



# BUILDING futures

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

P R E P A R I N G C A R E E R R E A D Y G R A D U A T E S

## District Supports Virtual Learning

Schools are finishing the academic year with a solid system in place for connecting virtually with students and families, making sure that students can continue learning despite the closure of campuses.

The distance learning model that Fresno Unified created established a strong foundation for a virtual summer learning program. COVID-19 restrictions continue, making it necessary to hold summer learning online. The program will be held June 9 through July 31. (For more information on summer learning, go to page 15.)

Successful distance learning was accomplished using a variety of virtual learning platforms, with teachers connecting with students to provide lessons, hold virtual "office hours," answer questions and provide social/emotional support.

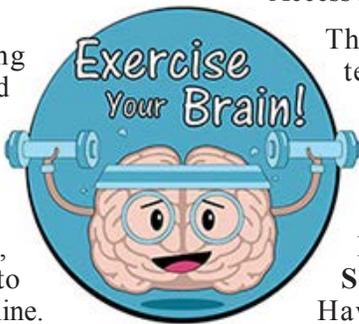
Following guidelines from the state Department of Education, Fresno Unified used third quarter grades as students' final grades for this year, unless students improved their grades with online assignments.

The district and parents were able to track student-teacher connectivity after the district launched a tool in mid-May. Each week, students saw three ungraded assignments. One was focused on the teacher's outreach, another on the student's interaction and a third on any follow up needed that week.

Teachers assigned a number score from a rubric to the interactions with each of their students. For example, no outreach

would have a 0 score, while a virtual meeting with students would have a score of 4.

The district's Office of Equity and Access is evaluating the data.



Throughout the district, teachers were creative in helping students to continue to learn via online. Examples included:

**Roeding Elementary School:** Guillermina Hawley-Decruz, a dual language immersion teacher in transitional kindergarten, uploaded [teaching videos](#) daily to YouTube. The video lessons are aligned with the online pre-kindergarten curriculum the district made available to families. She wanted to provide students with an environment that resembled the classroom. She transformed her home office into a familiar space by bringing items from the classroom. In addition to the videos, she held weekly virtual meetings with students and offered small group instruction.

**Yokomi Elementary School:** Third-grade teacher Sylvia Deeb received a Keep Kids Learning grant through Donors Choose and provided supplies for her students to use at home, including toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, Chapstick, snacks, drink pouches, food items, Mad Libs activity books, coloring books and more. Students picked up supplies on May 7, following social distancing protocols.

See **STUDENT CONNECTIVITY**  
Continued on page 8

## Upcoming School Year

From Superintendent Bob Nelson: "As the current school year comes to a close, there is a lot of concern and anxiety swirling around what next school year will look like. While we don't have any hard and fast answers at this time, I want to assure you that we are working diligently on how to safely reopen school and serve our students. We are committed to providing high quality instruction and safe environments for our students and staff. We will keep you informed through our website and social media as we have more information throughout the summer."

## Celebrating the Class of 2020



Liana Llamas, a valedictorian at Design Science Middle College High School, celebrates with her family prior to her school's virtual senior celebration on May 21. As the school year winds down for most students, the district is celebrating – in a whole new way – its graduating seniors. A physical graduation ceremony for high schools will be held when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the district organized senior celebrations for 15 high school programs.



Meet Scholarship Winners (Pages 4-7)



Teacher Describes Distance Learning (Page 8)



Steve's Scholars (Pages 9-11)



Superintendent Message in Spanish and Hmong (Page 15)

# PARENTS

## Fresno Unified will Serve Free Summer Meals at 22 Sites across City

The district will begin its free summer meals program on June 8, providing grab-and-go breakfast and lunch at 22 sites.

Every summer, Fresno Unified has provided free nutritious meals to replace the school meals that many families depend on. The summer meal program will have different hours and slightly different locations than the meal distribution the district has had in place since schools closed on March 13 due to COVID-19.

Summer meals will be served 8-9:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the same time. The district will distribute summer meals through Aug. 14.

“The district’s free summer meals program will be even more vital this summer as so many of our families struggle with the loss of jobs and income during this pandemic. I see us moving smoothly from our current meals program to our summer distribution,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

### Meal distribution site changes to accommodate planned facility improvement projects (starting June 8):

- Cooper Academy will close, Slater Elementary School will open
- Ahwahnee Middle School will close, Hoover High School will open
- Leavenworth Elementary School will close, Lane Elementary School will open
- Computech Middle School will close, Edison High School will open
- Scandinavian Middle School will close (Duncan Polytechnical High School nearby will remain open)

### El Distrito Anuncia el Horario de Comidas de Verano

El distrito comenzará su programa gratuito de comidas de verano el lunes 8 de junio, ofreciendo desayuno y almuerzo para llevar en 22 sitios.

Cada verano, Fresno Unificado ha proporcionado comidas nutritivas gratuitas para reemplazar las comidas escolares de las que dependen muchas familias. El programa de comidas de verano tendrá horarios y lugares ligeramente diferentes a la distribución de las comidas que el distrito ha tenido desde

que las escuelas cerraron el 13 de marzo debido a COVID-19.

Las comidas de verano se servirán de 8 a 9:30 a.m. El desayuno y el almuerzo se proporcionarán al mismo tiempo. El distrito distribuirá comidas de verano hasta el 14 de agosto.

“El programa gratuito de comidas de verano del distrito será aún más vital este verano ya que muchas de nuestras familias luchan con la pérdida de empleos e ingresos durante esta pandemia. Nos veo en movimiento sin problemas de nuestro programa actual de comidas a nuestra distribución de verano,” dijo el Superintendente Bob Nelson.

### El sitio de distribución de comida cambia para dar cabida a proyectos planificados en mejora de instalaciones (a partir del 8 de junio):

- Academia Cooper cerrará, Escuela Primaria Slater abrirá
- Escuela Secundaria Ahwahnee cerrará, Escuela Preparatoria Hoover abrirá
- Escuela Primaria Leavenworth cerrará, Escuela Primaria Lane abrirá
- Escuela Secundaria Computech cerrará, Escuela Preparatoria Edison abrirá
- Escuela Secundaria Scandinavian cerrará (Escuela Preparatoria Duncan Politécnica cercana permanecerá abierta)

### Cheeb Tsam Tshaj Tawm Txog Cov Pluas Noj Caij Sov

Koog tsev kawm ntawv yuav pib nws cov pluas mov noj dawb thaum hnub Monday, Lub Rau Hli Hnub Tim 8, muab tshais su noj nqa mus thiab muaj nyob rau 22 qhov chaw.

Txhua txhua lub caij ntuj sov, Fresno Koog Tsev Kawm Ntawv tau pub zaub mov dawb rau ntau tsev neeg tau noj. Qhov muab noj rau lub caij ntuj sov yuav muaj cov xuaj moos txawv raws li qhov chaw faib khoom noj uas lub cheeb tsam tau tsim txij li thaum cov tsev kawm kaw rau lub Peb Hlis Tim 13 vim tus kabmob COVID-19.

Yuav muaj zaub mov rau lub caij sov thaum 8-9:30 sawv ntxov. Muaj tshais thiab su rau tib lub sijhawm. Koog Tsev Kawm Ntawv yuav faib zaub mov rau lub caij sov no kom txog Lub Yim Hli

Hnug Tim 14.

