Fresno Unified will reopen schools fully online Aug. 17, providing students with daily instruction from their teachers, extra help when needed and opportunities to collaborate with other students.

Superintendent Bob Nelson announced the district’s plans on July 17, shortly after Governor Gavin Newsom declared all schools on the state’s monitor list (32 counties including Fresno) would reopen this fall under a distance learning model.

“We recognize that online learning is the only way that we can ensure student and staff safety while also providing rigorous and consistent instruction to our 74,000 students,” Nelson said.

The eLearn at My School model schools will use is not what online learning looked like in March when schools first closed. The new model provides daily instruction with students’ teachers, partnered with independent learning.

“I can promise you that when our students start online learning in August, it will look vastly different than what students and families experienced on March 16,” Nelson said.

The 100% online model for all learners will be used for at least the first quarter of learning, through Oct. 9. As per state requirements, daily attendance will be taken and graded assignments given to students, aligned with the usual grading policies. During the first quarter, teachers will assess and work through any missed learning due to the close of schools last spring.

See story on this page for more details on the district’s new eLearn at My School distance learning program.

Technology Help

To ensure all students have the devices and internet access to fully participate in online school, a Family Learning and Technology Support Center was established earlier in the summer at (559) 457-3939.

The district has distributed 60,000 laptops and tablets to students in all grades. About 20,000 students had district-provided devices prior to school closures. The district has also provided 2,000 internet hot spots, with plans to provide 8,000 more. Those families still needing technology assistance should contact the family tech support center.

Special Education

The Special Education Department hosted a virtual start-of-school presentation July 22 that gave parents insight to what online learning will look like for students with special needs.

All IEPs remain in effect and services will be provided virtually. All students will continue to have case managers and regular support.

See BACK TO SCHOOL Continued on page 2
to provide training for staff, students and parents in using online tools.

This is in addition to tutorials and professional learning provided since school closures in March, that attracted thousands of participants.

**Returning to School**

When it is safe to do so, Fresno Unified will phase in the return of students and staff to campuses. Throughout this pandemic, the district has been in daily contact with the Fresno County Department of Public Health and followed its orders and recommendations. And while returning students and staff to schools safely is a priority, the eLearn at My School model will be available as an option to parents throughout the 2020-21 school year.

**Fresno Unified comenzará el año escolar con aprendizaje en línea con sus maestros.**

Fresno Unified rearía sus escuelas totalmente en línea el 17 de agosto, proporcionando a sus estudiantes enseñanza con sus maestros, ayuda extra cuando la necesiten y oportunidades para colaborar con otros estudiantes.

El superintendent Bob Nelson anunció los planes del distrito el 17 de julio, poco después de que el gobernador Gavin Newsom declarara que todas las escuelas en la lista de observación del estado (32 condados, incluidos entre ellos Fresno) reabrirán este otoño bajo el modelo de aprendizaje a distancia.

“Reconocemos que el aprendizaje en línea es la única manera en la que podemos asegurar la seguridad de estudiantes y personal y al mismo tiempo proporciona una enseñanza rigurosa y constante para nuestros 74,000 estudiantes,” dijo Nelson.

El modelo eLearn que usaran las escuelas no es como el aprendizaje a distancia que se vio en marzo cuando las escuelas cerraron por primera vez. El nuevo modelo proporciona enseñanza diaria con el maestro del alumno, en conjunto con aprendizaje independiente.

“Puedo asegurarme que cuando nuestros estudiantes comiencen el aprendizaje en línea en agosto, se verá enormemente diferente a lo que nuestros estudiantes y familias experimentaron el 16 de marzo,” enfatizó Nelson.

El modelo 100% en línea para todos los alumnos será usado por al menos el primer trimestre de aprendizaje, hasta el 9 de octubre. Como lo requiere el estado, se tomará asistencia diaria y se entregaran trabajos para calificación a los estudiantes, alineados con las políticas de calificación habituales. Durante el primer trimestre, los maestros evaluarán y trabajaran en cualquier perdida de aprendizaje que haya ocurrido debido al cierre escolar de primavera.

Vea la página uno para una historia con más detalles sobre el nuevo programa de aprendizaje a distancia del distrito eLearn en mi escuela o en inglés eLearn at my School

**Asistencia Tecnológica**

Para asegurar que todos los estudiantes tienen un dispositivo y acceso a internet para poder participar de lleno en la escuela en línea, el Centro Familiar de Aprendizaje y Asistencia Tecnológica se estableció durante el verano, su número es el (559) 457-3939.

El distrito ha distribuido 60,000 laptops y tablets a estudiantes de todos los grados. Alrededor de 20,000 estudiantes contaban ya con un dispositivo antes del cierre escolar. Además, el distrito ha proporcionado 2,000 hotspots o puntos de acceso móvil Wi-Fi y planea entregar otros 8,000 más. Aquellas familias que aún requieren asistencia tecnológica pueden contactar el centro familiar de apoyo tecnológico.

**Educación especial**

El departamento de Educación Especial sostuvo una presentación virtual sobre el inicio de clases el 22 de Julio en la que ofreció a los padres una idea de cómo es que el aprendizaje en línea se verá para estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

Todas las escuelas de educación individualizada o IEP por sus siglas en inglés, permanecen en efecto y los servicios serán proporcionados de manera virtual. Todos los estudiantes seguirán teniendo administradores de casos y maestros que trabajarán con las familias en la entrega de servicios.

**Las escuelas pueden ayudar**

Aunque las escuelas no están físicamente abiertas a los estudiantes, las escuelas han creado sus propios equipos de respuesta para servir como centro de información cuando comience el año escolar.

Las familias pueden llamar directamente a su escuela para obtener apoyo y respuestas a sus preguntas. Todo el personal estará trabajando para apoyar a los estudiantes, incluyendo asistencia con preparación para la universidad, salud mental, apoyos del lenguaje, IEP, asistencia 504 y mucho más, aunque los servicios se proporcionaran de manera virtual.

El distrito continuará proporcionando una gran variedad de apoyos socioemocionales a estudiantes y familias durante el aprendizaje en línea. Durante el cierre de primavera, aproximadamente 5,500 estudiantes, así como sus padres o cuidadores, recibieron apoyo socioemocional de manera virtual.

