

BUILDING futures

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

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

District Celebrates Return of Students to Campuses, Plans Additional Learning Time for 2021-22 School Year with Five-Day Schedule

Fresno Unified welcomed back more than 43,700 students to campuses for in-person instruction during April and is making plans for a full return for the upcoming school year.

Schools will resume for full day, in-person instruction on all five school days in August. The exact start date for the 2021-22 academic year is being discussed. The district is expected to provide details in May.

Students who want to remain in online learning for the next school year will have the option of enrolling in the district's eLearn Academy.

The district will provide parents with updates on the upcoming school year as they become available. Please check the Reopening of Schools page on www.fresnounified.org for the most recent information.

"We are beyond thrilled to have students back on campus for in-person learning,



From left, Wawona School seventh grader Jalissa Bracket, friend Laniya Phelps and Jalissa's mom, Latoya Miles, celebrate the return to in-person learning on April 6.

making better connections with their teachers and classmates. We are working hard to plan for a fulltime return to campus in August," said Superintendent

Bob Nelson.

In addition, a more robust summer school program is scheduled, focused on



Tioga Middle School welcomed students back to in-person learning on April 13 with posters.

offering classes for students who need to repeat core courses or who need graduation credits or A-G college required classes. (See page 9 for more details.)

With the return of all students to campus at the same time next school year, additional safety protocols will be in place, including mask wearing.

See **SCHOOLS REOPEN** Continued on page 2

Graduation Ceremonies will be held at Stadiums, Fairground Theater

Graduation is on!

Outdoor graduations are planned for all high schools, giving students the opportunity to walk across the stage for their diploma with their classmates, in front of family members.

To kick off this year's graduation season, the district has planned an

outdoor event at the Paul Paul Theater at the Fresno Fairgrounds on May 24 for any graduating member of the Class of 2020. Regular graduation ceremonies were not held last year.

Members of the Class of 2020 who wish to participate will need to fill out a response form to reserve their spot. [Form to Be Part of 2020 Cele-](#)

[bration.](#)

The Class of 2020 ceremony fulfills a promise Superintendent Bob Nelson made to last year's seniors that they would have a chance to don cap and gown and walk across the stage for a graduation photo.

McLane and Sunnyside high schools will hold graduation ceremonies at their

stadiums, with all other high schools at the Paul Paul Theater.

[Graduations](#) will begin with Design Science Middle College High School on May 24 and conclude on June 10 with Fresno High School.

See **GRADUATION** Continued on page 2



Meet Scholarship Winners (Pages 4-7)



Bombing with Yarn (Page 10)



Employees are Finalists for County Competition (Page 11)



Superintendent Message in Spanish and Hmong (Page 15)



GRADUATION

Continued from page 1

Physical distancing will be required, along with masks. Up to four members of the senior’s household can attend. As state and local health guidelines improve, the district is hopeful additional guests will be allowed.

The district will live stream the ceremonies and have professional photos taken for each student who participates.

“While we know our seniors had an extremely challenging year and missed out on most traditional senior activities, we hope the announcement of outdoor graduation ceremonies brings some much-deserved joy and excitement to the Class of ’21 and their families,” Nelson said.

La Ceremonias de Graduación Tendrán Lugar en el Estadio de los Terrenos de la Feria

¡La graduación sigue en pie!

Se planea llevar a cabo las graduaciones para todas las escuelas preparatorias al aire libre, dando a los estudiantes la oportunidad de caminar a través del escenario y obtener su diploma junto con sus compañeros, en presencia de los miembros de la familia.

Para iniciar la temporada de graduación este ciclo escolar, el distrito tiene planeado llevar a cabo el evento al aire libre en el Teatro Paul Paul de los Terrenos de la Feria de Fresno el 24 de mayo para todos los estudiantes graduados de la Clase de 2020. Las ceremonias regulares de graduación no se celebraron el año pasado.

Los estudiantes de la clase 2020, que deseen participar necesitan llenar el formulario como respuesta para reservar su lugar. [Enlace para el formulario](#)

La ceremonia de la clase de 2020, cumple con la promesa que el Superintendente Bob Nelson les hizo a los estudiantes del grado 12 (seniors) el año pasado, que tendrían la oportunidad de caminar a través del escenario usando su gorra y birrete para la foto de graduación.

Las preparatorias McLane y Sunnyside tendrán la ceremonia de graduación en su estadio, todas las demás preparatorias en el Teatro Paul Paul.

[Las ceremonias de graduación](#) iniciarán el 24 de mayo con la Preparatoria Design

Science Middle College y concluirán el 10 de junio con la Escuela Preparatoria Fresno.

Se requerirá distanciamiento físico, junto con el cubre boca/mascarillas. Pueden asistir hasta cuatro familiares de los estudiantes del grado 12 (seniors). A medida que las directrices de salud estatales y locales continúan mejorando, el distrito espera permitir asistir a más invitados.

El distrito transmitirá en vivo las ceremonias y se tomarán fotos profesionales de cada estudiante que participe.

“Aunque sabemos que nuestros estudiantes del grado 12 (seniors) tuvieron un ciclo escolar extremadamente desafiante y se perdieron la mayoría de las actividades tradicionales, esperamos que la notificación de las ceremonias de graduación cuyas tendrán lugar al aire libre, traiga a la clase de ’21 y a sus familias un poco de felicidad y emoción muy merecida,” dijo el Superintendente Nelson.

Cov Koob Tsheej rau cov Kawm Tiav yuav muaj nyob ntawm Cov Tshav Ncaws Pob, Fairground

Kev kawm tiav tau lav ntawm!

Peb npaj rau txhua lub tsev kawm ntawm theem siab Txoj kev kawm tiav rau sab nraum zoov, rau cov tub ntxhais kawm taiv taug kev saum sam thiaj lav ntawm kawm tiav nrog lawv cov phooj ywg, rau lawv tsev neeg pom.

Yuav pib lub xyoo no txog kev kawm ntawm tas rau kev kawm ntawm tiav, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawm tau npaj muaj kev lom zem sab nraum zoov nyob rau Paul Paul Theatre ntawm Fresno Fairgrounds lub Tsib Hlis hnuv tim 24 rau txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm tiav xyoo 2020. Xyoo tas los tsis muaj koob tsheej rau cov tub ntxhais kawm tiav.

Cov tub ntxhais kawm tiav 2020 uas xav koom nrog lub koob tsheej no yuav tsum teb daim ntawm teb rau chaw tshwj tseg. [Txuas rau daim ntawm](#)

Cov Kawm Tiav Xyoo 2020 lub koob tsheej no yog ua raws li Tus Thawj Saib Xyuas Bob Nelson tau cog lus rau xyoo tas cov tub ntxhais tias lawv yuav muaj ib hnuv los hnav lub tsho thiab ntoos lub kaus mom, taug kev saum sam thiaj thiab thiaj duab tias kawm tiav.

McLane thiab Sunnyside ob lub tsev kawm yuav ua lawv lub koob tsheej

kev kawm tiav qib siab ntawm lawv cov chav ncaws pob, nrog rau lwmm cov tsev kawm theem siab lawv yuav mus ua kev zoo siab ntawm Paul Paul Theatre.

[Cov Kawm Tiav Cov Koob Tsheej](#) yuav pib nrog Design Science Middle College High School Lub Tsib Hlis hnuv tim 24 thiab xaus rau lub Rau Hli hnuv tim 10 nrog rau Fresno High School.

Yuav tsum nyob kom sib nrug, nrog rau daim npog lub qhov ncauj qhov ntswg. Tsuas mus tau li plaub tug neeg ntawm ib tug kawm tiav tsev neeg tuaj koom nrog. Raws li lub xeev thiab cov lus qhia txog kev noj qab haus huv ib cheeb tsam

SCHOOLS REOPEN
Continued from page 1

As it plans for the 2021-22 school year, the district will build on the safe return of students in April. Staff marked the return of students with posters, music, balloons and other celebratory gestures. Teachers at Addams Elementary School and other campuses had written individual letters to their students to give them as they returned.

Students and staff returned in a hybrid schedule (combination of in-person and online), with students in pre-kindergarten through second grade, as well as grades 7, 9 and 12, returning on April

txhim kho, hauv paus tsev kawm cia siab tias yuav cia coob leej tuaj ntxiv.

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawm yuav tso cov koob tsheej tawm saum huab cua thaum nthawd thiab muaj ib tug thiaj duab muab rau cov tub ntxhais kawm uas koom nrog.