“Cov pluas noj dawb rau lub caij ntuj sov yuav tseem ceeb tshaj tam si no rau lub caij ntuj sov no vim tias ntau tsev neeg tau tawm tsam nrog kev poob haujlwm

poob nyiaj vim lub sijhawm no muaj kev kis kabmob hnyav heev. Kuv pom peb

See **SUMMER MEALS**  
Continued on page 15

### List of summer meal distribution sites:

SCHOOL NAME	All Meals are Served 8-9:30 a.m. ADDRESS	
Addams Elementary	2117 W. McKinley Ave.	93728
Birney Elementary	3034 E. Cornell Ave.	93703
Columbia Elementary	1025 S. Trinity St.	93706
Ewing Elementary	4873 E. Olive Ave.	93727
Figarden Elementary	6235 N. Brawley Ave.	93722
Lane Elementary	4730 E. Lowe Ave.	93702
Lincoln Elementary	1100 E. Mono Ave.	93706
Slater Elementary	4472 N. Emerson Ave.	93705
Fort Miller Middle	1302 E. Dakota Ave.	93704
Hamilton K-8	102 E. Clinton Ave.	93704
Kings Canyon Middle	5117 E. Tulare Ave.	93727
Sequoia Middle	4050 E. Hamilton Ave.	93702
Tehipite Middle	630 N. Augusta Ave.	93701
Terronez Middle	2300 S. Willow Ave.	93725
Tioga Middle	3232 E. Fairmont Ave.	93726
Wawona	4524 N. Thorne Ave.	93704
Yosemite Middle	1292 N. Ninth St.	93703
Bullard High	5445 N. Palm Ave.	93704
Duncan Polytechnical High	4330 E. Garland Ave.	93726
Edison High	540 E. California Ave.	93706
Hoover High	5550 N. First St.	93710
Sunnyside High	1019 S. Peach Ave.	93727



Free summer meals distribution will start on June 8 at 22 sites. It will be similar to the grab-and-go meals process that Scandinavian Middle School used after schools closed due to COVID-19. Scandinavians’s Eugene Reinor, an advisor/guidance and learning counselor, passes out food in April.



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# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Message*

## When Resiliency is Tested, Choose #MilitantPositivity

As I sat down to write this message, I reflected on my message from June of 2019 and was hit with a wall of emotions.

Usually in our district, June is a time of celebration, of accomplishment, and of relief. This year feels different. Yes – we are celebrating our accomplishments and we are relieved to head into summer, but we are doing it with barriers and anxiety unlike anything we have dealt with in the past. Our seniors are donning their caps and gowns but instead of crossing the graduation stage in front of thousands, they are crossing the graduation stage in their living rooms. Our scholarship recipients were celebrated via Zoom instead of the usual



**Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

pomp and circumstance of our annual banquet. End of the year activities had to be reimagined, postponed or missed altogether and uncertainty surrounds what our new normal will be.

But even in tough times, it is our choice and our ability to choose #MilitantPositivity. Militant Positivity is not about an “ignorance is bliss” or avoidance of our struggles, but rather facing those struggles head on and choosing to get up every day with optimism and drive. Do I feel this way every day? No. But when I’m down I validate those feelings, validate those struggles, and then move to what I’m going to work on today to move the needle in the right direction. Committing every day to working towards better for our students, better for our teams, and better for our community is how Militant Positivity works in the role as superintendent of the third largest school district in California.

How does Militant Positivity show up

in your role(s)? How does that show up as a parent for you? How does that show up as a student for you? How does that show up as a teacher for you? We have more hard times ahead of us and what I’m asking of each and every one of you is to spend this summer building up your own reserve of Militant Positivity. We can only get through this if we get through it TOGETHER. Our resiliency will continue to be tested, so do what you need to do to fill your tank and keep it filled. If you need some tips, I highly recommend checking out the livestream conversation from May 22, where our amazing staff and partners discussed mental health, self-care, and the amazing resources at our fingertips as the Fresno Unified Family. Have a great summer and take care of you and yours!

**See SUPT. MESSAGE  
SPANISH AND HMONG  
Continued on page 15**

## Message from Mackensie Yore, MD (UCSF Fresno)

### COVID-19: Why and How to “Flatten the Curve”

As a frontline emergency physician, I am often asked how to avoid COVID-19, especially as the virus continues to spread.

Three features of COVID-19 make it challenging. First, COVID-19 can be very serious, causing hospitalization and even death. Second, our bodies have no experience fighting it. Third, the virus is quite contagious: it spreads by coughing, talking, or even breathing close to someone else and by touching common surfaces. Also, people can spread the virus before they show symptoms.



**Mackensie Yore, M.D.**  
UCSF Fresno

What can we do? Ideally, if everyone everywhere kept six feet apart and

touched nothing for several weeks, the virus would die out. But essential workers must keep society afloat and people need to get essentials, so perfectly isolating everyone is impossible. The other extreme, doing nothing and living life like the old normal, would massively spread the virus. The challenge is to minimize transmission while allowing for the essential functions of society to continue.

This is “flattening the curve.” The “curve” is the number of COVID-19 cases over time. Infections increase as the virus spreads and decrease as people recover. We want to keep the number of cases at any time within the capacity of the health care system to care for people, both those with COVID-19 and everyone else we see. Unfortunately, there is not much extra capacity within our system, so if COVID-19 spreads too fast, we will run out of hospital beds, nurses, tests, and everything else we need to keep people alive. People who

could have survived COVID-19 would die for lack of care.

How can we each flatten the curve? Three things: distance, defend, and disinfect. First, distance yourself at least six feet from people you do not live with. Second, wear a mask covering your nose and mouth to defend against unknowingly spreading the virus to others – remember people are infectious even before they feel sick. Finally, disinfect, by frequently washing your hands and cleaning surfaces others touch.

If we all distance, defend, and disinfect until an effective vaccine or treatment becomes widely available, we can minimize needless suffering and death. We are all in this together – thank you for doing your part!

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# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2020

## Fresno Unified Scholarship Recipients Headed to Yale, UCLA

Sixty-one inspiring seniors will be awarded \$118,000 in Fresno Unified Scholarships this year to help them achieve their dream of higher education.

The scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students based on their school and community involvement, aspirations and financial need.

Scholarship recipients this year overcame a number of hurdles during their journey to graduation, including language and poverty barriers, the death of parents and turmoil in the home. In overcoming these obstacles, they emerged as leaders on their campuses, excelling academically and in activities, sports and community service.

While the district was unable to hold the traditional scholarship banquet this year, recipients were surprised with the

scholarships during virtual meetings May 12 that included Superintendent Bob Nelson, high school principals and other district leaders.



Recipients are headed to prestigious universities and colleges around the country, including Stanford, Howard University, Yale, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Fresno State and Fresno City College. Their intended majors include medicine, engineering, teaching, theater, psychology and law.

The Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund was established in 2009, made possible by generous donations from the community and district employees, with the State of Education luncheon in the fall the largest single fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The awards range from \$1,500 to \$3,500.

“Our Fresno Unified Scholarship recipi-

ents are an inspiring group of students who have come through a variety of extreme circumstances over the years. I am proud of each of them and honored

on behalf of the district to help ease their burden a bit as they advance toward college,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.



