Students will Return to School to a Regular Schedule with Extra Supports and Learning Time

Students will return to school in August to a full day schedule, five days a week with a variety of additional supports and extra learning opportunities.

The school calendar will be extended by three days, with students returning to school on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021. Their last day will be Friday, June 10, 2022.

The Fresno Unified board is scheduled to vote on the new calendar June 16. While the revised school calendar extends the school year by three days it also includes three additional professional learning days -- called buy back days. The following days will be non-instructional days for students -- Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Jan. 10, Feb. 28 and March 21.

Superintendent Bob Nelson and members of the board of education provided information on the revised calendar and other details of the district’s Pandemic Recovery Plan on May 28.

“I’m very optimistic about the upcoming school year,” Nelson said.

He noted that “for students we are adding an additional 30 minutes every day for the first semester. Thirty minutes daily equates to about a week of instruction.”

The plan for the next school year includes:

**Additional Time and Supports**

- All elementary, middle and high school students will receive 30 additional minutes a day of instruction during the first semester to address literacy and math.
- All elementary and middle school teachers will have the option to continue to provide 30 minutes of instruction for students during the second semester to address literacy and math.
- High schools will offer expanded options for credit recovery and English learner supports all year, and middle schools will also offer additional English learner supports all year.
- Each elementary school site will receive an additional fulltime teacher (or equivalent) to support class size reduction with a focus on literacy and math in kindergarten through third grade.
- All comprehensive high schools will receive an additional fulltime teacher (or equivalent) in ninth grade English to support class size reduction and student literacy.

**Extended Learning**

- The district will offer additional summer and winter sessions for students.
- The after school program will be expanded.

See FALL PLANS Continued on page 11

Cheers to the Class of 2020

Graduates from the Class of 2020 were finally able to walk across the graduation stage in special ceremonies held May 24 at the Paul Paul Theater. Traditional graduations could not be held last year because of COVID-19.

The district has developed a plan for welcoming students back full time, five days a week in August. In April, second grader Israel Ojeda Villa from Webster Elementary School celebrated coming back to school in person for two days a week.
District Announces Free Grab-and-Go Summer Meals Schedule

The district will begin its free summer meals program on Monday, June 14, providing grab-and-go breakfast and lunch at 20 sites for ages 1 to 18. Every summer, Fresno Unified has provided free nutritious meals to replace the school meals that many families depend on.

Summer meals to go will be served 10-11 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the same time. Weekend meals will be provided on Fridays. The district will distribute summer meals until the start of the new school year on Aug. 12, when meals will be available at all schools.

El distrito anuncia el horario de comidas de verano

El distrito comenzará su programa gratuito de comidas de verano el lunes 14 de junio, proporcionando desayuno y almuerzo para llevar en 20 localidades para las edades de 1 a 18 años.

Cada verano, el distrito escolar de Fresno ha proporcionado comidas nutritivas gratuitas para reemplazar las comidas escolares de las que dependen muchas familias.

Las comidas de verano se servirán de 10-11 a.m. El desayuno y el almuerzo se proporcionarán al mismo tiempo. Las comidas de fin de semana se proporcionarán los viernes. El distrito distribuirá las comidas de verano hasta el comienzo del nuevo año escolar, cuando las comidas comenzarán a estar disponibles en todas las escuelas.

Virtual Innovation Day Winners Announced for Fifth and Sixth Grades

Winners of the virtual Innovation Day are Aurora Nikitin from Yokomi Elementary School, Henry Alvarado from Del Mar Elementary School, and Sebastian Ordaz from Manchester GATE Elementary School for fifth grade, and Elijah Rangel, Michelle Baez and Kelsey Nankhati, all from Hidalgo Elementary School for sixth grade.

They received a Nintendo Switch Lite courtesy of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State. Additionally, the top three for each grade level from each high school region were also awarded an Amazon gift card.

Innovation Day was held May 3-14, with students building a solution to the challenge and submitting a recording of their design. The event, put on by the College & Career Readiness Office, is the culmination of the STEM 5 and Kids Invent! engineering 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 and are focused on engineering design practices.

The virtual Innovation Day exhibit opened on May 21 for students, staff, and community to visit. New this year, visitors to the virtual exhibit could vote on their favorite submissions and two students from each grade level received People’s Choice Awards. Winners were Henry Alvarado from Del Mar for fifth grade, and Jonathan Herrera from Addams Elementary School for sixth grade.

List of summer meal distribution sites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>All Meals are Served 10-11 a.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figarden Elementary</td>
<td>6235 N. Brawley Ave.</td>
<td>93722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Elementary</td>
<td>1100 E. Mono Ave.</td>
<td>93706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norseman Elementary</td>
<td>4636 E. Weldon Ave.</td>
<td>93703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyle Elementary</td>
<td>4140 N. Augusta Ave.</td>
<td>93726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Elementary</td>
<td>131 W. Ashlan Ave.</td>
<td>93705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahwahnee Middle</td>
<td>1127 E. Escalon Ave.</td>
<td>93710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Miller Middle</td>
<td>1302 E. Dakota Ave.</td>
<td>93704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaston Middle</td>
<td>1100 E. Church Ave.</td>
<td>93706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Canyon Middle</td>
<td>5117 E. Tulare Ave.</td>
<td>93727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequoia Middle</td>
<td>4050 E. Hamilton Ave.</td>
<td>93702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tehipite Middle</td>
<td>630 N. Augusta Ave.</td>
<td>93701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terronez Middle</td>
<td>2300 S. Willow Ave.</td>
<td>93725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga Middle</td>
<td>3232 E. Fairmont Ave.</td>
<td>93726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Middle</td>
<td>1292 N. Ninth St.</td>
<td>93703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullard High</td>
<td>5445 N. Palm Ave.</td>
<td>93704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison High</td>
<td>540 E. California Ave.</td>
<td>93706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno High</td>
<td>1839 N. Echo Ave.</td>
<td>93704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoover High</td>
<td>5550 N. First St</td>
<td>93710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt High</td>
<td>4250 E. Tulare Ave.</td>
<td>93702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside High</td>
<td>1019 S. Peach Ave.</td>
<td>93727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The district will begin distributing free breakfast and lunch meals for the summer on June 14 at various sites.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Time to Celebrate the End of the School Year, Look forward to 2021-22

Hello, summer! We’re not officially there yet on the calendar, but with school out in 11 days and the hot weather upon us, it feels like summertime. Last year at this same time, we were unsure of the path ahead.