Nelson tau hais tias “Vim hais tias peb yeej paub tias peb cov tub ntxhais tau ntsib ib lub xyoo nyuaj thiab tsis tau ua ntau yam kev ua si li yas tas los, peb cia siab tias kev tshaj tawm ntawm yuav ua koob tsheej yuav ua rau lawv muaj kev zoo siab txaus siab txaus ntsws rau Cov Kawm Tiav 21 thiab lawv tsev neeg.”

6. On April 13, the remaining grades returned.

Students in group A are attending in person on Tuesday and Wednesday and students in group B attend on Thursday and Friday. Students are in class from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On the days students are not physically on campus they are learning online with their class and teacher using simultaneous teaching.

The hybrid schedule is necessary due to physical distancing requirements, which do not allow for all students to be on campuses at one time. See the district’s [Reopening of Schools](#) page for more details on schedules.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S Message

Finishing the Year Strong as We Celebrate our Graduates and Make Plans for Next Year

This crazy, stressful but in some ways rewarding year is coming to a close, with just 29 instructional days left, and of course fewer for our graduating seniors. As I have said before, this year has been by far the most



Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

difficult of my professional life, and I know that so many of you have been strongly tested, both in your personal and work-related lives. As for our students, they have missed out on so much during these 12 months of virtual learning. You may wonder what has been rewarding about this year. For me, it was to see how our staff, students and families persevered, adapted and simply kept moving forward. I know it wasn't easy nor perfect, and we have plans to address unfinished learning with an extended summer learning program and in how we approach the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

We move forward knowing we successfully navigated our return to in-person simultaneous learning, beginning April 6. What a great feeling to see students engaged in the classroom, walking through the hallways and having fun out on our fields and playgrounds. There may have been a few hiccups along the way, but I've heard from so many of our teachers, leaders and staff who said having students safely back in the classroom and on campus made it all worthwhile. It's energizing to see students and staff back on our sites.

This month, we celebrate our Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients, a collection of 76 inspiring seniors. They were selected from more than 215 applicants to receive scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,500. Thanks to the many generous employees of Fresno Unified and community partners who have donated to the scholarship fund, we will award \$161,000 in scholarships. Please take a look at the list of these worthy students in this edition, as well as short stories on 13 of the recipients. I am always in utter awe of what these students have accomplished despite so many barriers, including extreme poverty, frequent moves and homeless-

ness. Some of these students have lost parents and close friends. Many have unstable home lives, but they somehow manage to not only get to school, but to excel academically and be leaders among their peers. I am proud of each of these students. We will broadcast a special event honoring the scholarship winners on May 4. The event, hosted by Parent University, can be watched on the district's [Ustream](#) or on the [CMAC channel](#).

Our entire Class of 2021 will be celebrated with outdoor graduation ceremonies, beginning later this month with Design Science Middle College High School, and continuing through June 10. McLane and Sunnyside high schools will hold ceremonies in their stadiums, while our other high schools will honor graduates in the outdoor Paul Paul Theater at the Fresno Fairgrounds. As many of you know, I made a promise to last year's seniors that we would find a way to honor them when it became possible. That day is almost here. We

See [SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG](#)
Continued on page 15

Message from Fresno City Council Member Luis Chavez

New Alternative Education Campus is a Win for Entire City

Diligent work, community input, and a vision for a better Fresno have led to this moment where a former Fresno County juvenile hall with a shaky history will become a new state-of-the-art high school that will serve over



Luis Chavez
Fresno City Council
Member, District 5

1,200 Fresno students. The impact this high school will have on our community should not solely be measured in dollars and jobs created but rather by the number of lives positively transformed. The V-10 campus is not just another school, but a long-term solution and investment to help address many of

Fresno's long-standing issues through education and the opportunities that a quality education provides. The V-10 campus is an educational institution for the entire community.

An ever-changing and competitive global economy means students need to be adequately trained and educated to compete for the careers of the future. V-10 campus will do just that for Fresno students and support every student who is willing to work towards a brighter future. Obtaining an education and career training should not be restricted to a specific time of day but be as accessible as possible. The V-10 campus will offer classes in the morning, afternoon, and evening hours to accommodate students' schedules. Students will also benefit from career technical education that is becoming increasingly popular and opens countless doors in terms of employment opportunities. The V-10 campus will also provide high school

students with the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses to get a head start in obtaining a college degree.

The prosperity and revitalization the V-10 campus will bring to our community will be nothing short of extraordinary when the campus is up and running. The benefits of this new campus will be felt and seen in Southeast Fresno and Fresno as a whole for years to come. Education is the key to economic mobility and the overall well-being of our community. Every Fresnoan will, directly and indirectly, benefit from the V-10 campus and everything that comes with a state-of-the-art high school in Fresno.

Lastly, demolishing a juvenile hall and replacing it with a school is symbolic of what is occurring in Southeast Fresno and the revitalization work currently in progress. Thank you to FUSD board members for the difficult work they do and their stewardship of our resources.

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.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2021

Scholarship Recipients Headed to UC Berkeley, Cornell University

Seventy-six inspiring seniors will be awarded \$161,000 in Fresno Unified Scholarships this year to help them achieve their dream of higher education.

The scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students based on their school and community involvement, aspirations and financial need. The students were selected by a district committee from 215 applications.

A recipient from each high school is highlighted on pages 4-7 and a complete list of recipients is on page 7.

This year's winners spent nearly their entire senior year in distance learning. This was another hurdle to overcome for these students, most of whom have faced significant barriers, including homelessness, poverty, illness from COVID-19, death of parents and unstable home lives.

While the district was unable to hold the traditional banquet this year, recipients were surprised with the scholarships during virtual meetings in April. A virtual celebration will be aired May 4 via [district platforms](#) and [cable television](#).



Recipients are headed to universities and colleges around the country, including Cornell University, Stanford University, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Davis, University of Oregon, Fresno State University, Baylor University, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

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

"I am especially proud this year of our Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients, many of whose families were hit hard by the pandemic. These students amaze me with their resiliency. I am honored

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



District and high school leaders surprised students during a virtual meeting April 12 with the news that they had been selected for Fresno Unified Scholarships. The district this year awarded \$161,000 in scholarships to 76 students.



Desiree Cooper

Bullard High School

GPA: 3.56

College: University of Oregon

Career goal: Sports business

About Desiree: Black Student Union; Peer Mentoring Program; Knights of Valor; comes from a single-parent home. Both of Desiree's knees were badly damaged in a car accident, ending her ability to play competitive sports. Although traumatized mentally and physically, she shifted her focus and pursued academics, clubs and school activities and became manager for the girls basketball team and for track and field. She will be the first in her family to attend a large university.

Her words: "Being highly educated in this [sports business] field and pursuing a successful career will take me beyond my limits to achieve greatness and strive for more."

Teacher Gretchen Fischle: "I have witnessed her ability to use her thoughtfulness and intuitive nature to help her fellow classmates by supporting them in their studies and personal issues. Her social skills and intelligence give her a calm wisdom that helps her peers around her as well as herself."



Jazmin Cardenas Calvillo

Cambridge High School

GPA: 2.94

College: Fresno City College

Career goal: Dentist

About Jazmin: Women's Alliance; folklorico; her immediate family lives in Mexico. Despite missing all of ninth grade after visiting Mexico and not being able to immediately return, Jazmin made up all her missing credits by taking extra classes, night classes and summer school and is graduating on time. She also completed college courses. She wants to use her dentistry skills to help patients in need in Mexico.

Her words: "I asked myself, 'Do I want to be somebody in my life? Do I want to accomplish my dream, my goal?' That brought me to the conclusion that I wanted to go back to California and finish high school and continue my life and attend college."

Cambridge teacher Vanessa Wallers: "I have watched her not allow anything to stand in the way of her success. She embodies strength, hard work and courage."



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2021



Yoseline Delgado Murillo **Design Science Middle College High School**

GPA: 4.32

College: UC Irvine

Career goal: Civil engineer

About Yoseline: No. 1 in her class; JROTC; UCSF Medical Rotation Project; comes from a single-parent home. Yoseline is a primary source of income for her family, working 25 to 50 hours a week in the fields. During this past summer, Yoseline earned an A in online calculus, taking the class from the field. On the first day of school, she picked peaches as she joined her AP English Zoom class. Along with her high school diploma, she will graduate with an associate degree in math from Fresno City College, with highest honors, and has already completed the general education requirements for University of California.

Her words: “I believe I am on a path that will not only improve my life but will be an example to my family and friends. I want to blaze that educational trail and find happiness and success in my personal and professional life.”

