

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

Small Groups of Students Return to Campuses for Online Learning

About 750 students are back on campuses learning online with staff assistance, as Fresno Unified carries out a safe plan to gradually reopen schools to small cohorts of students.

The reopening began Oct. 12 with small groups of students most in need of returning to campus, including students in foster care, homeless situations, students learning English and students in special education. The students were selected based on those struggling the most with virtual learning at home.

The students who have returned to campuses are learning via online using their school's wi-fi. Students are working on laptops in large spaces, such as cafeterias, with at least six feet between students. They also have easy access to school lunches and can interact with school staff.



A student takes a break from learning at Greenberg Elementary School on Oct. 13. Small groups of students who are the most in need of being on campuses for their online learning returned to their schools on Oct. 12.

status of COVID-19 in Fresno County (rates of cases and positive tests) and its work with its employee labor partners. Elementary students will return first, but not likely until January.

The return to in-person learning will be more difficult for middle and high school students because of the multiple classes secondary students take and the mixing of students, making it impossible to have stable cohorts.

“We’re going to take a methodical, phased in approach for returning our students to in-person instruction, with a focus on safety, stability and high-quality instruction,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

When students do return to in-person instruction, a hybrid model will be used, meaning not all students in a class will

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

Cohorts of no more than 10 students have returned to elementary schools and cohorts of no more than 20 students have

returned to middle and high schools.

The district’s ability to return to in-person learning depends on the

See [REOPENING OF SCHOOLS](#)
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Fresno Unified Trustees Approve Vision, Mission, Values and Goals

As the district works on a strategic plan for the coming years, it will hold focus groups to gather feedback, beginning with parent, student and staff sessions in November and December.

The virtual group discussions will focus on the Fresno Unified Board of Education’s vision, mission, values and goals, which it adopted on Oct. 21 after hearing from more than 66,000 constituents.

The vision, mission, values and goals

will guide the district as it develops objectives during the second semester with departments and schools. The development of objectives is the last phase of the strategic plan to ensure the district’s goals guide program evaluations and the allocation of resources.

The foundation of the strategic plan, as approved by the board:

VISION

Fresno Unified School District – Where students, families and staff are valued

and empowered to achieve their greatest potential.

MISSION

We nurture and cultivate the interests, intellect, and leadership of our students by providing an excellent, equitable education in a culturally proficient environment.

VALUES

We Value Learning

- We provide high quality teaching and learning that involves challenging and relevant experiences to produce

critical, collaborative, and solution-oriented thinkers.

- We create learning experiences that support a wide range of ability and are focused on improving every day with constructive and consistent feedback.
- We emphasize learning is enjoyable, engaging, and interactive.
- We know all individuals can learn and we demonstrate that by having

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Portion of Street will Honor Principal Liles (Page 9)



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REOPENING OF SCHOOLS
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be in class at the same because of the inability to physically distance that many students.

When students are able to return to campuses, families will also have the choice to continue with distance learning.

As the district plans for students to return to in-person instruction, it applied for and received a waiver in October from the Fresno County Department of Public Health and California Department of Public Health.

The waiver means that students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade could return to in-person instruction – with multiple safety restrictions – even if the county returns to the state’s tier 1 – widespread risk of COVID-19 infection. The county has moved to tier 2, substantial risk, and is striving to move on to tiers 3 and 4, moderate and minimal risk.

In seeking the waiver, the district had to provide a detailed safety plan that included physical distancing, sanitizing, contact tracing and how it would handle an outbreak.

Pequeños Grupos de Estudiantes Regresaron al Plantel Escolar Para el Aprendizaje en Línea

Aproximadamente 750 estudiantes están de regreso al plantel escolar para el aprendizaje en línea con ayuda del personal, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno cumple con un plan de seguridad para reabrir las escuelas poco a poco para grupos pequeños de estudiantes.

La reapertura inició el 12 de octubre con grupos pequeños de estudiantes con mayor necesidad de regresar al plantel escolar, incluyendo estudiantes en situaciones de hogar de crianza temporal (foster care), sin una vivienda, estudiantes aprendices de inglés y estudiantes en educación especial. Los estudiantes fueron seleccionados basado en aquellos que tienen mayor dificultad con el aprendizaje virtual e el hogar.

Los estudiantes que han regresado al plantel escolar están aprendiendo vía línea/internet usando la red escolar wi-fi. Los estudiantes están trabajando en las laptops en espacios grandes, tales como las cafeterías, con distanciamiento de por lo menos seis pies entre los estudiantes. También tienen acceso de manera fácil a los almuerzos escolares

y pueden interactuar con el personal escolar.

Grupos de no más de 10 estudiantes han regresado a las escuelas primarias y no más de 20 estudiantes a las escuelas secundarias y preparatorias.

Las posibilidades del distrito, de regresar al aprendizaje en persona depende del estado del coronavirus (COVID-19) en el Condado de Fresno (los niveles de los casos y pruebas positivas) y su trabajo con sus socios empleados laborales. Los estudiantes de primaria regresarán primero, pero posiblemente hasta enero.

El regreso de aprendizaje en persona será más difícil para los estudiantes de secundaria y preparatoria debido a las múltiples clases que toman los estudiantes de secundaria y la combinación de los mismos haciendo que no sea posible tener grupos estables.

“Vamos a adoptar un enfoque metódico y escalonado para regresar a nuestros estudiantes a la instrucción en persona, con un enfoque sobre seguridad, estabilidad e instrucción de alta calidad,” dijo el Superintendente Bob Nelson.

Cuando los estudiantes regresen a la instrucción en persona, se utilizará un modelo híbrido, que significa que no todos los estudiantes de una clase estarán en la clase al mismo tiempo debido a la inhabilidad de distanciamiento físico de muchos estudiantes.

Cuando sea posible que los estudiantes regresen al plantel estudiantil, también, las familias tendrán la opción de continuar con el aprendizaje a distancia.

A medida que el distrito planea el regreso de los estudiantes a instrucción en persona, se solicitó y una exención y fue aprobada en octubre por el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Fresno (County Department of Public Health) y el Departamento de Salud Pública de California (California Department of Public Health).

La exención significa que los estudiantes de kindergarten transicional a sexto grado podrían regresar a la instrucción en persona – con varias restricciones de seguridad – aún si el condado regresa al nivel 1 de grado estatal – infección de riesgo generalizado por COVID-19. El condado ha cambiado al nivel 2, un riesgo sustancial y se esfuerza por pasar a los niveles 3 y 4, un riesgo moderado y mínimo.

Al solicitar, la exención, el distrito tuvo que proporcionar un plan de seguridad

detallado el cual incluye distanciamiento físico, rastreo de contacto y como administraría un brote.

Tej Pawg Tub Kawm Ntawv Tsawg Tsawg Rov Tuaj Tom Tsev Kawm Ntawv rau Kev Kawm hauv Online

Li ntawm 750 tus tub kawm ntawv tau rov tuaj tom cov tsev kawm ntawv kawm nyob rau hauv online nrog cov neeg khiav dej num pab, raws li Fresno Unified tau ua raws li ib qho kev npaj nyab xeeb rau pib qhib cov tsev kawm ntawv zuj zus rau tej pab pawg me me ntawm cov tub kawm ntawv.

Kev rov qhib pib rau lub Kaum Hli tim 12 nrog tej pab pawg me me ntawm cov tub kawm ntawv feem ntau muaj kev xav tau rov mus tom tsev kawm ntawv, xam nrog rau cov tub kawm ntawv nyob tsev tu me nyuam, tej teeb meem tsis muaj vag muaj tsev nyob, cov tub kawm ntawv kawm lus Askiv thiab cov tub kawm ntawv kawm ntawv tshwj xeeb. Cov tub kawm ntawv tau raug xaiv raws li cov kev nyuaj li ntawm no feem ntau nrog kev kawm “virtual” hauv vaj hauv tsev.

Cov tub kawm ntawv nws tau rov tuaj tom tsev kawm ntawv yog kawm nyob rau hauv “online” siv tsev kawm ntawv qhov wi-fi. Cov tub kawm ntawv ua hauj lwm hauv cov “laptops” hauv ib qho chaw dav dav, xws li hauv chav noj mov, nrog yam tsawg rau kauj ruam sib nrug deb ntawm cov tub kawm ntawv. Lawv kuj tseem muaj kev yooj yim tau tsev kawm ntawv cov puas su noj thiab muaj peev xwm sib txuam tau nrog tsev kawm ntawv cov neeg khiav dej num.