We were still reeling from the COVID-19 punch that closed our schools in March 2020 and forced us to go online learning. We had really no idea what the upcoming school year would look like. This June is different. Although many of us are still feeling the devastating loss of this pandemic — loss of family and friends, school, jobs, connections, routines and so much more — I am optimistic and excited about the coming school year. Fresno Unified’s plan for 2021-22 includes having students back on campus full-time five days a week for in-person instruction and extended learning opportunities. Our Pandemic Recovery Plan will include the addition of three days to the 2021-22 calendar — two at the beginning of the year and one at the end of the year.

School will start Aug. 12, 2021 and end June 10, 2022. We are also adding 30 minutes a day of instruction in the first semester for all grades to address literacy and math. High schools will offer expanded options for credit recovery and English learner supports all year and middle schools will have additional English learner supports all year. Extra teachers will be added in targeted areas, and social-emotional support and health services staff will be added. (See story on Page 1 for more details.) We know that this past year of mostly virtual learning has not been easy, and we have a comprehensive plan to address unfinished learning.

And while we are in full planning mode for the next school year, we are also enjoying all that this time of year brings, especially celebrating our graduating seniors and our retirees. The graduation season kicked off in late May recognizing graduates from the Class of 2020, who of course didn’t get their traditional ceremony last year amid the pandemic lockdown. I made a promise to those seniors and their families that they would, at some point, get to walk across the graduation stage. What a joy it was to see this happen. In fact, the response to our online sign-up for a Class of 2020 graduation walk was so positive we actually held two ceremonies on May 24 at the Fresno Fairgrounds’ Paul Paul Theater to accommodate all the seniors who wanted to participate. Later that day, in the first of 14 high school graduation ceremonies, we honored Design Science Middle College High School, also held at the Paul Paul Theater. June 2-10, we will recognize the rest of our high schools’ graduating seniors. Congratulations to our 2020 and 2021 graduates. We’re thrilled to be able to recognize you in the way you deserve.

We also had two additional significant events in our district in recent weeks. On May 12, Fresno High School — our oldest high school — unveiled a new logo to replace the Native American Warrior image. The Warrior name is not going away, but the images to go along with that proud name now reflect the tradition of the campus while honoring the diversity of our district and community. The student-designed, student-selected primary image depicts the campus’ iconic Royce Hall, flanked by the International Baccalaureate logo and the owl logo, also a traditional Fresno High symbol. A companion logo, which received just two fewer student votes, features the block F and ash leaves (Fresno means ash).

Message from Francine and Murray Farber

Steve’s Scholars up to the Challenge of COVID Year

We think that every Steve’s Scholar is a hero this year. Each of these students braved the challenge of the coronavirus and kept up their academic grades, attendance and community service.

They could have made excuses, avoided their leadership roles as Steve’s Scholars, and wondered whether the requirements were worthwhile, especially if their families had the pressures of health, childcare and economic concerns. But they didn’t make excuses. They persevered. Some of them also mentored other students who were struggling.

While we weren’t able to have our customary celebratory family banquet for Steve’s Scholars, with the help of dedicated teachers and administrators we were able to hold a graduation ceremony at Tehipite. Each Steve’s Scholar and some family members were invited to the campus individually to experience congratulations, receive scholar- ship certificates and community service medals, make a video of their award, and take home a delicious family dinner to have their own celebration.

To Steve’s Scholars and your families and teachers who made your six-year voyage possible, we salute you and know you will have a bright future as you go on to college.
STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2021

Farbers Recognize the Fourth Group of Tehipite Steve's Scholars

The district and community have recognized the fourth group of Steve’s Scholars—36 graduating seniors from eight district high schools.

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

To learn more about the Steve’s Scholars recipients, see their profiles on this page through page 6.

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

Students from the Class of 2021 represent the fourth cohort of Steve’s Scholars. The students will receive $1,000 scholarships for each of their first two years of college after successfully having met all the requirements for Steve’s Scholars since they were in the seventh grade at Tehipite.

“We are thrilled with the fourth cohort, which is carrying on our plan to help make college a reality for Tehipite students,” Murray Farber said.

The Steve’s Scholars program affects entire families, not just the students involved.

“We also know that the families of the scholarship winners are seeing their aspirations starting to come true, as their children will have better and more fulfilling lives through greater education,” Francine Farber said.

To achieve a Steve’s Scholar scholarship, students had to maintain at least a B average and at least 95% attendance in grades 7-12. They also were required to take California’s college preparatory courses, known as A through G classes, and complete community service annually. The 36 recipients amassed 1,965.50 hours of community service, ranging from 30 hours to 119 hours per student.

Two students earned special recognition for outstanding achievement. Azucena Pacheco Elorza from Hoover High School was recognized for 100% attendance seventh through 12th grade and the highest point grade average—4.32. Devon Bernard Jurado Marshall from Fresno High School was recognized for the most community service hours—119 hours.

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

With the original gift now invested, the Farbers contributed to family and friends to provide special opportunities for students to experience the arts and the world outside Fresno. They have taken trips to colleges, toured the museum, and attended plays at the Roger Rocka Dinner Theater.