The district surprised recipients of the Fresno Unified Scholarships during virtual meetings May 12 that also included principals and other district leaders. Scholarships were awarded to 61 students this year.

### Brian Iversen Bullard High School

**GPA:** 4.0

**College:** University of Southern California

**Career goal:** Disability attorney

**About Brian:** Varsity football; orchestra; has played the violin for 11 years; mock trial; California Scholarship Federation; law internship at Lozano Smith/Scott Cross and construction internship at Dutra Development Inc.; was inspired by his brother, who struggles with a number of disabilities, to pursue a law career focused on the rights of disabled students.

**His words:** “As a lawyer, I can advocate for all people, specifically parents who are fighting to get their children with special needs the service they require and deserve.”

**Academic counselor Korrie Gallardo:** “Brian has earnestly sought a rigorous course load as well as maintained his involvement in areas that are of interest to him. Every year we wrestled with his schedule because he wanted to do it all.”



### Natalie Tristan-Aguilar Cambridge High School

**GPA:** 3.38

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career goal:** Psychologist

**About Natalie:** Raised by a single mom; is pursuing psychology because of her own struggles; gold medalist in Academic Decathlon; participated in Gamers Club and soccer; loves reading and writing; completed Fresno City College classes.

**Her words:** “My whole life literally took blood, sweat and tears. I never thought I’d walk the [graduation] stage. I am finally confident enough to know I can and will succeed. I believe in myself again.”

**Academic counselor Issalia Wood:** “Natalie has a huge love for learning and a passion for wanting to help others. Natalie has gone through her struggles with a positive attitude and with the mindset that she can use her struggles as lessons, lessons that she will use to become a mental health practitioner.”





# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2020

## **Frankie Pedroza**

**Design Science Middle College  
High School**

**GPA:** 3.39

**College:** UC Irvine

**Career goal:** Lawyer

**About Frankie:** Grew up surrounded by gangs, poverty, alcoholism, addiction, and family members being incarcerated; will be a first-generation college student; Academic Decathlon; helped organize a debate club; earned his associate's degree from Fresno City College.

**His words:** "I will change the wrong I see in the world. I will do this by becoming a lawyer and going into politics."

**Principal Tressa Overstreet:** "He has not grown up with the luxuries that many others have had. He knows that all his circumstances have contributed to this passion that he has for others and his pursuit of his education. He is a first-generation college student on a mission."



## **Adrianna Mora**

**DeWolf High School**

**GPA:** 3.49

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career goal:** Neonatal nurse

**About Adrianna:** Raised by her grandmother; was separated from her brother; struggled with depression; made bad choices in friends and behavior; had to live in group homes; while at the Juvenile Justice Campus, she decided to pursue nursing and turn her life around.

**Her words:** "Helping others is very important to me because so many people have helped me get out of my old lifestyle, so I would love to give back to my community by committing my life to helping others."

**Teacher David Sarro:** "Adrianna's academic accomplishments are rivaled only by her personal strengths. Her work ethic, maturity and dedication are beyond her years."



## **Jesus Lopez**

**Duncan Polytechnical  
High School**

**GPA:** 3.92

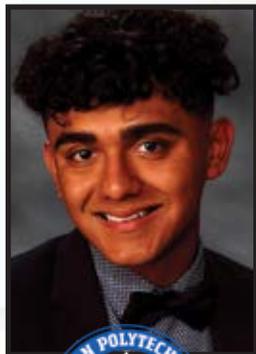
**College:** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

**Career goal:** Congressman

**About Jesus:** Grew up in extreme poverty and experienced much turmoil at home; senior class president; varsity water polo and swim; Academic Decathlon.

**His words:** "Money is something I didn't have growing up and I still don't have much of it. On the other hand, this has taught me not to take things for granted and appreciate what I have today because some children have it even worse than I did. Being poor has taught me to value hard work and perseverance."

**Teacher Michelle West:** "Jesus is looking forward to pursuing his career in history and philosophy. He is excited about being one of the first in his family to attend and complete a college degree."



## **Alberto Olivo-Urbina**

**Edison High School**

**GPA:** 4.32

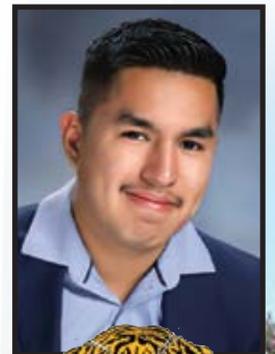
**College:** Stanford University

**Career goal:** Start his own company (computer science major)

**About Alberto:** Varsity soccer and cross country; California Scholarship Federation; also speaks Spanish and French; was pressured to drop out of school to earn money for his family; was a field worker and worked at the IRS; growing up had to use the computers at the library but is now passionate about computer science.

**His words:** "I learned that I need to try harder to achieve my goals because setbacks will always be present and I must always find a way to get past them because I am not ready to give up, no matter the conditions presented to me."

**Teacher Amy E. Bressette:** He is very active in his community and is currently working on designing a program that would teach technology (specifically programming) at primarily Latino elementary schools in his neighborhood."





# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2020

## **Brentney Reynolds**

### **Fresno High School**

**GPA:** 4.26

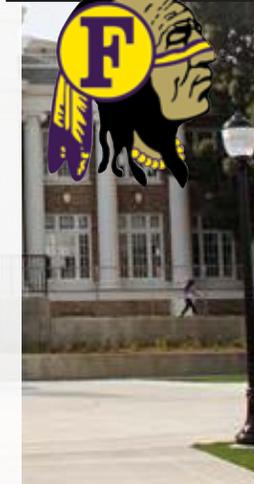
**College:** University of California, San Diego

**Career goal:** Clinical psychologist

**About Brentney:** Had to live with family members after her father and grandmother were evicted from an apartment; her mother died of a brain aneurysm in 2007; her father died suddenly of a heart attack in February; will be the first in her family to attend college; family members have struggled with addiction; participated in varsity badminton; is a dancer, ice skater and roller blader.

**Her words:** “My father is the most important person in my life, and he did not get the chance to further his education after high school, so I want to do what he could not. He has instilled in me the idea that hard work will pay off in the long run, and that by keeping my grades and head up, I can achieve anything I want.”

**Teacher Angela Thornton:** “She is bright, ambitious and resolved to succeed no matter the circumstances.”



## **Joseph Cordova**

### **Hoover High School**

**GPA:** 4.32

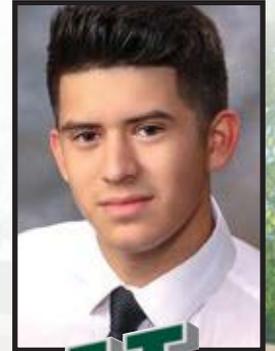
**College:** Yale University

**Career goal:** Marketing director

**About Joseph:** Ranked No. 1 in his class; participated in varsity cross country and wrestling; started his own sneaker art business, working out of his closet; his stepfather, who raised him, died suddenly in 2011; at 16 purchased his own car through money he earned and helped his family move into a two-bedroom apartment; will be the first in his family to attend college.

**His words:** “I can proudly say that excelling in school has become my new drive that has changed who I am and what I aspire to be.”

