

# BUILDING *futures*

*A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District*

A C H I E V I N G   O U R   G R E A T E S T   P O T E N T I A L

## Fresno Unified Offers Specialized Programs to Enhance Learning

Fresno Unified offers more specialty school choices and program options for students than any other district in the Valley, providing a breadth of opportunities for students from elementary through high school.

Fresno Unified is committed to providing every family and every student with high-quality school choice options. Programs include visual and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, science/technology/engineering/mathematics, dual language, world languages, early college, career technical education, and much more.

Fresno Unified is proud to be a school choice district, prepared to meet the unique needs of a diverse community.

The application deadline is Dec. 1 for the 2022-23 school year. To find out more about school choice and programs, call the Transfers Office at (559) 248-7538 or go to the [Transfers Office website](#).

### El Distrito Unificado de Fresno ofrece a los estudiantes programas especializados para mejorar el aprendizaje

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno ofrece más opciones de escuelas especializadas y opciones de programas para los estudiantes que cualquier otro distrito en el Valle, brindando una variedad de oportunidades para los estudiantes desde la escuela primaria hasta la Preparatoria.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno se compromete a brindar a todas las

familias y estudiantes opciones de elección de escuelas de alta calidad. Los programas incluyen artes visuales y escénicas, Bachillerato Internacional, ciencia / tecnología / ingeniería / matemáticas, lenguaje dual, idiomas del mundo, educación universitaria temprana, educación vocacional y mucho más.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno se enorgullece de ser un distrito de elección escolar, preparado para satisfacer las necesidades únicas de una comunidad diversa.

La fecha límite para la solicitud es el 1 de diciembre para el año escolar 2022-23. Para obtener más información sobre la elección de escuelas y los programas, llame a la Oficina de Transferencias al (559) 248-7538 o vaya a [Sitio web de la Oficina de Transfer.](#)

### Fresno Unified Muab Kev Xaiv Lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv rau Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm txhawm mus Txhim Kho Kev Kawm

Fresno Unified muaj ntau lub tsev kawm tshwj xeeb los xaiv thiab lwm cov kev kawm pab rau cov tub ntxhais kawm ntau dua li lwm cov tsev kawm ntawv hauv lub loom tiaj no, muab txoj hauv kev dav rau cov tub ntxhais kawm txij cov qib pib mus txog cov kawm theem siab.

Fresno Unified tau cog lus tias yuav muab rau txhua tsev neeg thiab txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm ntawv txog txoj kev zoo muaj nuj nqis ntawm lawv cov tsev kawm xaiv. Cov kev pab cuam muaj kev kos duab ua yeeb yam thiab txuj ci, International Baccalaureate, kev tshawb fawb-science/kev nthuav



Cooper Academy, one of the district's magnet and specialty schools, held a Back to School Bash on Sept. 10. Students, from left in back are Arturo Duarte and Jordan Gomez and from left in the front, Keighley Martinez, Emely Lopez and Rihanna Cervantes.

txuj ci dav-technology/kev tsim-engineering/kev ua lej, kawm ob hom lus, kawm cov lus thoob ntiaj teb, kawm ntawv qib siab ntxov, kawm txuj ci ua haujlwm, thiab ntawv ntxiv.

Fresno Unified zoo siab uas yog ib

lub cheeb tsam muaj tsev kawm los xaiv, npaj kom tau raws li qhov xav tau tshwj xeeb ntawm ntawv haiv neeg.

Lub Kaum Ob Hlis Hnub Tim 1 yog hnub kawg ntawm daim ntawv thov rau xyoo kawm ntawv 2022-23. Yog

xav paub ntau ntxiv txog kev xaiv tsev kawm ntawv thiab cov kev pab cuam, hu rau Lub Chaw Hauj Lwm Tshais Chaw ntawm (559) 248-7538 los sis mus rau ntawm lub website [Transfers](#)  
[Lub Chaw Hauj Lwm Tshais Chaw](#).

## Questions Answered on COVID-19 Health Protocols for Schools

**Are schools going to be shut down again?** Our district has no intention of shutting down schools. Schools have established health protocols so that they can remain open safely, providing the in-person learning that is best for most students.

**What happens if someone from my child's school tests positive for COVID-19?** If your student was determined to be a close contact to the positive person, you will be contacted directly by your school. A School Messenger is sent to all families at the school to notify them of a positive case on campus.

**What happens if my student is determined to be a close contact?** Your student may have to quarantine at home. This could change depending on whether modified quarantine is available or your child is fully vaccinated.

**What is the definition of close contact?** Someone who has been within six feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes (cumulative) or more over a 24-hour period.

**What if my student was a close contact but is fully vaccinated?** If your student has no symptoms and is fully vaccinated (two weeks after the final injection) they do not have to quarantine.

**What is modified quarantine?** If

your student is a close contact but has no symptoms and was wearing a mask and the infected person was wearing a mask, they may enter modified quarantine and continue to go to school (if your school offers this option). They will have to undergo testing on day 5 from last contact to the positive and will have to continue to quarantine from extracurricular activities, such as sports until day 7 with a negative test.

**Are teachers and staff required to be vaccinated?** A [State Public Health Officer order on Aug. 11](#) required all K-12 staff to submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing. Any staff member who has not submitted proof of full vaccination by Sept. 30 is required to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing starting the week of Oct. 18.

**Does the district offer testing or COVID-19 vaccinations?** In September the district began holding free vaccination and testing clinics at several of our schools. Go to [fresnounified.org](#) for locations and details.

**What if I want my student to return to online learning?** The district offers [eLearn Academy](#) for transitional kindergarten through 12th grade.

**Where can I find more information about COVID-19?** Fresno Unified's website contains [COVID-19 information](#), including a COVID-19 Dashboard that provides the number of positive cases in the district.

**Are students required to wear masks?** Students and staff must wear masks indoors and on school buses. Masks are optional outside.



A nurse administers a COVID-19 vaccination at the launch of free clinics for vaccinations and testing at McLane High School on Sept. 20. The district, with community partners, hosted six clinics in September for students and staff, with more planned.

## Fresno Unified School District Important Dates

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

**Nov. 8-12** Choose your Future Virtual Week (Highlights Magnet and Career Programs)

**Nov. 11** Veterans Day Holiday

**Nov. 22-26** Thanksgiving Break

## *Superintendent's Message*

# Moving Forward through the Tough Times

Greetings, #FUSDfamily! We are completely immersed in our fulltime return to learning on campuses and all the ups and downs that has entailed. I am beyond grateful that we have returned to in-person instruction – it's how our students learn best and how our teachers and other staff can make those critical connections with students. But I'm not going to lie – our efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and its increased strain on our district have been taxing on our staff, students and families. This pandemic has thrown us all for a loop time and time again, and unfortunately, we see no immediate relief. Despite the continued uncertainty of what the future holds, our district has never stopped working to bring as much clarity and stability on behalf of our students and families. It hasn't been perfect, and it won't be perfect, but I have never in all my years as an educator witnessed such hard work by our teachers, leaders and staff just to keep our day to day operations running. Thank you, Fresno Unified family, for your patience.

This is a good time to highlight one of our newly [adopted district values](#): “We Value Accountability.” During the season that we are in, accountability includes doing all that we can to keep all students and staff safely coming to our campuses every day. We have taken significant steps to ensure that. More than half of our campuses have modified quarantine in place. This means that if a student is identified as a close contact to someone with COVID but has no symptoms and all involved were wearing masks at the time of exposure, the close contact may continue to go to school. As long as the student continues to have no symptoms, wears their mask at all times, and produces a negative COVID-19 test five days following their last exposure, they can stay in

class and return to extra-curricular activities on day 7.