Teacher Cheryl Catanzarite: “She gives her earnings to her mom, makes dinner for her siblings and then completes her homework and studies... She has worked with me on many projects and her positive attitude as well as her genius at figuring out ways to accomplish our goals has made a huge impact on me and the school.”



Kathleen McCarty **DeWolf High School**

GPA: 2.89

College: Fresno City College

Career goal: Nurse

About Kathleen: Born with a seizure disorder, Kathleen was inspired to be a nurse by the care she received when she was young. Kathleen struggled with family situations during high school, attending several programs in her hometown of Los Angeles and Fresno. After enrolling in DeWolf, she got back on track and ended up graduating early.

Her words: “The staff at DeWolf welcomed me in such a way that I didn’t feel judged. My peers just accepted me and appreciated my personality for who I am. I finally felt normal again. It was a fresh start. Let’s just say I took advantage of my opportunity. This wonderful and relaxed feeling inside motivated me to work on my assignments.”

Clinical school social worker Francisco

Arrevalo: “Kathleen is a determined young lady who has demonstrated resiliency, evident by overcoming life obstacles.”



Edgar Peredia Garcia **Duncan Polytechnical High School**

GPA: 4.29

College: Fresno State University

Career goal: Management analyst

About Edgar: Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) president with numerous JROTC awards, including the Headquarters AFJROTC Community Service with Excellence Award, awarded to just a few students in the nation; Unarmed Drill Team; Smittcamp Family Honors College recipient; his parents immigrated from Mexico; runs a student-led Google Classroom providing tutoring to peers in his AP Literature and Composition class.

His words: “I plan to major in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and a minor in political science in order to achieve my goal of being a management analyst. This career interests me because I enjoy the idea of improving things and helping people/companies become more successful.”

Senior instructor AFJROTC Sam Vandiver: “Peer leadership, mastery of course material, best inputs during round table discussion, interactive learning, leading online classes, achieving top scores on course assignments and research papers while helping others with their academics – that is Edgar Peredia at school every day.”



Nicholas Gamboa **Edison High School**

GPA: 4.32

College: UC Berkeley

Career goal: Math teacher or college math professor

About Nicholas: No. 1 in his class; student leadership; Link Crew; California Scholarship Federation; more than 750 volunteer hours; State Seal of Biliteracy; Peer Mentor; led an effort for a Latinx commencement for students throughout Fresno County.

His words: “The catalyst for my decision to become a teacher is an accumulation of my interactions with all my math teachers. They have been amazing and have fostered my growth as a person and a student. They have helped my love for math grow exponentially. I want to be just like them and help foster struggling students’ growth.”

Teacher Fernando Santillan: “Nick is the type of student you only see once in a generation and unlike any other student I have had... Not only does Nick excel academically, he also aims to have a positive impact on his community.”





SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2021



Jasmine Padilla

[Fresno High School](#)

GPA: 4.32

College: U.C. Davis

Career goal: Attorney

About Jasmine: No. 1 in her class; Mock Trial, Fresno High Senate; CART Showcase Best Presentation Award; parents are immigrants from Mexico who worked minimum wage jobs.

Her words: “I knew that the effort I was putting into every homework assignment, every project, every test was hopefully another step to achieve the goal of my childhood.”

Mock Trial attorney/coach Rachelle Taylor Golden: “She naturally has initiative, discipline, determination and intentionally takes steps to stretch herself so that she can learn new skills and fine tune the talents and abilities she naturally has. Quite frankly, I am in awe of her character, her talents and her confidence. I only wish I had her as a friend when I was her age. She is truly an inspiration to me.”



Dyllion Moua

[Hoover High School](#)

GPA: 4.22

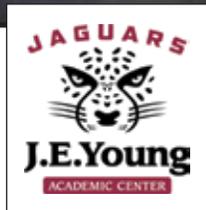
College: Fresno State University

Career goal: Physical therapist/trainer

About Dyllion: Participated in Fresno State Congressional Academy; from a family of eight, with finances so tight there was no food or electricity at times; works part-time to help support his family; played basketball and volleyball; hobby is fishing.

His words: “My childhood life was one to remember, teaching me that you won’t always have everything in life, but you still have to make the best of it, no matter what. My eagerness in the school setting and love for sports has driven me to pursue a career along those lines. Of course, getting there won’t be easy... One thing I do know is that eventually everything will be fine.”

School counselor Barbara P. Rios: “I have watched Dyllion grow from a quiet and focused ninth grader to a mature, responsible individual who reflects on his academic progress, takes advantage of opportunities and dedicates himself to his studies, friends, teammates and family.”



Genevieve Gonzales

[eLearn Academy/](#)

[J.E. Young Academic Center](#)

GPA: 3.66

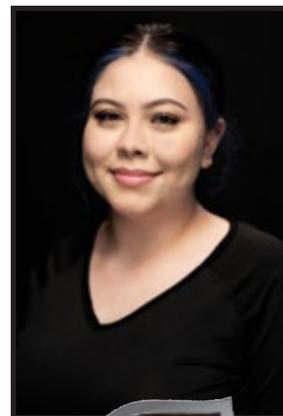
College: Fresno City College

Career goal: NASA

About Genevieve: Graduated 1 ½ years early; was inspired to pursue aerospace engineering after building a bottle rocket in elementary school; played soccer for Fresno High School; Race and Social Justice Council representative; volunteered with youth soccer league.

Her words: “The idea of space itself has always fascinated me, whether it be about the planets or sending man-made creations out into space. My goal is to be an aerospace engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA.”

Teacher Katrina Floyd-Gonzales: “Motivated by the call to serve, I know Genevieve Gonzales will honor her commitment to continue her education at a university and use her talents to serve those in the community. Ms. Gonzales is truly one of the most competent, capable, dedicated and deserving students I know.”



Vanessa Leon

[McLane High School](#)

GPA: 3.26

College: UC Santa Barbara

Career goal: Writer

About Vanessa: JROTC; member of California Scholarship Federation and Future Health Professionals; was homeless during her sophomore year and failed her second semester but made up the credits with an extra period, night classes and summer school; her boyfriend was killed in 2019, followed by the death of a close friend four months later; her father is incarcerated.

Her words: “I spent a large portion of my life feeling ashamed about my disadvantaged background, but now I wouldn’t want to have been brought up any other way. Throughout the hardships I have faced both academically and even personally, I pulled through and did not let it break my spirit. If anything, it has fueled my hunger for success...”

Academic counselor Jennifer Pritchard: “Vanessa is an incredibly special young lady who has overcome more than any of us ever want see any child endure... Vanessa Leon is an exceptional role model for our youth in Fresno Unified.”



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2021



Isaac Hernandez Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

GPA: 4.32

College: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Career goal: Undecided (will study business administration)

About Isaac: Members of FARMS Leadership Program and Cooking Club; intern at the IRS and Shift3; Congressional Academy; No. 1 in his class; chief operating officer of student-run Gavin's Notebook, a free database for special needs/disabilities services; enjoys art and wants to inspire people with his writing.

His words: "Storytelling is as important as science, medicine, engineering. Stories open doorways for discussion and new thoughts. I want to get into a career in writing. I don't know how, or if it would even happen. All that I know is that I wish to make people feel something, and to encourage people to be their best selves through the words I type."

Teacher Lisa Hamby: "Settling' is not a word in Isaac's vocabulary. He is always looking for feedback to find out what he needs to do to reach the next level."



Angel Santibanez Roosevelt High School

GPA: 4.21

College: Fresno State University

Career goal: Fresno Unified school counselor

About Angel: AP Ambassador; Hands on Club; cross-age tutor at Jackson Elementary School; part of Education Pathway; was a poor student up until high school, but was determined to change his path and will finish Roosevelt in the top 15; from low-income family.

His words: "Through the Education Pathway, I found my passion. I enjoyed being a student teacher because I had the opportunity to teach our world's next-generation leaders. I am now planning to pursue my future as a school counselor.

Teacher Mark Gradoville: "Polite, driven, ambitious and committed to excellence are just a few character traits that define what this young man is all about. I can think of no individual better suited to lead the next generation of students than Angel Santibanez."



Ivory Clemons Sunnyside High School

GPA: 4.29

College: Fresno State University

Career goal: General surgeon

About Ivory: Member of AP Ambassadors and Don't Laugh at Me bullying prevention group; medical internship through Doctors Academy; low-income family; inspired by her grandmother to help others.