**Teacher Josh Nachtigall:** “Hard-working, persistent and professional, Joseph asks thoughtful, real world questions that relate to the course content, showing that his thinking is going deeper than many of his classmates.”



## **Ky-Nivia Pool**

### **J.E. Young Academic Center**

**GPA:** 3.25

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career goal:** Lawyer

**About Ky-Nivia:** She became familiar with the legal system after her brother and father were incarcerated; she and her family were homeless for a time; participated in student government; participated in Advance to College, taking college units while in high school; graduated from high school a year early; is a first generation college student.

**Her words:** “My motivation has always been the negativity I have faced in my life. School and keeping my mind busy keep me in a better place so that I don’t experience a setback.”

**Advance to College coordinator Jodie Garabedian:** “What stands out most about Ky-Nivia is her unwavering focus towards achieving the goals she has set.”



## **Hilda Martinez-Salazar**

### **McLane High School**

**GPA:** 4.26

**College:** University of California, San Diego

**Career goal:** Obstetrics and gynecology

**About Hilda:** Participated in swim and dive; part of the Medical Education and Research Academy pathway; was a paid intern at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center; grew up in poverty, at one point sharing an apartment with 15 extended family members.

**Her words:** “Not only will [a career in obstetrics and gynecology] be great for myself, but I will be able to provide services to my community where it is most needed due to the lack of education on certain topics.”

**College and Career Readiness coordinator Monorith Arun:** “It is a pleasure observing Ms. Martinez’s learning and leadership skills. She truly loves what she does, and she is a natural born leader.”





# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2020

## Yamile Vazquez Rojas

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

GPA: 4.21

College: Undecided

Career goal: Business owner

**About Yamile:** Participated in robotics; develops websites; founded Alouette Jewelry; co-founded Latinos United; will be the first in her family to attend college; immigrated from Mexico as a child; parents are field laborers.

**Her words:** "Throughout my journey in high school, I have developed a mindset of an entrepreneur and grown into a hardworking, determined and self-driven person. Coming to this school has taught me many skills, such as being able to ideate, pitch, prototype, problem-solve and think visually."

**Academic counselor Oscar Barragan:** "Ms. Vazquez is one of the hardest working students I have ever encountered."



## Isaias Navarro

Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.99

College: UCLA

Career goal: Nurse practitioner

**About Isaias:** Family struggles financially; participated in varsity water polo, swim and soccer; was a peer mentor; volunteered at Community Regional Medical Center.

**His words:** "At first in school, I struggled because I was afraid of asking questions and speaking out. But one day, I grew the courage to speak out. From then on I was known as the boy who did not stop talking and always had a question for the teacher or something to say."

**English teacher Yadira Gonzalez:** "Isaias is devoted to his education and to making a difference in the world. He has the potential to impact the lives of many individuals due to his compassion, knowledge and personal commitment. He will make an incredible nurse."



## Ly Eang Ia

Sunnyside High School

GPA: 4.29

College: University of California, Berkeley

Career goal: Doctor

**About Ly:** Immigrated from Cambodia; experienced turmoil and poverty at home; was in the Doctors Academy; participated in Academic Decathlon, varsity badminton and Teachers of Tomorrow; is on a competitive dance team; volunteered at Community Regional Medical Center.

**Her words:** "I grew up with little, but I seek to give a great deal to everyone and anyone."

**Teacher Nanci Gardner:** "Her dream to become a doctor will become a reality and I have no doubt that she will one day serve our valley as a medical professional. I am confident that there is nothing anyone can throw at her that will stop her from accomplishing all of her goals."



## Check it Out: Seniors Pick up Diplomas, Celebrate



Bullard High School's Alejandro Lopez celebrates after completing senior check-out on May 28.



**STUDENT CONNECTIVITY**  
Continued from page 1

**Bullard TALENT K-8 School:** Eighth grade teachers chose a Champ of the Week to recognize hard-working students in specific subjects. Teachers contacted the student's parents and set up a time to drive to the student's home and drop off their award. A special media post was created.

**Vang Pao Elementary School:** The Hmong dual language program created a Hmong Language Reading Series, inviting community members and celebrities to read and interact with students and parents via videos.

**Edison High School:** Josh Gad, voice actor and Broadway performer, joined Edison's "Chicago High School Edition" cast for a virtual meeting. Teacher Bianca Ankrum had reached out to Gad regarding the theater program and the postponement of all activities, including shows, and he offered to "hop" on the group's meeting to speak with students. He graciously answered questions and spoke with students about performing in film and stage.

**Rowell Elementary School:** The

dual immersion team celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a virtual student concert. Students in the program joined together for a virtual sing along of "De Colores."

**Ahwahnee Middle School:** During one of its virtual spirit weeks, an Outdoor Challenge Week encouraged students to come up with creative lunchtime picnics, chalk or tape obstacle courses, outdoor games played against parents, nature photography and star gazing.

**Ewing Elementary School:** Becky Pings, a teacher in the autism program, created several videos to help support families of students with autism with home routines while schools are closed. The videos have a unique perspective -- Ms. Pings' brother Adam, who has autism and Down syndrome, stars in the videos.

**Wi-Fi pilot:** The district piloted a program to help boost Wi-Fi connections in the neighborhoods near Kirk Elementary School. The district parked two buses in front of Kirk to provide internet for students doing their online schoolwork while campuses are closed.

## One Teacher's Distance Learning Journey So Far

*Gaston Middle School special education teacher Felicia Burrell shares her path to successful distance learning for her students. Like teachers across the district, Burrell collaborated with others and undertook professional learning to master a new way of teaching during school closures.*



Computer literacy has never been more important than it is right now. Moving your physical classroom to an online format takes lots of planning and collaboration on the teacher's part. I have been very blessed to work with a group of administrators, fellow teachers, and my own classroom staff who have been nothing but supportive during this process.

As the discussions began about moving to a distance learning platform, I was already in contact with my students' parents via Remind. Having the early communication with parents was key to making them feel safe in this new normal we were all experiencing. Still, I felt overwhelmed with the tasks that lay ahead of me. Not only was I trying to keep my classroom running with communication to my parents, I was also moving in a new direction with my own children and their teacher. This experience working in one district while your children attend another made me appreciate the communication that was forever coming from ours.

Many hours of watching the news, the governor's reports, and webinars from the Department of Education provided me with the necessary information so I felt somewhat ready to move in this new direction. When the district fully launched the "Exercise your Brain" website, I began using it and planning the best way to move forward with my parents and students. I touched bases with all my parents using a variety of methods -- phone calls, emails, texts and Remind -- to ensure the parents received the lessons provided by the Special Education Department. Not sure when I slept those first two weeks.

When our principal began discussing moving our students at Gaston to an online platform, I started to think what that would look like for my students. How would my students benefit from receiving their instruction online? A fellow teacher and mentor of mine reassured me that my kids would be fine because she had witnessed the preparation of my students to succeed in any environment. She provided some examples and from there I took off. I just needed a little confidence that distance learning was not going to take me down. I signed up for all the Microsoft Teams training the district offered. I began practicing and building my skills to run my class online, trying out my training on my mother and colleagues to make sure I could walk my parents through this process. During this learning curve I kept Edgar Dale's Cone of Learning in my head. The more I taught to others about using the new system of teaching, the better my knowledge base would be.