Tej pab pawg ntawm nov tsis muaj tshaj li ntawm 10 leej tub kawm ntawv rov tuaj rau hauv tsev kawm ntawv them qis (elementary schools) thiab cov tej pab pawg ntawm nov tsis pub tshaj li ntawm 20 leej tub kawm ntawv tau rov tuaj kawm hauv tsev kawm ntawv them nrab thiab siab (middle and high schools).

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawm qhov kev peev xwm rov tuaj kawm tim ntsej tim muag ua ke nyob ntawm seb tus kab mob COVID-19 nyob zoo li cas hauv Fresno County (cov naj npawb ntawm cov “cases” thiab cov kuaj pom tau muaj tus kab mob) thiab nws ua hauj lwm nrog rau cov neeg ua hauj lwm cov neeg koom tes. Cov tub kawm ntawv tsev

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KEY CONTACTS FOR PARENTS

CONSTITUENT SERVICES:
457-3736 [Constituent Services Webpage](#)

EARLY LEARNING:
457-3682 [Early Learning Webpage](#)

ENGLISH LEARNER SERVICES:
457-3928 [English Learner Services Webpage](#)

FAMILY LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT CENTER:
457-3939 [Tech Support](#)

FOOD SERVICES:
457-6250 [Free meals sites](#)

HEALTH SERVICES:
457-3294 [Health Services webpage](#)

HOMELESS AND FOSTER CARE:
[Project ACCESS](#), 457-3359 [Project ACCESS webpage](#)

QUESTIONS ABOUT eLEARN AT MY SCHOOL:
[School phone numbers](#)

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:
[Department of Prevention and Intervention](#), 457-3340 [Resources](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION:
457-3220 [Special Education webpage](#)

Fresno Unified School District



Fresno Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S Message

An Update on Reopening Schools

Happy November, Fresno Unified family! This month is our time to reflect on what we're most thankful for in our lives. I know this year we're all battling quarantine fatigue and it can be really difficult to be grateful, but I encourage you to take time to think about what positive thing this season of life has brought to you and your loved ones. For me, although I continue to struggle with the reality of not having our students back to school,



Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

I am grateful to see our small cohorts of students returning to campuses safely for a safe and reliable place to complete their distance learning. Seeing those faces, even in masks and while physically distancing, has brought so much hope to me and to our system at large that we will get back to schools safely in the future.

I wish I had better news to bring you this month, but as a county we are still struggling to control the spread of COVID-19. As we teeter from red to purple metrics, it greatly affects our county as a whole and plays into all school reopening plans. As you've heard me say time and again, our reopening plans are guided by ensuring safety, stability, and high-quality instruction for our Fresno Unified family at large. You can see what this means in our safety practices and more by checking out our

updated Strategic Plan for Reopening Schools on our website [here](#).

Let me share a few updates of where we are at this current moment in our methodical, phased-in approach to returning to our campuses and on-campus instruction. First, no matter what color tier we're in as a county, our teams are committed to continuing to expand the presence of small cohorts back on our campuses for distance learning facilitation. As a reminder, these small cohorts comprise right now our highest-need students, including those who are our foster and homeless youth, students with disabilities, and English language

See **SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG**
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Message from Mike Betts, Member of the CTE Advisory Committee and CEO of Betts Company Industry Partners Ensure a Strong, Skilled Workforce

As the CEO of the Betts Company, I am proud to be a champion partner for Fresno Unified and career technical education (CTE). I have been an active member of the CTE Advisory Committee for the district, and participated in Job Shadow Days, internship experiences and teacher externships.

Betts Company, a 153-year-old spring manufacturer, has deep roots in California. Currently in its sixth generation of family ownership, the spring manufacturer opened in 1868 in San Francisco.

Because our workforce is so important, we play a critical role in the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA), made up of about 450 manufacturers in the area. The SJVMA leads the charge in building a world-class regional technical education infrastructure with local high schools, community colleges and universities.

Betts Company's ongoing partnerships with CTE and the SJVMA are an integral part of ensuring the future of manufacturing in the Central Valley is relevant and robust, which aligns with the district's focus on ensuring students are receiving the latest information to succeed in a wide range of technical careers. I also work closely with the Fresno State Valley Industry Partnership (VIP) program to provide internship opportunities for qualified juniors and seniors.

These collaborations build awareness and encourage Central Valley manufacturers and community leaders to get involved.



Mike Betts, third from right, talks with other business and career technical leaders during a tour at the heavy truck classroom at Duncan Polytechnical High School. Betts is a member of the CTE Advisory Committee and CEO of Betts Company.

Recently, we hosted leaders of the Fresno Business Council, SJVMA, the city of Fresno, and Fresno Economic Development Corporation for a tour of our facilities to learn about opportunities for Fresno area educators and manufacturers to work together to provide students with first-hand career experience.

Our director of operations, Joe Devany, recently hosted a virtual tour for students and teachers to kick off National Manufacturing Day 2020. Joe said the students had some good questions and were engaged. He said it was great to connect with young people who are looking at manufacturing professions for a career.

Our partnership with Duncan Polytechnical and their manufacturing and

heavy-duty truck programs highlights the importance of industry and education working together. Each year, over 8,000 heavy truck technicians retire, while only 5,000 enter the field. By 2025, it is projected that there will be 228,000 job openings for technicians. By helping students gain first-hand career experience we are addressing this critical shortage, which is just one example affecting the entire transportation industry.

I am proud to support our local students and educational institutions in their continued pursuit of excellence in education. For more information, or to get involved, visit <https://ccr.fresnounified.org/partnering-with-fresno-unified/>

Non-Discrimination Policy: Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital, pregnancy or parental status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment (BP 0410). For the full policy, a list of compliance officers, and Title IX information, go to www.fresnounified.org.



PARENTS

Learn about Special School and Program Options for Students

The district is offering five days of virtual exploration in early November to help eighth graders choose their path for high school and students of all ages and their families learn about magnet and specialized programs.

This is an important time for students and families as they prepare for the Dec. 1 deadline for school transfers. [Transfer Form Here](#)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the virtual Choose your Future Week, Nov. 2-6, will take the place of traditional in-person events.

Eighth graders will spend time with their

teachers virtually exploring the options available to them as they prepare to move on to high school next year. During Choose your Future Week, students will learn about specialty high schools and career technical education pathways available throughout the district, and explore campus culture, activities and athletic options with students from their regional high school.

It's the perfect time for families to engage their eighth grader and ensure they're set up for high school success. Families can also participate in the Choose your Future journey by attending the virtual Parent University learn-



A graphic like this will have clickable links Nov. 2-6 for the virtual School Choice Expo. Schools and programs have created virtual information booths.

Parent University Sessions Available during Choose your Future Week

Date	Day	Time	Session Titles
November 3	Tuesday	10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.	College and Career Readiness
November 4	Wednesday	6-8 p.m.	High School Readiness
November 4	Wednesday	10 a.m.-noon	Special Education
November 5	Thursday	10 a.m.-noon	Middle School Readiness
November 6	Friday	10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.	Elementary School Readiness

ing modules focused on important transitions for students.

Use this link to [Parent University](#) for more information on the sessions.

Another component of Choose your Future Week is a virtual version of the district's traditional School Choice Expo. Visit the Virtual School Choice Expo Nov. 2-6: <https://fresnounified.org/schoolchoice2020>.

Using the virtual online format, families can attend any time during the week at their convenience.

Families can select what sites and unique programs they want to learn more about

See **CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE** Continued on page 7

District Launches Free Online Anytime Tutoring for all Grades

To better support students with distance learning, the district has launched a new partnership with Tutor.com to provide free online tutoring.

Through Tutor.com, students can access homework and tutoring support in more

than 120 subjects at the very moment they need it, even if it's late at night or on the weekend. During the first week it was available, more than 1,000 students district wide took advantage of the service, with requests for help in Algebra I at the top of the list.

This exciting student support tool launched district-wide the week of Oct. 12, following piloting of the program at 14 schools. Students can access Tutor.com directly through their district Clever account.

Teachers highlighted some of the resources available through Tutor.com with students in class. More information, including a video on how to use the program, is available at fresnounified.org under eLearn at My School.

Tutor.com tutors have passed an extensive background check and no personal information is shared between student and tutor. Work is completed in a recorded classroom. The tutoring focuses on conceptual learning and critical thinking – not quick answers.

“Tutor.com is another tool to help our students during this time of virtual learn-

ing, providing an additional layer of support while teachers and other school staff cannot be physically in the same place with our students,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.