However, due to the pandemic those events were put on pause and with those funds the district, along with the Farbers, created a Steve’s Scholars mentoring group connecting junior and senior Steve’s Scholars from Roosevelt High School with struggling freshman virtually.

The Farbers have also funded “Fifth Grade on Broadway” to provide annually the more than 6,000 fifth-graders in Fresno Unified with an opportunity to see a professional theater production written to enhance their social studies curriculum on the American Revolution. To date, about 25,000 have seen the play.

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

The Farbers were both born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and have been married for 66 years. Before retiring, Murray Farber was a journalist and worked in university communications and Francine Farber was a school psychologist and administrator. They moved to Fresno to be close to their daughter, Andrea, and her family, after the death of Steve and another son, Michael, at the age of 35.

Elizabeth Viridiana Pacheco Reyes
Design Science Middle College High School
College: University of California, Berkeley
Career Goal: Psychology

Quote: “The thing I like the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is the opportunity I had to explore and learn new things. Thank you for this opportunity and the support I have received through the program.”

Alfredo Valdez Olivos
Design Science Middle College High School
College: Southern California Institute of Architecture
Career Goal: Architect

Quote: “The thing I like the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that the students in the program want to succeed and strive for great things. Thank you to the Farbers for the opportunity and giving not only me, but everyone in the Steve’s Scholars program a resource to continue with our education.”

Nubia Lizeth Cruz Zamora
Duncan Polytechnic High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Speech Pathologist

Quote: “I loved the experiences and activities the Steve’s Scholars program offered. Thank you to the Farbers for this amazing opportunity and the support to me and my family.”

Juan Arcadio Avila Trejo
Edison High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Animation Intermedia

Quote: “I would like to thank the Farbers for the Steve’s Scholars program. This opportunity encouraged me to strive to earn better grades in high school.”
Teresita Aguilar
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The thing I liked most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that it motivated me to work hard for my good grades and to maintain them. The scholarship will help me financially.”

Gabriel Montanez Jr.
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Electrical Engineering
Quote: “The Steve’s Scholars program motivated me to push myself even more. Thank you for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to be successful on the pathway to my future and an adventurous journey.”

Jennifer Ornelas Cruz
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Pharmacist
Quote: “What I liked most about participating in the Steve’s Scholars program is that it’s a great source of motivation. Throughout my high school years the thought of being honored and knowing all the struggles would be worth it at the end kept me going.”

Gabriela Judith Vasquez
Fresno High School
College: United States Air Force
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The scholarship is going to be a huge help in my road to success. Thank you.”

Azucena Pacheco Elorza
Hoover High School
College: University of California, Berkeley
Career Goal: Architect
Quote: “I’m grateful for the Steve’s Scholars program at Tehipite Middle School. This scholarship program is part of the reason why I worked hard to achieve academically. Thank you for opening a path for me to follow.”

Cynthia Diana Trevino Lopez
Hoover High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The Steve’s Scholars program supported me throughout middle school and high school. It was a blessing to me and I appreciate the opportunity to have been a part of the program.”

Gloria Esthefani Cabrera Becerra
J.E. Young Academic Center
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Dental Assistant
Quote: “I hope to be an example for all moms like me, that didn’t give up and I hope you don’t either. Believe in yourself and remember that we are educating ourselves for the benefit of our children.”

Dang Thao
McLane High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Firefighter
Quote: “The thing I appreciate about the Steve’s Scholars program is that it encouraged and pushed each and every student to strive to do better in their education and to plan for a future career. Thank you for this scholarship program.”

Angelo Andrade
Roosevelt High School
College: University of California, Merced
Career Goal: Software Developer
Quote: “The thing I liked the most about participating in the Steve’s Scholars program was the opportunity it gives to be a good and caring person, giving back to the community through volunteer service.”

Suzette Bautista
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The thing I liked the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that we were able to connect with our Class of 2021 cohort throughout high school. Thank you for the scholarship opportunity.”

Ivette Alicia Chavez Flores
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Criminology
Quote: “The thing I liked the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is the focus on volunteering in the community, which allowed me to interact with other students. I’m grateful to have been a part of this great scholarship opportunity.”

Elizabeth Martinez
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Art
Quote: “I am so grateful for the opportunity that the Farbers have given me. Thank you for giving me motivation when I didn’t have it in my own personal space and thank you for rewarding me for the work I’ve done in middle and high school. There were times that it was hard to find the motivation to care about school and I appreciate that Steve’s Scholars gave me the reason to keep trying.”

Lizette Odalis Vasquez
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Business
Quote: “The thing I liked the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that it helped me stay focused on being a good student. I will put the scholarship to good use in my education.”

Devon Bernard Jurado Marshall
Fresno High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Chiropractor
Quote: “I like that the Steve’s Scholars program stays with you throughout your high school years, with check-ins every now and then to encourage us about staying on top of our grades and our volunteer work so that we have the best chance at earning the scholarship. This program meant a lot to me and the scholarship money will be put to good use.”

Gabrielle Judith Vasquez
Fresno High School
College: United States Air Force
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The scholarship is going to be a huge help in my road to success. Thank you.”

Teresita Aguilar
Fresno High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Nurse
Quote: “The thing I liked the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that it motivated me to work hard for my good grades and to maintain them. The scholarship will help me financially.”
STEVE’S SCHOLARS 2021

Valeria Nicole Frias Ramirez
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Family Therapist

Quote: “I loved being a part of the Steve’s Scholars program because I was able to participate in a variety of events and enjoyed each one. I want to thank the Farbers for this amazing scholarship opportunity.”

Estrella Esmeralda Mancilla
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Business

Quote: “The thing I like the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is the activities offered and getting to know my peers in the program.”