So, my nightly work began with unpacking Teams. I took the training and developed a Microsoft form to gain basic information for technology needs of my students. I had six out of nine students complete it and

See **FELICIA BURRELL**  
Continued on page 14



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# STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2020

## Forty Students Awarded Scholarships through Steve's Scholars Program

This year's group of graduating Steve's Scholars, the third since the program began, is made up of 40 students from seven Fresno Unified high schools.

In 2012, Francine and Murray Farber established the Steve's Scholars program as a lasting memorial to their son, who died unexpectedly in 2001 at age 42.

Their goal was to encourage students at Tehipite Middle School to strive for good grades and attendance, social responsibility and college.

Students from the Class of 2020 represent the third cohort of Steve's Scholars. The students will receive \$1,000 scholarships for each of two years after successfully meeting all of the requirements for Steve's Scholars since they were in the seventh grade.

"This year, we passed 100 scholarships awarded to deserving students since our first group of graduating seniors. We are so proud of how hard the students have worked to be Steve's Scholars," said Francine Farber.

Murray Farber added: "It has been a joy over the years to meet Tehipite students, and to watch so many of them flourish in high school."

Three students earned special recognition for outstanding achievement:

Karen Medina from McLane High School: Highest GPA: 4.32

Susie Quintero from Hoover High School: Most community service hours: 210.5

Evelyn Casillas from Roosevelt High School: Highest attendance: 100%

To achieve a Steve's Scholar scholarship, students had to maintain at least a B average and at least 95% attendance in grades 7-12. They were also required to take California's college preparatory courses, known as A through G classes, and complete community service annually.

The 40 recipients amassed 2,629.5 hours of community service, ranging from 30 hours a student to 213.5 hours a student. Of the 66 remaining Steve's Scholars students who left Tehipite in 2016, 40

qualified for the scholarships.

Steve's Scholars is funded with \$1 million from their son's estate, a gift to the Farbers from his widow, Cordula. Steve Farber was an energetic Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor. About a year after retiring, he was running unopposed for fire commissioner in a small Washington town when he passed away.

With the original gift now invested by the Fresno-based Central Valley Community Foundation, the Farbers hope the Steve's Scholars program will support an even larger number of students for many years to come.

The Farbers, who are in their 80s, launched Steve's Scholars to help "level the playing field" for Tehipite, where the average family annual income is about \$18,000.

An additional Tehipite Steve's Scholars fund set up by the Farbers and contributed to by family and friends has enabled them to provide special opportunities for students to experience the arts and the

world outside Fresno. They have taken trips to colleges, toured the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and attended plays at the local Roger Rocka Dinner Theater.

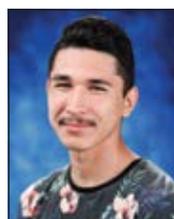
The Farbers have also funded "Fifth Grade on Broadway" to provide the more than 6,000 fifth graders in Fresno Unified with an opportunity to see a professional theater production written to correlate with their fifth-grade social studies curriculum on the American Revolution.

They also funded a summer school program to expose elementary school children to playwriting, drama, stagecraft and costuming.

The Farbers were both born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and have been married for 65 years. Before retiring, Murray Farber was a journalist and worked in communications and Francine Farber was a school psychologist and administrator. They moved to Fresno to be close to their daughter, Andrea, and her family, after the death of Steve and another son, Michael, at the age of 35.



### Alexander Andrade Beltran



Design Science Middle College High School

**College:** University of California, Merced

**Career Goal:** Public health

**Quote:** "The thing

I like the most about the Steve's Scholars program is that it helps make college more accessible by providing a financial opportunity to students."

### Lucky Neng Her



Design Science Middle College High School

**College:** University of California, Santa Cruz

**Career Goal:** Video game design

**Quote:** "I'd like to thank

the Farbers for the scholarship program. Not only do the eligibility requirements keep students on track, it also reminds them that they hold responsibilities and teaches them, from a young age, to set goals for success."

### Brenda Garcia



Duncan Polytechnical High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Nursing

**Quote:** "Thank you

for the scholarship opportunity and the requirement of community service, a great help for our local community."

### Alexa Bulgara Gutierrez



Duncan Polytechnical High School

**College:** Universal Technical Institute

**Career Goal:** Master diesel technician

**Quote:** "Thank

you to the Farbers for helping me open my eyes and heart for what the future could hold for me and for the scholarship opportunity given to me."

### Moises Anaya



Duncan Polytechnical High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Marine biology

**Quote:** "I am

privileged and grateful to be a part of the Steve's Scholars program for the past six years. The requirements challenged and motivated me to be successful in my educational journey."

### Cesar Armando Osuna



Fresno High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Business administration

**Quote:** "The

Steve's Scholars Program gives kids an opportunity to work hard for something that will help them in college. Thank you for this great opportunity."

### Jadee Nao Khanthamany



Fresno High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Biomedical physics/nursing

**Quote:** "The program

offers support and help for college success."

### Li A Major



Fresno High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Sociology/education

**Quote:** "I want to thank

the Farbers for giving me something to work hard for and look forward to. They helped me understand that I can do anything I put my mind to. The program kept me motivated and gave me the drive to do well in every single class."



# STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2020

## Stephanie Bernal Garcia



*Fresno High School*

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Computer science/technology

**Quote:** "One of the many great things about participating in the Steve's Scholars program was the feeling of helping the community when doing the volunteer work. When I volunteered under the name of Steve's Scholars, it gave me a sense of pride to be a part of something meaningful and big! Being able to help people and getting to know ambitious people was inspiring."

## Susie Lizette Quintero



*Hoover High School*

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Civil engineer

**Quote:** "Thank you so much for giving students the opportunity to strive to be better for themselves and others, the school, and the community. It means a lot that the Farbers have faith and hope in us as we move on to college. I will be forever grateful for this opportunity and I can't thank the Farbers enough for having such a loving heart."

## Blanca Azucena Avila Carrillo



*J.E. Young Academic Center*

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Obstetrician

**Quote:** "The Farbers believed in me and offered me this scholarship. I am so thankful for the guidance with staying on track with grades, attendance, volunteer work, and most important, helping me achieve my goal of going to college."

## Karen Medina



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Biomedicine/education

**Quote:** "I enjoyed the Steve's Scholars program because it made me work extra hard for something that I really wanted to achieve — the scholarship. I learned to reach out to my community and school to find volunteer activities in which to participate."

## Johan Christopher Gomez-Madriral



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Broadcasting

**Quote:** "Thank you for the opportunity that this program provides. I will never forget the support that I received."

## Kia Mary Moua



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno Pacific University

**Career Goal:** Orthopedic surgeon

**Quote:** "Participation in the Steve's Scholars program taught me about commitment, the importance of volunteering, and the art of setting priorities. The program provides an important opportunity for students like me to chase their dreams."

## Crystallyn Kaosue Her



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Business/cosmetology

**Quote:** "The program gave me the opportunity to connect with others through my community service and to demonstrate integrity through my actions."

