Fresno Unified Preparing to Welcome Students Back for Fulltime In-Person Learning in August

For the first time since March 2020, all students will be back on their campuses fulltime to start the new academic year.

The exciting first day is Thursday, Aug. 12. Aug. 12 and 13 will be half days for students to allow for teacher planning. More information on school schedules for 2021-22 will be available on school websites by July 19.

"We cannot wait to be back with all 74,000 of our students. We have desperately missing being in space with them," said Superintendent Bob Nelson. "We know this past year of mostly virtual learning has not been easy, but we have a comprehensive plan for the coming school year that includes an assessment tool and additional supports and resources."

The district was forced to close campuses on March 13 due to COVID-19 health restrictions. What officials thought would be a short shut-down extended to April 6, 2021.

Even then, because of physical distancing requirements, half of students who had chosen to return to in-person learning came on Tuesday and Wednesday and the other half on Thursday and Friday, with distance learning on Monday.

With the reopening, the district will have in place all health and safety precautions required by the Fresno County Department of Health Services. Parents will be alerted to these requirements prior to the start of school. Watch for updates on fresnounified.org.

Students who wish to continue learning from home in the next school year may enroll in the district’s eLearn Academy. Teachers will not continue to simultaneously teach students in the classroom and students at home.

The district is excited to welcome all students back to a full schedule this year, five days a week, with a variety of additional supports and extra learning opportunities.

Additional Time and Supports

- All elementary, middle and high school students will receive 30 additional minutes a day of instruction during the first semester focused on 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.

See NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Continued on page 2

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/graduations2021
PARENTS

NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Continued from page 1

Extended Learning
■ The district will offer additional summer and winter sessions for students.
■ The district will expand the after-school program and mentoring and peer tutoring.

Social Emotional
■ The district will add social emotional support resources, including counselors, social workers and psychologists.
■ The district will implement a new K-12 social emotional learning curriculum.

Health Supports
■ The district will add nurses and expand on-site health services.
■ Wellness Hubs will be available for students and family support.

The school calendar was revised on June 16 to reflect the new Aug. 12 start date, a new ending date of Friday, June 10, as well as three additional non-instructional days to allow for staff professional learning (buy back days). The following days will be non-instructional days for students – Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Jan. 10, Feb. 28 and March 21.

Las Escuelas se preparan para dar la Bienvenida de Regreso a los Estudiantes para tiempo completo de Aprendizaje En-Persona en Agosto

Por primera vez desde marzo de 2020, todos los estudiantes regresarán a sus escuelas tiempo completo para comenzar un nuevo año académico.

Este primer día emocionante es el jueves, 12 de agosto. El 12 y 13 de agosto serán de medio día para los estudiantes para permitir la planificación a los maestros. Mas información del horario de las escuelas para el 2021-2022 estará disponible en las páginas web de las escuelas para el 19 de Julio.

“No Podemos esperar para estar de regreso con todos los 74,000 de nuestros estudiantes, a quienes hemos extrañado desesperadamente,” dijo el Superintendente Bon Nelson. “Sabemos que este año pasado de mayormente aprendizaje virtual no ha sido fácil, pero nosotros tenemos un plan comprensivo para el próximo año escolar que incluye una herramienta de evaluación y apoyos adicionales y recursos.”

El distrito fue forzado a cerrar los planes de las escuelas el 13 de marzo debido a las restricciones de seguridad del COVID-19. Lo que los oficiales pensaron que iba a ser un cierre de tiempo corto se extendió al 6 de abril de 2021. Aun así, por la razón de los requisitos de distancia física, la mitad de los estudiantes quienes decidieron regresar al aprendizaje en personas fueron el martes y miércoles y la otra mitad el jueves y viernes, con el aprendizaje a distancia el lunes.

Con la reapertura, el distrito tendrá en plan todas las precauciones requeridas de salud y seguridad por el Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado de Fresno. Los padres serán alertados para estos requisitos antes del inicio de la escuela. Están atentos por actualizaciones en fresnounified.org.

Para los estudiantes a quienes les gustaría seguir aprendiendo de casa en el próximo año escolar pueden hacerlo al registrarse en la Academia eLearn (eLearn Academy). Los maestros ya no continuarán enseñando simultáneamente a los estudiantes en el salón de clases y en casa.

El distrito esta emocionado para darle la bienvenida a todos los estudiantes de regreso a un horario completo este año, cinco días a la semana, con una variedad de ayuda adicional y oportunidades extras de aprendizaje.

Tiempo Adicional y apoyo:
■ Todos los estudiantes de las escuelas primarias, secundarias y preparatorias recibirán 30 minutos adicionales por día de instrucción durante el primer semestre enfocados en literatura y matemáticas.
■ Todos los maestros de las escuelas

See NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Continued on page 11

District Reminds Parents of Immunizations, Offers Free Clinics

The Fresno Unified School District is offering a series of immunization clinics so that parents and guardians have opportunities to have their children properly vaccinated prior to the start of school on Aug. 12.

“Immunizations are a great tool to help ensure our students are healthy and stay healthy by preventing exposure to serious diseases,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “We encourage our parents and guardians to take advantage of our immunization clinics.”