Alondra Analys Medina Carrillo
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Nurse

Quote: “I am deeply honored to have had the support of the Steve’s Scholars program. This scholarship award means a lot to me since it will help me in achieving my goal of a higher education. I am so grateful to be a part of this scholarship program.”

Angel Gabriel Nino Garcia
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Business

Quote: “Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Farber for encouraging students at Tehapi Middle School to strive for good grades, encouraging students to improve their attendance, and for teaching students about social responsibility. Everyone in the Steve’s Scholars program is grateful for what you have done for us, and for the next generation. I am proud to be a Steve’s Scholar and will remember this moment. Thank you. You are both living legends.”

Dania Vanessa Perea Alonso
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Marine Biologist

Quote: “The Steve’s Scholars program used the offer of a scholarship to Tehapi Middle School students and really motivated many to continue being on the right path in their education. The cohort of scholars helped students connect with one another and to continue moving forward to meet the requirements to earn the scholarship.”

Jazmin Perez-Miranda
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Nurse

Quote: “Thank you so much to the Farber’s for giving Tehapi Middle School students the opportunity of the Steve’s Scholars program and a scholarship in return for our hard work.”

Guadalupe Rivera-Guerrero
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Forensic Science

Quote: “I like that the Steve’s Scholars program helped me push myself to get better grades and stay on track. I participated in many community events to help others and engaged with my community. These opportunities taught me to be responsible and charitable.”

Johnny Sanchez Avalos
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal:English Teacher

Quote: “The thing I like the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is the activities offered and getting to know my peers in the program.”

Jazmyne Theresa Santiago Martinez
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Criminal Psychologist

Quote: “Thank you for giving me and my classmates the opportunity to earn a scholarship through the Steve’s Scholars program. I appreciated the meetings that were held and the encouragement we got about engaging in community service to earn volunteer hours.”

Alondra Cassandra Garza
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Social Work

Quote: “I would like to say thank you so much for the scholarship. You have all made me and my family extremely grateful. One day I hope to make you all proud because the opportunity of the scholarship will not be wasted. I’ll further my education because of all of you.”

Ania Saryia Gonzalez
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Criminology

Quote: “The thing I like the most about the Steve’s Scholars program is that the Farbers generosity rewarded me for getting good grades and earning a high GPA.”

Roseanna Jessica Garcia
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Nurse

Quote: “The Steve’s Scholars program is the cohort meetings that were held in high school. It was nice to hang out with others who have goals similar to mine.”

Henry Palomares
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career Goal: Videography

Quote: “The Steve’s Scholars program encouraged me to focus on my schoolwork and to never give up. Hard work pays off.”

Leonela Lizeth Ulloa Moran
Roosevelt High School
College: California State University, Fresno
Career Goal: Physical Therapist

Quote: “The thing that I liked about Steve’s Scholars is the students involved in the program. Since middle school I have been with the same students and I have made some really good friendships. The adults involved in the program have always been there and supported everyone along the way. The program challenged me to become a better student and a better person in my community, inspiring me to give back to my community.”
CLASS OF 2021

Design Science Middle College High School

May 24, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians

Wendy Magaly Arellano Leon
Dominic Don Borges
Donavan Goddy Borges
Isabelle Marie Cooper
Yoseline Delgado Murrillo
Bianca Mia Gomez
Jose Antonio Guerrero
Manbir Singh Kaberwal
Victoria Sayuri Koch
Elyette Ishthar Morales Pulido
Gladis Remigio
Alyson Ivy Rodgers

Jennifer Sanchez Orozco
Noe Trinidad Serrano
Jaskaran Singh Sidhu
Dylan Jacob Smith
Samantha Mayla Yang
Vencent Yang
Tou Lee Vue
Caya Dee Sumiko West
Emily Gao Nou Xiong
Melanie Kalia Xiong
Valerie Xiong
Ellie Jiashie Yang
Fresno High School Unveils New Logos to go with Warrior Name

Fresno High School unveiled a new student-designed logo to the community May 12 that includes an image of historic Royce Hall.

A secondary logo for athletics was also revealed that features a block F and warrior shield.

The logos were announced in front of Royce Hall with staff, students, district leaders and members of the community attending. The announcement followed several months of work on a new logo to accompany the traditional Warrior name.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education had voted in December to retire the Native American mascot image. Trustees had received petitions to both eliminate and keep the Native American image.

Following a call for designs in February, students submitted ideas, concepts and images. In March, an advisory group that included staff, students, alumni and community members identified three logos to share with Fresno High students to vote on. Students voted online April 12-19.

“This was no easy lift and I want to commend our district staff, Fresno High administrative team and of course our Fresno High Warrior students in engaging in this body of work, having meaningful and courageous conversation and most importantly, working collaboratively to develop concepts and designs, provide input and ultimately select the images that represent the rich history of Fresno High while honoring the diversity of this community,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

The new primary logo for Fresno High depicts historic Royce Hall, an anchor of the campus since the school moved to its current location in 1922. The image of Royce Hall is flanked by the International Baccalaureate logo, reinforcing the school’s commitment to an academically rigorous and relevant program that teaches students to act responsibly, think critically and contribute to a changing society.

On the right side of Royce Hall is an owl, which for decades has represented excellence in Warrior academics and is the name sake of Fresno High’s yearbook. The words “Fresno High School Warriors” frame the image.

The second image, the warrior shield, will be used for athletics and is intended to complement the traditional Fresno High block F, already used on some athletic wear. The image can be used with or without the ash leaves that flank the shield. (Ash tree in Spanish is Fresno.) Just two votes separated the two images in student voting.

When school opens in August for the 2021-22 academic year, the new primary logo will be installed throughout the campus and new clothing, uniforms and other items will reflect the new logos.

Students Exhibit Art, Writing in Front of Fresno High School

Fresno High School IB students showcased an art and writing project throughout May that highlighted stories of change, including students’ pandemic experiences.