From Tutor.com: “The Princeton Review and Tutor.com are truly pleased to be partnering with Fresno Unified School District on this exciting initiative,” said Eduardo Ceja, an area vice president for College Readiness Programs at The Princeton Review/Tutor.com. “We salute the district leaders for their commitment to providing a robust range of educational resources to area students during these challenging times.”

Important Dates

November 1	Transfer Deadline
November 2-6	Choose your Future Week (virtual event)
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 21-January 8	Winter Break



Sponsors Pledge nearly \$50,000 toward Student Scholarships

Corporate and community sponsors have contributed \$48,400 toward scholarships for Fresno Unified students through a virtual walk/run that will be held in November.

The fundraising effort takes the place of the district’s annual State of Education luncheon, which was canceled this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The district awarded \$118,000 in scholarships to 61 students last spring.

I PLEDGE 2020

Thanks to the community’s response to the walk/run, the district will be able to continue awarding scholarships to students in the spring through the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. Those who signed up for the walk/run receive a commemorative T-shirt and swag bag. Participants can walk or run on their own or in small groups, physically distancing. Participants are encouraged to send photos to communications@fresnounified.org or post to #IPledgeFUSD.

The walk/run fundraising effort for scholarships is part of the district’s IPledge campaign launched in Septem-

ber to highlight the efforts of staff and students to do their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and make the most of virtual learning. Throughout October, IPledge focused on the class of 2021, students who have shown resilience despite the impact of COVID-19 on their senior year.

Superintendent Bob Nelson launched the IPledge campaign with a [motivational message](#) and an invitation to the Fresno Unified community.

“I will pledge to spread militant positivity and support our students, staff and families in our community. What part will you play in this pledge?” Superintendent Nelson says in his message.

Others who are showcased include a teacher who helped create online learning materials, a staff member who helped get laptops and tablets to students, and a student who pledged to get up on time and be ready for online school.

The goal of the campaign is to motivate, encourage and connect the Fresno Unified family and larger community during this time.

Support the Class of 2021

Pachia Lee
Sunnyside High School Graduate
UC Davis Student

Pledge to support the Class of 2021 in making their college dreams come true. Make the pledge, and join us in supporting the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund

I PLEDGE 2020

Fresno Unified School District
www.fresnounified.org/scholarship-fund/

REOPENING SCHOOLS Continued from page 2

kawm ntawv them qis yuav xub rov tuaj, tiam sis yuav tsis yog txog thaum lub Ib Hlis.

Kev rov tuaj kawm tim ntsej tim muag ua ke yuav nyuaj heev rau cov tub kawm ntawv tsev kawm ntawv them nrab thiab them siab yeeb vim tias cov tub kawm ntawv muaj ntau ntau chav kawm kawm thiab sib txuam nrog cov tub kawm ntawv, nws ua rau tsis muaj kev yooj yim los tswj tej pab pawg nov.

“Peb yuav ua ib qho kev muaj paus ntsis, them kev ua rau kev peb cov tub kawm ntawv rov tuaj kawm tim ntsej tim muag kev qhia ntaub ntawv,” Tuam Thawj Saib Kev Kawm Bob Nelson tau hais li.

Thaum cov tub kawm ntawv tau rov mus kawm tim ntsej tim muag kev qhia ntaub ntawv, ib tug qauv sib txuam yuav raug siv, txhais tau tias tsis yog tag nrho cov tub kawm ntawv yuav nyob hauv ib lub chav kawm nyob rau tib lub sij hawm ua ke yeeb vim tsis muaj peev xwm los tswj

tau lub cev sib nrug deb uas ntau tus tub kawm ntawv.

Thaum twg cov tub kawm ntawv muaj peev xwm rov tuaj tau rau tom tsev kaw ntawv, cov yim tsev neeg kuj tseem yuav muaj kev xaiv los kawm sib nrug deb txuas ntxiv.

Raws li hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov kev npaj rau cov tub kawm ntawv rov tuaj kawm tim ntsej tim muag kev qhia ntaub ntawv, nws siv rau thiab tau txais kev zam los ntawm Fresno County Department of Public Health rau lub Kaum Hli tim 14.

Qhov kev zam txhais tau tias cov tub kawm ntawv nyob rau qhov “transitional kindergarten” txog rau qib rau (6) muaj peev rov tuaj kawm tau tim ntsej tim muag kev qhia ntaub ntawv – nrog ntau yam kev txwv nyab xeeb – txawm li ntawm los yog tias lub teb lub “county” tig rov mus rau lub xeev qhov “tier 1” – kev ntshai tsam sib kis ntawm kab mob COVID-19 huam vam. Lub “county” tau txav mus rau “tier 2”, ntshai tsam sib kis tshaj plaws, thiab sim txav mus

rau “tiers 3 thiab 4”, txoj kev ntshai pes nrab thiab tsawg kawg nkaus.

Nyob rau kev nrhiav kev zam, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau los npaj muaj qhov

kev nyab xeeb ntxaws ntxaws uas xam nrog rau lub cev kev sib nrug, ntxuav tes, xyuav cov chaw tau chwv tau kov thiab seb nws yuav ua li cas yog muaj ib qho kev sib kis.

FAQs on Reopening Schools

When does Fresno Unified anticipate bringing students back to school for in-person instruction? The time to start phasing in our in-person instruction is when our county officially makes it to the orange tier (moderate spread of the virus). Given that our current purple/red (widespread/substantial) status continues to delay any return, there is no practical timeline that returns all of our students to school before the end of the fall semester. That said, no matter what color tier we are in, our teams are committed to continuing to expand our small cohorts of students who are currently doing their distance learning on our school campuses.

Did Fresno Unified submit a waiver? Yes. A waiver was submitted to Fresno County Department of Public Health on Sept. 25. Submitting a waiver provides the district options for our elementary students should we find ourselves back in the purple tier of the governor’s guidelines.

Why are some charter and private schools opening in Fresno County, but not Fresno Unified? The district has three key areas of consideration when it comes to returning students to campus: safety, stability, and providing high quality instruction. We continue to

See **FAQS ON REOPENING SCHOOLS**
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More Laptops Arriving for Younger Students to Support Learning

In early November, 12,000 more laptops for students are scheduled to arrive in the district targeted for Fresno Unified's youngest learners as it continues to

improve distance learning tools for its 74,000 students.

The district is also working on enhancing

internet connections for students. Along with the 9,200 hotspots the district has already distributed, it is exploring with local and national partners building its own cell towers in south Fresno, where connectivity is weak.

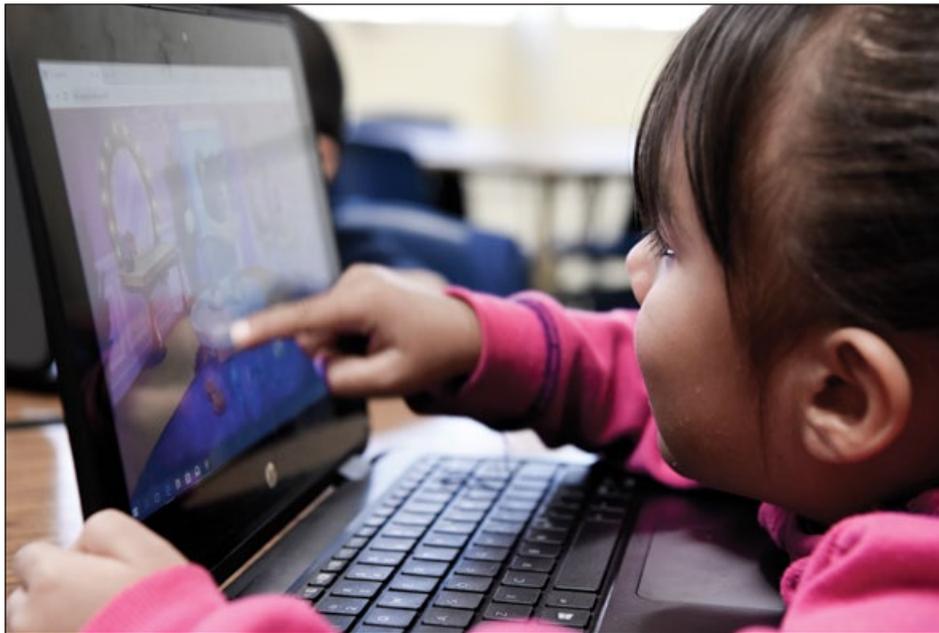
With the closure of schools in March to help stop the spread of COVID-19, Fresno Unified quickly moved to provide a tablet or laptop to every student who needed them.

When school resumed in August, still online, the district had successfully deployed a device to all students that needed one, accomplishing in five months the 1:1 project it had previously planned to roll out over three to five years prior to the pandemic, said Kurt Madden, chief technology officer.