All students entering school must meet state immunization requirements. Students entering kindergarten and seventh grade must provide proof of updated immunizations.

For kindergarten entry, all students are required to be up to date on vaccines against polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (Dtap), mumps, measles and rubella (MMR), hepatitis B, and varicella.

All students entering seventh grade must show proof of current vaccination against pertussis (whooping cough) and have a second varicella immunization.

An immunization clinic will be held at the health services clinic at Tioga Middle School. Guidelines for the clinic:

Immunizations are only for families with Medi-Cal or who are uninsured.
■ Only one parent/legal guardian can accompany student. (Obtain caregiver affidavit at FUSD Project Access.)
■ Parent/legal guardian and student will need to wear a mask.
■ Must bring current immunization record.

Must bring current Medi-Cal card if child has Medi-Cal insurance. Students with insurance should see their primary health provider.

Do not attend a clinic if feeling sick or have any COVID symptoms (cough, chills, fever, muscle and body aches, fatigue, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache, repeated shaking/tremors, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or running nose, vomiting, nausea, or diarrhea). Do not attend if you or anyone in your household has been confirmed or suspected of COVID-19 in the last 14 days. Do not attend if you been notified you are a close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

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Important Dates

Aug. 12
First Day of 2021-22 School Year

Sept. 6
Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Jan. 10, Feb. 28 and March 21
No School for Students (Professional Learning Days for Staff)

Fresno Unified School District

Location
Tioga Middle School – Room 36 3232 E. Fairmont Ave.

Date
Aug. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Time
8 a.m.-2 p.m.

www.FresnoUnified.org
A Message from Evette Tovar-Lugo, Program Manager No Kid Hungry Campaign

No Kid Hungry Helps the District Provide Meals

When communities across California were hit hard right at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, No Kid Hungry knew it had the potential to have a devastating impact on childhood hunger. When school campuses closed, making it more difficult to reach kids with the meals they usually eat at school, our first question was: “How can we best support our school district and community partners to ensure kids are getting the nutrition they need?”

We witnessed school nutrition teams all across the state moving swiftly to adapt their programs, “virtually over-night,” to get meals to families while also keeping both staff and students safe. At a school district the size and magnitude of Fresno Unified School District, we knew we had to act quickly. Families in the Central Valley were disproportionately hard hit by the pandemic, and, alongside with the district, it was of utmost importance that we created a safety net for families and children who were food insecure.

No Kid Hungry allocated Fresno Unified over $100,000 in grant funds to continue meal service through spring break, a time when meals aren’t typically provided. Additionally, $160,000 in grant funds was awarded to the district to support new safety measures needed to bring students back to school safely.

As a partner of Fresno Unified, No Kid Hungry is immensely grateful for the school nutrition staff in Fresno and all across California who worked around the clock, sometimes putting their own health at risk to feed kids with a smile. It was through true resilience and their courage that students in Fresno could count on a meal each and every day. They are the heroes of this pandemic. It will take time for us to rebuild from this crisis, and as we do, making sure kids have the food they need to be strong and healthy will remain our No. 1 priority. We’re proud to be partners in this work.
CLASS OF 2021

BULLARD HIGH SCHOOL

June 9, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians

Evan Aghayan
Natalia Aguayo
Leilani Alvarez
Caitlyn Bergeron
Andrew Bernabe
Julia Bernal
Kameron Bidar
Joseph Burgess
Janeve Castillo
Isabela Castro
Hailey Carron
Elizabeth Chau
Hannah Cole
Kiernan Coleman
Lena Covita
Lindsey Dellenini
Alina Diaz
Thayne Disney
Camille Dixon
Aidan Doyle
Roddrick Doyle
Martina Elber-Cignetti
Cameron Flowers
Kylie Fogle
Audra Fontes
Eden Freeman
Hannah Getz
Elizabeth Gonzales
Nicole Goyette
Colt Greiner
Emily Gun
Andrew Halvorson
Juliana Hernandez

Anali Jimenez
Liam Kelley
Austin Kern
David Kglyan
Mohammad Mahmoud
Tyler Meade
Georgia Meadun
Juliana Molina-Bryant
Julia Moore
Amera Neves
Brianna Ornelas
Diya Pathmannavong
Morgan Pittman
Mali Raz
Sarah Ramirez
Heaven Reasser
Kate Richardson
Benjamin Righy
Lola Robinson
Brooke Rodriguez
Cian Roman
Taylor Samuelsian
Jimmy Sanchez
Vincent Santler
Michael Tiscareno
Mayce Topocean
Thuan Tran
Ishiala Turla
Faline Triska
Katelyn Vancuro
Sofia Valencia
Toby Van Ex
Ryan Venkonatan
Xilitic Villanueva-Cruz
Bryce Werner
Mckenzie Wheatley
John Whitehouse
Tyler Zucker

DUNCAN POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

June 3, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians

Ismael Abdullah Hernandez
Daniel Casares Perez
Elyssa Chantay-Chimal
Alexandra Denise Dominguez
Jade Draper
Oscar Joel Garcia Armenta
Oxoupea Yannoho Kurnosoff
Broomhavwee Lee

