 Restart Program and being available throughout the day to assist students in their Edgenuity online courses.

**Bullard TALENT K-8 School:** Eighth-grade teacher Jessica Diaz gathered lesson materials for her students and invited them to come to her home and pick them up from a grab-and-go table. She also decorated her house with inspirational quotes and signs to greet her students as she watched from a distance.

**Calwa Elementary School:** Dual immersion transitional kindergarten teacher Sinthia Arteaga has created her own website for students to access learning. She also created a YouTube channel where Calwa teachers upload their read-alouds.

**Columbia Elementary School:** Teacher Lisa Pierce received $1,000 from Donors Choose to buy supplies for her students to use as they study at home. Using a Walmart gift card, she will purchase books, paper, pencils, flashcards, and more for each student.

**Duncan Polytechnical High School:** Students in the Nursing Services career pathway have been pushing forward with class instruction through distance learning, including taking practice exams, recording skills videos and meeting virtually.

**Ericson Elementary School:** Transitional kindergarten (TK) teacher David Hunter led the development of fresnotk.com, a website with TK resources for students, teachers and parents. The website is also available in Spanish. His daughter, who attends Computech Middle School, helped him with the website.

**Edison High School:** Math teacher Shariya Gray, also known as “The Black Matician,” started her own YouTube channel to help students continue their learning.

**Forkner Elementary School:** In April, the fourth-grade teachers took their students on a virtual field trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium.

**Hidalgo Elementary School:** Second-grade teacher Maddie Cedillo is using Seesaw, a free website, that allows her to deliver instruction in an interactive way. In addition to providing learning opportunities, Cedillo is also checking in on her students’ emotional well-being. She is also communicating with her families in both English and Spanish.

**Hoover High School:** Through an Insta-gram Live drawing on April 3, a student won a delivered dinner for their entire family.

**Kratt Elementary School:** Resource counseling assistant Tommy Truong is providing families with techniques and activities virtually that he used in the school’s social emotional learning and alternative recess center. Families can use the Remind app to get notifications to have students join in virtual relaxation breathing and other activities.

**Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School:** Sixth-grade teacher David White is making frequent highly engaging videos for students/families with ideas and tips for home/distance learning. He even shaved off his iconic beard in one of them.

**Robinson Elementary School:** The kindergarten team has created an interactive website to engage every day with students and families. The lead teacher is Joe Dawson.

**Roosevelt High School:** English teacher Rhianna Beaumont-Lamb contacted her students immediately after school closed. She created a weekly survey for students to complete, using it to create a newsletter, highlighting responses and

See CONNECTING THROUGH COVID-19
Continued on page 12

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**Principal and Executive Assistant are Award Finalists**

Two Fresno Unified employees are finalists in the Fresno County Educator of the Year Awards. Annette Montague, the administrative assistant for School Leadership, and Rebecca Wheeler, principal at Hoover High School, are among three finalists in their categories.

Montague has been with the district since 1997 and principal at Hoover for six years. She is a collaborative, highly involved leader who has fostered a sense of community on the Hoover campus.

Wheeler and Wheeler Montague will go through an interview process. Educators of the Year will be announced in November. Both were among the district’s five Excellence in Education winners announced Feb. 4.

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Three Sunnyside High School students – who have overcome significant obstacles – have earned prestigious $20,000 Dell Scholarships.

As Dell Scholars, they will also receive a laptop and personal support for college.

With this year’s recipients, Sunnyside has produced 55 Dell Scholars since it opened in 1999, the most of any high school in the country.

The Dell Scholars website describes the scholarship program as targeting “low-income, highly motivated students who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a unique ‘GPA’ of grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for a college education.”

All of Sunnyside’s Dell Scholars this year are from the school’s exemplary Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which provides extra support to students who are traditionally underrepresented at colleges and universities.

Dell Scholars Julianna Bejar and Ly Ia are in the Doctors Academy, and Gurneet Kaur is in the Criminal and Behavioral Sciences career pathway.

Julianna, with a GPA of 3.17, will pursue a career as a doctor, motivated by what she learned in the Doctors Academy and the health disparities and language barriers her family has faced. Her mother, an immigrant from Mexico, struggles with type 2 diabetes. She will be the first in her family to attend college, and has selected Fresno State. She works 22-24 hours a week to help support her family.