More than 70,000 devices have been distributed since the school closures last March.

The latest large order of laptops will replace many of the tablets that the district's younger learners are using to provide a better online learning experience. The goal is to transition more students in first through third grades to laptops, Madden said.

Students in those grades are beginning to learn to type and a laptop with a built-in keyboard will help. It is also distributing keyboards to tablet users who want to keep their tablet, but still need a keyboard. Initially, the district provided tablets for learning to third graders and younger, with laptops for older students.



A new order of 12,000 laptops will arrive in November to replace many of the tablets that the district's younger learners are using to provide a better online learning experience. The goal is to transition more students in first through third grades to laptops.

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District Pursues Diversity in Administrators and Certificated Staff



Robinson Elementary School teacher Terron Nolan has fun with his students last March after doing activities to help conquer students' fears. Nolan was featured on *The Ellen Show* for his FEARLIST YouTube videos.

Certificated Employee Diversity County and Statewide Comparison with 2019-20 Student Diversity

Source: California Department of Education	Fresno Unified students 2019-20	Fresno County 2018-19	Statewide 2018-19	Fresno Unified 2018-19	Fresno Unified As of 8/28/20
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.60%	0.71%	0.51%	0.97%	1.02%
Asian	10.10%	6.26%	5.81%	10.28%	10.84%
African American	8.10%	2.45%	3.90%	4.44%	4.45%
Filipino	0.30%	0.44%	1.53%	0.67%	0.87%
Hispanic or Latino	68.80%	26.32%	21.11%	28.97%	31.18%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.30%	0.12%	0.30%	0.05%	0.15%
None Reported	0.00%	1.52%	4.64%	0.56%	0.27%
Two or More Races	3.00%	0.39%	0.97%	0.00%	0.00%
White	8.80%	61.70%	61.22%	54.05%	51.22%

Administrator diversity county and state-wide comparison with 2019-20 student diversity

Source: California Department of Education	FUSD Student 2019-20	Fresno County 2018-19	Statewide 2018-19	Fresno Unified 2018-19	Fresno Unified As of 8/28/20
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.60%	0.26%	0.46%	0.28%	0.79%
Asian	10.10%	5.84%	4.33%	7.40%	10.71%
African American	8.10%	4.29%	7.71%	8.00%	9.13%
Filipino	0.30%	0.52%	1.17%	0.57%	0.79%
Hispanic or Latino	68.80%	28.67%	22.78%	30.20%	36.06%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.30%	0.34%	0.31%	0.85%	0.63%
None Reported	0.00%	0.69%	3.60%	0.00%	0.16%
Two or More Races	3.00%	0.26%	0.97%	0.00%	0.00%
White	8.80%	59.14%	58.66%	52.70%	41.73%

Fresno Unified continues to strive for diversity among its administrators and teachers that more closely matches the diversity of students in the district.

Its recruiting and “grow your own” efforts are paying off in many areas, with the district adding three more African American principals this year. Slightly more than 9% of its administrators are African American; 8% of the district’s students are African American. Among certificated employees (teachers), 4.45% are African American.

The district has better representation among both certificated employees and administrators compared to the percentage of African Americans employees in Fresno County and statewide.

Fresno Unified has a variety of programs to attract teachers and leaders to the district. The district’s pipeline programs have 78% diversity. Pipeline programs:

■ **Teacher Academy:** Provides experiences in the teaching field for middle and high school students to address the teacher shortage and the

need to diversify the teaching workforce. During the Teacher Academy summer program, 104 students participated.

■ **Transition to Teaching:** Focuses on moving aspiring paraprofessionals, those from other careers and recent college graduates into teacher certification programs. The program has 55 participants.

■ **Paraprofessional Academy:** A tiered approach to professional development for all paraprofessionals to identify and develop teachers.

■ **Grow2Teach:** Supports 25 classified employees with the completion of undergraduate degrees and a preliminary teaching credential.

■ **Fresno Teacher Residency:** Focuses on grades 4-8 credentials with an emphasis on math and science. Residents and mentors work side by side in a co-teaching model. The program has 88 residents.

CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE Continued from page 4

from among nearly 30 magnet and specialized schools. Programs range from visual and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, science/technology/engineering/mathematics, dual language programs, world languages, early college to career technical education and many more.

Families will select the school icons they are interested in learning more about and view a virtual booth with information specific to that school. Departments have also designed tables to provide timely information to families about programs and opportunities available to students. This will be a great experience for all!



High school students provided demonstrations and information in various career pathway booths at the 2019 Ticket to the Future. This year, career pathway and specialty program booths will be available virtually Nov. 2-6 for students and parents to visit during Choose your Future Week.

District Renames Early Learning Center for Childcare Professional

The district will rename the Early Learning Center at Fresno and A streets for LaVera Ethridge-Williams, a longtime childcare center owner. She is also known for her contributions to education and community service.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education selected the name on a unanimous vote Oct. 21 from a list of names proposed from the community through an online nomination process. The district received 160 suggestions nominating 34 people.

Ethridge-Williams, 93, has lived in Fresno since 1945. She has been a community advocate, mentor, and business owner. In 1968, she became the first African American woman to own and open a childcare center in West Fresno. La Vera's Educational Center was the first in a chain of family owned and operated centers throughout Fresno.

The center at Fresno and A streets now owned by Fresno Unified was originally one of Ethridge-Williams' centers.



The Early Learning Center at A and Fresno streets will be renamed for LaVera Ethridge-Williams, who founded preschools in Fresno and has been involved in the community.

Students from Five Campuses Shop for School Clothes



Toua Chang, principal at Balderas Elementary School, helps a student pick out items during the Back to School Shopping Spree at Kohl's near Riverpark on Oct. 3. The event, put on by the Fresno Kiwanis Club, was for students from Ayer, Balderas, Leavenworth, Kirk and King elementary schools.

GRAB-AND-GO SCHOOL MEAL LOCATIONS

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ELEMENTARY		MIDDLE
Addams Anthony Bakman Balderas Birney Burroughs Calwa Centennial Columbia Dailey Charter Del Mar Eaton Ewing Figarden Fremont Heaton Hidalgo Homan Jackson Jefferson King Kirk Kratt Lane	Lawless Leavenworth Lincoln Lowell Manchester Mayfair McCardle Muir Norseman Olmos Pyle Roeding Rowell Slater Starr Storey Thomas Turner Viking Vinland Williams Winchell Wishon	Cooper Academy Fort Miller Hamilton Kings Canyon Scandinavian Sequoia Tehipite Terronez Tioga Wawona Yosemite
		HIGH
		Bullard Duncan Edison Hoover Sunnyside



STRATEGIC PLAN Continued from page 1

high expectations and a growth mindset.

We Value People and Our Community

- We create a welcoming place where diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the forefront of all our decisions to create a place where people are treated with respect and compassion.
- We strive to ensure that all feel loved, valued, informed, and heard.

We Value Positive Behavior

- We promote all individuals to grow intellectually, emotionally, morally, socially, and culturally.
- We demonstrate a passion for life rooted in respecting and understanding one another.
- We prepare our students to play active roles in building positive communities.

We Value Accountability

- We have a responsibility to action

and own the consequences of our actions.

- We measure and reflect on outcomes to improve the quality of our work.
- We use evidence-based methods and make data-informed decisions.
- We own the intent and the impact of our actions at all levels of Fresno Unified.

GOALS

Student

- Improve academic performance at challenging levels
- Expand student-centered and real-world learning experiences
- Increase student engagement in their school and community

Staff

- Increase recruitment and retention of staff reflecting the diversity of our community

Families

- Increase inclusive opportunities for families to engage in their students' education



PUMPKIN SEASON

Muir Elementary School kindergarten students were not able to go on their annual pumpkin patch field trip, but students were able to come to school, using safety protocols, and pick out pumpkins on Oct. 19 donated by the Wild Pumpkin Patch. Right, Xitlaly Para Sandoval shows off her pumpkin selection. Below left, Ismel Leon is busy selecting his pumpkin with help from kindergarten teacher Lauren Zenimura, who organized the pumpkin patch. At Lawless Elementary School, Jordan Ramirez, bottom right, scoops out a pumpkin as he prepares to carve it during a break from learning on Oct. 22. Small groups of students who are the most in need of being on campuses for their online learning have been able to return to their schools.



Portion of Lane Avenue will be Renamed for Principal Tim Liles

A portion of Lane Avenue in front of Sunnyside High School will be renamed Tim Liles Way in honor of the campus' principal.