We are also excited to have opened free [COVID-19 vaccination and testing clinics](#) at several of our schools. This is a convenient way for students and staff to get vaccinated and tested and help keep our campuses healthy and safe. We are grateful to several community organizations for partnering with us to open the clinics. Youth ages 12 to 17 will need to come with their parent or bring the required signed consent forms. Here's a [list of locations](#) and how to access the consent forms. Please visit [fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org) for more on our [safety guidelines and COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which provides information on positive cases by school.

We are battling COVID, and we are battling a substitute shortage, along with all other school districts. So help us spread the word that [Fresno Unified is hiring](#) substitute teachers, bus drivers, clerical staff and paraprofessionals. As part of our hiring campaign, we've increased our [daily substitute pay](#) to \$208.04.

While the effects of the pandemic on our daily operations are substantial, it has not diminished the accomplishments of our students every day and their joy to be at school with their peers, on the field with their teammates and connecting after school in a variety of clubs and activities. Across the district, great things are happening, including a [groundbreaking ceremony](#) on Sept. 17 at Duncan Polytechnical High School for a new health programs building. The [new facility](#) will house Duncan's outstanding pathway programs for certified nursing assistants, rehabilitation therapy and pharmacy technicians. I love that this new building will provide a state-of-the-art facility for students pursuing medical careers. Never have we needed our

students to enter this field more than we do now.

I will end by saying that although we are in the midst of tough times, I am encouraged by the dedication of our teachers, leaders and staff, the resiliency of our students, the patience of our families and the support of many community partners. Let's keep moving forward to achieve our greatest potential!

### **Avanzando en Tiempos Difíciles**

Saludos, #FUSDfamily! Estamos completamente inmersos en nuestro regreso a tiempo completo del aprendizaje en las escuelas y en todos los altibajos que ha implicado. Estoy más que agradecido de que hayamos regresado a la instrucción en persona - así es como nuestros estudiantes aprenden mejor y cómo nuestros maestros y otro personal pueden hacer esas conexiones críticas con los estudiantes. Pero no voy a mentir -- nuestros esfuerzos para combatir la pandemia de COVID-19 y su creciente presión sobre nuestro distrito han sido agotadores para nuestro personal, estudiantes y familias. Esta pandemia nos ha puesto a todos en tiempo regresivo una y otra vez y lamentablemente, no vemos un alivio inmediato. A pesar de la continua incertidumbre de lo que espera en el futuro, nuestro distrito nunca ha dejado de trabajar para brindar tanta claridad y estabilidad en nombre de nuestros estudiantes y familias. No ha sido perfecto, y no será perfecto, pero nunca en todos mis años como educador había sido testigo de un trabajo tan arduo por parte de nuestros maestros, líderes y personal solo para mantener nuestras operaciones diarias en funcionamiento. Gracias, familia del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno, por su paciencia.

Este es un buen momento para destacar uno de nuestros nuevos

valores del distrito adoptados: ([adopted district values](#)) "Valoramos la Responsabilidad". Durante la temporada en la que estamos, la responsabilidad incluye hacer todo lo posible para que todos los estudiantes y el personal sigan viniendo a nuestras escuelas todos los días de manera segura. Hemos tomado medidas importantes para garantizarlo. Más de la mitad de nuestras escuelas tienen modificaciones de la cuarentena en vigencia. Esto significa que si un estudiante es identificado como un contacto cercano con alguien con COVID pero no tiene síntomas y todos los involucrados usaban mascarillas en el momento de la exposición, el contacto cercano puede continuar asistiendo a la escuela. Siempre que el estudiante continúe sin tener síntomas, use su mascarilla en todo momento y produzca una prueba COVID-19 negativa cinco días después de su última exposición, puede permanecer en clase y regresar a las actividades extracurriculares en el día 7.

También estamos emocionados de haber abierto gratis Clínicas de vacunación y pruebas de COVID-19 ([COVID-19 vaccination and testing clinics](#)) en varias de nuestras escuelas. Esta es una manera conveniente para que los estudiantes y el personal se vacunen y se hagan pruebas, y ayuda a mantener nuestras escuelas sanas y seguras. Agradecemos a varias organizaciones comunitarias por asociarse con nosotros para abrir las clínicas. Los jóvenes de 12 a 17 años deberán venir con sus padres o traer los formularios de consentimiento firmados requeridos. Aquí está una lista de lugares ([list of locations](#)) y cómo acceder a los formularios de consentimiento. Visite [fresnounified.org](#) para obtener más información sobre nuestras pautas Tablero de seguridad y pautas de COVID-19, ([safety guidelines and COVID-19 Dashboard](#),) que proporciona información sobre casos positivos por escuela.

Estamos luchando contra COVID

y luchando contra la escasez de substitutos, junto con todos los demás distritos escolares. Así que ayúdanos a correr la voz de que el Distrito Unificado de Fresno está contratando ([Fresno Unified is hiring](#)) maestros substitutos, conductores de autobuses, personal administrativo y paraprofesionales. Como parte de nuestra campaña de contratación, hemos aumentado nuestro pago diario al substituto ([daily substitute pay](#)) hasta \$208.04.

Si bien los efectos de la pandemia en nuestras operaciones diarias son sustanciales, no ha disminuido los logros de nuestros estudiantes todos los días y su alegría de estar en la escuela con sus compañeros, en el campo con sus compañeros de equipo y conectándose después de la escuela en una variedad de clubes y actividades. En todo el distrito están sucediendo grandes cosas, incluida una ceremonia de inauguración ([groundbreaking ceremony](#)) el 17 de septiembre en la Escuela Preparatoria Politécnica Duncan para un nuevo edificio de programas de salud. La nueva instalación ([new facility](#)) albergará los programas de itinerarios sobresalientes de Duncan para asistentes de enfermería certificados, terapias de rehabilitación y técnicos de farmacia. Me encanta que este nuevo edificio proporcione instalaciones de vanguardia para los estudiantes que persiguen carreras médicas. Nunca hemos necesitado que nuestros estudiantes ingresen a este campo más de lo que lo necesitamos ahora.

Terminaré diciendo que, aunque estamos en medio de tiempos difíciles, me alienta la dedicación de nuestros maestros, líderes y personal, la capacidad de adaptarse de nuestros estudiantes, la paciencia de nuestras familias y el apoyo de muchos socios comunitarios. ¡Sigamos avanzando para alcanzar nuestro mayor potencial!