Cristian Jaime Mejias
Victoria Montes
Mitzi Lisa Moua
Edgar Leopoldo Perea Garcia
Kaylie Phukonkham
Christian Clarisa Phengdara
Martinez
Thuan Dinh Quach

EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

June 4, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians

Fatima Rahmani Ahmad
Paulina Lazaro Alanen
Jazmin Ambriz Viveros
Matthew Alan Amex
Bella Rose Anooshian
Abdallah Arci Hammoda
Hayleys Balazat Rodriguez
Cortez Barriente
Emma Bautista
Teodoro Alejandro Bautista
Ayanna Antonia Becker
Matthew Mykal Blanches
Jose Elias Bravo
Amber Antoineet Brey
Alexandra Avila Caballero
Joshua Manuel Camarillo
Trinity Lezlie Cawney
Alejandro Raquel Castillo Avalos
Linda Graciela Castro Cu
Bao Ka Lue Chang
Camarynne Sy-Mai Chanthavong
Ruby Chavarin
Leslie Marie Coleman
Anne Christian Cooper
Fabiola Corona

Marcos Cruz Pena
Sarah Zoe Dehord
Mariajose De La Cruz
Jessica Dolores
Braeden James Epperson
Paula Abigail Espinoza
Andrea Fernandez
Samuel Louis Finoccio
Nayelli Isabel Flores
Maria Jose Flores Becerra
Angel Ernesto Flores Chavez
Tricia Lorene Franso
Kelly Estrada Galicia
Nicholas Anthony Gamboa
Maria Del Carmen Garcia
Naomi Carmen Garcia
Cecilia Gil Ventura
Olivea Jade Gilfen
Emma Victoria Godinez Mata
Jennifer Gomez Fuentes
Michelone Gonzalez
Bianca Gonzalez-Flores
Shivani Narehs Govind
Leon Fernando Felix Gutierrez
Jacqueline Gutierrez Lopez
Jennifer Gutierrez Lopez
Mia Mariah Hernandez
Mariana Hernandez-Alvex
Elliot Kihachi Heu
Iliana Infante
Gevena Jolene Islas
Cynthia Juarez
Ariana Alexis Khann
Ariana Izell Lagunas Caballero
Alex Kwon Lee
Cindy Nkauer Lee
Kelly L. Long
Valentina Lopez Meza
Ethan Kenji Lom
Joshua Kongsheng Lom
Heveni Sage Magana
Guadalupe Iris Martinez
Omar Mejia
Emily Melendez
Evelin Melendez
Cynthia Montes-Dominguez
Jonah Camille Nahoul
Cali Nahelajian
Misa Ha Nguyen
Julleda Nov

Thomas Oliveres
Madelyne Nicole Patillo
Monica Perez-Vasquez
Reno Andri Ramirez
David Solis Reyes
Jennifer Gomez Fuentes
Michelone Gonzalez
Bianca Gonzalez-Flores
Shivani Narehs Govind
Leon Fernando Felix Gutierrez
Jacqueline Gutierrez Lopez
Jennifer Gutierrez Lopez
Mia Mariah Hernandez
Mariana Hernandez-Alvex
Elliot Kihachi Heu
Iliana Infante
Gevena Jolene Islas
Cynthia Juarez
Ariana Alexis Khann
Ariana Izell Lagunas Caballero
Alex Kwon Lee
Cindy Nkauer Lee
Kelly L. Long
Valentina Lopez Meza
Ethan Kenji Lom
Joshua Kongsheng Lom
Heveni Sage Magana
Guadalupe Iris Martinez
Omar Mejia
Emily Melendez
Evelin Melendez
Cynthia Montes-Dominguez
Jonah Camille Nahoul
Cali Nahelajian
Misa Ha Nguyen
Julleda Nov

Carolina Nicole Saucedo Cervantes
Megan Elizabeth Schlothauer
Andrea Ximena Serratos-Navarro
Natalsee Sheng Thor
Kane Mikael Sjoborg
Devon Christian Esconde Teves
Aniyah Lashay-Bessie Thomas
Dayanara Torres Vargas
Sharar Valades
Ruben Valdivinos
Emerson Grace Valenzuela-Lavelle
Evelyn L. Vang

Jane Vargas De Jesus
Rodrigo Martinez Vasquez
Jessica Velasco-Garcia
Alissa Osornio Yerre
Bresauna Diolanda Virrueta
Riley Ruth Walton
Anaya Renae Louise Ware
Michael Charles West
Emily Kai Xuyumsom
Denim Tou Yeng Xiong
Eriny Tag Xiong
Susan Xiong

www.FresnoUnified.org

PREPARING CAREER READY GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2021

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

June 8, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians
Sandra Alonzo Lopez
Jesse Alvarado Jr.
Suzette Bautista
Maria Duenas Toribio
Dioceline Enciso Sanabria
Mercedes Escalante
Julissa Herrera Sanchez
Alondra Huizar Velasco
Jennifer Leyva Parra
Metzli Maldonado
Libby Marcelo
Ruby Martinez-Solano
Nadia Mejia-Gallardo
Arturo Murillo Gonzalez
Melanie Pacheco-Balbuena
Urial Plassencia
Christina Ponce
Zoe Porter
Guadalupe Rivera-Guerrero