El distrito continuará satisfaciendo las necesidades socioemocionales de los estudiantes durante la pandemia a través de contactos de bienestar, tutoría, consejería de apoyo, intervenciones de atención plena, consejería grupal, servicios individualizados de salud mental y aprendizaje para padres/grupos de apoyo.

Nuestro personal continuará compartiendo recursos en línea y comunitarios y seguirá analizando las necesidades estudiantiles y familiares durante este tiempo sin precedentes.

**Se agregarán sitios para obtener alimentos gratuitos cuando comiencen las clases**

El programa de verano de alimentos gratuitos continuará en 23 escuelas hasta el 14 de agosto. Una vez que den inicio las clases el 17 de agosto, el programa de alimentos gratuitos se expandirá para incluir más escuelas, con más información disponible en fresnounified.org antes del inicio de clases. Desayuno y almuerzo estarán disponibles para llevar antes de la hora en que se espera que los estudiantes estén en la escuela en línea. Desde que las escuelas cerraron el 13 de marzo, el distrito ha servido más de 4 millones de comidas gratuitas a la comunidad.

Preparándose para el aprendizaje en línea

La Universidad para Padres del distrito (Parent University), junto con nuestros equipos de enseñanza seguirán proporcionando entrenamiento para utilizar herramientas en línea para nuestro personal, estudiantes y padres.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

We’re Embracing a New Reality this School Year

Wow! It’s August, and the time has come to start another school year! Honestly, we know opening schools this year will look different than any other time in our district’s history. As much as we all desire to be back on campuses, the safety of our students, staff, and families is of utmost importance and at this time it is just not safe enough to come back together in person.

As I’m sure you’ve heard, we will begin the 2020-21 school year in a 100% online learning model and will only be able to consider a return to campus when Fresno County has been off of the state’s monitoring list for more than 14 consecutive days.

While online learning is not our optimal mode of education, our teams have worked tirelessly to provide a high-quality learning model providing supports to all our students. This model of “eLearn at My School” will look almost nothing like the online, self-paced, learning our students and families experienced from mid-March through the end of the 2019-20 school year. This model includes live daily instruction from your child’s teacher(s), opportunities for collaboration amongst students, and individualized supports for students.

We all play a role in creating a safe environment for our students and staff to return to campuses. When that happens, our plans include layers of safety practices, acknowledging that while each practice on its own is imperfect, together they can provide a solid foundation for our students, and individualized supports for students.

The most common symptoms of COVID are fever and cough and shortness of breath, but there are other signs as well so make sure to keep your child home if they are sick and check with your doctor before your child returns to school.

Explain to your child why it is so important to wear a mask and practice staying six feet away from others when speaking.

If you or anyone in your house is diagnosed with COVID-19, let your school know, stay at home, and keep your child at home.

COVID-19 is a very real danger in our community. We all want our schools and the places where we work, shop, play, and pray to be open. By wearing masks, keeping our distance from others while talking, and keeping our hands clean we help keep COVID-19 from spreading. Working together, we can have a healthy, happy, and stimulating school year! Welcome back to school kids, study hard, learn a lot, make many friends, and be safe!
Frequently Asked Questions from Parents on the Reopening of Schools

What will online learning look like? The district will begin the year with high quality online instruction every day through eLearn at My School. Students will stay connected to their home school while receiving daily instruction from their teacher(s) online. They will use Fresno Unified curriculum and lessons that will be graded. Attendance will be taken. Courses are designed to fulfill standards and graduation requirements. The district’s preferred communications platform for online school is Microsoft Teams.

What are the times for online instruction? All students, from preschool through 12th grade, will start their online learning at 9 a.m. Schedules have been developed for transitional kindergarten/kindergarten, first through sixth grades, and middle school/high school. Students will have live instruction in the morning with their teachers and learning and support in the afternoon. (For more specifics on times and structures, see the eLearn at My School story on the front page.)

Will online learning be like what we did in the spring? No. eLearn at My School is nothing like the self-paced learning students and families had the option of participating in last spring.

What if my child needs additional help? Teachers will hold regular “office hours” virtually to provide support and feedback to students and parents. All services normally offered, including supports for social emotional issues, English learners and for students who are in homeless situations or in foster care, will continue to be provided.

What about special education? Students with exceptional needs will continue to receive services. They will participate in daily, live instruction with their teachers and their peers. All materials required to meet a student’s needs, as outlined in the individualized education plan (IEP) in the distance learning model, will be provided. All IEP goals will continue to be implemented. 504 plans will be in effect.

What about sports and other extracurricular activities? The California Interscholastic Federation announced on July 20 that fall sports are delayed until December or January. Fresno Unified teams will remain in the first phase of three – participating in conditioning with safety protocols. The district will consult with the district’s Health Services Department and the Fresno County Department of Public Health to determine when it is safe to move to the next phase. All other extracurricular activities and instruction, including art, music, dance and field trips, will be done virtually.

How can I keep on top of what is happening at my school and in the district? It is critical that parents provide accurate contact information through the district’s ATLAS parent portal (found at fresnounified.org). Additional communication tools include EduText daily grade and attendance updates, the district’s social media, SchoolMessenger, Rapid Alert notifications, Livestream Conversations (through Microsoft Teams and Ustream), Parent University learning sessions, Peachjar electronic flyers and the online district newspaper, Building Futures. All schools will have hot lines to take questions from parents. The district also has a COVID-19 help desk: (559) 457-3395

What if I need an electronic device or internet access help for my student to do online school? The district has distributed 60,000 laptops and tablets and continues to reach out to students who have not picked up a device. The district has provided 2,000 internet hot spots, with plans to provide 8,000 more. Those families still needing technology assistance should contact the Family Learning and Technology Support Center at (559) 457-3939.

What about free meals while schools are closed? Grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals will be available at about 75 school sites every morning prior to the time students are expected to be in online school. More information on the sites will be available at fresnounified.org prior to the start of school on Aug. 17.