## Sang Ying Angel Vang



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Economics

**Quote:** "I would like to thank the Farbers for always encouraging the Steve's Scholars to pursue our dreams."

## Mariana Jazmin Vasquez



*McLane High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Social services

**Quote:** "I'd like to thank the Farbers for all the support, time, effort and energy that they have given the Class of 2020, as well of past graduates and future graduates. The Farbers impact each Steve's Scholar that they come in contact with."

## Cesar Albino Contreras Diaz



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** UCLA

**Career Goal:** Pediatrician

**Quote:** "The Steve's Scholars Program has offered me and my fellow classmates extra financial help for our dreams of going to college."

## Mai Joua Xiong



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Art

**Quote:** "Thank you for this great opportunity, which allowed me to meet people and help my community."

## Esperanza Carolina Andrade



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Family science/education

**Quote:** "The Steve's Scholars program is an amazing opportunity to further educate ourselves and to achieve our dreams."

## Betshany Gisell Flores Moran



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Medicine

**Quote:** "The Steve's Scholars program has given me the opportunity to be part of an amazing community. The Farbers have put a lot of hard work into the program. I am very grateful to have met such an amazing, kind, and generous couple. They inspire me to follow in their footsteps and help the people around me."

## Jonathan Alexxis Mendez



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Business

**Quote:** "The Farbers believed in me and always told me to pursue my dreams, no matter what. I have learned and endured many hardships in my life, but it was always your words that inspired me to move forward, so thank you."

## Melanie Nouchi Vang



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Dental hygienist

**Quote:** "Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this amazing scholarship program that supports our future goals."

## Suzanna Zavala Pineda



*Roosevelt High School*

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Music

**Quote:** "I am thankful for the opportunity given and the financial aid, but also for the memories that I would not have had if the Steve's Scholars Program did not exist."



# STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2020

## Evelyn Yesenia Casillas



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Undecided

**Quote:** "Thank you so much for this

opportunity. I am very grateful for being a part of the Steve's Scholars Program."

## Merici Lizbeth Ulloa Moran



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Elementary teacher

**Quote:** "This scholarship program

has motivated me to try my best in school. I felt responsible for keeping good grades and attendance. I have met other students with similar goals and dreams of having a career and being a better person."

## Kyra Charlene Brown Price



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Undecided

**Quote:** "I appreciated meeting some nice,

caring people through the Steve's Scholars program."

## Joanna Pajntaw Cha



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Business

**Quote:** "Thank you for giving the

students at Tehipite Middle School the inspiration to go to college."

## Isaiah Angel Hernandez



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Architect

**Quote:** "Thank you to the Farbers for all

your kindness and support. I'm proud of the community service that I was involved in due to the scholarship program."

## Citlali Hipolito Ramirez



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Nursing

**Quote:** "I enjoyed the resources the program provided and

liked socializing with other Steve's Scholars."

## Erika Angela Perez Mojica



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Anesthesiologist

**Quote:** "The scholarship has given

me the incentive and the opportunity to go to college."

## Stephanie Marie Aleman



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Nursing/EMT

**Quote:** "The program is great and I hope it

continues for a very long time because it not only gives students a chance to further their education, but to also build relationships and experience activities that allow us to connect with others and experience the value of team work."

## Edwin Alan Moedano Ortiz



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Automotive engineer

**Quote:** "I enjoyed interacting with other

Steve's Scholars. Live your lives to the fullest."

## Andres Raymond Savedra Romero



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Biotechnology

**Quote:** "Thank you for the scholarship

opportunity, Steve's Scholars is something I won't forget. The program helped me keep on track."

## Jose Garcia



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Detective/criminology

**Quote:** "I want to thank the Farbers for

giving a chance to every single student and motivating us to try harder to earn the scholarship."

## Erica Elizabeth Gaona



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Forensic scientist

**Quote:** "Steve's Scholars has helped

me get to college to study for my future career, which is going to build my life into something amazing on my path to achieve many great things."

## Jose Ignacio Garcia-Patricio



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Biological science

**Quote:** "What I enjoyed most about

participating in the Steve's Scholars program was to have the opportunity to help out my community and meet new people."

## Isaac Daniel Alvarez Jr.-Hutcheson



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Kinesiology

**Quote:** "If you try your best you will

surely succeed."

## Lariza Rojas



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno City College

**Career Goal:** Video game design

**Quote:** "Thank you for the opportunity to

earn a scholarship."

## Liliana Contreras



Roosevelt High School

**College:** Fresno State University

**Career Goal:** Law Enforcement/criminology

**Quote:** "The Steve's

Scholars program is a motivation to stay in school and work hard to successfully achieve the goals I've set for myself."



## DISTRICT ROUNDUP



### Roosevelt Community Sews 2,200 Face Masks

Spearheaded by Tamara Norris, a Theatrical Costuming and Makeup teacher at Roosevelt High School, about 25 Roosevelt students, teachers, alumni and other community members sewed more than 2,200 cloth masks that were delivered to more than 50 medical facilities, health care providers, senior centers and dentist offices from Visalia to Madera. The masks used more than 225 yards of fabric and 900 yards of elastic. After receiving a request from Kaweah-Delta Medical Center, Norris created mask kits using her leftover sewing supplies and recruited students and friends to sew the masks. Business partner A&A Textiles also donated supplies.

April. The funds helped Fresno Unified continue offering free meals to students and community members in need during sheltering at home.

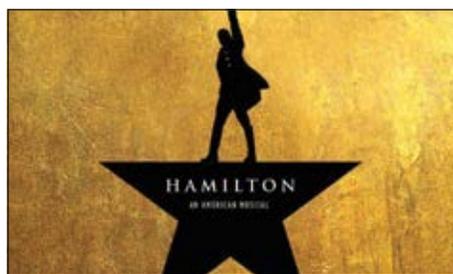


### Kirk Students Receive Donation of New Shoes

Every student at Kirk Elementary School received a new pair of shoes through Shoes That Fit, a national nonprofit organization. The donations were possible thanks to Dena and Lou McMurray of Fresno. Before schools were closed, students were measured to make sure the shoes were a correct fit. Students picked up their shoes on April 20 through a process that followed social distancing protocols.

### District Recognized for Attendance Efforts

Fresno Unified has been named a Model SARB for the first time by the California Department of Education. The district was recognized for developing a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) that strategically tackles the challenges of chronic absenteeism in a large urban district. The award recognizes excellence in specific content areas, including establishing goals and objectives, implementing prevention and intervention strategies, and developing collaborations with local agency resources. Fresno Unified will also serve as a mentor to other districts across the state.



### Edison Students Get Shout Out from "Hamilton" Production

Edison High School's Jason Leong, Renato Ramirez and Elaine Marez were selected to perform an original song about the Articles of Confederation following a San Francisco matinee performance of "Hamilton" on March 18. The show was canceled due to COVID-19, but "Hamilton" released their entry video on social media and acknowledged the students.

### T-Mobile Donates to Food Program

Through the Giving Back to Schools program, T-Mobile donated up to \$2.5 million to over 100 local schools to help provide food or services to children during school closures due to COVID-19. Fresno Unified received \$25,000, thanks to community donations made via text during a campaign that started in



### Hoover Athlete Commits to Georgia Southern

Hoover High School's Daeja Holmes has committed to play basketball for Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

### Edison Alumni Hold Virtual Discussions on College Options

Edison High School alumni held Navigating College Decisions virtual forums over several days in late April as high school seniors were making their decision on where to go to college. Discussions were held on the University of California system, California State University system, out-of-state colleges,

historically black colleges and universities, community colleges and private schools.