Her words: "Interning in the hospital and being exposed to a medical environment has only encouraged and inspired me to learn more. Having the opportunity to learn about the body and diseases, as well as listening to doctors talk about how much they love their job, has raised my aspirations to become a general surgeon."

Teacher/instructional coordinator Amanda Peterson: "In addition to her intelligence, discipline and generosity, Ivory's primary strengths are curiosity and compassion. She is a leader in every sense of the word. She asks interesting and provocative questions, and she engages in conversation with adults to expand her horizons."

Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund Winners

Bullard High School

Thuan Tran
Xitlalic Villanueva-Cruz
Audra Fontes
Kylie Fogle
Desiree Cooper
Nebiat Tsegay
Elizabeth Chassey
Lauren Tell
Macyn Topoozian
Anali Jimenez

Cambridge High School

Ariana Reyes
Jazmin Cardenes Cavillo

Design Science Middle College High School

Yoseline Delgado Murillo
Valerie Xiong
Vencent Vang

DeWolf High School

Kathleen McCarty
Lexie Alonso

Duncan Polytechnical High School

Pablo Santiago
Thuan Quach
Edgar Peredia-Garcia
Christian Phengdara
Johnathan Lam

Edison High School

Mia Roddy
Dayanara Torres-Vargas
Maria Flores-Beccara
Nicholas Gamboa
Carolina Saucedo
Jennifer Gomez-Fuentes
Trinity Carraway
Aiden Montano
Mandy Yang
Elizabeth Wilkinson

Fresno High School

Natalie Garzon
Mireya Garza
Iellene Hernandez
Mara Cooper
Jasmine Padilla
Daisy Madrigal
Richard Romero
Teresita Aguilar
Destiny Rodriguez
Jacqueline Hernandez

Hoover High School

Ayomide Akintola
Dyllion Moua
Amanda Pinto
Yessica Guzman
Marissa Rodriguez

J.E. Young Academic Center

Genevieve Gonzales
Rosalinda Ballesteros Serrano

McLane High School

Lily Xiong
Gabriela Cazarez
Vanessa Leon
Crystal Rodriguez
Kenji Lee

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

Isaac Hernandez
Marci Winter

Roosevelt High School

Alisa Ruiz Rios
Nicholas Vawter
Leonela Ulloa
Zoe Porter
Angel Santibanez
Metztl Maldonado
Mercedes Escalante
Maria Duenas Toribio
Jesus Hernandez
Roseanna Garcia

Sunnyside High School

Alina Sanchez
Mai Der Xiong
Alissa Chang
Aliana Iriarte
Janet Tecuautzin
Ivory Clemons
Vanessa Esquivel-Ruiz
Alondra Mijangos
Fernanda Bocanegra-Rios
Andrea Casteneda-Bautista



DISTRICT ROUNDUP



Help Name New Alt Education Campus

The community is invited to submit names for the new alternative education campus to be located at 10th Street and Ventura Avenue. The campus, expected to open in August 2023, will provide a customized academic experience focused on high standards, innovative programs, flexible schedules and instructional/social emotional supports. The new school will also feature technology integration, morning/afternoon courses, dual enrollment college courses, career readiness, credit attainment options and project-based learning. The deadline to take the naming survey is May 7. [Survey to Submit Names for Alternative Education Campus.](#)



McLane's Medical Pathway Earns Honor

McLane High School's Medical Education & Research Academy (MERA) was named a 2021 Distinguished Academy by the National Academy Foundation (NAF). MERA is among the 178 career academies recently awarded NAF's Katherine Blasik Distinguished level recognition.

This designation is given to a select few that have reached Model level on NAF's annual assessment, exhibiting strong fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers. Model level is determined by an academy's score on the assessment, which measures strengths and challenges in implementing NAF's results driven educational design, followed by a virtual academy visit this year. The visit is conducted by

a team of distinguished leaders, outside experts, and NAF staff to verify that the academy is meeting fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers. A subset of these high performing academies meets additional thresholds to reach Katherine Blasik Distinguished level – NAF's highest level of achievement.

Edison Writers Honored at Virtual Conference

Edison High School students and staff were excited to attend the 41st Annual Young Writers Conference at Fresno State April 14 through virtual sessions that included a keynote address by Nic Stone, awards ceremony and workshops with Master of Fine Arts students from the English Department at Fresno State. Awards and publication in the Spectrum for students and staff:

The highest honor at the conference

went to Ryan Orme for "On Love and Boyhood" -- The University's President's Award

Additional awards went to:

- Abedallah Hammouda for "Elixir of Funk" – Chair's Award
- Eden Bernstein for "October's Black Cat" – Normal School Award
- Jordan Jackson for "Love for an Unjust Country" – Phillip Levine Prize Award
- Emily Vang for "Encyclopedia Autobiography" – Hmong American Ink and Stories Award
- Ernesto Bustinza for "always be grateful for what you have" – Chicano Writers and Artists Award Association
- Mallie Yang for "The Mekong River" – Hmong American Writers' Circle Award
- Kane Sjoberg for "Eucalyptus" – Wendy Rose Award

Staff Award: Jerilyn Cavanaugh – San

Joaquin Valley Writing Project Teacher Award



Teachers Perform Virtual Concert

The FUSD Friday Philharmonic created a virtual concert to share with teachers and students, in celebration of the reopening of schools to in-person learning. The Friday Phil is an orchestra made up of music teachers that prior to COVID-19 presented education concerts at elementary schools every Friday. [Friday Phil Welcome Back Concert](#)

Kings Canyon Middle Remains a School to Watch

Kings Canyon Middle School has been redesignated a second time for another three years as part of the prestigious Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage (STW-TCS) program.

Kings Canyon was first designated as a School to Watch in 2014. The school is among 100 schools with the designation among the more than 1,300 middle schools in California.

The redesignation followed a visit Jan. 26 by representatives from the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Schools and the California League of Middle Schools. They examined the school's programs for evidence of growth and commitment to student progress.

Kings Canyon was honored by California Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond on April 21 and will be recognized at the national level in June.

STW-TCS middle schools are high-performing model schools that demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to the



needs and interests of young adolescents, social equity, and organizational support. STW-TCS model schools host visitors from California and around the world who are looking for replicable practices to help them improve their middle grades schools and close the achievement gap.

"The Schools to Watch redesignation highlights the tremendous hard work and innovation that takes place every day at Kings Canyon Middle

School. Whether we are in physical space in our classrooms or online with our students, our teachers and staff have risen to the challenge of preparing college and career ready graduates in the Fresno Unified School District," said Rick Perez Jr., Kings Canyon principal. "All of us share the same mission of providing the highest educational experience possible for our students of this community."



District's Summer Learning Program will Help Students Catch Up

The district will offer a wide range of summer learning opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school students.

This is the most robust summer school program the district has ever offered, recognizing the struggles that some students experience with distance learning.

Summer Academy is an invitation-only program for elementary, middle, and high school students whose performance on district assessments indicate that additional targeted learning recovery is needed.

For current ninth through 12th grade students, Summer Academy is focused on credit recovery where students received a D or F in a class for classes needed for graduation or A-G college entrance. Summer Academy letters will be mailed home to families by May 14.

Summer Academy programs will operate at 14 elementary school sites, 13 middle school sites, eight high school sites, and four alternative education sites. Bus transportation will be offered

for elementary and middle school students attending classes at a summer school site that is not their regular school.

Following health and safety protocols, Summer Academy will offer in-person instruction. Teachers will provide simultaneous instruction for students whose families choose distance learning.

- Session 1, June 14-25: For elementary, middle, and high school and alternative education students
- Session 2, June 28-July 12: For elementary, middle, and high school and alternative education students
- Session 3, July 13-26: High school only; offered at comprehensive/specialty high schools (except Duncan Polytechnical High School) and alternative education sites
- Session 4, July 17-Aug. 9: High school only; offered at alternative education sites
- Special education students in elementary and middle school who receive an extended school year invitation

will participate in summer learning from June 14 through July 19

Summer Camp programs will also be offered with enrichment opportunities for about 200 students per high school region in FUSD. Registration is required and specific dates of Summer Camp opportunities will be available in May through the FUSD website.

Summer School Information

Call: (559) 248-7560

Website: <https://extendedlearning.fresnounified.org/summerschool/>

Battle of Lil Big Game



The annual Lil Big Game between Fresno and Roosevelt high schools was played on April 23, with Roosevelt winning 39-15 and taking home the Pig Trophy. This was the 91st edition of the rivalry game.

Fresno High's Uriel Facundo carries the ball with teammate Nahzae Cox blocking. Roosevelt players are from left David Contreras, Isaih Velasquez and John E O'Neal.