Liles died Sept. 22 after being diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor. He had been the much-loved principal at Sunnyside since 2012 and with Fresno Unified since 1992.

The Fresno City Council, led by District 5 Council Member Luis Chavez, approved the renaming on Oct. 22. A renaming ceremony is being planned.

In thanking and commending the city council, Superintendent Bob Nelson said, "His loss has deeply affected so many of us and this great honor is another way to ensure that his legacy of love and positivity for our students, district and community is honored and remembered."

A scholarship has been established to honor Liles. Checks may be made payable to the Tim Liles Scholarship Fund and mailed to Michele Anderson at Sunnyside High School, 1019 S. Peach Ave., Fresno, CA 93727.



The late Tim Liles, left, is honored in 2019 by Fresno City Council Member Luis Chavez, right, as the District 5 Man of the Year. The Fresno City Council will rename a portion of Lane Avenue in front of Sunnyside High School for Liles, who was principal there since 2012.



LINKED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

McLane High School Graduates use Skills from Career Pathways

Throughout the district, high school career pathway programs are preparing students for success in the workplace, whether it's via higher education or an immediate transition to a job. Two recent graduates of McLane High School exemplify the success of career pathway courses.

Johan Gomez, graduate of McLane's ArtVenture Academy, is working for the district's Visual and Performing Arts Department as a website developer and manager for the virtual student art gallery that the department is launching for the R.E.A.L. Art Collaborative.

Johan uses the creative skills he learned working on the McLane yearbook and live broadcasting of football and basketball games with the Community Media Access Collaborative.

"In the long term, I will continue to seek similar positions and ones that are more hands-on involving photography and video editing while also expanding other skills to open new avenues related to the media industry," Johan said.

Johan is studying mass communications/advertising at Fresno State.

Jennifer Leyva, a graduate of McLane's Medical Education and Research Academy, has taken the skills she learned in the pathway and put them to good use as a patient screener representative at Eye-Q Fresno.

Her job includes greeting patients;



McLane High School graduates Johan Gomez, left, and Jennifer Leyva landed jobs after graduation because of the skills they learned in career pathway programs. They are also attending college.

screening patients by checking their temperature and ensuring they are in good health before entering the building; checking in patients through a kiosk system; escorting patients to their appropriate location in the building; and supporting other departments as needed.

"The Medical Education and Research Academy of McLane High trains students to be more professional and job interview-ready. During my interview, those skills were very handy," Jennifer said.

While in the medical pathway at McLane, Jennifer worked at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and participated in leadership

student organizations such as the Health Occupational Students of America and community service.

She also earned a variety of certifications, including OSHA-10, first aid and CPR Basic Life Support, and Medical Assisting in Administrative Office Management.

Jennifer said that her experience working in a healthcare facility and her medical assisting certification impressed Eye-Q.

"They said that seeing 'medical assistant certificate' on my resume gave them the last push to give me an interview," Jennifer said.

Her long-term goal is to become a registered nurse or work in health administration.

"This job is letting me work with both positions, so it is giving me further insight on both. Soon, after seeing both ends, I should make a decision and I won't stop for anything until I reach my goals," Jennifer said.

Jennifer is a pre-health major at Fresno City College.

Monorith Arun, coordinator for College and Career Readiness at McLane, is extremely proud of Johan and Jennifer.

"It excites me seeing them pursuing the career in their pathway they chose and I have no doubt that they will continue to grow and be successful and achieve their ultimate goal in the near future," Arun said.

McLane offers four distinctive career technical education programs:

- Academy of Finance and Entrepreneurship – Entrepreneurship and small business management and banking and finance
- ArtVenture Academy – Production and managerial arts
- Medical Education and Research Academy – Patient care and medical assisting
- Teacher Academy – Education and teaching

Fresno Unified Adds Ethnic Studies as a Graduation Requirement

Ethnic studies has been added as a requirement for graduation in support of the district's commitment to the highest level of educational opportunities for students. The requirement begins for students entering high school in 2021-22.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution at its meeting on Aug. 12 in support of the new 10-credit, two-semester ethnic studies requirement. Currently, the district offers some sort of ethnic studies at nine of its schools.

The resolution noted that a growing body of academic research indicates the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum and that ethnic studies material will be inclusive of all students and the "achievements, experiences and perspectives of the individuals and people of color in history that have often been hidden behind the Eurocentric curricula in K-12 education."

The resolution also noted that "not learning about the comprehensive history and contributions of people of color in

America contributes to lower test scores and achievement gaps for African American, Latinx/Chicanx and Native American students." The National Education Association published the Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies in 2010, concluding that ethnic studies have a positive impact on students of color.

An Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee will oversee the implementation of ethnic studies in Fresno Unified.

Fresno Unified serves a diverse student population with more than 59 languages spoken by students and their families.

The student body is 8.7 percent African American, 11.4 percent Asian, 67.7 percent Hispanic, 0.6 percent Native American, 0.3 percent Pacific Islander, 9.7 percent white and 1.8 percent multiple ethnicities.

In September, California became the first state to require that all high school students pass a one-semester ethnic studies course to graduate, although under the state law, districts would not have to begin offering the classes until the 2025-26 school year.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

IT Engineer Drives Computer Safety Efforts for Fresno Unified

Jonathon Lee, a systems engineer for Fresno Unified, got his start in information technology while still a student at Duncan Polytechnical High School. He has been with the district for 20 years, now working at the forefront of blocking the 10 to 15 cyberattacks bombarding the district's systems every second. Lee was an Excellence in Education finalist in February. Chief technology officer Kurt Madden said about Lee: "Whenever we have a technology-related crisis, Jon is always the first one to respond. Whether it's 3 p.m. or 3 a.m., Jon doesn't hesitate to



jump in and tackle it with intelligence and energy. Jon is one of those unsung heroes in the district who ensures that our technology works 24/7."

How did you come to work at the district? Applied for a job opening as a microcomputer specialist at Duncan Polytechnical upon graduation from Duncan. Previously I was involved in the day to day operation of technology at the school via the Computer Engineering and Internetworking ROP programs under Doug Urabe. That exposure gave me the skills and experience needed to step into a full time job upon graduation.

What is the hardest part about your job? Constantly on for work at all hours. Attacks, upgrades, and equipment failures do not care if it is daylight or you already pulled an all-night shift.

What do you enjoy the most? I love

the fast pace and the ever-changing job; every day is different, and every day presents new challenges to solve.

How has your job been affected by the pivot to virtual learning? For our team the pivot to virtual learning required significant changes. Pre-closure, security and management of systems were focused inside the district. We rearchitected everything to protect and maintain the 82,000 Fresno Unified computers deployed onsite or out into the community instead of primarily behind our secure infrastructure on the FUSD network.

You are at the forefront of stopping cyberattacks on the district. What is that like? Every day starts with security news and email briefs from various agencies alerting us to new threats discovered overnight. Priorities can

shift in an instant and decisions must be made very quickly. Sometimes that will mean we reverse course on a restriction that appeared incredibly important only to have further information show we could adopt a less severe mitigation. Other times we might have to secure something even further to ensure the safety of our staff and students, and you can be assured that we do not take that responsibility lightly. To summarize, it is exciting and sometimes ulcer inducing.

Name one thing most people don't know about you. I'm pretty social (COVID isolation is wrecking me), so if someone knows me, then they probably know an unfortunate amount of information about all my many hobbies and the

See **JONATHON LEE**
Continued on page 13

Sequoia Teacher Draws on her Struggles as a Student to Help Others

Nancy Witherow, a district Excellence in Education finalist in February, serves Sequoia Middle School as a teacher on special assignment (TSA), focused on professional learning, support for English learners and assessment. She has worked for the district since 1991, been at Sequoia since 2007 and a TSA for three years. Vice principal Allison Burns said this about Witherow: "Her work with assessment and instruction has been instrumental in our site's continued growth. Nancy has deep knowledge of instruction and a keen sense of logistics and details."



through school. I did, of course, eventually learn to read and began to excel academically. What every teacher, along with my family, helped me realize is that I am capable and have the ability to learn anything even if it occurs before or after it is "supposed to." I became a teacher to help students and families realize this potential. No day is ever the same, there are challenges great and small, but to be part of and witness learning is extraordinary.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I enjoy being a part of the amazing team at Sequoia. We have an incredible group of teachers, staff, administrators, and families. Everyone works together to support each other to continuously improve practices that promote student success. This collaborative spirit has only increased during distance learning. The sharing of innovative discoveries to increase digital literacy and student engagement through email, chats, video calls and teacher hosted professional learning has been inspiring!