### **Mus Lawm Tom Hauv Ntej Los Ntawm Lub Sij hawm Nyuaj Siab**

Nyob zoo, #FUSD tsev neeg! Peb tau

ua tiav tag nrho qhov peb rov qab mus kawm hauv cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab txhua qhov kev zoo thiab nyuaj uas yuav tsum tau ua. Kuv zoo siab tshaj uas peb tau rov qab tuaj kawm tim ntsej tim muag tom tsev kawm ntawv - nws yog qhov uas peb cov tub ntxhais kawm tau zoo tshaj thiab qhov tseem ceeb heev uas peb cov kws qhia ntawv thiab cov neeg ua hauj lwm sib txuas nrog cov tub ntxhais kawm. Tab sis kuv yuav tsis dag - peb lub dag zog siv rau ntawm COVID-19 kev tawm tsam thiab nws muaj zog ntxiv muaj thoob qhov txhia chaw rau hauv peb cheeb tsam tsev kawm ntawv uas ua nyuaj rau peb cov neeg ua hauj lwm, tub kawm ntawv thiab tsev neeg. Tus kab mob kis thoob ntiaj teb no tau muaj peb kim mus kim los, thiab hmoov tsis zoo, peb yeej tsis pom ib qhov kev dis npaj tam sim no li. Txawm hais tias tseem tsis tau paub meej txog yav tom ntej seb yuav zoo li cas los peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv yeej tsis tau tso tseg kev ua hauj lwm kom muaj kev paub meej thiab ruaj khov rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab tsev neeg li. Nws tsis tau yog qhov uas zoo tshaj, thiab nws yuav tsis zoo tag nrho, tab sis kuv tsis tau pom dua nyob hauv tag nrho kuv cov xyoo qhia ntawv uas tsis tau pom kev ua hauj lwm hnyav npaum no los ntawm peb cov kws qhia ntawv, cov thawj coj thiab cov neeg ua hauj lwm los ua hauj lwm kom tiav ib hnub dhau ib hnub. Ua tsaug, Fresno Unified tsev neeg, rau koj txoj kev ua siab ntev.

Nov yog lub sijhawm zoo los hais txog ib qho ntawm peb qhov [kev txais yuav tshiab ntawm lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawm qhov muaj txiaj ntsi](#): "Peb Saib Txoj Kev Lees Ris Muaj Nuj Nqis." Thaum lub caij uas peb nyob, kev lav phib xaub suav nrog ua txhua yam uas peb tuaj yeem ua kom txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm thiab cov neeg ua hauj lwm tuaj rau hauv peb lub tsev kawm ntawv txhua hnub muaj kev nyab xeeb. Peb tau ua cov kauj ruam tseem ceeb kom ntseeg tau. Ntau tshaj li ib nrab ntawm peb cov tsev kawm ntawv muaj kev hloov kho pauv qhov cais mus nyob tom tsev vim muaj tus

kab mob. Qhov no txhais tau tias yog tus menuam kawm ntawv raug nyob ze nrog ib tus neeg muaj COVID tab sis tsis muaj tsos mob thiab txhua tus koom nrog tau looj daim npog qhov ncauj qhov ntswg thaum lub sij hawm yuav kis tau, tus nyob ze tus neeg mob tuaj kawm ntawv los tau. Tsuav yog hais tias tus tub ntxhais kawm tsis muaj tsos mob txuas ntxiv, looj daim npog qhov ncauj qhov ntswg txhua lub sijhawm, thiab kuaj tsis muaj tus kab mob COVID-19 tsib hnub tom qab hnub tau nyob ze tus muaj kab mob, lawv tuaj yeem tuaj kawm hauv chav kawm thiab rov mus kev kawm ib cag sab nraum ntxiv rau hnub thib 7.

Peb kuj zoo siab tau qhib qhov kev hno tshuaj tiv thaiv [COVID-19 dawb thiab muaj chaw kuaj](#) rau ntawm ob peb lub tsev kawm ntawv. Nov yog txoj hauv kev yooj yim rau cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab cov neeg ua hauj lwm kom txhaj tshuaj tiv thaiv kab mob thiab kuaj thiab pab ua kom peb lub tsev kawm ntawv huv thiab nyab xeeb. Peb zoo siab rau ntau lub koom haum hauv zej zog uas tau koom tes nrog peb qhib lub tsev kho mob. Cov hluas hnub nyoog 12 txog 17 xyos yuav tsum tuaj nrog lawv niam lawv txiv los sis nqa daim ntawv tso cai pom zoo tuaj. No yog [cov npe rau cov chaw](#) thiab qhia seb yuav ua li cas mus muaj daim ntawv tso cai. Thov mus saib fresnounified.org kom paub ntau ntxiv txog peb [cov txheej txheem kev nyab xeeb thiab COVID-19 Dashboard](#), uas muab cov ntaub

ntawv qhia txog cov uas kuaj muaj kab mob los ntawm cov tsev kawm ntawv.

Peb tab tom ua rog nrog COVID, thiab peb tab tom muaj kev ntsug rog qhov tsis muaj cov neeg txaus tuaj hloov cov xib hwb thaum lawv tuaj tsis tau, qhov no muaj nrog rau txhua lub koog tsev kawm ntawv. Yog li xav thov kom pab peb tshaj tawm tias [Fresno Unified tab tom ntiaj](#) cov kws qhia ntawv thaum tus xib hwb tuaj tsis tau, cov neeg tsav tsheb npav, cov neeg ua hauj lwm khiav ntaub ntawv thiab cov ua hauj lwm pab. Ib feem ntawm peb lub hom phiaj ntiaj neeg ua hauj lwm, peb tau nce peb cov nyiaj them mus rau \$208.04 rau qhov qhia ntawm [txhua hnub thaum xib hwb tuaj tsis tau](#).

Txawm muaj cov kev cuam tshuam ntau los ntawm tus kab mob kis thoob plaws ntiaj teb no rau peb cov hauj lwm txhua hnub, los nws kuj tsis tau txo qhov kev kawm tau ntawm peb cov tub ntxhais txhua hnub thiab lawv qhov kev zoo siab nyob hauv tsev kawm ntawv nrog lawv cov phooj ywg, ntawm thaj chaw ua kis las nrog lawv cov phooj ywg thiab koom nrog ntau lub koom haum thiab kev ua ub no tom qab tsev kawm. Nyob thoob plaws hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv, muaj tej yam zoo tshwm sim, suav nrog [ib qhov kev ua koob tsheej zoo siab](#) lub Cuaj Hlis Hnub Tim 17 ntawm Tsev Kawm Ntawv Duncan Polytechnical High School rau lub tsev kawm kho mob thiab. Qhov [chaw tshiab](#) no ua rau Duncan cov kev kawm tseem ceeb

xws li cov kev kawm kws saib xyuas mob nkeeg, kev kho kom rov zoo thiab cov kws pab muab tshuaj. Kuv nyiam tias lub tsev tshiab no yuav muaj cov cuab yeej zoo tshaj plaws rau cov tub ntxhais kawm ua hauj lwm kho mob. Tsis tau muaj ib zaug uas peb xav kom peb cov tub ntxhais kawm nkag mus rau qhov no ntau dua li peb xav tau tam sim no.

Kuv yuav xaus lus hais rau sawv daws tias txawm peb tab tom nyob ntawm lub sij hawm nyuaj no los kuv tseem tau kev txhawb zog los ntawm kev mob siab ntawm peb cov kws qhia ntawv, cov thawj coj thiab cov neeg ua hauj lwm, kev tiv taus ntawm peb cov tub ntxhais kawm, kev ua siab ntev ntawm peb tsev neeg thiab kev txhawb nqa los ntawm ntau lub koos haum hauv lub zej zog. Cia peb rhais ruam mus tom ntej kom ua tau zoo npaum li qhov peev xwm peb muaj!



**Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

## ***Message from Hugo Morales, Founder and Executive Director of Radio Bilingue*** **Dual Language Immersion Helps Students be Successful**

I asked my 13-year-old twin boys who attend Computech Middle School how they benefitted from dual immersion in Spanish/English in elementary school. They said it helped them in understanding math, got them curious to learn about a multitude of subjects, enables them to organize more people for their projects (people that speak English and Spanish), and increases

their chances for entrance to college or a job.