Jahaira Rodriguez
Alisa Ruiz Ross
Genevieve Saldana
Angel Santibanez
Audrey Schaffer
Gurpreet Singh
Mickey Thao
Jeffrey Thibodeau
Wendy Torres Orozco
Chee Mouna Yang

ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAM

June 9, 2021/ATP Courtyard

DEWOLF HIGH SCHOOL

June 3, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

Valedictorians

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

June 3, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

J.E. YOUNG ACADEMIC CENTER

June 3, 2021/Paul Paul Theater

RATA HIGH SCHOOL

June 4, 2021/Rata High School

Valedictorians
Jose Ulysses Bravo
Charles Lee Maroot
Fat Soonthala
Erin Tyana Williams

CLASS OF 2021

SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

June 7, 2021/Sunnyside Stadium

Valedictorians
Janissa Marie Aguinsa
Aleyah Jasmine Alacar
Jaqueline Ambriz-Solorzano
Leslie Jasmin Bravo-Ramos
Lizeth Campos Velazquez
Daisy Jacqueline Cantoriario Garcia
Alissa Ann Chang
Lisa Nkauj Ntsaob Chang
Ivory Marie Clemmons
Victor Cota Green
Rita Guadalupe Curiel
Daisy Esparza
Xitfalli Esquivel
Vanessa Esquivel-Ruiz
Jocelyne Gomez Lopez
Marcos Ascencion Gomez
Eli Anthony Gonzalez
Clayton Lee Gould
Gauna Destiny Her
Justin Yous Her
Angelica Hernandez
Jonathan Ivan Hernandez-Avala
Alaine Briarte
Alina Briarte
Andrea Jauregui
Gerardo Ledsena Jr.
Evelyn Mata
Briviana Mejia
Bryan Mejia-Sanchez
Alondra Crystal Mijangos-Reyes
Crystal Pajentsina Mouna
Aarti Arvind Nigam
Jovannpreet Kaur Panesar
Ishay Eliaa Parada
Miguel Angel Parra Estrada
Pandina Pedroza Guerrero
Sunny Aro John Ruiz
Alina Evelyn Sanchez
Caitlyn Tyra Thach
Adam Singsuai Thao
Ekin Thao
Khuai Nai Thao
Lisa Douchee Thao
Amendep Kaur Uppal
Jolene Angelique Uribe
Gwen Myliaya Yang

More Yang
Tida Song Vanhelsinghen
Gabino Vudiro-Zuragoza Jr.
Kiaia Jordan Walls
Amanda Nkauj Vees Xiong
Jet Ken Xiong
Mai Der Xiong
Clara Gao Na Yang
Jason Yang
Kimberly Kao Youa Yang
Michelle Nkauj Hli Yang
Serenity Jayjsaam Yang
Shakira Yang
Maria Stephanie Zuniga-Salgarado
Expanded Summer Learning Programs Reach New Heights

More than 17,000 students are expected to attend classes during the district’s most extensive summer program it has ever offered.

The in-person expanded summer sessions are in recognition of the months students spent in virtual learning and the need for additional supports, especially in reading and math. The summer learning program started June 14 and will extend through Aug. 6 for alternative education students. Summer school usually ends mid-July.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/summerlearning2021

The district’s 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. The focus for high school is credit recovery for students who students received a D or F in classes needed for graduation or A-G college entrance courses.

The district’s Summer Camp program is offering enrichment opportunities for about 200 students per high school region, scheduled for two separate weeks for each high school region.

While the camps are popular, some spots are still available in some regions. Regional signups can be accessed through a student’s school website. Those interested may also email: summerschool@fresnounified.org.

The district’s College and Career Readiness Department offered an Aviation Camp June 14-18 as a part of internship experiences that over 500 high school students will be participating in this summer. During the Aviation Academy, students had the option to go up in a Cessna airplane for a 15-minute ride.

The class included building and launching model rockets, learning flight and pilot basics and trying out a flight simulator. Students also traveled to Atwater to visit the Castle Air Museum and to Reedley Community College’s aviation program, where students got to try out equipment and learn more about aviation career and college options.

The class was offered to students in homelessness situations and foster care, special education students, African American students and students designated as English learners. The teacher was Kris Reyes, a Public Service Pathway teacher at Roosevelt High School.

The district partnered with New Vision Aviation and Reedley Community College’s aviation program.

Most summer learning programs, however, focused on filling in learning gaps for students so they are prepared for the new school year that starts Aug. 12.

Summer Academy’s first session was for elementary, middle, and high school and alternative education students. A second session began on June 28 and continues through July 12 for the same categories of students. A July 13-26 session will be held for high school students only. A final session will be offered July 17 through Aug. 6 for alternative education high school students.

Classes are being offered at 14 elementary school sites, 13 middle school sites, eight high school sites, and four alternative education sites. Instruction is in person, with teachers providing simultaneous teaching to students who wish to learn from home.