Alumni had reached out to see how they could support seniors, whose final months of high school have been severely changed by COVID-19. Alumni set up virtual discussions to share their experiences at an array of colleges and universities. Grades 9-11 were also invited to join in on the meetings.

### Fresno State Honors Future Bulldogs

Fresno State University expects to welcome 859 students from Fresno Unified high schools as freshmen this fall. Although the university was unable to hold its traditional recognition spring reception due to COVID-19, it honored seniors who have been conditionally accepted with special certificates. Students picked up the certificates during senior check out, along with their diploma and Fresno Unified swag bags.

#### Message from Hugo Morales, a Chairperson of the Fresno County Complete Count Committee

### Deadline Extended to Complete the Census Questionnaire

There's still time to complete the 2020 Census and support our schools!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for completing the census has been extended to Oct. 31. But don't wait! Respond now to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. The census is a once-a-decade opportunity to meet the needs of our community. Count all the children and people living in your home. This includes foster children, grandchildren, friends, family members, and anyone else living under the same roof. Did you know the census supports



children? Filling out your census questionnaire supports teachers, school lunches, Head Start programs, housing assistance, public transit, libraries, and more for the next decade!

The census is safe and confidential. Whether you are a citizen or not, your answers will not be shared with any law enforcement agencies, nor will they prevent you from receiving government benefits.

Please take 10 minutes today to respond online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) and shape a better future for our children and schools.



# Duncan High Students Create Face Shields for Medical Workers

Medical workers throughout Fresno are wearing face shields designed by Duncan Polytechnical High School students.

During the spring, juniors in the Computer Integrated Manufacturing class created and donated 1,614 face shields, needed to help keep workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the face shields also went to Fresno Unified food services workers who prepared and distributed free meals after schools closed on March 13.

Duncan teacher Doug Urabe knew from talking with industry partners that the face shields were in high demand. He also knew it was a project his students were capable of.

After identifying that 3D printing the headbands took a significant amount of time, the class decided to take on the challenge of creating a new headband design that could be manufactured and distributed to those in need more quickly.

Each student designed their own prototype using 3D modeling software on



*Respiratory therapists at St. Agnes Medical Center use the face shields created by Duncan Polytechnical High School students to stay safe and healthy on the job.*

their computers and identified which equipment in Duncan’s manufacturing shop could be used to produce their design — all from home.

After a series of virtual meetings to discuss and refine their designs, the class selected the top designs and Urabe created the prototypes. With their new design and using a different process, the class was able to reduce the manufacturing time so that they could create 56 headbands in the same amount of time it took to 3D print just one.

The prototypes were then tested by Duncan staff and a nurse at St. Agnes

Medical Center. Students revised their designs based on feedback and production began. Urabe fabricated and gathered the materials needed to assemble the face shields, distributed them to students, and then the students assembled the shields from their homes.

“Authentic projects like the face shields provide students with invaluable experiences. They now know that good design and fabrication does not occur in a vacuum. Collaboration and communication with all parties involved leads to a great product,” Urabe said.

The masks were donated to several nursing homes, home health care businesses, St. Agnes, Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center, VA Central California Health Care Systems and Community Regional Medical Center.

Students need donations to continue making and donating the face masks. To help, donate at [paypal.me/duncanpoly](https://paypal.me/duncanpoly) using a credit or debit card, or send a check made out to Duncan Polytechnical High School and mail to Duncan at 4330 E. Garland Ave., Fresno, CA 93726. Write “Face Shield Project” on the memo-line of the PayPal donation or check.

Medical facilities in need of face shields can submit a request to Duncan at <https://forms.gle/LU9cZsCxcgQzuwCqg6>

**xfinity Free Mobile Hotspots**

For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit [www.xfinity.com/wifi](http://www.xfinity.com/wifi)

Once at a hotspot select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser

## 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/Fresno Families](https://caresolace.com/FresnoFamilies)  
 (888) 515-0595  
 Email [wecare@solace.org](mailto: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



**FELICIA BURRELL**  
Continued from page 8

I was able to start the process of getting my students connected with technology when Gaston began its computer disbursement. Getting an early start, my parents were informed and ready. To date, all nine students in my classroom have online devices and internet. The parents support has been overwhelming and gracious. I set up individual parent Teams meetings to help walk the parents through Microsoft Teams and the online teaching tool, News 2 You: Unique Learning Systems, which we currently use in our Alternative Learning Pathways moderate/severe classes to educate our students. The week of April 20 I held five Teams meeting with all my students. Every parent was ready and logged their child on for their block of time. As of May 14, I have six of nine students who attend classes held every Tuesday for English and every Thursday for math. I conduct an individual session for one other student during the week. So, I have an 88% attendance rate with distance learning. Within the new distance learning delivery model

my students who receive a Designated Instruction Service (DIS) meet weekly with their provider through Microsoft Teams either before or after their scheduled class time.

My parents, students, staff and administration rock -- I couldn't do what I do without them. Gaston's Room 115 will continue to provide education no matter where we are via home or school. Distance learning will not stop this process. The smiles on my kids' faces when they come to class help me stay humble and striving for the best as a teacher.



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State Center Community College District



SUPT. MESSAGE  
Continued from page 3

**Elijan #MilitantPositivity**

Mientras tomaba asiento para escribir este mensaje, reflexionaba en mi mensaje de junio de 2019 y me topé con una pared de emociones. Por lo general, en nuestro distrito, junio es el tiempo de celebraciones, logros y alivio. Este año se siente diferente. Sí – estamos celebrando nuestros logros y sentimos un alivio del inicio del verano, pero lo estamos haciendo con barreras y ansiedad diferente a lo que tratamos en el pasado. Nuestros estudiantes seniors (12vo grado) se han vestido con gorra y birrete, pero en lugar de cruzar el escenario de graduación enfrente de miles de personas, están cruzando el escenario en la sala de su hogar. Celebramos a nuestros recipientes de becas, vía Zoom en lugar de la pompa y circunstancias de nuestro banquete anual. Las actividades de fin de año tuvieron que ser reinventadas, pospuestas o perdidas por completo y la incertidumbre rodea lo que será nuestra nueva normalidad.

Pero aún en tiempos difíciles es nuestra elección y habilidad de elegir #MilitantPositivity. El Militant Positivity no se trata del dicho que dice “ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente” o evitar luchar, sino más bien enfrentarnos a esas luchas para seguir adelante y hacer la elección de levantarnos cada día con optimismo y dinamismo. ¿Yo me siento de esa

manera? No. Pero cuando me siento mal ratifico esos sentimientos, ratifico esas luchas y luego continúo en lo que voy a trabajar hoy, para cambiar la situación en dirección correcta. Comprometido todos los días para trabajar hacia lo que es mejor para nuestros estudiantes, para nuestros equipos y nuestra comunidad es cómo funciona Militant Positivity en la labor del superintendente del tercer distrito escolar más grande en California.