My wife and I insisted that our children get a dual immersion education. Research shows some exceptional benefits for dual immersion programs, according to Lupe Jaime-Mileham, deputy director of the Child Care and Development Division of the California Department of Social

Services. Research findings include:

- Children who learn more than one language have a better capacity to learn new concepts quickly and can easily grasp new ideas in subjects such as math and science.
- There are many long-term advantages, including performing better than monolingual students in cognition tasks such as divergent

thinking, pattern recognition, and problem-solving.

- A study published in the Proceedings for the National Academy of Sciences found child use both hemispheres of the brain rather than just the left.

It is gratifying to spend a month every year in our home in my Mixteco village in Mexico where our boys can sing along with their cousins in Spanish and enjoy the duality of their cultures in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the United States.

To celebrate our twins' sixth birthday we held a party and invited all the children of my village. Fifty children showed up along with their parents. We rented a bouncy house, had three piñatas, had

mole and tortillas for lunch and organic cacti ice cream for dessert. We invited the village wind band. When it was over five hours later, I asked my boys what did they like the most? My twins responded: "It was the music!"

Considering that the majority of our youngest children speak another language at home and beginning in the fourth grade, math learning includes problem solving in narrative form, it makes sense to enroll our children in dual language programs. In recent years, FUSD has made dual immersion opportunities in all regions of the district. Let's engage our children and enroll them in dual immersion for their earliest years.



**Hugo Morales**  
Founder and Executive Director of  
Radio Bilingue

## Focus on School Choice

### School Choice Options for Elementary and Middle Schools

**Dual Language Immersion (Also See Dual Immersion Story on Page 7)**  
*Spanish*

#### Site-based – For Neighborhood Students

Burroughs, Calwa, Centennial, Hidalgo, Jackson, Lane, Roeding, Rowell and Winchell elementary schools

#### Magnet – Students can Apply from throughout the District

Ewing, Leavenworth and Sunset elementary schools  
Wawona K-8 School  
Yosemite Middle School  
McLane High School

#### *Hmong*

Vang Pao and Balderas elementary schools

Apply by Dec. 1 for Ewing, Leavenworth, Sunset, Wawona, Yosemite and McLane; random lottery

#### Environmental Science

- Ahwahnee Middle School: Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery

### Global Studies

- Baird Middle School (grades 5-8): Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery; also offers agribusiness
- Hamilton K-8 School: Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery

### Gifted and Talented Education (Also See GATE Story on Page 8)

- Manchester GATE Elementary School (grades 2-6): academic admissions criteria
- Yokomi Elementary School (grades 2-6): Apply by Dec. 1; academic admissions criteria; science and technology emphasis; serves district students and children of downtown employees

### International Baccalaureate

- Cooper Academy (grades 6-8): Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery; preference for students in Fresno High School region

### Math, Science and Technology

- Computech Middle School: Apply by Dec. 1; academic admissions criteria
- Yokomi Elementary School: Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery; serves district students and children of downtown employees

### Visual and Performing Arts

- Bullard TALENT K-8 School: Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery

### School Choice Options for High Schools

**Design Science Middle College High School:** Students also enroll in Fresno City College classes; housed at Fresno City College; apply by Dec. 1; random lottery.

**Duncan Polytechnical High School:** Numerous career pathways, including automotive, construction, electronics and medical; apply by Dec. 1; random lottery.

**Fresno High School:** Offers International Baccalaureate, an academically rigorous and relevant curriculum that teaches students to act responsibly, think critically and contribute to a changing society; apply by Dec. 1; random lottery.

**McLane High School:** Dual language immersion; apply by Dec. 1; language assessment exam.

**Patiño School of Entrepreneurship:** Apply by Dec. 1; random lottery.

**Roosevelt High School:** Performing arts; apply by Dec. 1; random lottery.

**Sunnyside High School:** Doctors Academy; apply by Dec. 1; additional application required; random lottery.



From left, Twilight Hudson and Felix Cazares work on a lab project in science class at Computech Middle School, one of the district's specialty schools that families can choose from.

## Virtual Event to Explore Specialty Schools

The district will host an online event Nov. 8-12 for families and students to explore magnet and specialized schools. The transfer deadline for the 2021-22 school year is Dec. 1.

With the online format, participants can attend Choose your Future Virtual

Week any time during the week. Watch for more information from schools and social media on how to attend.

Students and families will be able to select what sites and unique program to explore from nearly 30 magnet and specialized schools. Programs

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

## High Schools Offer Career Pathway Options to Inspire Students

Seven of the district's 10 high schools offer specialty magnet programs, ranging from the arts to career technical education (CTE) to an academy for aspiring doctors.

In addition to the high school magnet programs, high schools offer a variety of career pathways.

- Bullard High School: Business, law and social justice, biomedicine, computer science and more
- Design Science Middle College High School: CTE courses at local community colleges
- Duncan Polytechnical High School:

Medical, automotive, construction and more

- Edison High School: Biomedicine, engineering, green energy, computer science, kinesiology, technical theater and more
- Fresno High School: International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programmes, Army JROTC, construction, heating and cooling, digital media and more
- Hoover High School: Public service, arts/media/entertainment, construction, eco-technology and more

- McLane High School: Art, finance, medical, teaching and more
- Patiño School of Entrepreneurship: Business creation, marketing and more
- Roosevelt High School: Performing arts, business, culinary arts, fashion design, health, public service, teaching and more
- Sunnyside High School: Health sciences, agriscience, multimedia, teaching and more

The district's four alternative high schools offer CTE options as well.

## Patiño School of Entrepreneurship has Connection with Cal Poly

[Patiño School of Entrepreneurship](#), Fresno Unified's newest and smallest high school, has captured the attention of wildly popular California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

A unique partnership began in 2018 that is now paving the way for more Patiño students to be admitted to Cal Poly.

This past year, eight of Patiño's 34 seniors were accepted into Cal Poly,

with five attending this fall – two on full ride scholarships. The campus, with an acceptance rate of 28%, is the most difficult of the 23 California State University campuses to get into.

The connection began three years ago

when Patiño's staff visited Cal Poly's business incubator, the Cal Poly Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Hot House.

With Patiño's unique emphasis on entrepreneurship – all seniors launch their own businesses – Cal Poly took notice of what students were learning and accomplishing. [Patiño](#) opened in 2015 to give students the option of an integrated project-based curriculum focused on critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Enrollment is 267.

Patiño students and staff have been invited for the past few years to visit during Cal Poly's annual Demo Days, where summer accelerator student business teams pitch for investment, mentorship, and involvement from industry partners.

This year, Patiño students were invited to set up a booth alongside the Demo Days finalists and share about their own businesses as high school students. Students were also given a tour of the campus, which focused on the entrepreneurship department and its business hatchery.

Perhaps most importantly, the partnership is helping more students

get admitted to Cal Poly. Patiño students are given the same “point” that is given to local applicants when they apply for admissions.

And the relationship has led to the establishment of a special fund for Patiño students that specific donors contribute to as part of the Cal Poly Scholars program. The Cal Poly Scholars program supports high-achieving California students from low-income backgrounds, providing financial, academic, and community resources. All five of the Patiño graduates attending Cal Poly this

fall received some funding, with two earning full ride scholarships.

“The Patiño School of Entrepreneurship staff and students look forward to seeing this partnership continue to grow every year,” said Christine Rodriguez, career education coordinator at Patiño. “It’s an exciting opportunity for Fresno Unified students to benefit from the innovation and entrepreneurship focus we share with Cal Poly.”