Are district health services open for students? School Wellness Centers with Clinica Sierra Vista are open at Addams Elementary School and Gaston Middle School and available to Fresno Unified students. Call Clinica Sierra Vista for an appointment at (559) 457-6970. The Tioga Middle School health clinic and mobile health unit will re-open when on-campus learning resumes.

When will we return to school? Due to health conditions in the community, we will be in online school at least through the first quarter (Oct. 9). We are only able to plan for a return to campuses when Fresno County has been off the state’s monitoring list for more than 14 consecutive days. At that time, families will still have the option to continue instruction from home for the remainder of the school year or return to school with added safety practices.
**ELEARN**
Continued from page 1

**Schedules**

- Preschool/pre-kindergarten (3- and 4-year-old half-day programs): Two hours of live instruction, with additional time for family connections. Families will receive a 10-inch tablet via FedEx to connect with preschool teachers and recorded instruction.

- Pre-kindergarten-third grade: Optional Valley PBS learning on Channel 18 and online from 7:30-9 a.m. with district teachers.

- Transitional kindergarten/kindergarten: Three 30-minute blocks of live instruction in the morning mixed in with education, fitness and play videos; in the afternoon, teachers will provide individualized supports for students with the most needs while other school staff will work with students on enrichment activities, the arts, tutoring, social emotional supports and more.

- First-sixth grades: Three 45-minute blocks of live instruction in the morning; Designated Schools transitional kindergarten through sixth grade will receive an additional 30 minutes of live instruction every day. In the afternoon, teachers will provide individualized supports for students with the most needs while other school staff will work with students on enrichment activities, the arts, tutoring, social emotional supports and more.

- Middle and high school: Block schedule — Three 60-minute block periods with fitness and nutrition breaks in between each period before lunch. Each day, students will attend either their odd period classes or even period classes in the morning. After lunch, additional live instruction will be provided for students needing additional support and for those with zero and/or seventh periods. The afternoons will also include athletics, clubs, additional arts and academic and social emotional support.

**Making Connections**

All teachers will send students and parents weekly messages every Monday with an at-a-glance look at the week’s schedule and lessons. Parents will have a clear sense of what students will be working on for that week.

Teachers will hold two mornings of office hours for students and parents. Superintendent Bob Nelson and principals will also hold weekly virtual meetups to interact with students and parents and answer questions.

“We learned so much through our school closures at the end of the last school year and have planned many more supports for our students and families as we move into the eLearn at My School model,” Nelson said.

The district will continue to offer comprehensive services for students with exceptional needs, English language learners, and students in foster homes and homeless situations.

Since schools closed in March, teachers have engaged in a variety of professional learning sessions focused on how to engage students in online learning and sharpening their technology skills as they pivot to online teaching.

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**District's Health Director Advocates for Children, is Known Statewide**

Education leaders from throughout the state now know who Fresno Unified’s Jane Banks is.

The district’s director of Health Services has emerged as a prominent voice among California school health officials as they grapple with plans to guard the health of students, staff and the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of her knowledge and passion, Banks has been at the forefront of developing plans as a committee chairperson with the California School Nurses Organization (CSNO). CSNO created health guidelines for reopening schools. She is also part of a smaller group of leaders from CSNO that has spoken directly with Tony Thurmond, state superintendent of public instruction.

She is also on the Reopening of Schools Subcommittee for the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and the Fresno County Department of Public Health.

This is in addition to her key role with Fresno Unified in ensuring the health of its 74,000 students amidst the pandemic. “Giving back and serving our students is my passion,” Banks said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to advocate for the health of all students throughout the state, country and world. Our students are our future and we have to do what we can to ensure that they are healthy, career ready graduates.”

Banks began as Fresno Unified’s director of Health Services in September 2018.

In her nearly two years as director, Banks has embraced being able to make a broad impact on the health of children and serve as a passionate spokesperson for health initiatives.

Prior to joining the district, Banks was a pediatric registered nurse and in nursing management at Valley Children’s Hospital for nearly 10 years. She is the daughter of immigrants from the Philippines who did not have the opportunity to graduate from high school or go to college.

She is married to Edison High School alumnus Cornell Banks, who played football for Fresno State and then in the NFL. Their two sons, 7 and 9, are known as the “Banksie Bros.” and have been in several Fresno Unified videos about COVID-19.

Banks is a member of several organizations, including the Central California Asthma Collaborative, National School Nurses Organization, School Nurses International, and a facilities task force with the Council of the Great City Schools.

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Jane Banks, director of Health Services for Fresno Unified, is helping shape statewide strategies about keeping schools safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
ADDAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Beth Doyle
Years with the district: 19
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Addams Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To provide students with a positive, caring, and safe learning environment. In doing so, I will lead my staff in establishing a strong foundation of instructional teaching that is equitable to students.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Establishing relationships, structures and routines and ensuring students have the materials they need to set them up for success.

BALDERAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Toua Chang
Years with the district: 9
Previous Assignment: Vice principal at Greenberg Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: Master the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to become responsible citizens who are prepared to compete in the global economy.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Collaboration and effective communication.

CALWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Angelica Espinosa
Years with the district: 21
Previous assignment: Principal at Addams Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To ensure they know they are valued and supported, and that I believe in their capacity to master grade level standards in English language arts and mathematics so they can fulfill their aspirations and goals for a successful future.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Using asset-based strategies to accelerate student learning and fostering strong, positive relationships with our staff, students, and parents. We are in this together.

GASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Courtney Curtis
Years with the district: 14
Previous assignment: Vice principal on special assignment: School Leadership
No. 1 goal for students: To have the widest array of opportunities available to them when they leave school.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Checking your email regularly, having a willingness to try new things, and not being afraid to ask questions.

HIDALGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Xee Moua
Years with the district: 22
Previous assignment: Principal at Wolters Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: Have a joy of learning and become academically and social-emotionally prepared to be leaders who make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: The quality of relationships formed with our families and students as well as our staff's commitment to educate our students in innovative and engaging ways that allows for routines, in depth learning, peer collaboration, and feedback.

FIGARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Cari Lopez
Years with the district: 24
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Figarden Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: Is for them to succeed and excel in all areas. I want them to feel valued and included, to believe in themselves, and know that they can achieve anything.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: The quality of relationships formed with our families and students as well as our staff's commitment to educate our students in innovative and engaging ways that allows for routines, in depth learning, peer collaboration, and feedback.

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JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Noemi Parayno
Years with the district: 27
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Rowell Elementary School
No. 1 goal for students: To prepare all students at Jackson Elementary for college and career ready opportunities.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: To develop collaborative partnerships with parents by providing clear expectations for student participation, student engagement and student ownership of learning.

KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Summer Gaston–Gehris
Years with the district: 20
Previous assignment: Vice principal at Scandinavian Middle School
No. 1 goal for students: For students to love to come to school and feel safe in a welcoming environment. When that happens, learning can happen.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Building relationships. Everyone is learning to connect in a new way. In time and with consistency we will get through this together.
The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Making sure that same strong connection that students normally feel when they walk on our KC campus takes place while they are in their virtual classrooms with teachers and classmates. That will only happen when we continue our focus of building positive healthy relationships with all of our students and staff members.

The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Ensuring that you have a working device and internet access to connect with teachers, setting up a learning space, setting up a schedule and calendar to keep track of class time and assignments, participating daily in virtual classroom and following teacher expectations, completing assignments as required and asking questions as needed.

The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: To ensure all of our students are connected with technology in order to meet their academic and social emotional needs. Building positive and trusting relationships with our students and families is also key.

The key to successful online learning as we start school will be: Investing in engagement strategies and supporting our families’ holistic needs in the spirit of love. We are at an unprecedented time, which calls for extraordinary people to step up to the challenge to ensure our students reach their full potential. At The Great Kirk Elementary School, we plan to do just that.
Message from Fresno County Complete Count Committee

Still Time to Complete the Census

The 2020 Census is still available for households to complete. It is not too late to fill out the form online, over the phone, or by mail. It’s quick, easy, and you don’t have to hand over any personal information. Now more than ever, a complete and accurate count is important to the future of our communities.

Census data impacts funding for education, hospitals, public safety, and social services utilized by families in need. During a pandemic, accurate census numbers can ensure our healthcare facilities have the proper funds to ensure they can withstand an influx of patients. A complete count allows us to be ready for emergencies when they happen.

By filling out your questionnaire you are helping your neighbors, friends, and family get the resources we all need for the next 10 years. No matter your status, age, ethnicity, race, beliefs, or background you have the opportunity to get counted. When everyone is counted we all win. Fill out the census now at 2020census.gov or call (844) 330-2020.
Phoenix Secondary's New, Modern Campus Ready for Students

While the district’s main focus over the past few months has been transitioning to new ways of delivering learning and services to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, exciting work continued on new buildings and facilities – and even a new school – to prepare for when students return.

For students at Phoenix Secondary Academy, the new school year also means a new school.

The campus, at Church Avenue east of Peach Avenue, was built with $11.7 million in Measure X funds, the $225 million local bond approved by voters in November 2016.

“The master-planned campus includes 23 modular buildings: 15 classrooms, a career technical education classroom, multipurpose room, library media center, administration building, and social/emotional support center. The project also includes basketball/volleyball courts, play fields, a shade structure and offsite/onsite sidewalk landscape improvements with trees and concrete benches for site and community use.”

Phoenix Secondary is a community day school that serves at-risk students in grades 7-12 by providing a rigorous educational program with an emphasis on project-based learning.

“The redesigned classrooms will provide opportunities to enrich our classroom instruction,” said Mark McAleenan, principal at Phoenix Secondary. "The new playing field and courts will allow us to enhance our athletic program and provide us the opportunity to host games and tournaments. We will also be able to expand our social emotional support services with the increased office space in our new facility.”

The school’s former location on Church near Willow Avenue will be used for the Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School opening in 2022.

Also New for 2020-21

Wawona K-8 School dual language immersion: Two new classroom buildings have been constructed at the end of two existing wings and five modular classroom buildings added to support Wawona’s transition to dual language immersion for all grades, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The project also includes construction of an early learning restroom building; addition of a new elementary play structure and play courts; modernization of a boys restroom, a girls restroom and staff restrooms in the main corridor; completion of the perimeter fencing and new pedestrian gates to support district goals for single point of entry.

Viking Elementary School: Five portable classrooms and a new hardcourt play area and a restroom were added.

Projects Underway

McLane High School career technology education: The library has been revamped to accommodate multiple uses, such as meetings for staff and esports practice and events for students. The library includes a computer classroom, career center and presentation classroom, as well as the traditional library media functions. This project is scheduled to be completed in December.

Ericson Elementary School kindergarten building: A new five-classroom building is underway for kindergarten students. The project also includes reconfigured preschool modular classrooms that have finishes to match the new classroom building; relocation of a new play area for kindergarten and preschool; a new exterior door and fencing in the administration building for single point of entry; and new infrastructure to serve buildings and future facility upgrades. The project is expected to be completed in early spring.

Principal Mark McAleenan walks the new campus of Phoenix Secondary Academy in July. The master-planned campus includes 15 classrooms, a career technical education classroom, multipurpose room, library media center, administration building, and social/emotional support center.

Roosevelt High School cafeteria modernization: The project includes an extensive upgrade and modernization to the entire building, including new food service equipment and a new food court area and serving line reconfiguration, as well as a new walk-in freezer/cooler space. In addition to kitchen improvements, a new sound system will be installed, community and faculty meeting spaces created, the faculty lounge modernized, logistic spaces and outside storage space added and additional restrooms to serve students and faculty built. Exterior accessibility and landscaping are being brought up to current codes and district standards to allow for student and community outdoor dining/gathering areas. The project is expected to be completed in November.

Fresno High School career technology education: The project includes a two-story state of the art career technology education building with eight classrooms and labs, a state of the art career technology education building with eight classrooms and labs to house the arts, media and entertainment program, construction and building trades program (including an outdoor covered work area), the architecture and engineering program and collaboration with industry partners and community. The project is expected to be completed by August 2021.