“I would like my mother to see how I can reach my dream of becoming a doctor someday. I would also like to be an excellent role model for my little sister,” Julianna said. “I want to be able to live a better life and create a better life for my whole family.”

Ly, with a GPA of 4.0, came to the U.S. from Cambodia when she was 3. Her mother does not speak English, so Ly learned at a young age to help pay the bills and communicate for her mother. She plans to pursue a career as a doctor. With no internet at home, she uses the coffee shop or library to do her homework. Sometimes, she had to walk to a relative’s house to take a shower when their hot water was turned off. She will attend U.C. Berkeley.

“Looking back, it has been a really bumpy road to get to this point in my life where I can truly say that hard work pays off,” Ly said. “Sunnyside High School and the Doctors Academy have become my second home and second family. The support and encouragement I have received over the last four years has helped me realize that I can and will be successful.”

Gurneet, with a GPA of 4.0, is a first-generation college student. She will attend Fresno State on a full-ride Smittcamp Family Honors College scholarship.

Gurneet wants to be a pharmacist to help decrease health disparities in her community. She has excelled in her classes and participated in a variety of sports, clubs and volunteer activities.

“I was really surprised when I found out that I was chosen as a Class of 2020 Dell Scholar,” Gurneet said. “It was hard to believe that I was one of the chosen scholars from a highly competitive pool of 10,000 applicants. It feels great to see that they believe I have the potential to succeed.”

Emotional Support Available During COVID-19

The district would like to remind students, families and the community that various resources are available for the range of emotional issues that can arise from the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and sheltering at home. Resources include:

Care Solace:
CareSolace.com/FresnoFamilies
(888) 515-0595
Email wecare@solace.org
Flyer on County COVID-19 Warm Line
Flyer on County COVID-19 Warm Line in Spanish

Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline
http://www.kingsview.org/service-lines/central-valley-suicide-prevention-hotline
1 (888) 506-5991

The Crisis Text Line is accessible by texting “HOME” to 741741. Assistance is available via text 24/7.
https://www.crisistextline.org/

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
1 (800) 273-8255

www.FresnoUnified.org
DISTRICT ROUNDPUP

Former NFL Player Named Edison Coach

Cory Hall, who played six seasons in the NFL and has a wealth of coaching experience, is the new head football coach for Edison High School. Hall’s collegiate coaching includes serving as Oregon State’s interim head coach. Hall was born in Bakersfield and played for Fresno State from 1995-98.

Robinson Teacher on Ellen DeGeneres Show

Teacher Terron Nolan and wife resource counseling assistant Kristina Nolan, both at Robinson Elementary School, were guests on the Ellen DeGeneres Show Feb. 21 for their dedication to students. Nolan’s FEARLIST videos were highlighted. The videos capture Nolan facing some of his greatest fears. Before schools were closed for COVID-19, he was using the videos to encourage his students, many of whom have difficult home lives and many challenges. The show gave the Nolans a $25,000 check and $25,000 to Robinson.

Duncan’s eight students will be part of a cohort of 20 certified nursing assistant students designated for priority registration and automatic acceptance into the Registered Nursing Program at Fresno City College. The 20 students will take all prerequisite courses and then enter the Registered Nursing Program at Fresno City College. The 20 students will take all prerequisite courses and then enter the Registered Nursing Program together.

A record eight students and two alternates from Duncan Polytechnical High School have been accepted into Fresno City College’s Future Nurses Program. They are, top row from left, Sindy Rosales, Daisy Dingilius, Daniela Cabrera-Torres and Ana Orozco; middle row from left, Victoria Rosales, Vanessa Aquino, Luciana Reyes and Jacquelin Morales-Cardenas; bottom row from left, Angelica Morales and Anna Her.

Fresno High Honored for Civics Instruction

Fresno High School was among 14 schools in Clovis and Fresno recognized with Civic Learning Awards. The Civic Learning Awards program, co-sponsored by state Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond and Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakuy, recognizes schools that engage students in civic learning through strong civics curriculum and service-learning projects in their communities.