For more information on Patiño, call (559) 248-7360.



Students from Patiño School of Entrepreneurship visit Cal Poly, which has taken a special interest in Patiño students. From left, students are Savion Dupree, Jose Villela, Ryan McFarland, Ariana Ramos Sanz, Ignacio Nery, Elly Jaimes, Giovanni Chavarria Parra, Manuel Hernandez, Octavio Zanabria, Desiree Torres and Jonathon Garcia.

## Bullard TALENT K-8 School: Where the Arts are Academic

Every school day morning, buses from all over Fresno arrive at [Bullard TALENT K-8 School](#). Students carrying homework, costumes, scripts, and instruments head to class to start a day filled with rigorous core academics, art, theater, music and movement.

Bullard TALENT (Teaching all Learners through Exceptional New Techniques) is a visual and performing arts magnet school with high expectations for all students. Students come to Bullard TALENT via a district wide lottery bringing their diverse needs, multicultural backgrounds and academic readiness to be challenged and enriched in an environment where

learning comes alive under the school's philosophy, “The Arts are Academic.” From the first day of kindergarten, all students participate in a Kodaly music program and a visual arts program taught by art and music specialty teachers. As students enter the intermediate and middle school grades, elective specialists provide daily instruction in visual art, media arts, choral music, band, strings, drama, dance and movement.

Grade level and school-wide productions are a central part of the learning process. Creative energy emanates from students rehearsing scenes on the outdoor amphitheater stage or as the beat of the jazz band

practicing for an upcoming music festival pulses from “The Creative Zone.”

None of this could be achieved without strong parent and community support, along with energetic staff members who model lifelong learning as they stretch, risk and collaborate to make learning dynamic for students.

Students from Bullard TALENT emerge with a solid foundation of skills and knowledge in the Common Core State Standards as well as the California Arts Standards. Students become self-assured and confident to speak before an audience. They learn to be organized as they juggle a hectic schedule in many diverse

classes. Cooperation and team responsibility are life skills learned at Bullard TALENT.

The goal is to develop each child to embrace their talents and abilities to reach their full potential.

For more information on Bullard TALENT, call (559) 248-7030.



Bullard TALENT K-8 School teacher Stephanie Vagim works with students in her beginning orchestra class, made up of fourth and fifth graders.

## Cooper Academy Provides International Baccalaureate Program

Cooper Academy is an [International Baccalaureate World School](#) and is part of the IB continuum in Fresno Unified that also include Dailey Elementary Charter School and Fresno High School.

The school offers grades 6-8, with a mission to foster a caring and compassionate environment that empowers students to actively engage in rigorous academic learning, develop positive relationships and embrace the differences within their community.

[Cooper Academy](#) strives to be a school where high expectations and support creates responsible and productive 21st-century citizens.

The IB curriculum builds critical thinking skills and nurtures curiosity and ability to solve complex problems. The middle school IB program encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.

Cooper offers 23 active clubs and all middle school sports, with 100% of students engaged in arts, athletics or activities. Students attend eight classes. Cooper has a schoolwide GPA of 3.0. It offers a before and after school program that is available to all

students.

“Cooper is a place where everyone is welcome and is given the opportunity to grow and be successful,” said Principal Sandra Auble.

For more information on Cooper Academy, call (559) 248-7050.



Cooper Academy students from left, Ja’Ziah White, Jazmine Boyland, Za’Nayah Rye and Geniah Turner, with Sariayah Ferguson in the back row, relax at the school’s Back to School Bash on Sept. 10. Cooper offers the International Baccalaureate program, an academically rigorous and relevant curriculum that teaches students to act responsibly, think critically and contribute to a changing society.

## Award-Winning Computech Middle School Focuses on Science, Tech

[Edison-Computech Middle School](#) promotes innovation and opportunities for all students, offering a cutting-edge curriculum to prepare students for an ever-changing world. This focus has led Computech to become one of the most awarded and top-rated middle schools in the nation.

Computech has been awarded the

California Distinguished Schools Award seven times and recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School five times. It has been consistently recognized as a top-rated school by Niche and GreatSchools.org.

Computech prides itself on offering innovative classes and programs, including a two-year robotics track

as an elective with six sections full of ambitious students. Computech introduces more than 200 students per year to the world of robotics, offering activities during lunch and after school in addition to classes.

Computech also offers a wide variety of career technical education classes and experiences. The Biomed class

for eighth graders prepares students to go on to high school programs focused on medical fields. In addition to school day classes in engineering, Computech has also offered extracurricular activities in welding, junior lifeguarding, screen printing and machine embroidery and has the largest 3-D printing laboratory in the district as well as a state-of-the art laser cutter and solar telescope.

True to its roots in science and technology, Computech has always been a fierce competitor in Science Olympiad, a regional, state and national science competition providing standards-based challenges to nearly 5,000 teams at 375 live and remote tournaments.

While COVID disrupted Computech team attendance in 2021, the 15-member Science Olympiad team will be back for the 2022 season to compete once again in 23 different life, earth and physical science events. In its more than 30-year history at Computech, Science Olympiad students have placed first in the regional competition every year except one and went on to compete at the state level every year, always representing FUSD with pride and striving for excellence and fun.

Athletics at Computech include track, cross country, soccer, baseball, basketball, softball, football, swimming, water polo, golf, tennis and

more.

Computech focuses on the social-emotional needs of its students as well. In addition to a supportive administration, staff and counseling, the on-campus emotional support dog Coco is a frequent visitor to classrooms and the main office to help students who are experiencing stress or anxiety.

Also offering support to Computech Tigers is the Tiger Pantry, which provides school supplies, hygiene items and other resources for students. The referral is online, and once submitted students are contacted privately and provided with the requested items.

While the focus of Computech has always been technology and science,

it also offers theater classes, including acting, directing, stagecraft and forensics. The music department frequently collaborates with the theater department to present musicals and additional performance experiences.

Extracurricular activities during lunch time are varied and numerous, including Asian Student Union, Latino Student Union, Black Student Union, guitar club, reading club, Life Club and more. The after-school program at Computech supports learning with a robust tutorial time and offers a wide variety of activities, including cooking, forensics, folklorico dance, sewing, leadership, anime, video and board games.

For more information on Computech, call (559) 457-2640.



*Students work on projects in their robotics class at Computech Middle School, a magnet school with a math, science and technology emphasis. Students, from left, are Cameron Simonsen, Daniel Sandoval Cortes, Alastair Jones, Giorgio Lucio, Letasha Major, Jose Lopez and Oscar Cruz Miguel.*

## Nine Neighborhood Schools Offer Language Immersion Programs

The district continues to expand opportunities for students to be proficient in two languages, equipping them for future success in school and careers.

The district now has nine neighborhood campuses that offer the Spanish dual language immersion program. The program serves neighborhood students, although families do have to request to be in the dual immersion program.

The district also offers dual language

immersion programs at four elementary and two secondary schools that recruit students from throughout the district and require a transfer.

The goals of [dual language immersion programs](#) are for students to develop bilingualism and biliteracy, grade level academic achievement or above, and develop socio-cultural competencies.

It is strongly recommended that students begin the dual immersion program in pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, or

kindergarten, with Spanish instruction for 90% of the day and English instruction for 10% of the day.

With each passing grade level, the percentage of instruction in English increases by 10%. By fourth grade, curriculum is taught 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. Students learn to read, write and speak in both languages.