“The Power of the Butterfly Metaphor” and “Migration through Legacy” were interdisciplinary projects led by English language arts teachers Marina Santos and Meghan Schimmel. Video production teacher Mahon Brown led a team of students in documenting the project and construction teacher Joel Osuna assisted in curating the art in Warrior Park.

The art pieces were mounted on the fence in front of Warrior Park. Students involved said the project improved their mental well-being during the pandemic.

“What a pleasure to be able to see student art in person, especially a project that allowed students to express their COVID-19 experiences and feel more in control of their circumstances,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Important Dates

- June 2-10: Graduations
- June 11: Last Day of School
- August 12: First Day of 2021-22 School Year
New Alternative Ed Campus will be Named for Philanthropists Francine and Murray Farber.

A new campus for alternative education programs will be named for Francine and Murray Farber, a Fresno couple that sponsors scholarships, art programs and other supports for students.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education approved the naming at its May 19 meeting.

At the June 2 board meeting, trustees are scheduled to approve the naming of several buildings planned for the campus after prominent citizens whose names emerged during the naming process.

The buildings are the administration building, early education building and career technical education classrooms.

The community was invited to propose names through an online survey available April 7-May 7, with 1,672 suggestions submitted honoring 149 individuals or geographical locations.

A list of the names was provided to the board, along with profiles of the four names that received 65 or more nominations:

- The Farbers.
- Former district administrator Holland Locker, who died in 2019.
- Roger Tatarian, who grew up near the campus site and was a prominent journalist and Fresno State professor. He died in 1995.
- Dolphas Trotter, a longtime district educator who was the first Black principal at Edison High School and served as an interim superintendent. He died in 2009.

The campus will be built on a 12.8-acre site at 10th Street and Ventura Avenue, the former home of the old county-owned juvenile hall. The campus will open in August 2023.

The Farbers, who moved to Fresno in 2003, have committed time and financial resources to a number of district and community projects in honor of their late sons, Steve and Michael.

In 2012, through an endowment, the Farbers launched Steve’s Scholars at Tehapipe Middle School with the goal of providing college scholarships to students once they graduated from a Fresno Unified high school.

The program criteria include academic, attendance and community service expectations. The Farbers, supporters of the arts, also funded the “Fifth Grade on Broadway” initiative to provide fifth grade students the opportunity to experience professional theater productions like “Founding Fathers…and Mothers,” an original production written, directed and cast by the Good Company Players.

Francine and Murray have continued to provide for the community, opening Mike’s Books, a free onsite library at two Fresno Housing Authority communities.

The Farbers were born in Brooklyn, N.Y and have been married for 66 years. Mr. Farber is a former newspaper editor and Mrs. Farber was a school psychologist and administrator.

The campus will house Cambridge High School, J.E. Young Academic Center and eLearn Academy, the district’s online learning school for kindergarten
West Family Donates to Addicott, Rata and Lori Ann Infant Center

The West family has been a huge supporter of programs providing services to children with special needs. Kale and his late wife, Carolyn, are known for their constant dedication to children, community and family. For years they tirelessly organized amazing pancake breakfasts and chicken barbecues to help Fresno Unified staff fundraise to support families and students.

This spring, Kale West and his family, through their Disabled Children’s Foundation, donated $20,000 to Addicott Elementary School and $10,000 each to Rata High School and the Lori Ann Infant Program. All serve the district’s most medically fragile students.

“The West family is one of the most genuine and loving families you will ever meet. I feel so honored to lead the Lori Ann Infant Program and so fortunate to receive this donation, which will make a world of difference to so many families we serve,” said Heidi Barbis, manager of the Lori Ann Infant Center.

The Wests’ connection with Fresno Unified goes back about 50 years, when they were looking for a program for their daughter with Down syndrome. They were not successful in finding one. Instead, with five other families, they started their own.

In the 1980s, federal law was enacted mandating that school districts provide services to families of children birth through 3 years old. Kale West, already involved in district committees at the time, brought his program to Fresno Unified. That program is named for his daughter, Lori Ann, who is now 50.

“This gift could not have come at a better time as we are in the process of updating our sensory room and opening a motor room,” said Addicott Principal Robyn Scroggins.

The West family recently made substantial donations to Addicott Elementary School, Rata High School and the Lori Ann Infant Center, all serving the district’s most medically fragile students. From left are Kale West, Lori Ann West, Lori Ann Infant Center manager Heidi Barbis, Rata Principal Amy Balmanno and Addicott Principal Robyn Scroggins.

### Naming of Campus

Continued from page 9

through 12th grade. It will also house the Educational Resource Center for students in K-12 seeking to transition into alternative education. Alt ed schools provide more personalized education options for students in need of a flexible schedule.

The campus, designed to meet the needs of more than 1,200 students, will include an early learning center where young parents and district staff can bring their children for childcare. The campus will include space for social workers, academic counselors and a library.

Students will have access to a student union for meals and gathering, and space will be available for community engagement events. The campus will have an exercise gym, and space for student leaders to meet as well as gallery space for student exhibits.

Morning, afternoon and evening classes will be offered to accommodate students’ schedules. The combined campus will focus on several career pathways, including engineering, with an emphasis on logistics and distribution, robotics and manufacturing mechanics; business, with an emphasis on social entrepreneurship, accounting and event management and hospitality; and technology, with an emphasis on information technology systems, coding and cyber security.