Roosevelt Teacher Wins Technology Award

Roosevelt High School teacher Chelsea Bonilla was honored by Computer-Using Educators with the 2020 LeRoy Finkel Fellow Award for her project on teaching with virtual reality. The award promotes leadership in the field of educational technology. Bonilla has developed a virtual reality lab where students immerse themselves in learning experiences, including experiencing moments and monumental places from the Civil Rights Movement. Public Service pathway students visited the virtual reality lab to ride along during various rescues, and students in history classes have found themselves in the trenches of WWI.

CONNECTING THROUGH COVID-19

Continued from page 10

Thomas Elementary School: Teacher Anita Lee calls her students and connects with them every day. She has a system that tracks who is getting online with her and what they are learning.

Wilson Elementary School: The special education team created an interactive site for all their students for uploading information and connecting. The lead teacher is Kristie Stormes.

Yosemite Middle School: Staff – sheltering at home – created a video for their students’ enjoyment tossing a roll of toilet paper “to each other” and posted it on social media.

Communications Office Wins CalSPRA Awards

The district’s Communications Office won three awards from the California School Public Relations Association earlier this spring: General Publications/Collateral Material category, Award of Merit for a recruiting poster; Newsletter category, Award of Merit for the Employee Zone; and in Multimedia/Visual Communications, an Award of Excellence for the 2019 retirement dinner invitation.

Anthony Elementary Wins Character Award

Anthony Elementary School was among 37 schools in the Central Valley to win a Bonner Character Award. Schools are recognized for exemplary practices in character and civic education. To receive this award, schools must plan in advance to infuse character education into their school curriculums, the plans must be modeled by the adults, and students must be provided opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways to the school, to others, and to the community.
Sunnyside Teacher Strives to Give all Students Opportunities

Amanda Peterson has been with the district for 20 years, the last 18 at Sunnyside High School. She was named a finalist for Excellence in Education awards in February for her dedicated work as a Race and Social Justice and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teacher and coordinator of Advanced Placement. Principal Tim Liles said Peterson was instrumental in establishing Sunnyside as an AVID Demonstration School and expanding AP offerings, and is a beloved teacher and colleague. “Amanda Peterson exemplifies all that Fresno Unified stands for. She spends her every moment working to not only close the achievement gap but more so, creating the opportunities our kids are capable of but may not recognize in themselves.”

What made you go into teaching? As a teen, I loved babysitting and being around children so I thought I would become a kindergarten teacher. I saw how my education changed the trajectory of my life, thus I decided to become a high school teacher so that I could give back and help others improve the quality of their lives through education.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? My dedicated and compassionate coworkers and my students are what I enjoy most about my job. Our Wildcat Family is collaborative and hard working. My students are funny, interesting, and energetic young people who inspire me daily and who push me to be my best self.

What is the biggest challenge in your job? The biggest challenge of my job is the heartbreak that comes when I have students who are dealing with life circumstances that I can’t help them change, or when a student dies in an accident, due to a health issue, or due to violence.

What is the AP Ambassadors program? There are 60 AP Ambassadors who serve the Sunnyside community by engaging in outreach and...

Office Manager Essential Part of the Baird Middle School Team

Gabriella Her, the office manager at Baird Middle School, is held in such regard at her campus that principal Valerie Martinez has given her the principal’s parking spot. “We all agree the school cannot run without her,” Martinez said. Her is a recent finalist for the district’s Excellence in Education awards. She has worked for the district for 13 years and is in her third year at Baird.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I enjoy interacting with the students, parents and the community because I feel the relationships that we have amongst the school and the community truly build the climate and culture at Baird. I also have a wonderful administration team and staff, so it makes my day and job so delightful!

What is the most challenging about your job? I think the most challenging part about my job is that I constantly ask myself how I can improve systems when we have parent and student engagements or events.

What have you changed in the front office to make it more welcoming? The Baird office has always been a friendly environment. I feel like I haven’t made any dramatic changes, except for adding pictures of our beautiful campus on the office walls. I also welcome everyone with a smile and have refreshments such as sparkling waters, granola bars, coffee, cappuccino or a latte -- because you can never have enough coffee.