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High School Students Install Yarn Art to Brighten Downtown Fresno



From left, Roosevelt High School students Robert Kraft, Alicia Lee and Nicole Lee were part of an effort to "yarn bomb" downtown Fresno with pieces they knitted and crocheted.

Students created and installed street art made of yarn – yarn bombing – at several downtown locations in April, beautifying the area and raising awareness of homelessness. They also learned a hobby to help them cope with the isolation of the pandemic.

Yarn bombing is an increasingly popular form of street art. Fresno Unified's introduction to the movement involved 264 art students from Bullard, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools, who began knitting and crocheting pieces in December.

Students applied about 1,000 completed pieces to tree trunks, light poles, railings and outdoor sculptures on April 18, with the help of teachers and community members. Sites included Fresno and H streets, Fulton Street sculptures and a

sculpture in Courthouse Park. Tags were attached to scarves and mittens inviting those in need to take the items.

Any remaining handmade hats, scarves, and blankets will be cleaned and donated to the Poverello House after the exhibit ends on May 9. Teachers and staff worked with the city of Fresno's Beautify Fresno team on the project.

Teachers overseeing the students were Leslie Batty from Sunnyside, Brandi Capuchino Mendoza from Bullard and Josephine Allen from Roosevelt.

"This yarn-bombing project was a wonderful success – especially considering that out of 264 participating students, only one or two of our students had any previous experience creating designs with yarn using such age-old techniques as crocheting, knitting and

weaving," Batty said.

Students not only acquired fiber arts skills, but they also learned that making visual art and useful objects with yarn is a relaxing and comforting activity and a way to cope with life during a pandemic lockdown.

"We hoped to provide activities that might help students to cope with feelings of anxiety, depression and isolation during this difficult year of social distancing," Batty said. "We found several studies that show that knitting and crocheting do just that, as well as increase feelings of calm and connection with others.

We were happy to learn that such activities also increase cognitive abilities and exercise mathematical thinking and problem-solving as students count rows, reduce and increase stitches to create various designs."

With students working remotely, the teachers also sought a learning project that would allow students to make a positive change in their community. With yarn bombing, teachers combined learning fiber art skills with raising awareness of homelessness, including hearing from guest speakers.

Students were inspired by guest speakers and produced a variety of yarn designs that they were excited to share. Their

creations included hats, scarves, and colorful visual art, "meant to brighten the spaces and bring unexpected joy – especially for the homeless in our community," Batty said.

The study unit also included learning about yarn bombing from world-renowned fiber artist London Kaye, who shared her work and story and gave students valuable feedback and tips on their projects and upcoming installation.

Kaye explained how location can change the meaning of a work of art and become a powerful form of expression and a meaningful way to connect with the community.

"Students' positive visual expressions were very well received by passersby on installation day," Batty said. "Their fiber art pieces placed in an outdoor setting allowed families and members of the community to experience their works of art and compassion without ever entering a traditional art gallery."



Students spent months creating yarn pieces to brighten downtown Fresno and bring awareness to homelessness.

Parents Invited to Enroll Children in High Quality Preschool

Parents of preschool students can now enroll their child using an online process. Preschool enrollment opened on April 6 for Fresno Unified's high-quality early learning programs for the 2021-22 school year. Please visit: earlylearning.fresnounified.org.



Options include [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.

Fresno Unified offers preschool for 3-year-olds and pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds.

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

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Three District Nominees are Finalists for County Educator Awards

All three employees nominated by Fresno Unified for county educator awards have been selected as finalists.

The annual Fresno County Educator of the Year awards honor top education staff from throughout the county. Just three finalists for each category are selected based on their nomination packet. Winners in three categories will be announced in November.

The finalists from Fresno Unified, winners of district Excellence in Education awards in January, are Kaylah Salinas, a computer lab assistant at Fresno High School, for Employee of the Year; Dana Hobby, a teacher at Norseman Elementary School, for Teacher of the Year; and Courtney Curtis, principal at Gaston Middle School, for Administrator of the Year.

“To have all three of our nominees selected as county wide finalists speaks to the depth of talented educators serving our students and families,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “I am extremely proud to have our district so well represented in this year’s county competition.”

Kaylah Salinas, serving the high school she graduated from as a valedictorian, provides vital support to students on

technology issues and much more. She has taken on mentoring roles with the African American Academic Acceleration initiative, senior class and a peer mentoring group. She trained and hired Fresno High students to provide after-hours tech support to their peers during distance learning and is involved in activities to encourage a culture of reading. She is a wife and mother of two young children and is attending Fresno State University.

Dana Hobby is a second-grade teacher at Norseman, where she has served her entire 32-year career. She has high expectations of her students, which are consistently reflected in her students’ test scores. She is adept at recognizing her students’ strengths and weaknesses and finding ways to meet their needs. She became a certified Minecraft teacher, even though she had never played the video game, to better support her students’ interests. She has taken on numerous extra roles over the years at Norseman, both with students and her colleagues, from coaching cross country (buying track shoes for students who didn’t have any) to planning schoolwide fundraisers. She always has a student teacher learning in her class. With the pivot to distance learning, Hobby has been an invaluable resource to her



From left, Kaylah Salinas, Dana Hobby and Courtney Curtis are finalists for Fresno County Educator of the Year awards.

colleagues with technology issues.

Courtney Curtis returned to Gaston in 2018 as interim principal (hired permanently last fall), coming full circle from when he was a teacher on the original Gaston planning team prior to the campus opening in 2014. Curtis is a committed, passionate leader who puts students first. Data and staff input drive all ideas and implementation of plans. He is expert at communication with students, families and staff and makes the most out of social media platforms. He set a 95% goal for attendance, knowing that being in school is critical to

success and creates a positive pattern for students in high school and beyond. Gaston exceeded its first quarter goal and led all middle schools in attendance. Curtis led a multi-pronged approach that included sending out frequent reminders and videos to families, requiring 10 family contacts from teachers a week, home visits, and personal messages, phone calls and home visits from administrators to students.

Salinas, Hobby and Curtis will undergo a rigorous interview and site visit process as they compete for the Fresno County Educator of the Year awards.



Fresno High School computer lab assistant Kaylah Salinas, second from right, has just found out she is a finalist for a Fresno County Educator of the Year award. From left are vice principal John Kaup and campus culture director Melissa Bamgarter, with deputy superintendent Misty Her at the far right.

New Mascot Image for Fresno High will be Unveiled

Fresno High School is expected to introduce a new mascot image later in May, selected based on a vote by Fresno High students.

Students submitted images and drawings earlier this spring. A group made up of students, staff, alumni and community members reviewed the submissions and identified three finalists. Students voted on the three options in April.

The district had invited students to help establish a new mascot image after the board of education voted Dec. 9 to retire the Native American image. The Warriors mascot name

will remain.

Fresno High will unveil the new mascot image in a community event at the school. The image will be featured on campus, spirit wear and athletic uniforms for decades to come.

The board voted to replace the Native American image late last year after the district gathered information and opinions from various stakeholders on the mascot following the circulation of two petitions – one opposing the use of the Warrior mascot image and one in support of it.



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LINKED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

Edison High School Offers Wide Range of Career Pathways

Edison High Schools offers a variety of career technical education (CTE) programs to help students get a head start on career paths.

Green Energy and Technology Academy

The Green Energy and Technology Academy is an energy, environment, and utilities California Partnership Academy launched in 2010. It provides students with college and career ready skills as well as vocational training in the ever-growing clean energy industry in central California. The three-year pathway focuses on soft skills, OSHA-10 certification, solar array certification, and the opportunity to install solar panels in the community with Grid Alternatives. Students also create interdisciplinary projects for the annual tech expo, which showcases clean energy creation.

During the past year, the academy worked with industry partners to improve programs. In November and March, Grid Alternatives partnered with the academy to help students earn OSHA-10 certifications online. Starting in April, PG&E began partnering with Edison on five paid virtual internships for academy seniors. Thanks to the staff's work, Edison was recognized as a California Distinguished Academy in February, one of only a handful to receive this award in the state. The award is given to academies that bring outstanding effort and adherence to the ed code and the California Partnership Academy model.

Biomedical Technology Pathway (Patient Care, Kinesiology, Mental Health)

The Biomedical Science and Technology Pathway provides a breadth of foundational knowledge and skills for a variety of professions. The pathway starts with a two-year foundation in the principles of biomedical sciences and human body systems. Juniors then have the option to select kinesiology or mental health or continue in biomedical sciences.