A new alternative education campus will open in 2023 at 10th Street and Ventura Avenue that will also house an early learning center and space for social workers and counselors.
Middle and High School Virtual Theater Celebration

Theater departments created a video to celebrate theater highlights from the past school year. The middle and high school theater departments worked hard this year to bring the joy of performance back to life. Video showcasing acting and production design talents: https://vimeo.com/554857759

African American Students Recognized

The 28th African American High School Recognition Ceremony will be held virtually June 6 at 3 p.m. The event is put on by the San Joaquin Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with Fresno Unified’s Goal 2 Department. This year, organizations will be awarding more than $70,000 in scholarships. The keynote speaker is the Tei Street. The virtual ceremony will be streamed via the Fresno Unified Ustream, https://www.fresnounified.org/news/livestream/ and https://m.facebook.com/fresnounifiedpage. In addition, the ceremony will be aired on Comcast Xfinity Channel 94 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99.

Fundraiser for Black Student Unions

Support Fresno Unified Black Student Union (BSU) clubs by purchasing “Our History” T-shirts. The BSU Advisory Student Council is partnering with a local Black business owner, Mad Illustrators, to promote the importance of teaching Black history all year long. The popular T-shirts can be purchased online until June 30. Mad Illustrators will donate a percentage of the proceeds from the sales to support all 36 Fresno Unified BSUs. In addition, T-shirts showcased at the seventh annual Edison Region Black History Month Program in February are available for purchase. https://mad-illustrators.printavo.com/merch/BSU

Golf Tournament will Raise Scholarship Funds

The HL Memorial – Tee-it-Up for the Student Scholarship Fund golf tournament will be held Aug. 6 at Dragonfly Golf Course. Call 457-3866 for information on entering and sponsoring.

Bullard Streams Little Women Musical

Bullard High School streamed its musical, “Little Women the Musical,” May 6-8. Viewers could purchase tickets to the link and watch the musical.

Edison Student Excels in History Day Contest

Michael West, a senior at Edison High School, earned an honorable mention (third place) in the 2021 National History Day California competition that concluded May 8 for his historical paper entry -- The First Amendment: Echoes of American Censorship. National History Day students researched and presented historical analysis centering around this year’s theme of Communication in History.

Roosevelt High Ecology Club Advocates for Safe Biking

The Roosevelt High School Ecology Club organized a Bike to School Day event on May 21 that included a ride from the campus to Fresno City Hall after school.

At city hall, students delivered messages to elected city leaders about expanding bike lanes and increasing safety for cyclists.

The ride was the culminating project stemming from a semester-long collaboration with Fresno State. Students worked with professors and engineering students on the Active Transportation Challenge. Student surveys and research identified the need to expand the bicycle culture around the Roosevelt High community.

The ride included dozens of Roosevelt students. Before heading out, they were outfitted with donated safety equipment and took time to share why they enjoy riding bikes. Students talked about exercise, having fun with friends, reducing air pollution, acting for the climate crisis, memories from their youth, freedom from their cell phones and connecting to their community.

The students navigated city streets and bike lanes of varying quality on a group ride through the Roosevelt neighborhood to city hall.

“The shared experience of rolling together through the community and building a culture of active transportation that is good for the body, mind, and planet left a positive impact with all who participated,” said Reid Gromis, Roosevelt teacher and club adviser.
LEFT, teacher Debbie Hawkins, 35 years with the district, and teacher Melinda Postler, 25 years with the district, take part in a drive-thru retirement celebration in front of Sunnyside High School May 24.

2021 Retirees Celebrated With Drive-Thru

Samantha Mena, a senior Hoover High School in the Public Service Pathway, tries out the radio in a police car donated to the program from the Kings County Sheriff’s Department. The police car is part of hands-on learning for students.

Hoover High School has a new addition to its Public Service Pathway – a police car.

The donated police car is an example of the many ways industry partners assist the career technical education programs and pathways at Hoover, and throughout the district.

The police car donation came about because Public Service Pathway teacher David Jones is a former sergeant in the Kings County Sheriff’s Department with numerous contacts in law enforcement. Through his connections, he obtained the police car from Kings County Sheriff David Robinson. Hoover recognized Robinson as its 2021 CTE Champion at the May 6 virtual CTE District Advisory Committe meeting.

With the donation of the police car, students are able to try out the radio and become familiar with the technology in the vehicle.

The Fresno City College Fire Academy has donated 911 safety equipment and updated personal protective equipment to the Hoover fire service class in the Public Service Pathway. The equipment has helped give students real-world training and preparation for fire service careers and jobs.

Through the Public Service Pathway, students explore careers in law enforcement, fire science and the military.

The Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship is one of two district high schools named as a 2021 California Distinguished School, a program that recognizes campuses for closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance.

The California Department of Education also named Design Science Middle College High School as a Distinguished School on April 27. Baird and Computech middle schools were announced as Distinguished Schools in March.

Among the indicators assessed are test scores, suspension rates, and conditions and climate.

“As the newest high school in the district, the Patiño School of Entrepreneurship has worked very hard to get to this moment and would like to thank our staff, parents, students, Fresno Unified, and our business and community partners for their unwavering support of our program and mission and vision of our school,” said Principal Blair Eliason Sagardia.

One exceptional aspect of Patiño is its strong business and community partnerships. The school works with numerous partners in a variety of ways to ensure students are given industry specific experiences and that what they are learning is relevant in today’s work force.

One of Patiño’s unique partnerships is with a local technology company, Quiqlabs. Quiqlab’s founders, Damon Thomas and Curlen Phipps, work with the school in a variety of ways, including assisting in curriculum development and providing internships, mentors and guest speakers.

The company introduces students to a diverse group of local business leaders. The leaders teach technology curriculum in a co-teaching model with Patiño’s business teachers to ensure that students do not ask why they are learning something but can see exactly how the classroom learning connects to the real world.

Quiqlabs continues its support for Patiño students after they graduate by hiring them for its non-profit organization, LearnSteam.

Patiño was launched in 2015 to give students the option of an integrated project-based curriculum focused on critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Before they graduate, all students will have developed, pitched and launched their company.