A new facilities project at Wawona K-8 School includes a new play structure and play courts, as well as two new classrooms, restrooms and other improvements.
The Public Service Pathway at Roosevelt High School will add a new class this school year as it continues to introduce students to careers in law enforcement, emergency response and the military.

Launched in 2018, the Public Service Pathway has expanded to include courses for all grades, adding a Public Service Leadership class for 12th graders for the coming school year. The program has 180 students.

The pathway also offers CTE: Introduction to Public Safety for ninth graders, P.E. for Public Services for 10th graders and CTE: Criminal Justice for 11th graders. The pathway emphasizes careers with police and fire departments, as emergency responders and in the military.

Students can earn certifications in OSHA 10, CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which can help them get jobs in the public safety field immediately following graduation or support their college or academy studies.

As part of the Linked Learning approach, pathway students’ English and biology classes are aligned and part of the pathway. Students also have multiple opportunities to speak with public service industry leaders and become familiar with the gear and equipment used in public service careers.

The following board policies were updated during the second semester of the 2019-20 school year. They may be accessed at: https://www.fresnounified.org/sites/board/policies/. For any additional information, you may contact: Constituent Services Office at (559) 457-3736

## BOARD POLICIES UPDATED IN 2019-20
### (In Second Semester)

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## BOARD POLICIES CONTINUED

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Hoover Paraeducator Helps Students with Social Emotional Needs

Bangon Ohano is a G30 certified paraeducator, assisting in the district’s program for students with emotional concerns. She has worked for the district for 24 years, the last eight at Hoover High School. Toby Cordova, a Hoover teacher, said Ohano plays a key role at the campus: “Ms. Ohano recognizes and understands that if students with social emotional needs are not being met, then they will have difficulty accessing instruction and academics. For this reason, she is constantly being asked to de-escalate, mediate, or just listen to the needs of the students. What is most impressive is how well she does at guiding students back to what they are here for: their education.” Ohano was a finalist for the district’s Excellence in Education awards in February.

What was your path to becoming a paraeducator? My goal in life is to help children of all ages reach their personal and academic goals so they can experience success in their young lives. While I was working on my B.A. degree, I had the privilege to work at Addicott Elementary as a teacher’s aide. I fell in love with the kids there, so I decided to stay a bit longer, even after I already finished with my degree. After Addicott, I worked at Bullard High in the autism program as a para community-based educator. There, I assisted students in inclusive classes and even drove students to worksites/workability off campus. My overall focus was to show students how to work with others both inside and outside of school. Due to administrative changes in the autism program, I relocated to Sequoia Middle School where I worked in the functional skills program. I worked there for a whole year before I discovered the social emotional prevention program and started to take all required classes.

What do you like best about your job? I love my job because I not only get to help students in need of support in social skills, both academically and emotionally, but I also get the opportunity to help assist school staff and parents using different strategies that fit the individual I’m working with. I’m happy that I get to be a part of not only the student’s success, but the teacher’s success as well. Another reason I love my job is the support that I received from my Pates family. Everyone there is so supportive!

What is the biggest challenge in your job? I love my job because I not only get to help students in need of support in social skills, both academically and emotionally, but I also get the opportunity to help assist school staff and parents using different strategies that fit the individual I’m working with. I’m happy that I get to be a part of not only the student’s success, but the teacher’s success as well. Another reason I love my job is the support that I received from my Pates family. Everyone there is so supportive!

What has been your biggest challenge in the Social Emotional Support Center? Some students have a hard time understanding why I have to transfer them to those who are more qualified to help, like a school social worker, psychologist, and/or admin. When they like you and are comfortable talking with you, it’s hard for them to be transferred to others.

Another challenge is not having enough tools to help support students academically and emotionally. Sometimes like up-to-date laptops, games, and incentives that fit the individual needs.

I value our monthly training and I wish to have that back. In order to best support students with emotional needs,

See BANGON OHANO
Continued on page 13

Fresno High Teacher Expands Leadership Role of Special Ed Students

Samantha Flores is a special education teacher and an assistant campus culture director at Fresno High School, overseeing the only leadership class for students in special education in the district. She works hard to maintain rigor and high standards for her students and including them in all aspects of campus life. She has worked for Fresno Unified for six years, the last four at Fresno High. She was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Vice principal John Kaup said this about Flores: “Her expectations are incredibly high, and students rise to it. She is a first-class educator, IEP case manager, special education advocate, classroom teacher and parent.”

What prompted you to become a special education teacher? As long as I can remember I have volunteered to be a peer buddy for the students in special education programs at my schools. In high school, I attended the mainstream school for the deaf for my district and thoroughly enjoyed watching the interpreters and figuring out how to make all the curriculum accessible. By my senior year I was the TA for the deaf and hard of hearing drivers education class and I fell in love with it. I enjoy helping people and feel like I help a student every day.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I enjoy the “ah-ha” moments. As cheesy as it sounds, watching someone who may have the world against them at home, figure out how to write a topic sentence or access an online curriculum platform that they struggled with, or put on a rally in front of half the school, makes everything else worth it.

What do you like about the special education role? There are some challenges for sure. Our students lack the human contact and support they are used to having accessible every period. Making sure they feel cared for without being able to high five them, give them a snack and so on is very important. Curriculum wise, it is very hard to have as many visuals and break downs available to students when they are online. Traditionally most of our work is done paper and pencil. Students who need it have a scribe (usually a paraeducator in the classroom), extra explanation in small groups that is just not the same online. Transitioning to computers was difficult for most students. Let’s just say, it is not the same as being in my classroom.

What is the biggest challenge in your job? Fresno High School is a World IB School, which is neat because we have the opportunity to do more projects and work with more novels. However, chunking both of these activities and making them accessible and enjoyable for the students can be difficult. I am lucky to work with an amazing co-teacher, Mr. Ryan Job, for the last two years and it has really helped to make the special day class English classes as close to the GE English classes as they can be. I always want my students to walk away from class feeling like they learned something, even if it was difficult.