The district also offers a 50:50 [dual Hmong language immersion programs](#) at Vang Pao and Balderas elementary

schools. Students study English for 50% of the day and Hmong for 50%. “The research is clear that dual language immersion instructional programs are the most effective in meeting the needs of not only our

English learner students but also in advancing the academics of our English only students,” said Patricia Wolf, a manager who oversees the Spanish dual language immersion program.

The goal is for students to attain high academic achievement in Spanish and English or Hmong and English and be proficient in reading, writing, speaking and listening in two languages.

Grades	Language of Instruction
Pre-K	90% Spanish 10% English
TK/Kinder	90% Spanish 10% English
1st Grade	90% Spanish 10% English
2nd Grade	80% Spanish 20% English
3rd Grade	65% Spanish 35% English
4th-6th Grade	50% Spanish 50% English
7th-8th Grade	30% Spanish 70% English
9th-12th Grade	30% Spanish 70% English

### Dual Language Immersion Schools for Neighborhood Students

Burroughs Elementary School  
Calwa Elementary School  
Centennial Elementary School  
Hidalgo Elementary School  
Jackson Elementary School  
Lane Elementary School  
Roeding Elementary School  
Rowell Elementary School  
Winchell Elementary School

### Dual Immersion Schools that Accept Students from throughout District

Ewing Elementary School  
Leavenworth Elementary School  
Sunset Elementary School  
Wawona K-8 School  
Yosemite Middle School  
McLane High School



*Cristina Cisneros Lopez, a third-grade dual immersion teacher at Leavenworth Elementary School, works with Keyla Vega Romero left, and Arahbelia Greene. Leavenworth is one of six campuses that accepts students from around the district for its Spanish dual language immersion program.*

## Neighborhood Schools Offer Benefits as Well

While Fresno Unified offers a variety of schools with magnet specialty programs, most families in the district choose to attend their neighborhood school.

All of Fresno Unified’s neighborhood schools offer high-quality teaching and programs, and nine offer dual language programs. When families choose their neighborhood school, they are usually close enough to walk, or a short drive away from campus.

Neighborhood schools provide a safe and welcoming hub in neighborhoods where families from the area can get to know each other and students can engage in activities with school friends outside of the school day. By going to school in their neighborhood, families and students develop pride in and connection to their region as they progress from elementary to middle school to high school.



Eaton Elementary School’s Josiah Gonzales, second grade, has fun at an outdoor rally on Aug. 27. Eaton is among the district’s dozens of high quality neighborhood schools.

## District Expands Opportunities for Gifted and Talented Students

Fresno Unified is addressing the needs of its gifted students throughout the district with additional training for teachers.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) professional learning for Fresno Unified teachers launched four

years ago, when the district began encouraging teachers to join GATE Certification Cohorts.

The outcome of this is that 132 teachers at 35 campuses around the district have achieved their GATE certification.

The district has specific GATE sites for grades 2-6 at [Manchester GATE Elementary School](#) and [Yokomi Elementary School](#). But GATE certification means teachers across the district are prepared to meet the needs of gifted students in their classrooms.

“The certification helps teachers better serve GATE students in and out of a formal GATE program, and those students who may not have qualified for GATE but need accelerated instruction,” said Susana Montañez, manager of the [district’s GATE program](#).

Through the GATE Certification Cohorts, teachers learn GATE strategies collaboratively with colleagues, increase classroom opportunities for acceleration and enrichment for all students and earn district certification and distinction.

District kindergarten through eighth grade classroom teachers are eligible for the yearly cohort, with members selected by lottery with consideration for parity in grade level and region.

The district has also expanded testing opportunities for students. Previous GATE screening was based on parent requests, teacher recommendations and

some academic criteria.

Students who qualify for GATE services are provided with educational opportunities to realize their full potential. Following the initial screening, students are qualified as

GATE based on criteria that includes scores on reasoning abilities, academic performance, and state tests in English language arts, math and reading.

For more information, contact the GATE Office (559) 457-6073



Rowell Elementary School first grade teacher Alejandra Orozco-Bedolla listens as Mayra Santiago-Lopez describes the cultural doll she made. Orozco-Bedollo is among 132 teachers across the district who completed the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) training so they can better meet the needs of gifted students in their classrooms.

## Making Fun Connections at Roeding Elementary

Second grade lead teacher Cera Brown works with her students at Roeding Elementary School on community building activities. The district’s Climate and Culture staff have designed lessons for the first few weeks of school to foster social emotional health, a thriving learning environment, connections with their peers and a sense of belonging.



## District's State of Education Fundraiser for Scholarships will Be Virtual

Due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis in the community, Fresno Unified made the difficult decision to move the State of Education program to a virtual format this year.

The district will share a virtual program at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18 through

[fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org), [Facebook Live](#) and [Community Media Access Collaborative \(CMAC\)](#). The program will include scholarship winners from last spring, a message from Superintendent Bob Nelson and recognition of this year’s sponsors.

The district is grateful to sponsors for the continued support of the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund, which has helped hundreds of graduates each year as they move on to post-secondary education.

**Gold Level sponsors:** Fresno

Housing, SIMPBK, CalViva Health, EECU, AALRR, Darden Architects, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, HAW-Fifty Six

**Silver Level sponsor:** Fresno State University of Advancement

**Bronze Level sponsors:** Fresno

County Superintendent of Schools, MeTEOR Education, ACSA, Central Unified School District

## Hidalgo Elementary Celebrates Mexico's Independence

Hidalgo Elementary School students welcomed members of the Mexican Consulate in Fresno to their school to commemorate Mexican independence on Sept. 14. The celebration included a donation of books in Spanish for the library from the consulate to support the school's dual immersion program. Hidalgo Elementary is named for a priest – Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla – who launched Mexico's war of independence in 1810.



## Terronez Students Learn about Suicide Prevention

Julia Salinas, clinical school social worker at Terronez Middle School, instructs students as part of the district's Signs of Suicide (SOS) curriculum presented to all students in grades 8-10 in September and October. SOS teaches students how to identify signs of depression and suicide in themselves and their peers, while providing materials that train school professionals, parents, and communities to recognize at-risk students and take appropriate action.



## Sunnyside High Kitchen Manager Has the Right Ingredients

Thou Khoun Rios, kitchen manager at Sunnyside High School, was part of the tremendous effort by food services staff during the pandemic shutdown of schools that began in March 2020. Food services began providing meals not only to students and families, but those in the community. Khoun Rios has worked for the district since 2005, been a manager since 2011 and at Sunnyside since 2014. She was an Excellence in Education finalist in January. Principal Michele Anderson

said about Khoun Rios: "Her work ethic and natural leadership are crucial to keeping our students and staff fed and healthy."

**How did you get into food services?**  
At the time, my daughter attended Aynesworth Elementary School. I met the kitchen manager and she introduced me to the job, explaining to me that it was a good opportunity for me to get started.

**What do you enjoy the most about**

**your job?** I enjoy serving and meeting children every year, seeing them grow and seeing the new generations develop.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?** The most challenging part of my job is ensuring the food we serve is properly prepared in an efficient and timely manner – making sure no child is left behind.

**What was it like to serve meals to families and the community when**

**schools were closed?** It was a very honorable and happy moment since every time they came to get food, they showed their appreciation. It feels good knowing I am helping families not to be hungry. Also, it was very nice meeting all these families and building a relationship.