Although the closure of in-person classes was particularly difficult for hands-on CTE courses, students were still able to

connect with industry partners virtually and even earn certifications in OSHA-10 and various levels of CPR and first aid. Many students earned college credits through Edison's dual enrollment program with Fresno City College.

Athletic training students began an internship cohort with Edison's athletic trainer, Steven Guerrero, in April and will continue through the end of the school year. Students will take the skills they have learned in their Sports Medicine and Athletic Training classes and work with Edison athletes.

Students in the mental health option are a part of an Adopt-a-Class with Chris Roup, the director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), an industry partner. NAMI provides guest speakers and certification information. Some students are part of a valley-wide group working with Youth Health Corp on youth mental health projects.

Engineering Pathway

The Engineering Pathway is a four-year Linked Learning Pathway offering Project Lead the Way courses: Intro to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, Electronics Engineering, and the Senior Capstone course of Engineering Research and Design. With the grouping of students in cohorts within their elective, English, and science courses, instructors are able to provide cross-curricular experiences and interdisciplinary projects.

The pathway focuses on engineering design, modeling and practice process while also exploring different engineering-related careers. Students are also provided an opportunity to work with industry recommended tools used to manufacture and prototype their designs. Research and professional presentations are emphasized in all four courses.

Students learn computer programs, including Autodesk Inventor, CAD, Electronic boards, and Solidworks and can earn certification in Solidworks and OSHA-10. Despite COVID challenges, students learned work-based skills from guest speakers, mentors, job shadows, and certifications. Ninth grade students are creating a book on the design process



Edison High School students Michelle Salazar, left, and Laura Barraza are part of a new Educational Leadership class, designed for students who are interested in education careers. Students are browsing the FUSD Virtual College & Career Fair and discussing some of the jobs in education they might be interested in.

to share with elementary students that will show how the design process can be applied in many ways. Seniors are involved in a project with a company that is rebuilding homes that were destroyed in last year's Creek Fire.

Computer Science Pathway

The Computer Science Pathway focuses over four years on skills and knowledge necessary in the software and systems industry. Through project-based learning, students dive into areas such as web development, object-oriented programming, project management, and algorithmic design. Along the way, they network with local industry partners, college representatives and community members on projects, progress, and future goals.

The Computer Science Pathway regularly evolves, aligning to current trends and needs in the local industry. Recently, Web Programming and Web Applications courses were introduced to meet the needs of the local advisory board. As part of this, the pathway was recently admitted into the NAF. This provides students with more access to industry members, certifications, and potential priority hiring.

Students gain an understanding of the different career paths and industry technologies. They create a portfolio of projects showcasing their work and growth over the four years. Armed with soft

skills and technical knowledge, students will be well prepared to enter the workforce or pursue higher education.

Due to COVID restrictions, the annual Computer Science Convention was held as a week-long digital event. Students presented work-based projects to industry partners and the community and heard from guest speakers with career and college tips. The Pathway Expo, a similar event, will be held digitally May 24-28.

Technical Theater Program

Technical Theater, one of Edison's new programs, offers a two-year progression to all grade levels with Intro to Technical Theater followed by the advanced course. The Technical Theater program covers design basics of set, props, costumes, make-up, lights, sound, stage management, box office, house management and technical theater careers. In addition to design projects and assignments, students are part of the design, building and running crews for theater productions and learn the skills needed to be employed in the technical theater industry. Students may also serve as crews for outside performances and assemblies because of their training and expertise.

See LINKED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT Continued on page 13



Fresno Unified School Program will Use Automated Lottery System

In the coming school year, Fresno Unified will implement a randomized computer lottery system for enrollment in the district's after school programs. This process will provide every student an equal opportunity for enrollment.

Fresno Unified, in partnership with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, operates daily comprehensive after school programs at 70 elementary and middle schools across the district through the After School Education and Safety (ASES) grant.

ASES programs will adopt a randomized computer lottery for all the elementary sites listed below. This lottery will be held during the first week in August 2021.

Families do not need to apply into the ASES program. All students from each of the 70 school sites, from transitional kindergarten/kindergarten through sixth/eighth grade, will automatically be entered into the lottery.

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

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

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

Students have the opportunity to receive academic and literacy support through assistance with homework in language arts and mathematics. The enrichment component includes a variety of activities to engage students in new opportunities, such as social emotional learning, community service learning, recreation

and physical activities, science and technology, career awareness, and other activities based on student interests.

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

school program.

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

After School Program Sites

The following sites will offer the ASES program in 2021-22:

Elementary Schools:
Addams, Anthony, Ayer, Aynesworth, Bakman, Balderas, Birney, Burroughs, Calwa, Centennial, Columbia, Del Mar, Easterby, Ericson, Ewing, Fremont, Greenberg, Hamilton K-8, Heaton, Hidalgo, Holland, Homan, Jackson, Jefferson, King, Kirk, Kratt, Lane, Lawless, Leavenworth, Lincoln, Lowell, Mayfair, McCardle, Muir, Norse-

man, Olmos, Powers-Ginsburg, Pyle, Robinson, Roeding, Rowell, Slater, Storey, Sunset, Thomas, Turner, Vang Pao, Viking, Vinland, Wawona (K-2), Webster, Williams, Wilson, Winchell, Wishon, Wolters and Yokomi

Middle Schools:
Ahwahnee, Cooper, Edison Computech, Fort Miller, Kings Canyon, Scandanavian, Sequoia, Tehipite, Terronez, Tioga, Wawona, Yosemite

District Staff Honored for Work on Student Absenteeism

Fresno Unified was honored in a virtual celebration April 26 for its efforts tackling chronic student absenteeism.

The district received the Model SARB Award for 2020 from the California Department of Education. The award was presented to the district's Prevention and Intervention Department as part of the California Association of Child Welfare and Attendance state conference.

This was the district's first time winning

the award. The Model SARB award recognizes excellence in specific areas, including establishing goals and objectives, implementing prevention and intervention strategies, and developing collaborations with local agency resources.

The district was recognized for developing a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) that strategically tackles the challenges of chronic absenteeism in a large urban district. The district is seen as a model for other districts in devel-

oping effective practices that promote student success and reduce the number of dropouts in the state public education system. Fresno Unified's identified successes can be a model for many districts with huge barriers to school attendance.

As a Model SARB Award recipient, Fresno Unified participated at a state SARB videoconference meeting in May 2020 to discuss its model attendance practices and how Fresno Unified made the shift to participation in distance



The district introduced Successful Simon during the 2019-20 school year to encourage school attendance. The district was recently honored for its work tackling absenteeism.

LINKED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT
Continued from page 12

Like other hands-on programs, Technical Theater faced its own challenges this past year as it was difficult to teach building techniques virtually without use of the right equipment. With students back on campus, instructors will revisit many areas.

Multimedia
Multimedia, one of Edison's newer programs, is offered as a course, not as a pathway. It is an applied academic and theoretical base for graphic art design and multimedia creation and provides information on careers in multimedia. By the end of this course, students develop storyboards, write scripts and produce media productions on various topics and generate an original multimedia portfolio as their final project.

Teacher Academy
This is the first year for the Teacher Academy, designed to prepare students for positions in education

from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The two-course program was developed for 11th and 12th grade students, who study human development, standards, regulations, positive guidance and counseling techniques, as well as age- and grade-appropriate learning strategies, standards-based curriculum and instructional design. Students will have an opportunity to apply their learning as an aide in a neighborhood school with ongoing support and feedback from a mentor teacher. Students can earn their CPR certification this year.

learning. Fresno Unified is also serving as a mentor to other districts across the state.

"It is great to be recognized as a leader in the state as our attendance team continues to go above and beyond each day to support students and families in their struggles to attend school," said Kristi Jackson, attendance coordinator. "We are committed to building relationships with our families, to know their real needs to remedy the issues and get our kids back into learning with their teacher."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sunnyside High Dell Scholar will Attend Berkeley, wants to be a Doctor



Sunnyside High School's Serenity Yang will attend UC Berkeley.

Serenity Yang's kind spirit and positive attitude is revealed in the way she speaks and her actions. It is clear she will accomplish big things.

As a senior at Sunnyside High School, Serenity is already on her way. She was recently named one of seven Dell Scholars from her high school. The \$20,000 Dell scholarship will help her reach her goal of becoming a doctor. She plans to major in molecular biology at UC Berkeley.

She is one of Sunnyside's valedictorians and is in Sunnyside's Doctors Academy.