What are some of your techniques for making families feel welcome? I feel the simplest techniques that anyone can have to make parents feel welcome is to greet them with a smile, listen and be understanding. Our students come from all over the district with different backgrounds and different beliefs, so working in the office really requires you to be flexible so you can help a student who is having a bad day or a frustrated parent.

Tell us about your involvement in...

See GABRIELLA HER
Continued on page 14
supporting our Advanced Placement program. They present information about AP in all of our ninth and 10th grade homerooms and they also present at our feeder middle schools. They also present information at our AP Information Night for parents each May.

What is the biggest obstacle for students to attend college? I believe that there are two major obstacles for students to attend college. The first is imposter syndrome. So many people in our society are told, in myriad ways, that they are unworthy. I notice that most of my students, even among the highest achievers, are filled with doubt about the possibility of attending college. I try to reinforce to my students that they are important, valuable people who can make their college dreams a reality. The second is financial instability. Although most of my students will qualify for enough financial aid to cover their tuition and fees at a local public campus, there are many hidden costs to going to college.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. I have been a vegetarian for about 15 years.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I enjoy traveling, hiking, reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, being with friends, and spending time by the sea.

the A4 Summer Literacy Program. I was the operation manager for two elementary and one middle school sites that served approximately 600 students from Fresno Unified School District, private schools and students from other school districts ranging from rising kindergarten through rising seventh. As an operation manager, I oversaw four operation leaders (two at each site) and my job consisted of assisting in developing curriculum for the middle school program with the Baird administration team, student recruitment, enrollment, attendance, transportation, ordering curriculum for teachers and student materials, ordering and picking up incentive supplies such as morning and afternoon snacks, dispersing materials, nutrition, health services, planning and prepping weekly student incentives, cooking for the student incentive luncheon, preparing student incentive awards at the end of program, preparing parent workshops and tracking weekly data for both elementary and middle school programs. The job duties started as early as January.

Describe some of what you do that goes beyond the traditional role of office manager. Some of the daily things that I do above and beyond my regular job duties are student and parent engagement, making home cooked meals for our quarterly sports banquets, recruiting parent volunteers for our events and building relations with our community.

You are known as a fantastic cook. What is your favorite dish to make? I love to cook Asian cuisine, but I wish I could cook other cuisines and learn how to use spices. I do not have a favorite dish because I feel like I can always do better or it doesn’t taste right. I do not have recipes for anything that I cook. I just add everything to the pot and taste as I go until it is right. My chicken red curry over white rice and turkey egg rolls are a big hit with my friends and staff, but I feel like it is something that is so basic to make. I would love to learn how to make Spanish rice or a mean pot roast or simply bake an apple pie.

If you could choose a different career, what would it be? I would love to be a planner for conferences because I love to travel, organize paperwork, set up and meet new people.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I like to be home doing yard work or being outdoors with my family.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. I am shy and do not like to be in the spotlight. I like to be the person behind the scenes to make sure everything goes as planned.
En estos Tiempos de Desafíos, Tenemos Mucho de Lo Que Debemos Sentirnos Orgullosos

No puedo creer que el mes de mayo ya está aquí y en lugar de estaranos preparando para nuestras actividades finales del ciclo escolar y disfrutar de las últimas semanas en las instalaciones, aquí estamos preparando las celebraciones virtuales para los estudiantes del 12vo grado (seniors) y comprometiéndonos en clases virtuales/ a distancia. Esta ha sido el momento más difícil de mi carrera, especialmente por lo social que soy, pero sobre todo porque gano mi energía todos los días con sus sonrisas, sus ojos y mis tacos! Sé que no estoy solo con este sentimiento de duelo ya que muchos de ustedes también, están tratando de procesar estas pérdidas.

Afortunadamente, aún en este mundo nuevo virtual, tenemos mucho de lo cual debemos sentirnos orgullosos y celebrar. En esta edición especial encontrarán historias de los maestros que han sido creativos y comprometidos a sus estudiantes, los empleados de servicios alimenticios permaneciendo en vanguardia todos los días y los estudiantes continúan prospe...
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