District Encouraging Summer Reading with Free Books and Camps

Fresno Unified is providing extra literacy support for elementary students over the summer, helping them prepare for success when the new school year starts. Efforts also include making sure students have access to free books to read over the summer.

“We know that literacy is the key to success for our students. These extra reading opportunities will help fill in gaps for our elementary students,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Programs include:

- Grab and Go book packs: Students in kindergarten through fifth grade attending the district’s Summer Academy summer school will receive a pack of five grade-level appropriate books that have an underlying message promoting social emotional development or diversity. The pack will come with a student literacy skills journal and a “Family Guide to Literacy” to help parents support reading at home. The books will be available in English and Spanish.

- Little Book Bins: The district installed the first of several Little Book Bins on June 29 at Mayfair Elementary School, providing free books for students and the community. The project is in partnership with Reading Heart, Every Neighborhood Partnership, and CalViva Health.

- Camp Read-a-Lot: Students in kindergarten through third grade are targeted for extra help in a program that began on June 14 and ends on July 12. The program is held at two sites in each high school region. Most teachers return year after year because they understand the importance of this intervention. Students get to take five new books home to keep.

- A4 Summer Literacy Program: The program is a collaboration between the district’s Office of African American Academic Acceleration (A4) and the Springboard Collaborative for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. It began June 14 and ends July 14 at Ayer, King, Thomas and Williams elementary schools.

Along with A4’s literacy program, it this year is piloting a virtual Summer Math Camp that will end July 2 and Kinder Readiness Summer Academy July 6-Aug. 3.
**African American Student Leadership Academy Cohort has First Grads**

Six years ago, the district launched its first African American Student Leadership Academy. In June, 36 students from that original cohort graduated from high school, with nearly 40% graduating with a 3.0 or better.

Colleges and universities the students are headed for this fall include University of California at Irvine, San Francisco State University and Tuskegee University.

The program was started under the leadership of the late Holland Locker, an assistant superintendent for Goal 2. College-bound students at the end of seventh grade were identified and provided supports and mentoring to ensure they were ready for the University of California upon graduation.

Each cohort is named for the graduation year and serves as a constant reminder of the students’ ultimate goal: To graduate on time and UC ready. Students also learn how they can engage in equitable opportunities and pursue top-tier colleges, and the skills and attributes that both colleges and employers are seeking.

Through the academy, and other efforts, Fresno Unified is building connections and relationships with African American students and families to change their narrative.

Activities include:
- UC Merced Summer Camp (eighth grade summer)
- Bi-monthly site mentoring visits by Goal 2 Team
- UC campus tours
- California Association of Directors of Activities Leadership Conference (eighth grade)
- Character, Honor, Integrity, Perseverance, Service Camp (ninth grade summer)
- Community service project
- Bi-weekly supports from site champion
- Parent and student workshops

“Congratulations to this special group of students for their remarkable work. I also want to share some love for all the caring adults who have been serving as their mentors, cheerleaders and an overall support team these last six years -- thanks to your ongoing commitment, you’ve helped this group achieve their greatest potential,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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**New Campus will Honor Dolphas Trotter and Dolores Huerta**

Buildings at the planned Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus will bear the names of a longtime district administrator and one of the founders of United Farm Workers.

The buildings will be part of the alternative education campus that will open in August 2023 at Ventura Avenue and 10th Street. The board of education in May named the campus for the Farbers, a Fresno couple who founded a scholarship program for Tehipite Middle School students.

At the June 2 board meeting, trustees approved additional names in honor of Dolores Huerta and Dolphas Trotter. Huerta co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which became United Farm Workers. She continues as an activist and is founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Her name will be on a future preschool at the campus.

Trotter, whose administrative roles included being Edison High School’s first Black principal and serving as an interim superintendent, died in 2009. His name will be on the main building on the campus, which will house administrative offices and most of the classrooms.

The board did not pass a proposal to name the student engagement center, which will also house career technical education classrooms, for prominent journalist and Fresno State professor Roger Tatarian. Tatarian died in 1995. Supporters of Tatarian instead want a school named for him.

The Farber campus will be built on a 12.8-acre site, the former home of the old county-owned juvenile hall. The juvenile hall was demolished to make way for a completely new, state-of-the-art complex. The campus will bring together Cambridge High School, J.E. Young Academic Center and eLearn Academy, the district’s online learning school for kindergarten through 12th grade.

The school, designed to meet the needs of more than 1,200 students, 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.

An alternative education campus will open in August 2023 at Ventura Avenue and 10th Street.
Polices Officers on Hand to See DeWolf Graduate Overcome Obstacles

When Sophia Valle graduated from DeWolf High School in June, her father could not be there. He had passed away nearly a decade earlier of cancer, when Sophia was 10. Knowing the absence of her father at this milestone in her life would be difficult, a group of Fresno police officers were there to represent her father and show her support.

The officers had been colleagues of Sophia’s father, officer Edgar Valle-Sandoval, stationed in the southwest policing district.

“[Edgar’s] brothers and sisters in the department have continued to wrap around the family and support them in the years following his death,” said DeWolf Principal Rachael Maciel. “The officers here have stood in support of ‘Pta’ and have always loved her no matter her circumstances.”