Tell us about the changes you made to the special education leadership class. I have been taking the same topics the traditional leadership class does and directly teaching it in chunks. For example, Roberts Laws is directly taught step by step and we have many practice meetings, starting with a script and moving towards bullet point notes. I bring in adults who they are not familiar with and we continue to have meetings and play the roles, showing how

See SAMANTHA FLORES
Continued on page 13
Continued from page 2

Esto es adicional a las clases y apren-
dizaje profesional proporcionados desde
cierto de la escuela en marzo, que atrae
a miles de participantes.

Regreso a la escuela

Cuando sea seguro hacerlo, Fresno
Unified permitirá el regreso, en fases,
de sus estudiantes y personal. Durante
la pandemia, el distrito ha estado en
contacto diario con el Departamento de
Salud Pública del condado de Fresno y
ha seguido sus órdenes y recomenda-
tiones. Mientras que el regreso seguro
de estudiantes y personal a nuestras
escolares sigue siendo una prioridad,
el modelo eLearn en mi escuela estará
disponible como una opción para padres
durante todo el ciclo escolar 2020-21.

Fresno Unified Yuav Pib Muaj
Lurb Xyoo Kawm Ntawv Tshiad
nrog Kev Kawm Nyob Rau
“Online” nrog lawv Cov Xib Fwb

Fresno Unified yaav qibb tej tsev
kawn ntauw puv npo nyob rau “online”
Yim Hli tim 17, npaj muaj kev qhia
ntauw ntauw rau tej tub kawn ntauw
txhua hnuab los ntauw lawv cov xib fwb,
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xav tau thiab tej tau kev los koom tes
nrog lwm tus tub kawn ntauw.

Tuam Thawj Saib Kev Kawm Bob
Nelson tau tsjau taww hauw paua paej
taww kawn ntauw cov kaj npaj nyob rau
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“Peb pom tau tias kev kawn nyob
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muaj peev xwm ua koomb paej tias
ub kawn ntauw thiab cov kev neeg
khiaj dej num muaj kev qhia yeeb
lub sih lwm los muaj kev qhia ntauw
ntawv nyuay thiab xwm yeem rau peb
74,000 tugub kawn ntauw,” Nelson hais li.

Qhov eLearn guav kawn ntauw nyob
yuav siv uas tis qej kev kawn nyob rau
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tau kaw. Tuz qab tsjaih npaj muaj kev qhia
ntauw ntxhua hnuab nhruq tugub kawn
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kawn tus kheej.

“Kuv muaj peev xwm col gus lus rau
tiaj thamub peb cov tub kawn ntauw pib
cov kev kawn nyob rau “online” thamub
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tej tub kawn ntauw thiaj cov tsev yim
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temm kom uab muaj rau tej tub kawn
ntauw, dhoos huaw nroj tej cai muab
qhia ntauw los ntauw ib qho kev kawn
tauw plaam yeep vim tsev kawn
ntawv kawtham lub caj nplooj
hlaw dho.

Saib rau zaaj daf neeg nyob rau
nplooj ntauw Xub thawj rau lus qhia
ntxaws ntxaws rau hauw paua paej
taww kawn ntauw qwov eLearn tshiad
ntawv “My School” qhoq kev kawn sib
nrog.

Technology Kev Pab

Yuav kom txhua tuub taww kawn
ntauw muaj tej tjiwi thiaj internet kev
njak tag koon tem pes puv npo
nyob rau hauw “online school”.

Lub Chaw Famj Learning
thiaj Technology Kev Txbaw Pab
tau raug tsiu muaj ntauw ntxaw
ntauw hauw lub caij nthu qhua
ntawm (559) 457-3939.

Hauv paua paej
taww kawn ntauw tau faih
60,000 lub laptops thiaj tabletus rau
cov tub kawn ntauw hauw thxaw qib
kawn.

Kev lam li 20,000 tus tub kawn
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tau xauas hauw pauas paej
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kawn ntauw.

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kawn ntauw.

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ncaj nraim rau lawv thiab
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los muab kev txhawb pab
thiaj muab rau
thiaj kawm.

Hauv paua paej
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kawn ntauw.
Having to switch to virtual learning in March was tough for Roosevelt High School student Jaden Arce. Active in school leadership, cheer, folklorico dance, theater and other activities, Jaden likes social interaction — but that all changed when schools closed due to COVID-19.

“At the beginning, I had to constantly remind myself that I was not on vacation, that I was still in school,” said Jaden, a senior.

But he created his own schedule and found activities to keep him busy. Jaden stayed involved during school closures by helping develop activities for students to encourage school spirit, help them feel connected and promote communication between staff and students. The leadership team started with simple challenges, like pajama day, all through photos.

Whether virtual or in person, Jaden believes activities help students stay interested in school. Jaden said his advice for parents is: “Don’t force your students to do things, encourage them.”

Jaden said the virtual learning implemented for the last months of school was a bit hard at the beginning, but once he adapted, he enjoyed it.

“It is easy. I never thought it was going to be as communicative as it is. Teachers were calling, sending letters and positive feedback. It was a very positive environment for me,” he said.

As a young adult already adept at social media, Jaden had a smooth transition to online learning. It helped that a few weeks earlier he had received a free hotspot through Project Connect, a partnership between Fresno Unified with Sprint and its 1 Million Project Foundation to provide 1,000 hotspots to high school students.

He uses the device at home to connect his computer and sometimes his cell phone, which allows him to create cheer and folklorico practice videos and TikTok videos and to follow updates from the district.

“Superintendent Bob Nelson always sends out this reminder on what is going on and what is new. So, I feel like the communication there was very positive, and we are always the first to know,” Jaden said.

Jaden is eager to start the new school year. He knows it’s going to be different from others, but he has discovered that the virtual world is not as bad as he anticipated. He plans to apply to Fresno State or Fresno Pacific as he pursues his dream of becoming an English teacher.

“I have been inspired by teachers to give back to the community and to work with people, and that type of job will allow me to work on my leadership skills as well,” Jaden said.