What is the biggest challenge in your job? Currently, my biggest challenge is not seeing students and staff in person.

What is the biggest challenge for teachers and students in distance learning? One of the biggest challenges for teachers and students during this time is adjusting to a different type of stamina that distance learning requires. Teaching through and learning from a screen can be demanding both physically, through extended sitting, and mentally/emotionally from having to adjust to new technology and lesson delivery. Discovering and adapting to new ways of collaborating and getting support from teachers and peers can also challenge stamina. Our teachers and students have made incredible strides during the first quarter exemplifying one of our Guidelines for Success: "Challenge yourself to work harder for success!"

What do you miss the most about not having students physically on campus? I miss the pace and the sights and sounds of a typical day at Sequoia -- the morning greetings and quick chats before the first bell, seeing and hearing students engaged in learning with peers and teachers, and the hustle of students getting to their next class, club or sports practice. I cannot wait to welcome all our Lumberjacks back to campus!

What advice do you have for parents during this time of virtual learning? My advice to parents during distance learning is to talk to your child everyday about their classes. Ask them what they are learning and encourage a growth mindset by reminding them that it is not about being good or bad at something but working toward getting better at it. I would also encourage parents to stay connected by participating in online district and school meetings and learning opportunities.

Name one thing most people don't know about you. Most people don't know that I am a second generation American and the first female in my family to attend college.

What do you like to do when you are not working? When I am not working, I enjoy traveling, live music, and reading.

If you were not a teacher, what career would you choose? If I were not a teacher, I would be a naturopathic doctor.

What is your favorite meal? My favorite meal is cheese ravioli with sage and butter sauce.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Yosemite Student Plans to Master English, then Medical School

At 12 years old, Angela Rodriguez Parra has experienced many more challenges than lots of adults will face in their lifetime.

Three months ago, her life changed completely when she arrived in Fresno, leaving behind her parents and siblings in Mexico, and enrolled as a seventh grader at Yosemite Middle School to tackle a new language and school system.

Angela knows that a new stage in her life has begun.

“I feel good about it. Sometimes it gets complicated, especially when I am doing work in English and some classes are harder than others. I have to translate a lot, but I do it,” Angela said, with an expression that portrays her bubbly personality.

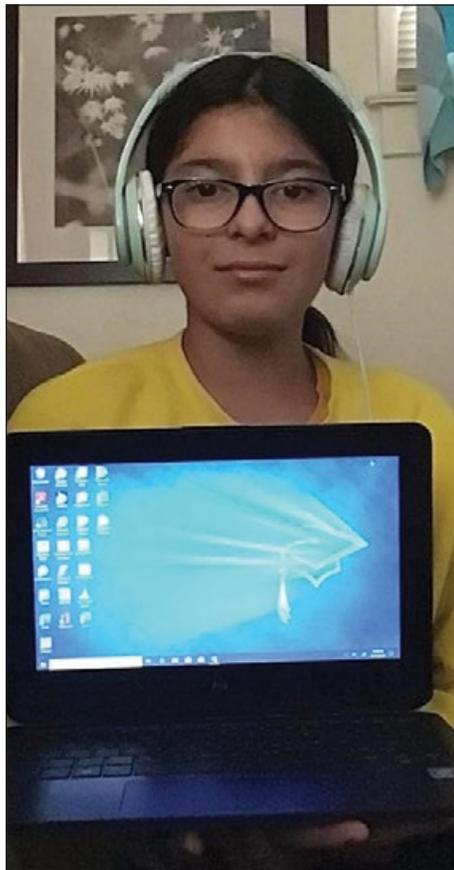
Currently classified as an English learner newcomer, Angela is receiving supports to improve her fluency in English. She is among 12,894 students in Fresno Unified classified as English learners, served by the district’s English Learner Services department.

Most of her teachers are bilingual to better help her transition to a new language. She is also doing her part. Angela is determined to thoroughly learn a second language so she can achieve her dream of going to college and becoming a doctor.

“I would like to save lives because what you see every day in the news is just people losing their lives. I would love to become a doctor because I know that now more than ever with the pandemic, doctors are in need. It’s also good that I am going to be bilingual,” Angela said.

Angela knows that her new journey is not going to be easy. She misses her family every day and will need to be strong to accomplish her goals. She is not alone; she has the support of other family members in Fresno who encourage her to continue practicing English.

“I surprise myself. Sometimes I feel like I am not going to make it, but my family here tells me that when I feel like that,



Angela Rodriguez Parra, a recent arrival from Mexico, plans to be a doctor. She is a seventh grader at Yosemite Middle School.

I just need to study a little bit more,” Angela said.

This experience has changed Angela’s perspective on life. She has a bit of advice to other students, English learners or not, about the most difficult struggles, the little ones that students may face every day.

“They don’t need to feel bad. They are going to accomplish what they set their minds to. They just need to be patient. I struggle, but that’s when I practice more; you need to stay positive and be patient,” Angela said.

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Esports League for High School Students Keeps School Spirit Going

Regular sports may still be sidelined, but Fresno Unified's esports league is underway, providing virtual competition to hundreds of students and fostering school spirit at 13 district high schools.

The Fresno Unified eSports League – FUEl – began the League of Legends regular season in September and will conclude with a district-wide tournament beginning on Nov. 15.



Students, part of five-person teams, compete from their individual homes on Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. Players and coaches can check on their team's status from the Battlefy online platform after each match.

“With so many activities on pause, it's exciting to have our esports athletes competing and representing their schools. This is just one of the many virtual activities that our teachers and staff

are encouraging to keep our students engaged,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

The district is also working on expanding esports to elementary students. Fresno Unified's Information Technology Department is working alongside Microsoft and the creator of the MinecraftEE esports worlds to pilot an elementary student MinecraftEE esports program in early 2021.

This will be the first league of its kind to launch for elementary students in the United States.

Esports is a booming industry with numerous job opportunities beyond being a player, including game design, coding, testing, sales and marketing, production, streaming and management. More than 200 colleges and universities are actively recruiting and providing scholarships for eSports players.

Root Beer Floats for Students with Perfect Attendance



First grader Catherine Harris enjoys a root beer float on Oct. 22. The floats were passed out drive-through style at Wolters Elementary School to students with perfect attendance for online learning.

Small Groups of Students Return to School for Online Learning



Students at Wishon Elementary School (above) complete their online learning at school as part of the district's safe, phased reopening of campuses. A student from Greenberg Elementary School (above top) enjoys a comfortable spot to read in the library. On Oct. 12, the district brought back small cohorts of students the most in need of returning to campus for their online learning, including students in homeless situations, foster care and special education, and English learners. A return to in-person learning at elementary schools is not likely until January as the district continues to follow state and county health guidelines and work with its employee labor partners.

JONATHON LEE

Continued from page 11

things I find entertaining. For those who do not know me, I love learning and I love trying new things. One of the reasons FUSD is such a natural fit for me is that the focus of everything we do revolves around empowering people to learn.

What do you like to do when you are not working? On those rare occasions, I spend time with my wife and two kids as well as our menagerie of pets, which currently stands at

four dogs, one cat, 13 chickens, and six ducks. My wife and I are also avid gamers and we play on pretty much every platform (so don't think you can sneak something past the filter that "adults" don't know about).

If you were not a systems engineer, what career would you want to pursue? I really can't picture another career track that utilizes my skills the same way or fits my personality so well.

What is your dream vacation? Idling away time up in the mountains is one of my favorite ways to relax.



DISTRICT ROUNDUP



Reading Time at Easterby

Easterby Elementary School librarian Nicole Dalpez reads to students who have returned to campus for online learning. During the students' break, reading brings some sense of normalcy to the school day.

Roosevelt Receives \$20,000 Donation

Roosevelt High School has received a \$20,000 donation from Premier Valley Bank through its partnership with AdoptAClassroom.org. The funds are for the school to purchase much-needed

tools and materials for successful learning, whether online or in person.



Author Reads to McCardle Students

The fifth/six special education class at McCardle Elementary School, taught by Shamara Garcia, enjoyed a special guest reader on Oct. 8. Teacher and author Deshunna Ricks, during distance learning, read the class her recently published book, "I am Valuable." Garcia had reached out to Ricks and invited her to read and to reinforce her message to her students that they are capable and amazing.

Mentoring Program Holds Parent Night

Counselor Tyesha Hendrix from Edison High School organized a virtual parent night on Oct. 1 for the Rise Up Mentoring Program. The Rise Up Mentoring Program, previously Love of Learning Mentoring, supports the engagement and retention of Black students enrolled in accelerated courses. Student guest speakers shared their experiences on what it is like to be a part of the program.