"When I was opening the email, I could hear my heart pumping. I was literally screaming because I do not have to worry about the cost now. I can choose the college I want to go to without worrying how much it costs," said Serenity.

She completed the Dell Scholar application just one day before the deadline. She explained that she struggled with the word limit in the three essays included in the application because she wanted to say more about her life and family.

Serenity is the oldest of five siblings and has a busy life helping her parents take care of her brothers and sisters, attending school and working. But she said having responsibilities is preparing her for the future.

"I feel like work has impacted me in a very good way. All the responsibilities from work -- you have to be detailed, you make sure everything is on time, you have to commit," said the 17-year-old.

Serenity said she is ready and excited for college life. She has two great examples to follow: Her Sunnyside Advancement

Via Individual Determination teacher, Ed Schneider, and her uncle, a doctor who inspired her to make her family proud.

"My parents emigrated from Thailand. My uncle worked at the farm, and he decided he was going to do better than that to help him and his family," Serenity said. "I want that, what is best for my family and me."

Serenity explained that her dreams started with her parents, who encouraged her in every step of her academic journey -- which is far from being over.

She shares her best advice for other students: "Be yourself, do things for you. Do your best no matter what. Always look at the positive side of things. Everything is worth it once you get to the end."

District Offers Virtual College & Career Fair and Innovation Day

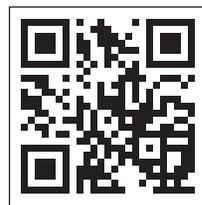
The College and Career Readiness office is hosting two virtual events during May -- a College & Career Fair and Innovation Day.

Both events feature an online platform where visitors will be able to access information, videos, and other content. Attendees are free to navigate the content at their own pace.

The [College & Career Fair](#) will be available for students to attend online from

April 26-May 31. Students will be able to virtually meet prospective employers from a variety of industries and learn about potential internship positions and job opportunities. Students will also be able to learn more about college and career programs that fit their personal interests and future goals.

Virtual Innovation Day will take place May 21-28. The event is the culmination of the STEM 5 and Kids Invent! engi-



Innovation Day

neering programs for all fifth and sixth grade students to demonstrate their creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.

The programs are part of Fresno Unified's ongoing partnership with the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State and are focused on engineering design practices.

During Virtual Innovation Day, students will build a solution to the challenge and



College & Career Fair

will submit a recording of their design. Visitors to the online exhibit can help score student submissions, and winners from each grade level will receive an award, courtesy of the Lyles Center.

For more information and links to the virtual events, please visit the College and Career Readiness Office site at [ccr.fresnounified.org](#).



Fresno Unified School District		Important Dates
May 4	Virtual Fresno Unified Scholarship Celebration	
May 24-June 10	Outdoor Graduation Ceremonies	
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday	
June 11	Last Day of School	



SUPT. MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

will kick off the graduation season with a special ceremony for graduating members of the Class of 2020 on May 24 at the Paul Paul Theater. While only four family members from our graduates' households can attend our 2020 and 2021 celebrations, we will livestream the ceremonies and have photographs taken. I am thrilled that we can once again hold traditional ceremonies to honor the hard work of our seniors.

Improved local health metrics have made it possible for us to return to in-person learning, launch high school sports and hold proms and graduations. I ask that we all do our part to keep those numbers going in the right direction, even with the increase in activities that comes at this time of year on campus and throughout the community. I want to encourage all those eligible, including our students 16 and older, to consider being vaccinated. Whether it's going to a concert, prom, retirement party or an outdoor graduation, vaccinations reduce your risk and ensure you can safely enjoy all the activities and adventures this time of year brings.

Terminando el año con fuerza mientras celebramos a nuestros graduados y hacemos planes para el próximo año

Esperamos que este año loco, estresante, pero en cierto modo gratificante esté llegando a su fin, con solo 29 días de instrucción restantes, y por supuesto menos para nuestros estudiantes graduados del doceavo grado. Como he dicho antes, este año ha sido con mucho, el más difícil año de mi vida profesional, y sé que muchos de ustedes han sido sometidos a fuertes pruebas, tanto en su vida personal como en la laboral. En cuanto a nuestros estudiantes, se han perdido mucho durante estos 12 meses de aprendizaje virtual. Quizás se pregunte qué ha sido gratificante sobre este año. Para mí, fue ver cómo nuestro personal, estudiantes y familias perseveraron, se adaptaron y simplemente siguieron avanzando. Sé que no fue fácil ni perfecto, y tenemos planes de terminar el aprendizaje inconcluso con un programa de aprendizaje de verano extendido y cómo nos acercamos al próximo año escolar 2021-22.

Avanzamos sabiendo que navegamos con éxito nuestro regreso al aprendizaje simultáneo en persona, a partir del 6 de abril. Qué gran sensación ver a los estudiantes participando en el salón, de clases, caminando por los pasillos y divirtiéndose en nuestros campos y patios de recreo. Es posible que haya habido algunos contratiempos en el camino, pero he escuchado de muchos de nuestros maestros, líderes y personal que dijeron que tener a los estudiantes seguros en el salón y en la escuela hizo que todo valiera la pena. Es estimulante ver a los estudiantes y al personal de regreso en

nuestros sitios.

Este mes, celebramos a nuestros beneficiarios de la Beca del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno, una colección de 76 estudiantes del 12 o "seniors" inspiradores. Fueron seleccionados entre más de 215 solicitantes para recibir becas que van desde \$1,500 a \$3,500. Gracias a los muchos empleados generosos del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno y a los socios de la comunidad que han donado al fondo de becas, otorgaremos \$161,000 en becas. Por favor, vea la lista de estos estudiantes dignos en esta edición, así como historias cortas sobre 13 de los destinatarios. Siempre estoy asombrado por lo que estos estudiantes han logrado a pesar de tantas barreras, incluida la pobreza extrema, las mudanzas frecuentes y la falta de vivienda. Algunos de estos estudiantes han perdido a sus padres y amigos cercanos. Muchos tienen vidas hogareñas inestables, pero de alguna manera logran no solo llegar a la escuela, sino también sobresalir académicamente y ser líderes entre sus compañeros. Estoy orgulloso de cada uno de estos estudiantes. El 4 de mayo transmitiremos un evento especial en honor a los ganadores de las becas. El evento, organizado por la Universidad de Padres se puede ver en el sitio web de nuestro distrito, nuestro canal [Ustream](#) y la [televisión por cable](#).

Toda nuestra Clase de promoción del 2021 se celebrará con ceremonias de graduación al aire libre, comenzando a finales de este mes con Design Science Middle College High School, y continuando hasta el 10 de junio. Las escuelas Preparatorias de McLane y Sunnyside realizarán ceremonias en sus estadios, mientras que nuestras otras escuelas preparatorias honrarán a los graduados en el Teatro Paul Paul al aire libre en los Terrenos de la feria de Fresno. Como muchos de ustedes saben, les prometí a los estudiantes del último año que encontraríamos la manera de honrarlos cuando fuera posible. Ese día casi está aquí. Comenzaremos la temporada de graduación con una ceremonia especial para los miembros graduados de la promoción 2020 el 24 de mayo en el Teatro Paul Paul. Mientras que solo pueden asistir cuatro miembros de la familia de los hogares de nuestros graduados, transmitiremos en vivo las ceremonias y tomaremos fotografías. Estoy encantado de que podamos celebrar una vez más ceremonias tradicionales para honrar el gran trabajo de nuestros "seniors" del 12 o grado.

Las métricas de salud locales mejoradas nos han hecho posible regresar al aprendizaje en persona, lanzar deportes en las escuelas preparatorias y realizar bailes y graduaciones. Pido que todos hagamos nuestra parte para mantener esos números en la dirección correcta, incluso con el aumento de actividades que se produce en esta época del año en la escuela y en toda la comunidad. Quiero animar a todos los elegibles, incluidos nuestros estudiantes de 16 años

o más, a que consideren vacunarse. Ya sea que se trate de un concierto, una fiesta de graduación, una fiesta de jubilación o una graduación al aire libre, las vacunas reducen el riesgo y garantizan que pueda disfrutar con seguridad de todas las actividades y aventuras que trae esta época del año.