What is it like working at your alma mater? It is a great pleasure working at Hoover High, where I also graduated. Working there reminds me of how much I stressed and struggled, myself, as an immigrant fresh from my home in a refugee camp in Thailand, barely understanding the language and culture of my new home in America. This has helped me recognize and work harder in every way to minimize the anxieties and troubles that my students occasionally go through.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. In order to do my job, most people would think that I am unbreakable and strong. Well, that is not the whole truth because I can also be very sensitive. In fact, there’ve been times where I’ve ended up crying with the student to the point where the student themselves had to help calm ME down! Because not everybody knows where I came from and how I grew up, it is hard for people to believe that “yes I understand and yes, I can relate” in most cases. Also, being a good listener helps a whole lot too.

What do you like to do when you are not working? Besides hanging out with my 9-year-old daughter and family, planting and taking care of my garden is what I enjoy doing when I am not working.

What is your dream vacation? I love to travel with my family and friends to anywhere that is safe and family friendly. Though, one of these days, I do wish to go visit my homeland, Laos.

Samanta Flores
Continued from page 11

it is very important to keep our tools/minds sharpened at all times.

What social emotional issues do students struggle the most with? Most students I work with struggle with social skills, sense of belonging, peer pressure, family/home concerns, social media, anxiety, depression, lack of motivation, and the ability to regulate and process daily tasks.

When it comes to activities on campus, we start by planning in the classroom as a small group and slowly opening our circle to students from other classes to help plan. Waiting for my students to feel safe is important, as it is very difficult to put yourself out in front of all of your peers at lunch. Once they feel safe with expanding their circle, they get more creative and are not afraid to offer up ideas for activities. We do the same thing with rally planning. The first one we purely help/observe. The second one we plan an activity or two, the third rally we run together with the help of Mrs. Melissa Bangertor’s class.

What are you most looking forward to most about returning to school? Seeing my students, hands down.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. I do not like my food mixing.

What do you like to do when you are not working? Being with my family, coaching my daughter’s soccer team, going for bike rides or going swimming. As long as we are together, I am a happy camper.

If you were not a teacher, what career would you choose? A professional organizer.

What is your dream vacation? A summer long trip with my family: England, Ireland, Italy, Australia and finishing in Hawaii (obviously I need to continue working summer school).
FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR
SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

JULY, 2020

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

BLACK FIGURES DENOTE DAYS SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION
RED FIGURES DENOTE NON-STUDENT DAYS WHEN SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION

HOLIDAY INSTITUTE DAY NOT IN SESSION BUYBACK DAY

AUGUST, 2020

DISTRICT BUYBACK DAY
August 12, 2020; October 26, 2020; March 5, 2021

INSTITUTE & BUYBACK DAYS ARE NON-STUDENT DAYS

VACATION & HOLIDAYS
Independence Day: July 4 (observed July 5, 2020)
Labor Day: Sept. 7
Veteran’s Day: Nov. 11
Thanksgiving: Nov. 25-27
Winter Break: Dec. 21-Jan. 3
MLK Jr. Day: Jan. 18
Presidents’ Day: Feb. 15
Spring Break: March 29-April 5
Memorial Day: May 31
Independence Day: July 4, 2021 (observed July 5, 2021)

HOLIDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:
2020: July 3, Sept. 7, Nov. 11
2021: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, April 2, May 31, July 5

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS
2nd & 4th Wednesdays unless otherwise specified
Board Meetings are held at the FLUSD Education Center
2309 Tubbs Street, 2nd Floor

REPORT TO PARENTS
Sept. 15-16……………..1st Deficiency Notice
Oct. 26-27……………..1st Report Card (Elementary Parent Conferences)
Nov. 9-10……………..2nd Deficiency Notice
Jan. 11-12………2nd Report Card (Secondary Parent Conferences)
March 13-14………3rd Report Card
April 30-May 6……4th Deficiency Notice
June 10……………..4th Report Card

END OF SEMESTER DATES ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
Dec. 18………..Period 1 ends (39 days)
June 10………..Period 4 ends (32 days)

STANDARDIZED TESTING WINDOWS
State Testing April 6 – June 4
Click here to access district testing calendar

Traditional School Year - 180 teaching days and 5 non-student days
2 Institute Days: August 13 & 14, 2020
3 District BuyBack Days: August 12, 2020; October 26, 2020; March 5, 2021

Districts & Baugears - May 17-21, 2021

FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR
SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

SCHOOL BEGINS
August 17, 2020
SCHOOL ENDS
June 10, 2021

Elementary & Secondary Reporting Periods

Traditionally, 35 days

Buyback Days: August 12, 2020; October 26, 2020; March 5, 2021

Corequisite Buying Days: August 12, 2020; October 26, 2020; March 5, 2021

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

NEW CLASSROOM SAME COMMITMENT
ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE!
fresnocitycollege.edu/fall

State Center Community College District
dation of protection for our students, staff, and families. For example, our recommendations include:

- Physical distancing of six feet, or as close to six feet as feasible
- Masks to be worn when physical distancing of six feet is not possible
- Limiting visitors on campus
- Keeping students within smaller cohorts as feasible
- Robust contact tracing of suspected or confirmed COVID cases
- Isolation rooms for any students that may present during school with COVID symptoms
- Providing staggered lunches and schedules to allow of physical distancing
- Utilizing outdoor spaces for meals as feasible
- Increasing access to handwashing and hand sanitizer for all
- Daily self-health screenings for all students, staff and essential visitors
- Staying home when you are sick
- Virtual staff meetings when physical distancing is not possible
- One-way hallway traffic flows
- And recurring video and in-person training and reinforcement of all safety practices including proper handwashing, proper mask wearing, and more.

We recognize this is not what any of us dreamed of to start the 2020-21 school year, but I challenge all of us to set the tone for our students to have a positive and engaging school year no matter the circumstances. No one believes this year will not be difficult, but Fresno Unified Family, WE CAN DO HARD THINGS.

Estamos adoptando una nueva realidad este año escolar

¡Wow! ya es agosto y ha llegado el momento de comenzar otro ciclo escolar. Honestamente, sabemos que abrir nuestras escuelas este año se vera muy diferente de cualquier otro momento en la historia del distrito. Por mucho que todos deseemos estar de vuelta en nuestras escuelas, la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes, personal y familias es de suma importancia y en estos momentos no es seguro regresar en persona.