Enrollment ongoing for Dual Immersion

Registration is still open for Fresno Unified's high-quality early learning programs, including [dual immersion language programs](#) at select schools. Through dual immersion, students learn to speak, read and write in two languages.

Programs are available in Spanish and Hmong. While the classroom may look different because of distance learning, the district offers preschool for 3-year-olds, pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.

Research shows that children who start school early build a strong foundation for future success. For more information, families should contact their school, go to fresnounified.org or call (559) 457-3416.



FAQS ON REOPENING SCHOOLS Continued from page 5

work with our labor partners to ensure we have equity across the district and our three key areas of consideration are part of returning to school plans. We cannot speak to the reopening processes and plans of private schools and charters.

Special Education has been given the OK by the governor to open, no matter what "color." Why haven't Special Education students been allowed to return to school? Following all required safety practices, Fresno Unified has been conducting one-on-one in-person assessments for both special education and English learner students. Current health guidance only allows for a small cohort of 10 students, those with the greatest needs, to receive in-person services. Starting on Monday, Oct. 12, we began phasing in very small cohorts of up to 10 students per elementary campus and up to two cohorts of 10 students per secondary campus. These small cohorts will include students with disabilities, foster and homeless youth, and our English learner newcomers.

What will it look like for center-based

schools with medically fragile students to reopen? The district is working with our labor partners to develop plans that will provide a safe return to school for our district's most medically fragile. We plan to work closely with families and medical providers on a safe return for students with medical conditions. All conditions in health plans and IEPs will apply, as well as the county requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (physical distancing, etc.).

Will students be required to wear masks when they return to campus? Yes. Based on state and local health guidance, masks are required both inside and outside for students, staff and essential visitors over 2 years old. Fresno Unified is supplying five masks to each student and district staff member.

What additional (PPE) is being provided to employees? All staff have or will receive five Fresno Unified cloth masks. Additional PPE is provided to health services staff, special education, early learning and athletic trainers, including surgical masks, gowns, gloves, face shields and plexiglass. Classroom and office kits have been created to include hand sanitizer, wipes, first aid kit and gloves.

With physical distancing requirements of six feet, how many students can be in class? Class sizes will be reduced when we are able to safely return some student to campus for in-person instruction. Based on the size of the classroom, we anticipate approximately nine-12 students in a classroom.

State recommends testing staff for in-person instruction every two weeks. Is there a plan in place for testing staff on a regular basis? While state guidance may change, at current we anticipate 10% of district staff will be tested for COVID-19 on a rotational basis. We are finalizing what that process would look like.

If a student has been around someone with COVID-19, would they be required to test before coming to school, even with no symptoms? No. If they are determined a close contact, requirements dictate they quarantine for 14 days regardless of a test result. This is due to the fact that an exposed person can develop COVID-19 anytime during that 14-day incubation period. Should families want to have their child tested, they should contact their healthcare provider or contact one of the county's many testing sites.

What type of health screening will be in place for students and staff? Since last spring, Fresno Unified staff have been conducting a self-health screening at home prior to leaving for work. That same screening tool will be in place for students. If an employee, student or essential visitor answer yes to any of the self-health screening questions, they should stay home. We are discussing adding additional safety practices with our labor partners. You can find more detailed information on health and safety protocols in our newest version of the Strategic Plan for Reopening Schools.

Will families be given a choice of sending their student to campus or staying with distance learning? Yes. Based on required safety practices (wearing a mask, physical distancing of six feet, etc.) parents will have the choice of in-person instruction with their teacher on campus or remaining in the eLearn at My School model. This option will continue to be available at least through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.



SUPT. MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

learners. Our focus for the remainder of the semester is to continue targeting our highest-need students to invite them back to campus for on-campus opportunities to continue their distance learning.

As always, if your student is offered membership in one of these small cohorts you will receive a call from your school site directly – there is no need to call your school or the district directly at this time. Returning to campus also still fully remains the decision of the parent when offered this opportunity. We will continue to have distance learning available as an option for all students for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Please understand, we desperately want to bring our students and teams back to campuses but we continue to be laser-focused on the safety, stability and high-quality instruction for our Fresno Unified family in all the decisions we make in returning to campuses. We believe as district leadership that the time to start phasing in our in-person instruction is when our county officially makes it to the Orange tier, and we continue to negotiate that possibility with our labor partners.

Seeing that our health metrics continue to teeter between the Purple and Red tiers as a county, and being that the stability of our students and staff is a key tenet to our reopening plans, we do not see a pathway forward to bring students back to campus for on-campus instruction at any time this semester.

These are tough conversations, there's no doubt about it. I can assure you that we are continuing to push forward and that our focus is on getting our students and teams back to campuses safely. Please continue doing your part to keep our county moving in the right direction in eliminating COVID-19. Your safety practices every day make a huge difference in how we safely return to schools. Thank you to our entire Fresno Unified family for sticking with us through these hardest of times in the district. Your unity and support mean the world to us and we will continue to work on behalf of each and every one of you.

Actualización Sobre la Reapertura de las Escuelas

¡Feliz noviembre, familias del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno! Este mes es el momento para reflexionar acerca de lo que estamos más agradecidos en nuestras vidas. Sé que este año todos estamos luchando contra la fatiga de la cuarentena y realmente pudiera ser muy difícil sentirnos agradecidos, sin embargo, los motivos a tomar un momento para pensar acerca de las cosas positivas que esta temporada de vida les ha traído a ustedes y a sus seres queridos. Para mí, aunque continué luchando con la realidad de no tener a nuestros estudiantes de regreso a la escuela, me siento agradecido de ver a nuestros grupos pequeños de estudiantes de regreso al plantel escolar de forma segura a un lugar seguro y confiable para completar su aprendizaje a distancia. Ver esas caras, incluso con cubre bocas y físicamente distanciados, me ha dado muchas esperanzas y a nuestro sistema en general de que regresáremos a las escuelas en forma segura en el futuro.

Desearía tener mejores noticias para traerles este mes, pero como condado todavía estamos luchando por controlar la propagación del coronavirus (COVID-19). A medida que pasamos las métricas de rojo a morado, afecta enormemente a nuestro condado en general y el desempeño de todos los planes en la reapertura de las escuelas. Como me han escuchado decir una y otra vez, nuestros planes de reapertura se guían por medio de garantizar la seguridad, estabilidad e instrucción de alta calidad en general para nuestras familias del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Ustedes pueden ver lo que esto significa en nuestras prácticas de seguridad y más verificando nuestro Plan Estratégico actualizado para la Reapertura de las Escuelas en, nuestro sitio web: here.

Permítame compartir algunas actualizaciones de donde nos encontramos hasta el momento en nuestro enfoque metódico y fase actual para el regreso a nuestros planteles escolares y a la instrucción en los mismos. En primer lugar, independientemente del nivel del color que estemos en el condado, nuestros equipos están comprometidos a seguir ampliando la presencia de grupos pequeños en nuestros planteles, facilitando el aprendizaje a distancia. Como un recordatorio, hasta el momento estos pequeños grupos se conforman de estudiantes con mayor necesidad, incluyendo aquellos quienes están en un hogar de crianza temporal (Foster), jóvenes sin un hogar, estudiantes con discapacidades y estudiantes aprendices del lenguaje inglés. Nuestro objetivo por el resto del semestre es continuar enfocados en nuestros estudiantes con mayor necesidad e invitarlos a regresar al plantel escolar para las oportunidades en el plantel y que continúen su aprendizaje a distancia.

Como siempre, si a su estudiante se le ofrece la oportunidad de incorporarse a uno de estos grupos pequeños ustedes recibirán una llamada telefónica de la escuela – no es necesario que llamen a la escuela ni al distrito en ese momento. El regreso al plantel escolar todavía sigue siendo la decisión de los padres cuando se les ofrece esta oportunidad. Continuaremos con el aprendizaje a distancia disponible como una opción para todos los estudiantes por el resto del ciclo escolar 2020-21.

Por favor comprendan, que estamos desesperados por regresar a nuestros estudiantes y al personal al plantel escolar, pero continuaremos enfocados en el láser sobre seguridad, estabilidad e instrucción de alta calidad para nuestras familias del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno en todas las decisiones que tomemos para regresar a los planteles escolares. Como líder del distrito creemos que el momento para iniciar en forma gradual la instrucción en persona tendrá lugar cuando nuestro condado oficialmente llegue al nivel Naranja y continuaremos contemplando esa posibilidad con nuestros socios laborales.