Patiño High School has Unique Connections with Local Tech Industry
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

District Warehouse Driver Delivers Great Service to Schools

Mark Smith has worked for the district for 33 years, nearly 29 of them at the warehouse. After beginning his career as a custodian at a school site, he is now a warehouse worker/driver, one of two employees responsible for processing thousands of library books and textbooks. The upcoming summer break will be Smith’s busiest time as he helps sites prepare for the opening of school in August. Smith was a finalist in the district’s Excellence in Education awards in January. Isaac Hernandez, warehouse supervisor, said about Smith: “Mark is self-motivated and hardworking and goes out of his way to assure our schools get what they need in a timely manner. He takes pride in his work and proactively works to avoid any delays, even if it means staying late or cancelling his vacation to make sure the work is done.”

What is the hardest part about your job? Making sure schools have what they ordered for the new school year.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? Helping coworkers.

What is something about your duties as a driver that most people would not realize? At the start of a new school year we send out over 300 pallets of books and material.

What’s a typical day on the job like? Check emails pull orders for sites and working POs.

What’s the strangest thing you ever delivered to a school site? It was at McLane. We picked up a wooden Scotty dog that was about 8 feet tall and 10 feet long. It was so big the nose stuck over the lift gate.

Cooper Academy Campus Culture Director Brings Students Together

Emily Faith teaches leadership and choir and is the campus culture director at Cooper Academy. She was an Excellence in Education finalist in January. She has spent her entire 14-year career at the same campus, which transitioned in 2012 from Cooper Middle School to Cooper Academy, an International Baccalaureate 6-8 school. She’s a trained opera singer as well! Faith is described as the glue that connects staff and students at Cooper. Even during virtual learning, Faith had a 98% attendance rate for her students. And during school closures, she encouraged staff to create 21 virtual clubs and was able to engage 100% of students campus wide in some type of extracurricular activity. Sandra Auble, principal at Cooper Academy said about Faith: “As a result of her commitment to students, they demonstrate academic and social competencies that allows them to be successful. Ms. Faith provides so many opportunities for students to engage with our campus that students will often say they come to school each day because they don’t want to miss out on the fun.”

What made you decide to be a teacher? I actually received my degree in vocal performance. When I graduated with my master’s from San Francisco, I was offered a job as a long-term music sub in Fresno. I had no idea I wanted to teach but once I started, I never looked back. My career literally fell in my lap and I am so very thankful that it did.

What’s been the best thing about being physically on campus with students again? The best thing about being physically on campus with students again is making those very important connections. Hearing them laugh, being in a space where real life conversation happens, and getting to know them as an individual, not an icon, has been an absolute joy. These students have amazed me all year with their resilience and continue to amaze me as I’ve watched them transition back to in-person learning.

What did you learn from virtual learning that can carry over, even when students are back every day on campus? I have loved how easy it is to communicate with students virtually! The chat feature in Teams has been an invaluable tool in building virtual relationships with students. I hope that will remain! I also have really enjoyed learning and benefiting from educational digital tools such as Nearpod, Kahoot, and MS Forms. I will definitely continue using them in the future!

How do you engage students in campus activities who are reluctant to join in? We plan a wide variety of activities on campus. We like to have something for everyone! From sports to art to music to anime, we are very intentional in providing a variety of clubs and events. But the best way to engage students is to just talk to them! The highlight of my day is lunchtime. Our longer lunch period has been so beneficial for getting to know our students. I have found that once that relationship is formed, a sense of belonging follows.

How do students benefit when they engage in extracurricular activities? Right now, extracurricular activities are important more than ever! Our students have been disconnected from each other in a physical setting for a very long time. Engaging in activities and clubs is an avenue for them to develop relationships with their peers and feel a sense of belonging to our school. Activities are vital to building a culture on a campus where students feel welcome, valued, and appreciated.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? Oh my, where do I start? I tell my own children that their mom has the best job in the world. I get to teach students music and leadership, run fun events like dances, rallies, and color runs, and play at lunch with kids! There is never a day that I do not want to go to work. There is a lot of love and laughter among the staff and students here at Cooper Academy. But the best part of my job, hands down, are my students. Seeing how much they grow during their years here and beyond is such a reward.

What is the most difficult part about your job? The most difficult part about my job by far is the last day of school. It is so very hard to say goodbye to students that feel like family. There are many tears that day for sure! As hard as it is to let them go, it is such a gift when they come back and visit to tell you the amazing things they are accomplishing in life.

If you could choose another career, what would it be? Oh, I would own a bakery! I LOVE to bake for others. I inherited this from my grandmother who always greeted you with a hug and a delicious freshly baked treat.

What is your dream vacation? Greece!! White sand beaches, warm weather, and the best food in the world! What more could you ask for?

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. One thing most people don’t know is that I am a trained opera singer and can play piano, guitar and violin. Music is definitely a passion of mine!

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Fresno High Senior is First in Family to Graduate and go to College

One of Natalie Garzón’s reasons to pursue a career in the medical field is because she loves helping people. This year, as a senior at Fresno High School during a pandemic, she had a chance to do precisely that.

“It has been a blessing. I got more job opportunities within the district. I am part of the peer tech program and a mentor for the newcomers’ program as well as the peer mentoring program,” Natalie said.

Because her family immigrated from Mexico, she identifies with newcomers and enjoys helping them.

Natalie will be the first in her family to graduate from high school and the first one to go to college. She is one of this year’s 76 Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund recipients, with the goal of becoming a registered nurse. Natalie knows that to obtain her degree, she will have to be good at time management and have patience, courage, and motivation.

She believes that getting a college degree is a way to show her appreciation for her parents, especially her mom.

“She always wants me to do much better than her. She always encouraged me to go way beyond,” Natalie said, with emotion in her voice. “As immigrant parents who came to a different country and didn’t know what they were doing, I feel like my scholarship is like a thank you to them.”