It was a hard journey for Sophia to make it to graduation, but she said her life changed when DeWolf “found” her. She ended up graduating a year early, taking advantage of the online, self-paced classes at the small campus, and close connections with staff.

She spoke at graduation June 3, opening with, “My name is Sophia Valle. My story today is not one for the light-hearted, but it is one that is brutally honest. For many years, I did not think I would graduate or even live to make it to graduation.”

When she was 4, her 7-year-old sister died of a brain tumor. Her father’s death followed six years later. During Sophia’s freshman year, her grandfather was diagnosed with cancer and her mother became his primary caregiver. Sophia struggled with depression, self-mutilation and substance abuse.

“I felt as if I was lost at sea, drifting into the abyss, missing both of my anchors,” Sophia wrote in her speech.

The COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020 made her problems worse. But in August, she felt a pull to turn her life around.

“I felt the presence of my dad and sister as my guardian angels. Just a few days later, DeWolf found me… and I was enrolled,” Sophia wrote.

She recalled her first day in John Hazelett’s virtual class: “He took the time to get to know me as a person, aside from a student. From that day on, I knew DeWolf was different than the other high schools; they were welcoming but not fake; they were firm but not pushy; they were coddling but not smothering.”

It meant a great deal to Sophia to have her father’s colleagues at her graduation and to see her succeed.

“The officers that attended wanted to do so in an effort to represent her father -- to stand proud and cheer for her like her father would have,” Maciel said.
Figarden Elementary Minecraft Team Competes Internationally

Through Minecraft, Make & Model eSports, a group of Fresno Unified elementary students connected with students 10,000 miles away in South Africa—a collaboration expected to continue.

A team of eight fourth-graders from Figarden Elementary School battled students from Curro, South Africa’s largest independent education provider, for the title of Minecraft Make & Model Esports World Champions. The competition took place June 4, with Curro coming out on top 8-7, 6-7.

Figarden won the district’s elementary Minecraft esports league championship, earning the right to represent the United States in the first ever elementary Minecraft battle. The students used Minecraft: Education Edition, learning creativity, collaboration and problem-solving as they completed a pre-determined build within the Make & Model worlds.

Curro students had piloted Minecraft: Education Edition in the esports arena for Microsoft. When Fresno Unified technology leaders heard about Curro, they reached out to the game’s creator, Catherine Morgan of Immersive Minds, who facilitated an introduction with Stephen Reid at Microsoft, which led to the battle and an ongoing collaboration.

“Minecraft esports provides students the opportunity to connect with schoolmates, fellow district Minecraft enthusiasts, and those across the globe. Overwhelmingly, students from both teams commented on their excitement of making connections with learners from another country,” said Julie Mavrogeorge, a technology support specialist and Team Minecraft coordinator.

She said one student said: “I can’t believe I met someone from another continent.”

For the first part of the competition, students were tasked with building a 3D “Fantasy Castle,” a topic announced at the start of the event. Students had 20 minutes.

For the second part, students engaged in the world of Harry Potter, with 35 minutes to construct anything from the Hogwarts Wizarding World. This topic was shared with the teams two weeks prior to the competition so teams knew exactly what had to be built and could assign team members to different parts of the 3D construction.

Teams were scored on likeness of their build, productive teamwork, added aesthetics and environment, and the manipulation of the team’s 3D space through size and scale.

This is only the beginning of the collaboration between Curro and Fresno Unified, Mavrogeorge said. The international battle will become a yearly event at the end of each season. She is working closely with Minecraft: Education Edition Learning Engagement team members and Curro staff to grow Make & Model eSports worldwide. The goal is to create an international community of Minecraft esports participants.

Manchester GATE Mural Created to Recognize Difficult Year

Manchester GATE Elementary School now has a new mural in recognition of the difficult past school year.

Sixth-grade students began putting the finishing touches on a tree mural in April when they were allowed to return to in-person learning after COVID-19 restrictions loosened. The mural was created on the wall outside the cafeteria by Fresno artist David Roberts, who is also the father of Manchester sixth-grade Jack Roberts.

“We wanted to create a fun project so that our sixth-grade students would be able to leave their mark at Manchester during this very different year,” said Principal Janet Gengozian. “These students missed out on many things that sixth graders regularly get to do, and we wanted to have something special for them.”

Manchester GATE Elementary School students Erilyn Gray, Sarah Camarillo, Catherine Lai, Brienne Schulz, and Alyssa Nieto make a ceramic mixture to create leaves for a new mural at their school.

See MANCHESTER GATE Continued on page 14
de primaria y secundaria tendrán la opción de continuar y proveer 30 minutos de instrucción para los estudiantes durante el Segundo semestre para dirigir la literatura y matemáticas.

Las escuelas preparatorias ofrecerán opciones extras para recuperación de créditos y apoyo para los estudiantes de aprendiz de Ingles todo el año, y las escuelas secundarias también ofrecerán apoyo adicional de aprendiz de Ingles todo el año.