Tomando en cuenta que, como condado nuestras métricas de salud continúan balanceándose entre los niveles Morado y Rojo y dado que la estabilidad de nuestros estudiantes y el personal son el principio clave para nuestros planes de reapertura, no vemos un camino de avance para que nuestros estudiantes regresen a la instrucción en el plantel escolar en ningún momento este semestre.

Estas son conversaciones difíciles, no hay duda

al respecto. Les puedo asegurar que continuaremos avanzando y que nuestro enfoque será que nuestros estudiantes y el personal regresen al plantel escolar en forma segura. Por favor, continúen haciendo su parte para mantener a nuestro condado avanzando en la dirección correcta en la eliminación del coronavirus (COVID-19). Sus prácticas de seguridad marcan una gran diferencia cada día sobre como regresaremos a las escuelas en forma segura. Gracias a todas las familias de nuestro Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno por estar con nosotros en estos momentos tan difíciles en el distrito. Su solidaridad y apoyo significa mucho para nosotros y continuaremos trabajando en nombre de todos y cada uno de ustedes.

Ib Qho Kev Qhia Tshiab Txog Rov Qhib Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv

Nyob Zoo Zoo Siab Lub Kaum Ib Hlis, Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tsev yim neeg! Lub hlis no yog lub sij hawm peb los xyuas txog yam peb tau ua tsaug tshaj plaws rau peb lub neej. Kuv paub lub xyoo no peb txhua tus ua rog nrog kaw nyob kab mob thiab nws muaj peev xwm ua rau muaj kev nyuaj heev rau kev ua tau zoo, tiam sis kuv txhawg zog koj los siv sij hawm los xav txog yam zoo rau lub caij nov ntawm lub neej ua rau koj thiab koj tsev neeg tus koj hlub. Rau kuv, txawm tias kuv tseem pheej sib zog peem nrog qhov tseeb ntawm tsis muaj peb cov tub kawm ntawv rov mus kawm ntawv, kuv muaj kev zoo siab tau pom tej pab pawg me me ntawm cov tub kawm ntawv tau rov mus tom tsev kawm ntawv nyab xeeb hlo rau ib qho kev nyab xeeb thiab chaw muaj kev cia siab tau los ua tiav lawv qhov kev kawm sib nrog. Tau pom cov ntsej muag ntawm, txawm tias koj lub npog qhov ncauj qhov ntswg thiab thaum lub cev sib nrog deb, tau koj kev cia siab ntau heev rau kuv thiab rau peb kev khiav dej num thoo plaws uas peb tau rov mus tom tsev kawm ntawv nyab xeeb hlo rau yav pem suab.

Kheev lam kuv muaj xov zoo koj los qhia rau nej lub hlis nov, tiam sis raws li lub "county" peb tseem peem los tswj qhov kev sib kis tus kab mob COVID-19. Raws li peb mus los los ntawm liab rau paj yeeb, nws muaj kev cuam tshuam loj heev rau peb lub nroog tag nrho thiab ua teeb meem rau tag nrho cov kev npaj qhib tsev kawm ntawv. Raws li nej twb tau hnov kuv ua ntu zus, peb cov kev npaj rov qhib tsev kawm ntawv raug tswj los ntawm kev ntseeg tau tias muaj kev nyab xeeb, ruaj khov, thiab kev qhia ntaub ntawv zoo rau peb Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tsev yim neeg thoo plaws. Nej pom tau tias qhov no txhais tau li cas hauv peb kev xyuum kev nyab xeeb thiab ntau tshaj los ntawm xyuas peb kev qhia tshiab txog Lub Tswv Yim Npaj rau Kev Rov Qhib Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv nyob rau peb lub "website" hnov.

Cia kuv muab me ntsis kev qhia tshiab ntawm tam sim no peb nyob rau qhov twg lawm hauv peb lub niam tswv yim, theem los ze rau kev rov qhib peb cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab kev qhia ntaub ntawv hauv tsev kawm ntawv. Ua ntej tshaj plaws, txawm yuav yog peb nyob rau xim twg los xij hauv raws li ib lub nroog (county), peb cov pawg neeg tau cog lus nthuav txuas ntxiv ntawm tej pab pawg me me rov tuaj rau peb cov tsev kawm ntawv rau kev kawm sib nrog deb. Raws li ib qho kev kom nco qab ntsoov, cov tej pab pawg me me tam sim nov muaj peb cov tub kawm ntawv uas muaj kev

xav tau tshaj plaws, xam nrog rau cov uas yog peb me nyuam hluas nyob tsev tus me nyuam thiab cov nyob tsis muaj vaj tsis muaj tsev, cov tub kawm ntawv uas muaj lub cev puas, thiab cov kawm lus Askiv. Peb kev ua ntsees rau kev nco qab ntsoov ntawm lub ncau kawm (semester) yog los ua tsi ntsees rau peb cov tub kawm ntawv muaj kev xav tau tshaj plaws raug caw lawv rov qab mus kawm tom tsev kawm ntawv rau tau kawm hauv tsev kawm ntawv txuas ntxiv lawv qhov kev kawm sib nrog.

Raws li ib txwm, yog tias koj tus tub kawm ntawv tau raug pub muaj kev koom rau hauv ib pab pawg ntawm cov pab pawg me me no koj yuav tau txais ib tsab xov tooj hu los ntawm koj lub tsev kawm ntawv ncaj nraim – tsis tas yuav hu rau koj lub tsev kawm ntawv los yog hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv ncaj nraim nyob rau lub sij hawm nov. Kev rov mus tom tsev kawm ntawv kuj tseem yog kev txiav txim siab puv npo los ntawm niam txiv thaum pub lub sij hawm nov rau. Peb tseem yuav muaj kev kawm sib nrog txuas ntxiv muaj tam li ib qho kev xav rau txhua tus tub kawm ntawv rau lub xyoo kawm ntawv tseem tshuav ntawm xyoo 2020-21.

Thov kom to taub, peb xav ua kom tau coj peb cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov pab pawg neeg rov tuaj tom tsev kawm ntawv tiam sis peb tseem yuav tsoom ntsees rau kev nyab xeeb ntxuas ntxiv, ruaj khov thiab kev qhia ntaub ntawv zoo rau peb Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tsev yim neeg rau tag nrho cov kev txiav txim siab peb ua rov mus kawm tom tsev kawm ntawv. Peb ntseeg tam li hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv kev ntaus thawj uas lub sij hawm los pib theem pib peb qhov kev qhia ntaub ntawv tim ntsej tim muag yog thaum twg peb lub nroog (county) cov thawj coj ua nws nyob rau theem xim Txiv Kab Ntxwv (Orange), thiab peb tseem sib hais txuas ntxiv qhov kev ua tau nrog peb cov koom haum koom tes.

Pom tau tias peb qhov kev noj qab hauv hlv mus los ntawm theem xim Paj Yeeb thiab xim Liab tam li lub nroog (county), thiab kev ua kom ruaj khov ntawm peb cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov neeg khiav dej num yog ib qho kev tseem ceeb rau peb cov kev npaj rov qhib tsev kawm ntawv, peb tsis pom ib txoj kev tom nej rau coj cov tub kawm ntawv rov tuaj tom tsev kawm ntawv kev qhia ntaub ntawv rau lub sij hawm twg los tau rau lub ncau sij hawm nov.

Cov kev sib tham nov nyuaj kawg nkaus li, nws tsis muaj kev ntseeg tsis tau nws. Kuv muaj peev xwm ua kom koj paub tseeb tias peb yuav yuam qees rau tom ntej thiab tias peb qhov kev ua ntsees yog ua kom peb cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov pab pawg neeg tau rov tuaj tom tsev kawm ntawv nyab xeeb lug. Thov ua koj feem txuas ntxiv los ceev peb lub nroog (county) txav zuj zus mus rau txoj kev yog rau kev tshem tawm kab mob COVID-19. Koj kev xyuum nyab xeeb txhua hnub ua tau ib qho kev txawv txav loj rau peb rov mus tom cov tsev kawm ntawv nyab xeeb lug. Ua tsaug rau peb tsev neeg Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm thoo plaws rau koom nrog peb txog lub sij hawm nyuaj kawg nkaus nov hauv peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv. Koj txoj kev sib koom siab thiab txhawb nqa ntxhais tau tias lub ntiaj teb rau peb thiab peb yuav ua hauj lwv txuas ntxiv sawv cev ntawm tej twb tus thiab nej txhua tus.



Clean and Safe is Top Priority



Antonio Ramirez, a bus driver for Fresno Unified, sanitizes his bus on Oct. 12. The district is following strict safety and health protocols to clean buses and schools with the return of small groups of students to campus for online learning.

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