Peb Yeej Siv Zog Kawg los Xaus lub Xyoo yuav los ua Kev Zoo Siab rau Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm Tiav thiab Npaj Cov Hom Phiaj Rau Lwm Xyoo

Vam tias lub xyoo kub ntxhov, txawv tshaj tab sis muaj qeev qho kuj ua tau txaus siab twb yuav los xaus, tshuav 29 hnuv qhia ntawv lawm xwb thiab tshawg tshaj ntawd rau cov yuav tiav xyoo no. Yam li kuv tau hais los lawm, xyoo no yog ib xyoo uas nyuaj tshaj hauv kuv lub neej kev ua hauj lwm, thiab kuv paub tias coojb tus tau raug sim siab, tib si hauv lub neej thiab kev ua hauj lwm. Peb cov tub ntxhais kawm, lawv tsis tau ua ntau yam tau 12 lub hlis no nrog kev kawm saum huab cua. Tej zaum koj yuav xav paub seb yam muaj nqi ntawm xyoo no yog dabtsi. Ntawm kuv, yog thaum pom peb cov neeg ua hauj lwm, cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab tsev neeg tau mob siab, hloov yooq thiab ua kom zoo mus tom ntej. Kuv yeej paub tias nws tsis yooj yim thiab tsis ua raws nraim siab nyiam, li ntawd peb muaj cov hom phiaj txuas ntxiv los daws cov kev kawm tsis tiav nrog lub khoos kas kawm caij ntuj sov thiab qhov peb yuav npaj mus kawm ntawv rau lub xyoo 2021-22 tom ntej no.

Peb txav mus rau tom hauv ntej paub tias peb twb ua zoo txog qhov rov tuaj kawm pom ntsej pom muag kawm ua ke, pib thaum Plaub hlis tim 6. Nws yog ib qho kev zoo siab tau pom tub kawm tuaj kawm nyob rau chav kawm, taug kev mus rau chav kawm thiab muaj kev lom zem nyob rau ntawm tsav nyom thiab chaw ua si. Tej zaum kuj muaj kev cov nyom me ntsi, tab sis kuv tau hnov los ntawm peb cov xib hwb, thawj coj thiab neeg ua hauj lwm ntau tus uas lawv tau hais muaj cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv rov tuaj kawm yam tsis muaj teeb meem nyob hauv chav kawm thiab rau tom tsev kawm ntawv yam nws tsim nyog. Nws yog ib qhov zoo siab uas tau pom cov tub kawm thiab neeg ua hauj lwm rov tuaj rau tom peb tsev kawm ntawv.

Lub hli no, peb muaj kev zoo siab rau cov tau txais Fresno Unified Scholarship, suav txhawb ntawm 76 tus tub ntxhais kawm qib kaum ob. Xaiv los ntawm 215 tug tub ntxhais tau ua ntawv thov los txais cov nyiaj pab *scholarships* muaj nqi li ntawd \$1,500 txog \$3,500. Ua tsaug ntau rau cov neeg ua hauj lwm siab zoo hauv Fresno Unified thiab cov koom tes hauv zej zog uas tau muab nyiaj pab rau cov nyiaj pab cuam pub dawb, peb yuav muab \$161,000 rau cov nyiaj pub dawb. Thov saib daim ntawv ntawv teev npe ntawm cov tub ntxhais tsim nyog nyob rau hauv tsab ntawv no, nrog rau lus qhia me ntsis txog 13 tug uas tau cov

nyiaj pab. Kuv yeej muaj kev zoo siab cia siab rau cov tub ntxhais vim lawv txawm muaj ntau yam thiav lawv txoj hau kev, nrog rau kev txom nyem, nquag tsiv thiab tsis muaj tsev nyob los lawm tseem ua tau los kawm tiav. Ib co tub ntxhais kawm no tsis muaj niam txiv thiab phooj ywg vim lawv ploj tag. Coob leej muaj lub neej nyob tsis khov hauv tsev, tab sis lawv kuj tswj tau mus kawm ntawv, thiab tseem kawm tau zoo thiab ua cov thawj coj ntawm lawv cov phooj ywg. Kuv qhuas txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm ntawv no. Peb yuav tshaj tawm cov xwm txheej tshwj xeeb rau cov tau txais cov nyiaj pab nyob rau lub Tsib Hlis tim 4. Qhov kev zoo siab, uas yog Niam Txiv University ua tswv cuab, yuav tso saib nyob rau hauv peb koog tsev kawm ntawv lub [website](#), peb [Ustream](#) tshooj thiab [cable TV](#).

Tag nrho peb Cov Kawm Tiav 2021 yuav muaj ua kev zoo siab rau sab nraum zoov, pib lub hlis no nrog Design Science Middle College High School, mus txog Lub Rau Hli tim 10. McLane thiab Sunnyside cov tsev kawm them siab yuav ua cov koob tsheej nyob rau lawv cov chaw ncaws pob, nrog rau lwm cov tsev kawm them siab yuav ua kev zoo siab rau cov kawm tiav nyob rau Paul Paul Theatre sab nraum zoov ntawm Fresno Fairgrounds. Raws li koj twj paub, kuv tau cog lus xyoo tas los no rau cov tub ntxhais tias yeej yuav muaj ib hnuv peb yuav nrhiav ib txoj kev kom tau los qhuas lawv rau lawv kev kawm tiav thaum twg yog ua tau. Hnuv ntawd twb yuav los txog. Peb yuav pib lub koob tsheej rau cov kawm tiav nrog rau ib qho kev ua tshwj xeeb rau cov tub ntxhais kawm tiav xyoo 2020 thaum lub Tsib Hlis tim 24 ntawm Paul Paul Theatre. Txawm tias tsuas pub plaub tug neeg ntawm ib tug kawm tiav tuaj koom tau, peb yuav tso cov koob tsheej tawm saum huab cua thiab yuav thajj duab pub. Kuv zoo siab uas peb tau rov ua koob tsheej yam li ib txwm ua rau peb cov tub ntxhais uas rau siab kawm.

Kev txhim kho tau zoo los rau kev ntsuas kev noj qab haus huv hauv zos pub rau peb rov qab mus rau kev kawm tim ntsej tim muag, cia cov kis las hauv tsev kawm them siab pib ua si thiab pub ua cov *prom* kev seev cev rau cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab cov koob tsheej rau cov kawm tiav. Kuv thov kom peb txhua tus ua peb lub luag hauj lwm kom cov lej no nyob mus raws qhov zoo, txawm tias cov kev ua ub no yuav tab tom muaj ntxiv lub sij hawm no hauv tsev kawm ntawv thiab thoob plaws lub zej zog. Kuv xav txhawb tag nrho cov uas tsim nyog, suav nrog peb cov tub ntxhais kawm hnuv nyooq 16 thiab laus dua, kom xav txog txoj kev txhaj tshuaj tiv thiav kab mob. Txawm hais tias yuav mus saib neeg ua yeeb yam, mus *prom*, so hauj lwm los sis mus koom tej koob tsheej kawm ntawv tiav sab nraud zoov, kev txhaj tshuaj yuav txo koj txoj kev pheej hmoo thiab ua kom koj muaj kev nyab xeeb rau txhua yam kev ua si thiab kev lom zem rau lub sij hawm no.



Fresno Unified Students Read for more than 2 Million Minutes

District students read for a total of 2.3 million minutes during the Sora Digital Library Reading Challenge from March 1 to April 15. Top schools were Heaton Elementary School, Computech Middle School and Edison High School.

The winning schools each received \$1,000 in their Sora Advantage accounts, allowing them to purchase additional digital books for their schools.

“The Digital Reading Challenge offered schools the opportunity to accelerate use of our Sora Digital Library and to promote independent reading. With a total of 2,328,453 minutes read across the district, our schools met and exceeded the challenge,” said Tom Nixon, a manager for Online Learning and Library Services.

At Heaton, library media technician Vickie George held prize drawings twice a month for students reading from the Sora digital library to encourage reading. She sent a report every week to teachers so they could see who was

reading in their class.

George also created a library folder in Microsoft Teams that included information and a “bookshelf” of titles for each grade level.

“It was very exciting! The last week of the challenge, teachers and students were amazing. The reading minutes were flying off the charts. I am so proud of all of them for making this win happen for Heaton,” George said.

At Computech, teacher librarian Aimee Ward built a “SoraFlix” board offering book ideas for students, gearing them toward monthly themes and books similar to the novels their grade levels were reading.

Ward also made sure students knew how to access Sora by creating a how-to video, presenting to eighth grade CORE classes and with one-on-one instruction virtually for students. She also taught students how to highlight and make annotations while reading digitally, and how to send those notes to their teachers.

Celebrating Earth Day at Robinson Elementary School



Student Isaiah Uribe helps with tree planting at Robinson Elementary School on April 22 to celebrate Earth Day and beautify the school.



Fresno City College

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