Como estoy seguro de que lo habrán escuchado, comenzaremos el ciclo escolar 2020-21 con un modelo totalmente en línea y solo podremos considerar el regresar a nuestras escuelas cuando el condado de Fresno haya estado fuera de la lista de observación del estado por más de 14 días consecutivos.

Aunque el modelo de aprendizaje a distancia no es un modo óptimo de educación, nuestros equipos han trabajado sin descanso para proporcionar un modelo de aprendizaje de alta calidad que apoye a todos nuestros estudiantes. El modelo “eLearn en mi escuela” no será nada parecido al aprendizaje en línea, que era a ritmo propio de aprendizaje y que nuestros estudiantes y familias experimentaron a mediados de marzo y hasta el fin del ciclo escolar 2019-20. Este nuevo modelo incluye enseñanza dirigida en vivo con el maestro de su hijos, oportunidades de colaboración entre estudiantes y apoyos individualizados para estudiantes.

Todos tenemos un papel en crear un ambiente seguro para nuestros estudiantes y personal para que regresen a las escuelas. Cuando eso ocurra, nuestros planes incluirán varias capas de prácticas de seguridad, tomando en cuenta que cada practica por si solo es imperfecta, juntas pueden proporcionar una base sólida para la protección de nuestros estudiantes, personal y familias. Por ejemplo, nuestras recomendaciones incluyen:

- Distancia física de 6 pies, o tan cercano a los 6 pies como sea posible
- Uso de cubrebocas cuando el distanciamiento físico de 6 pies no es posible
- Limitar el número de visitantes en las escuelas
- Mantener a los alumnos en grupos pequeños tanto como sea posible
- Rastreo sólido de casos sospechosos o confirmados de COVID
- Cuartos de aislamiento para cualquier estudiante que durante la escuela presente síntomas de COVID
- Proporcionar almuerzos y horarios espaciados que permitan el distanciamiento físico
- Utilizar espacios exteriores tanto como sea posible
- Aumentar el acceso a lavado de manos y gel antibacterial para todos
- Autoevaluación de salud para todos los estudiantes, personal y visitantes esenciales
- Permanecer en casa cuando esté enfermo
- Reuniones virtuales de personal cuando el distanciamiento físico no sea posible
- Tráfico de un solo sentido en los pasillos
- Y entrenamiento continuo en persona y en video para reforzar todas las prácticas de seguridad, incluyendo lavado de manos apropiado, el uso adecuado de cubrebocas y más.

Reconocemos que esto no es lo que soñamos para el inicio del ciclo escolar 2020-21, pero los invitamos a cada uno de ustedes a poner el ejemplo a nuestros estudiantes y tener un ciclo escolar positivo y con mucha participación sin importar las circunstancias. Nadie cree que este año no será difícil, pero Familia de Fresno Unified, sabemos que Podemos hacer cosas que son difíciles.

Peb zoo siab Txais Tol Lub Xyoo Kawm Ntawv Tshia Tsev Nov

Vuaa! Nws Twb Yog Lub Yim Hli Lawm, thiab twb rov txog lub sib hawm los pib dua lub xyoo kawm ntawv thiab dua lawm thiab ! Hais qhov tseeb, peb paub tias kev qhib tseb kawm ntawv lub xyoo no yuav zoo txawv dua li txhia niag txhua sib hawm hauv peb lub hauv paus tseb kawm ntawv. Raws li pep txhua txhua tus xov ror qab mus kawm ntawv, kev nyab xeeb ntawv peb cov tug kawm ntawv, cov neeg kihav dej num thab cov qab yim noj yuav gis hauv, cov neeg kihav dej num thab cov qab yim noj yuav gis hauv, sib koo hauv peb cov qab yim noj yuav gis hauv, kev nyab xeeb, kev qhia tej twb tus kev qhia tej twb tus kev yim. Baa hauv laj.

Kuv ntsaag tia tias nyaj nej yuav hnoo lawm, peb yuav pib lub xyoo kawm 2020-21ua 100% tis qauv kawm nyob rau hauv “online” thab tsuas yuav yog muaj peev xwm rov ror qab tus kawm ntawv tham Fresno County tuau raug tisem tawm ntawm tus lawm leev xewk qhov saib xyoo yuav sib tseeb ntsawg li koom tes tsis koom tes 14 hmb sib law liag.

Lub sih jawn kawm nyob rau “online” tsis yob pep txoj kev xaiw xwm tuaj xeeb tshaj plaws, peb cov pab pawg neegg sau sib zog ntawm hauv lwm los npaj muaj tus gauv kawm zoo siab los mus kev xthawb pab rau pep txhua tus kawm ntawv. Tus gauv nov ntawm “eLearn At My School” yuav saib tsis muaj dab tsi zoo txawv ntawm kawm online, ua li yus ua taa, kawm txoj peg cov kawm ntawv thiab cov yim neeq tej twb tus kev xthawb pab rau pep txhua tus kawm ntawv. Tus gauv nov ntawm “eLearn At My School” yuav saib tsis muaj dab tsi.

Hauv tej kem tsev mus los muaj mus ib seem xwm

Thiab rov ua dua vis dis aiLu kev kwam tuau kawm tus kheeg thiab xthawb nqau tshua yam kev nyab xeeb xam xroq ror kev kwam tuav ntawm kev urau, cov ntawm npog nqau xha ci kwaw ntawm xam xwai thiab.

Peb laes peb noh qab hauv yam peb saleaw daws xav ua thum bib xyoo kawm 2020-2021, tab sis kuv twv peb txhua tus los ua lub saub rau pep cov tug kawm ntawv kom muaj kev kwam xthai thiab muaj kev kwam tuaw ntawm los niag kwam xyoo kawm tuaw.

Peb laes peb noh qab hauv yam peb saleaw daws xav ua thum bib xyoo kawm 2020-2021, tab sis kuv twv peb txhua tus los ua lub saub rau pep cov tug kawm ntawv kom muaj kev kwam xthai thiab muaj kev kwam tuaw ntawm los niag kwam xyoo kawm tuaw.

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