**Aprendizaje Extendido**
- El distrito ofrecerá sesiones de verano e invierno para los estudiantes.
- El distrito extenderá el programa después de escuela y tutoría y tutoría entre compañeros.

**Social Emocional**
- El distrito agregará recursos de apoyo social emocional, incluyendo consejeros, trabajadores sociales y psicólogos.
- El distrito implementará un nuevo currículo de aprendizaje social emocional de los grados K-12.

**Apoyo de Salud**
- El distrito agregara enfermeras y ampliará los servicios de salud en el sitio del lugar.
- Centros de bienestar para el apoyo estudiantil y familiar.

El calendario escolar fue ajustado el 16 de junio para reflejar la nueva fecha de inicio del año escolar al 12 de agosto, una nueva fecha del fin del año escolar al viernes 10 de junio, si como tres días adicionales no instructivos para permitir el aprendizaje profesional del personal (días de recompra). Los siguientes días serán días no instructivos para los estudiantes: 20 de septiembre, 11 de octubre, 10 de enero, 28 de febrero y 21 de marzo.

**Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv Npaj Txais Tos Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm Rov Qab Mus Kawm Ntawv Tim Ntsej Tim Muag Tom Tsev Kawm Ntawv Tas Hnub Rau Lub Yim Hli**

Thawj thawj zaug txij li lub Pebl Hlis 2020, txhua tus tuv nbhx lau yuaw tau rov qab tuaj rau ntawm lawv lub tsev kawm ntawv tas hnb pub lub xyoo kawm ntawv tshiab no mus.


“Peb tos tsis tayu yuaw rov qab tuaq nrog tag nhro 74,000 leej ntawm peb cov tuv ntxhais kawm, uas peb tua nco heev,“ Tuam Thawj Saib Kev Kawm Bob Nelson tau hais. “Peb paub xyoo dhau los ntawm kev kawm saum huab coo feem nau tuis yooj yim, tab sis peb muaj txoj kev npaj txaus rau lub xyoo kawm ntaww yuaw los ton tnej uas muaj ib qhov twj kev soj ntsuam thib cov kev txhawb ntivx thiab cov kev pab.”


**Kev Sib Raug Zoo Siat Ntsws**
- Hauv paus tsev kawm ntaww yuaw ntivx cov kev pab txhawb kev sib raug zoo siab ntsws, nrog rau cov neeg pab tswy yim, cov social workers thiab kws pab kev nyuaj siab/psychologist.
- Hauv paus tsev kawm ntaww yuaw muaj ib qho kev qhia tshiab txog kev sib raug siab ntsws rau me nyuaj kawm K-12.

**Kev Pab Kom Txbob Muaj Mob**
- Hauv paus tsev kawm ntaww yuaw ntivx cov neeg saib mob thiab ntivx cov chaw ntawm kev saib xyuas kev noq jab hauv huv kom dov.
- Muaj kev cov kev pab txog kev noq jab hauv huv (Wellness Hubs) rau tuv ntxhais kawm thib cov neeg.

Fresno Unified had three section champions during the past academic year, with student-athletes and coaches overcoming pandemic-shortened seasons and restrictions on practice.

Below, the Sunnyside High School boys volleyball team (No. 1 seed) beat St. Joseph High School (No. 2 seed) at Sunnyside on June 1 to win the Division 2 championship. It was the Wildcats’ first section championship. The team’s head coach is Kee Xiong.

Top right, the Bullard High School boys basketball team (No. 2 seed) beat Central High School (No. 1 seed) 85-83 at Central on June 11 to win the Division 1 championship. It was the Knights’ seventh title appearance in the last nine years and their sixth title in school history. The team’s head coach is Tim Amundsen.

Bottom, the Roosevelt High School boys basketball team (No. 6 seed) beat Atascadero High School (No. 4 seed) 61-49 at Atascadero on June 11 to win the Division 2 championship. The Roughriders’ last championship was in 2016. The team’s head coach is JaMarr Chisom.

Middle right, Roosevelt High School’s Qiant Myers, left, battles Hoover High School’s AJ George on April 30.

Bottom right, Bullard High School’s Sarah McClelland in a match with Edison High School on April 30.
Students in kindergarten through second grade have the opportunity to participate in the Young Engineers Camp this summer.

The camp is part of the district’s Summer Camps offered at two elementary sites in each region on a variety of topics. While the camps are popular, some spots are still available in some regions. Regional signups can be accessed through a student’s school website. Those interested may also email: summerschool@fresnounified.org.

The district’s Career Technical Education Department partnered with Fresno State’s Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to offer the Young Engineers Camp for the first time.

This relevant and hands-on learning opportunity encourages creativity and problem solving specific to engineering challenges, including building a suspension bridge, apple crate and an earthquake resistant skyscraper.

Students follow the design process by starting with a challenge, brainstorming possible solutions with their peers, and creating prototypes to share with their classmates.

The curriculum is built on two books: “What Do You Do With a Problem?” and “What Do You Do With an Idea?” by Kobi Yamada. The books encourage literacy while fostering a growth mindset and adaptability within students. Each student takes home the books to share with their families so they can engage in their student’s educational journey.