¿Qué refleja Militant Positivity en su(s) labor(es)? ¿Qué refleja eso como padre para ustedes? ¿Qué refleja eso como estudiante para ustedes? ¿Qué refleja eso como maestro para ustedes? Tenemos más tiempos difíciles por delante y lo que les pido a cada uno de ustedes es que pasen este verano elaborando su propia reserva Militant Positivity. Sólo podemos superar esto JUNTOS. Nuestra resistencia continuará a prueba, así que hay que hacer lo que se tenga que hacer para llenar el tanque y mantenerlo lleno. Si necesitan un consejo, les recomiendo encarecidamente consultar la conversación en vivo del 22 de mayo, donde nuestro increíble personal y socios discutieron sobre salud mental y autocuidado y los increíbles recursos que están a su alcance como Familias de Fresno Unificado. ¡Que tengan un gran verano y cuidense ustedes mismos y su familia!

**Xaiv #MilitantPositivity**

Kuv zaum sau tsab ntawv no ua rau kuv xav txog cov lus xyoo tas lo no thaum lub Rau Hli 2019, lub sibhawm ntawm ua rau kuv muaj ntau yam ntawm lub siab. Qhov tiag mas, nyob hauv peb koog tsev kawm ntawv, Lub Rau Hli yog lub sijhawm ua kev zoo siab ntawm kev ua tiav. Xyoo no txawv heev. Yog li - peb ua kev zoo siab rau peb qhov kev ua tiav thiab peb tau txais txiaj ntsig mus rau lub caij ntuj sov, tab sis peb tab tom ua nws nrog txoj kev khuam siab thiab kev ntxhov siab tsis zoo li txhua yam uas peb tau ua yav dhau los. Peb cov tub ntxhais kawm tiav, ntoo lawv lub kaus mom thiab hnav lub tsho lav ntawv tab sis tsis yog nrog puas txhiab leej neeg pom saum sam thiaj, lawv lav hauv lawv chaws nyob xwb. Peb cov tub ntxhais tau txais nyiaj pab kawm tau ua kev zoo siab los ntawm Zoom xwb tsis zoo li cov koob tsheeb ib txwm ua txhua xyoo. Thaum xaus xyoo kawm ntawv cov kev ua yuav tau tsim tshiab, muab ncu lossis tso tseg vim peb yuav tsis paub tseeb peb cov xwm txheej tshiab yuav zoo li cas nyob ib puag ncig.

Txawm lub sijhawm nyuaj los, nws yog nyob ntawm qhov peb xaiv thiab peb lub peev xwm xav zoo coj zoo lossis #MilitantPositivity. Txoj kev xav zoo coj zoo no yuav tsis yog hais txog kev “tsis paub tsis pom” lossis kev zam ntawm peb cov kev cov nyom uas tsis xav tau. Nws yog kev xaiv ntawm koj tus kheej kom sawv txhua txhua hnuv nrog kev xav qhov zoo thiab kom mus tom ntej. Tsis hais tias

yuav tsum niaj hnuv muaj txoj kev xav li no, tab sis thaum kuv muaj kev nyuaj siab, kuv xav txog yam tom ntej. Npaj txhua hnuv ua haujlwm kom zoo tshaj rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm, zoo tshaj rau peb pab pawg, thiab zoo tshaj rau zej zog. Qhov no yog txog kev xav zoo coj zoo Militant Positivity pab ua tau rau kuv ua kuv txoj haujlwm ua tus thawj saib xyuas cheeb tsam tsev kawm ntawv loj thib peb hauv lub xeev California.

Militant Positivity yuav ua li cas thiaj qhia tau rau koj lub luag hauj lwm? Qhov ntawd tshwm sim li cas rau koj uas yog niam txiv? Qhov ntawd yuav qhia li cas yog tias koj yog menyuum kawm ntawv? Qhov ntawd qhia tau li cas uas rau koj uas yog tus kws qhia ntawv? Peb tseem yuav muaj ntau lub sijhawm nyuaj tom ntej. Qhov kuv thov ntawm nej txhua tus yog kom siv lub caij ntuj sov txhim tsa koj tus kheej ntawm txog kev xav zoo coj zoo Militant Positivity. Peb tuaj yeem yuav ua tau mus yog tias peb ua UA KE. Peb lub peev xwm tiv taus thiab thev taus yuav nraug sim, yog li ua qhov koj ua tau kom koj nyob tau. Yog tias koj xav tau ib cov lus qhia, kuv pom zoo mus xyuas qhov kev sib tham vdo los ntawm lub Tsib Hlis 22, peb cov neeg ua haujlwm thiab cov neeg koom tes sib tham txog kev mob hlwb, saib xyuas yus tus kheej, thiab cov peev txheej zoo nyob ntawm peb xibtes raws li Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tsev neeg muaj muab. Mus zoo koj lub caij ntuj sov thiab saib xyuas koj tus kheej thiab koj tsev neeg!

**SUMMER MEALS**  
Continued from page 2

txuas ntxiv mus zoo ntawm qhov faib mov noj tam sim no mus rau lub caij ntuj sov," tus Thawj Saib Xyuas Tsev Kawm Ntawv Bob Nelson tau hais.

**Chaw faib zaub mov hloov kom haum rau cov phiaj xwm txhim kho chaw (pib lub Rau Hli Hnuv Tim 8):**

- Cooper Academy yuav kaw, Slater Elementary School yuav qhib
- Ahwahnee Middle School yuav kaw, Hoover High School yuav qhib
- Leavenworth Elementary School yuav kaw, Lane Elementary School yuav qhib
- Computech Middle School yuav kaw, Edison High School yuav qhib
- Scandinavian Middle School yuav kaw (Duncan Polytechnical High School nyob ze tseem yuav qhib)

**Summer Learning Available for All Students**

The district’s summer learning program, essential to help many students recover credits and stay on track to graduate, will use an online distance learning format due to the continued restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summer distance learning will be available through Summer Academies and Summer Camps. Summer Academies will be held June 9-July 9.

Students selected for Summer Academies should have already been notified through a letter that was mailed home and/or phone call. Summer Academies will support elementary and middle

school students with ongoing learning and high school students with credit recovery. Summer Academies also offer students the opportunity to accelerate academic achievement.

Students will be identified and invited to participate in daily teacher-led virtual learning activities.

Virtual Summer Camps will provide relevant and enriching learning experiences for all grade levels June 15-July 31. All students who would like to participate will be given virtual access to online activities. Students can engage in these learning opportu-

nities on their own schedule.

Virtual Summer Camps opportunities include Fresno State’s Lyles College Summer STEM Tunnels Camp for grades 3-5, CART Camp for grades 6-8, and other summer programs.

To access the Summer Camp opportunities, please go the [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) or call (559) 248-7560.

Families who need assistance obtaining a laptop or tablet for summer distance learning should call their student’s school.



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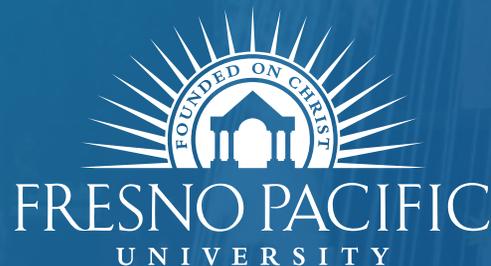
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million dollars  
of aid awarded



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## CONVENIENT FORMATS

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Evening



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