**What connection do healthy meals have to students' academic success?**

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A healthy meal allows students to focus on class knowing that it is bright and early. As students are still sleepy, breakfast can boost their energy leading them to pay attention in class. I believe without the proper nutrition, students can often be distracted with their stomach grumbling and/or dozing off in class. Paying attention leads to a successful class lesson.

**What do you enjoy the most about the Sunnyside campus?** My most favorite thing about Sunnyside campus is the staff. The staff are all so friendly and outgoing, and really make you

feel like family. Seeing their smiles really passes on the positivity to one another. Another thing I enjoy about the campus is the diversity we have. I am proud to be part of a school that is very diverse. And before the pandemic, how Sunnyside truly showed the appreciation through the diversity assembly.

**What food item do kids enjoy the most?** The curly fries with mini corndogs.

**Do you like to cook at home, and what is your specialty?** I love to cook at home. I make many Asian dishes, but my specialty is making homemade pho. My family always requests that one from me.

**Name one thing most people don't know about you.** Even though at work I am happy and smiling, at home I am full of sadness. [Khoun Rios explained that she has had much death and sickness in her family.]

**What do you like to do when you are**

**not working?** I like to be home with my husband, relaxing watching movies and the news. I also love to spend time with my family and grandkids.

**If you could pursue any career, what would it be?** I would be either a teacher or a policewoman. I also had interests in being a nurse working with elderly people.

**What is your dream vacation?** I would love to visit my roots and go to Cambodia once again.



## Wawona Teacher Believes in 'People First, Learners Second'

Candace Cano, a seventh and eighth grade English language arts (ELA) teacher at Wawona K-8 School, is a leader and mentor among her colleagues who has influenced teachers throughout the district. She is beloved by students for her caring approach to the entire student. Cano began at the district in 2016 when she joined a single subject cohort in the district's Teacher Residency Program. She was placed at Wawona for the 2017-18 school year. Cano was a finalist for the district's Excellence in Education awards in January.

Wawona Principal Kimberly Villescaz said this about Cano: "She is much more than an English teacher at Wawona. She can go into any class, demonstrate a non-planned lesson and earn the respect of the students, build rapport with teachers and implement small strategies that help improve instruction."

**What sets Wawona K-8 School apart?** At Wawona, we are unafraid to try new things! I've had the opportunity to be a part of a couple different program pilots and trusted with guiding inquiry as a site. We at Wawona are not afraid to jump in and try new things in the name of learning, and I love that very much.

**What made you decide to be a teacher?** I truly believe that teachers are one of those careers where you get to make a positive impact in someone else's life. I love going to work knowing that I have showed up for kids and get to make a positive impact.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** Usually when I tell someone that I teach seventh and eighth grade, I get some interesting looks. I totally understand; young teens can be a lot. But what is also true is that they are hilarious. Their stories, their

perspectives... the kids offer a unique lens into our ever-changing world and I love getting to learn alongside them.

**What is the most difficult part of your job?** At schools, teachers are often expected to know, see, and do all, especially to the students, who are looking to us adults to keep them safe and informed. Being that for someone (or a few hundred people) is a heavy weight to carry, especially in the last two years when there were many questions and very few answers. Teaching was already hard before entering a pandemic, but this new realm is even more complex.

**Why is it important to encompass social emotional learning along with the subject curriculum?** For me, social and emotional learning is the entrance to our subject curriculum and other academic studies. A mantra I often tell myself is "people first,

learners second,” which reminds me to see our students exactly where they are and meet them there first. We cannot learn from those and in spaces where we do not feel safe.

**What are your favorite ways to connect with students and get them interested in learning?** I love connecting concepts to feelings and stories. For me, those can often be the easiest entry point for getting students engaged in the learning. I often challenge myself to think as creatively as I can to make sure that what we are learning can be accessed in multiple ways.

**Why do you enjoy teaching English language arts?** One of my favorite things to do is to make connections in words and vocabulary. As an ELA teacher, I’m fascinated with the power

of language and connecting our more casual vernacular to academic concepts.

**If you could choose another career, what would it be?** I found out the hard way that I can be pretty particular about my materials. Yes, I’m that teacher who gets the special fonts and spends that extra time formulating the handout to look exactly the way I want it. Because of that, I think I could’ve been in the graphic design field also.

**What is your dream vacation?** A dream vacation would include rest, rejuvenation, and exploration. My favorites include getting a massage, wandering around museums and nature, and decompressing. Any where I could do that, sounds great!

**Name one thing most people don’t**

**know about you.** I’ve been an intern at Disneyland, where I was a photographer and worked in the entertainment department. I loved getting to photograph peoples’ magic memories and add to my own. And yes, it definitely still feels like a “real job.”



## Student Art Exhibits to Reopen for Community Viewing in October

Art from Fresno Unified students is back on public display, with three shows included in ArtHop on Oct. 7 in downtown Fresno from 5-8 p.m.

[ArtHop](#) downtown is on the first Thursday of every month. Fresno Unified student art can be found at the [M Street Arts Complex](#), where the district rents gallery space. Fresno Unified exhibits will include spoken word presentations by students. The student art shows have been on a hiatus for more than a year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The art can also be viewed by appointment by calling (559) 646-4259. Most of the pieces will be up through October, with the “Carrying Stories” exhibit heading to The Big Fresno Fair Oct. 8.

The shows, in three separate galleries, are part of the district’s REAL collaborative -- Relevant Engagement through Art and Literacy. REAL launched in the 2016-17 school year with 12 teachers from across the district. More than 40 teachers are

involved now.

Guided by socially relevant themes, students produce projects of art, writing and the spoken word. Their work culminates with public shows at ArtHop. Students participating range from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade.

### Gallery 1: Art from this year and the REAL Virtual Gallery

The art in Gallery 1 is original student art from this year and the lockdown. Some pieces are in the district’s [virtual gallery](#). Since the lockdown, the REAL collaborative has continued its program to provide students with a venue to showcase their art and writing. The art in Gallery 1 represents the creative expression from three high schools across the district: Edison High School (charcoal), Sunnyside High School (painting) and Bullard High School (photography).

### Gallery 2: Fresno High School – “Carrying Stories: Becoming the Butterfly”

These butterfly art panels were created by Fresno High School International Baccalaureate (IB) juniors in Marina Santos’ English literature virtual class during the lockdown. Identity, culture, and community are some of the primary focuses for Fresno High IB learners.

“Carrying Stories” helped to bring stories forward among individuals, families, and the community to the learning environment extending students’ intellectual, emotional, and spiritual reach during one of the most challenging experiences, the isolation of a pandemic. Metaphors are common to every culture and, in some, even play very dominant spiritual and sacred roles as they symbolize spiritual rebirth associated with spring.

Through the power of the butterfly metaphor, learners were able to express the processes of struggle and transformation. The most inspiring transformation was not just their artwork, but their transformation

from learner to reader, to writer, and especially to artist during the challenge of the pandemic. Students chose a butterfly design, drew the butterfly on the panel, then cut and pasted magazine colors and textures into their design. Students selected a background color to complement their collaged butterfly, and lastly, hand-lettered their stories around their butterfly with a permanent, black marker.

### Gallery 3: J.E. Young Academic Center – “Sheroes”

Several months prior to the lockdown, more than 300 J.E. Young Academic Center students participated in a project-based learning art and writing project. That year was the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, so in keeping with this milestone, students were asked to write a story about their “shero.”

The term “shero” comes from a poem written by the late Maya Angelou. Students at J.E. Young have a variety

of class schedules, which made the studio lessons a challenge. Most students had no art experience but were excited about the challenge.