Students Create Dog Condo for Pets at Poverello Homeless Shelter

Students at Sunnyside High School designed and built a six-dog “condo” for pets at the Poverello House homeless shelter, delivering the doghouse on June 10.

Poverello House had requested the large doghouse to shelter residents’ much beloved pets.

“One act of kindness can be the positive shift in the lives of men and women experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty,” said Abigail Nolte, community relations officer for the Poverello House.

She worked with Sunnyside career education coordinator Floridia Cheung and Sunnyside teacher Phil Siechert on the project.

The Poverello House has a fenced concrete pad where students installed the brightly painted doghouse.

After not being able to use the tools and techniques they had learned about virtually during COVID-19 school closures, students were eager to build something when they returned to in-person classes in April. The students are part of the Agriscience Technology Pathway at Sunnyside. Through the class, students can earn their OSHA construction industry certification.

Once schools had reopened for in-person learning, several seniors wanted to complete a tiny house project they had started before school closures. The students had learned about homelessness as part of a district cross-curricular project overseen by teacher on special assignment Marc Patterson.

“They wanted to create and build something for the community,” Siechert said.

The tiny house project morphed into the doghouse project after learning that was a pressing need at the Poverello House. Over three weeks, students in the five agricultural mechanics and engineering courses worked on the structure every day. Students in one class would pick up where the previous class had left off.

Though the seniors were done with school a week before underclassmen, they returned to complete the project.

“This community project is a perfect example of using one’s talents, passion, and hard work to serve others. The students and faculty that worked on this building project from start to finish have directly impacted our community in a positive way,” Nolte said.
As a budget technician for the Career Technical Education Department, Yer Lee’s duties range from coordinating UC campus visits to ordering millions of dollars in equipment to connecting with community partners for work-based experiences for students. She has worked for the district for 15 years, beginning as a classified sub. She was an Excellence in Education finalist for the district in January. Jeremy Ward, as assistant superintendent for College and Career Readiness, said about Lee: “She exemplifies character all while modeling integrity, an amazing work ethic and an ability to connect with her community. Yer may have the title of budget technician II in our district, but she is so much more.”

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I love everything about my job. One thing I enjoy the most is the collaborative teamwork at the College and Career Readiness Department. We support each other to make our jobs enjoyable and gain outstanding results. I am so grateful to work with an awesome management team! Their support and recognition motivate me to do my job well and enjoy it.

What was your path to becoming a budget technician? Well, 15 years ago I started in the district as a sub. I transitioned from being a sub to bilingual instructional assistant, office assistant, school office manager and now a budget technician. Together, I gained great experiences and skills for this job.

What impact is the College and Career Readiness Department having on Fresno Unified students? Impacts the College and Career Readiness Department is having on Fresno Unified students are counseling and guidance services, career technical education, and extending learning. We provide necessary supports to students across the district to be college and career ready. We believe all students can graduate with a career certification of their choice along with their high school diploma, options to work and/or pursuing a post-secondary education. Based on personal evidence, my daughter, Class of 2021, graduated from Duncan Polytechnical High School with her Certified Nursing Assistant certification.

What is the No. 1 thing that keeps students from being college and career ready? I would like to say online social media is the No. 1 thing that keeps students from being college and career ready.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. Anxiety is what people do not know I have.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I like to do yard work, read the news, clean, and cook for my family.

If you could pursue any career, what would it be? I would like to pursue a budget analyst career.

What is your dream vacation? I do not have a dream vacation in mind, but I hope one day I can travel around the world.

Bullard TALENT Paraeducator Surprised with a Car

Bullard TALENT K-8 School paraeducator Matilda Adame came to work one day – and a car was waiting for her.

Adame was thrilled with the gift, which will make her days much easier. During the school year, she takes the city bus from her home in south Fresno to the northwest Fresno campus because she does not have a car. She has worked for the school for eight years and is much loved by students and her colleagues.

Northpointe Big Hearts Ministry gifted the car, a Ford Focus, to Adame in June after being nominated by Principal Carol Badawi.

“I nominated her because of her genuine kindness and care and love for our students. She routinely stays after she gets off work to watch our student performances and then will ride the bus home,” Badawi said. “Matilda was beyond surprised and speechless.”

Manchester GATE Elementary School students added their names to the leaves of a valley oak mural in recognition of a difficult and memorable year.
Espero que todos estén disfrutando de un verano reparador. Después de los últimos 18 meses, todos merecen un tiempo de calidad en persona con amigos y familiares. Para muchos de nuestro personal y estudiantes, en un año de aprendizaje virtual, no ha habido tiempo libre. Nuestros programas de verano se encuentran en medio del apretado calendario de estudiantes que continúan su aprendizaje durante el verano. Estamos haciendo todo lo posible para asegurarnos de que el verano sea un tiempo de calidad en persona con amigos y familiares.

Los trabajadores del servicio de alimentos del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno implementaron 65,000 tabletas y 11,000 hot spots para los estudiantes que permanecerán en casa durante el verano. Esto evolucionó hasta alimentar a nuestra comunidad distante, incluyendo los estudiantes de escuelas y familias de trabajadores que podrían no tener acceso a internet.

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