In five years, Natalie sees herself in a nursing career, buying a house, and maybe having a family of her own.

“I love the idea of buying a house and having my family next to me. I love the connection to my family and keeping them close,” said Natalie.

For now, the first step of her journey to show her love for her family begins at Fresno State, where Natalie will start pre-nursing. From there, the sky is the limit.

Fresno Unified Seniors Graduating with Skills in Two Languages

Fresno Unified continues to expand dual language immersion programs for students, providing them with better opportunities to excel in a global economy and society.

The district this year will award the state Seal of Biliteracy to 747 seniors representing 13 high schools. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

The district is also celebrating its first cohort of graduating seniors from McLane High School’s dual language immersion program, with 11 students in the first graduating class.

McLane’s program is part of a robust dual language immersion initiative, with Spanish programs offered at 12 elementary schools, Wawona K-8 School and Yosemite Middle School, and a Hmong program offered at Balderas and Vang Pao elementary schools.

McLane senior Adamaris Lemus took advantage of the district’s dual language immersion programs and earned her Seal of Biliteracy as well.

Adamaris learned about the Seal of Biliteracy at Yosemite Middle School when her Spanish teacher talked about the benefits of attaining this recognition.

“I chose to pursue this achievement because I had always had a Spanish class since elementary school, since I was part of the dual language immersion program and both languages formed who I am today,” Adamaris said. “I feel happy that I reached this goal, but I honestly didn’t think I would have achieved it so fast.”

Adamaris said her Seal of Biliteracy and ability to communicate in English and Spanish will be advantageous when applying for a job or internship and as she pursues a career in the medical field.

“This accomplishment has changed my life,” she said.

Adamaris is joined by McLane seniors Anahi Arévalo, Angelica Bello-Rosas, David Damaso-Antúnez, Karen Enciso Armendáriz, Jaritza García-Parra, Anthony Gaspar Guzman, Apolonia Gutierrez, Xitlalli Romero, Gisela Sandoval Calixto and Perla Solís Lemus in the first graduating class of the McLane dual immersion program.

Students Become Competent in Two Languages through Immersion Program

The Dual Language Immersion Program integrates English proficient and English learner students for the purpose of developing bilingualism, biliteracy and cultural competence. Instruction is delivered in pre-kindergarten through first grade in Spanish 90% of the day and in English 10% of the day. There is a gradual increase in specially designed English language instruction until fourth grade, when 50% of the day is spent in each language.

In middle school, students take Spanish language arts in seventh and eighth grades and seventh grade social studies and eighth grade science in Spanish as well.

In high school, students participate in Advanced Placement Spanish Language & Culture and Advanced Placement Spanish Literature. Beginning in 2021-22, students will complete their social science high school requirements in Spanish as well. The end goal is students graduating fully biliterate and receiving the Seal of Biliteracy, which is awarded by the State of California.

Adamaris Lemus and 10 other students make up McLane High School’s first graduating class from its dual language immersion program. She also earned the Seal of Biliteracy.
Un momento para celebrar el final del año escolar, esperamos un regreso a la normalidad en 2021-22

Hola Verano! Aún no estamos oficialmente allí en el calendario, pero con la escuela terminada en 11 días y el verano con varios meses a la vista, es hora de tomar un momento para reflexionar sobre nosotros, ser consciente de lo que el verano pasado ha significado para nosotros. El verano pasado fue un año escolar en el que las cosas no iban a la velocidad que todos pensábamos.

También tuvimos dos eventos importantes adicionales en nuestro distrito en las últimas semanas. El 12 de mayo reconocimos a nuestro último año de estudiantes en el último año de escuela secundaria, y el último día de escuela de junio comenzó con la ceremonia de graduación de la Clase de 2022.

La escuela comenzará el 12 de agosto de 2021 y finalizará el 10 de junio de 2022. También tuvimos dos eventos importantes adicionales en nuestro distrito en las últimas semanas. El 12 de mayo reconocimos a nuestro último año de estudiantes en el último año de escuela secundaria, y el último día de escuela de junio comenzó con la ceremonia de graduación de la Clase de 2022.

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Seniors from Homeless Situations and Foster Care Honored

Project ACCESS – a Fresno Unified program for students in homeless situations and in foster care – celebrated its graduating seniors and their difficult path at an event May 24.

“It is such an honor to assist our students in their journey and see them succeed and graduate. Our students are so resilient, and with the support of FUSD they are able to reach this goal,” said Jessica Tejada, clinical school social worker.

Twenty Project ACCESS students and guests attended the third annual Senior Celebration, held outdoors at the Golden Palace. A total of 62 students supported by Project ACCESS are graduating this year.

Mcakah Jimenez, a student who receives Project ACCESS support, read her award-winning poem, “Myself: Revised edition,” and one of the seniors, Trinaty, played the violin. The guest speaker was district school counselor Deshunna Monay Ricks, who is also chief executive officer of the non-profit “I AM Valuable.” The event concluded with seniors receiving laptops.

The district’s Project ACCESS provides a social worker to support students and utilizes Goal 2 funding to help cover costs for athletic needs to encourage student involvement. Project ACCESS also provides social emotional support through counseling and case management and helps students connect with resources offered at community agencies. Project ACCESS advocates for students at the school sites and collaborates with school site supports for the students’ well-being and to help them succeed. Services also include two academic counselors.

Figarden Minecraft Team will Compete Internationally

As the winners of the 2021 FUSD Elementary Minecraft eSports League, Figarden Elementary School earned the opportunity to represent Fresno Unified and the United States in the first-ever Minecraft eSports International Battle. The Figarden team will compete against CURRO South Africa for the world title. The battle is Friday, June 4 from 8-10 a.m. It is viewable as a Teams Live Event. Addams Elementary School and Gibson Elementary School placed second and third in the district elementary Minecraft competition.

Fresno City College

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