Groups of students were brought into a large classroom at the J.E. Young site, which was used as an art studio

for a couple hours a week. Students began by drawing their shero from a photograph, then taught how to paint portraits using acrylic paints. The project’s conclusion was interrupted by the lockdown, but a few students managed to finish their portraits at home.



*Ines Fabian-Hicks, now a senior at Fresno High School, stands beside her art work during an outdoor display in May. With the reopening of Fresno Unified art shows at the M Street Arts Complex, the art will now be hung in a professional gallery for an Oct. 7 show.*

## The Arts Soar in Fresno Unified

The arts are back in business at Fresno Unified schools, including an elementary ballet class at Bullard TALENT K-8 School.



## Fresno Unified COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

FREE vaccines for ages 12+ Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be available & FREE walk-up COVID-19 testing.

For more information call (559) 258-1355 or register at: [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov).

# Duncan Hosts Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Health Services Building

Duncan Polytechnical High School officially broke ground on Sept. 17 for a new building that will house its Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) programs. The building, expected to be done in fall of 2022, will support students in the medical pathways of Nursing Services (certified nursing assistant), Rehabilitation Therapy and Pharmacy Technician. Each of the pathways offers students the opportunity to go immediately into the work force and/or higher education after graduation. Students start the MASH academy in ninth grade and during their four years can earn industry recognized certifications in CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, HIPAA and OSHA 10 for Healthcare leading up to their

12th grade pathway certification as a CNA, in rehabilitation therapy, or as a pharmacy technician.

For video, go to [vimeo.com/fresnounified/duncangroundbreaking](https://vimeo.com/fresnounified/duncangroundbreaking).



## Bullard TALENT Student Loves Performing, is Karate Black Belt

*Every edition of Building Futures features a Student Spotlight. This month, as part of a focus on school choice, magnet school student Ivan Villalobos of Bullard TALENT K-8 School is highlighted.*

Ivan Villalobos, an eighth grader at Bullard TALENT K-8 School, has taken full advantage of the opportunities at his school.

He was in various plays through the years and had art class, and this year is involved in the percussion ensemble, advanced band, jazz band, Leadership 2, concert choir, Showcase and the middle school play. He plays the alto saxophone.

Although Bullard TALENT offers an array of arts options, Ivan enjoys music the most.

“The best part of music is the performing aspect and the emotions it can cause. The music I play or sing and how I show emotions with it can have an impact on the audience members,”

Ivan said.

He said he has enjoyed performing in middle school plays as well because of the opportunity to evoke emotions in the audience. He’s loved going to a school where the focus is on the arts.

Ivan also enjoys the familiarity of Bullard TALENT, where he has attended since kindergarten. He knows most of the teachers and staff.

A straight-A student, his favorite subjects are math and history: “I love how logical and exact math is and the thinking that goes into it. History is very interesting and important. It is fun to compare our logic nowadays to the logic of the past,” Ivan said.

In his spare time, Ivan likes to play video games and play music and he has achieved a black belt in karate.

“I have been doing karate since I was 5 and I go to the karate school to teach students and take classes,” Ivan said.

Ivan said he has not missed going to

a traditional middle school “because going to Bullard TALENT has been such a great experience.”

He plans to go to University High School or his neighborhood high school, Bullard.

“The only downside to going to a K-8 school is that the transfer to high school will be harder for us than other kids. Since many of us have never changed schools before, the separation of our friend groups to different schools will be challenging,” he said.



Bullard TALENT K-8 School eighth grader Ivan Villalobos plays the alto saxophone.

# Child Tax Credit Program Available for Families

Millions of families across the country have not taken advantage of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) program, which provides \$300 a month per child under 6 and \$250 per child ages 6-17.

Families do not have to file a tax form to receive the credit. The [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/child-tax-credit) is a one-stop-shop for information about the CTC, including information about how those who have not filed taxes can sign up for payments.

Those who filed taxes in the last two years or used the IRS non-filer portal to get a stimulus check do not need to do anything. The IRS will have automatically begun sending a monthly payment by direct deposit or check by July 15.

For those who did not file taxes in the last two years, a simple form can be filled out to start getting the CTC payments. The form is accessed through [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/child-tax-credit). Those

applying will need a reliable mailing address, email address, children's Social Security numbers, their Social Security number (or ITIN) and bank account information if they want to receive direct deposit.

Most families, even those with little to no income, can receive the full amount. A single parent making less than \$112,000 or a married couple making less than \$150,000 are likely eligible.

## Duncan Polytechnical Salutes Heroes in 9/11 Ceremony

Duncan Polytechnical High School held a ceremony Sept. 10 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The event not only honored the memory of those who lost their lives but paid tribute to local veterans, police officers and firefighters. The ceremony featured the Duncan Air Force Junior ROTC color guard and cadets, as well as leadership students with American flags. Students pictured are cadet Major Miryam Ramirez, front, and leadership student Librado Camorlinga.

For video, go to [vimeo.com/fresounified/9/112021](https://vimeo.com/fresnounified/9/112021).



## District Roundup

### Manchester Students Create Clay Mural

Manchester GATE Elementary School began the school year with a new piece of permanent art. Completed at the end of last year, a clay mural now adorns the school depicting famous African Americans throughout the years. The mural was created by combining portions handcrafted by fifth grade students at Manchester.

### Easterby Families Clean Up Neighborhood

Families and the community got together at Easterby Elementary School to participate in a World Clean Up Day event. Volunteers picked up trash on Peach Avenue between Butler and Jensen avenues. Beautify Fresno donated all the cleaning supplies.

### Roeding Students Create Newscast

Roeding Elementary School students have launched the Rocket News! newscast, dedicated to informing their community of school announcements, events, and activities. The newscast features students going through the week's news in a style that is easy for their peers to understand.

## Holland Elementary Creates Heart Wall

Taylor Freund's fifth grade class at Holland Elementary School is creating a Heart Wall featuring messages to encourage and uplift their peers. Inspired by Suicide Prevention Week learning, students contribute messages of kindness and support. Students will continue to add to the Heart Wall throughout the year.

## Roosevelt Public Service Students Investigate Biomes

Roosevelt High School's Public Service Pathway students are learning how to investigate the effect of different biomes on biological evidence. Students recreated the five biomes of California in small plastic aquariums. Students were tasked to work in groups and design their

assigned biome to fit into a plastic aquarium. Students will observe a piece of metal with simulated blood and a fingerprint for any changes over time. By the end of the project students will learn what biome can support the preservation of biological evidence such as blood and a fingerprint.

# Fresno Unified School District

## Board

### Valerie F. Davis

Area 3  
President  
[Valerie.Davis@fresnounified.org](mailto:Valerie.Davis@fresnounified.org)

### Keshia Thomas

Area 1  
Clerk  
[keshia.thomas@fresnounified.org](mailto:keshia.thomas@fresnounified.org)

### Claudia Cazares

Area 6  
[Claudia.Cazares@fresnounified.org](mailto:Claudia.Cazares@fresnounified.org)  
Liaison: McKenzie Rivera  
[mckenzie.rivera@fresnounified.org](mailto:mckenzie.rivera@fresnounified.org)

### Veva Islas

Area 4  
[veva.islas@fresnounified.org](mailto:veva.islas@fresnounified.org)

### Trustee Area 5 – Vacant

**Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas**  
Area 2  
[Elizabeth.Jonasson.Rosas@fresnounified.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Jonasson.Rosas@fresnounified.org)

### Major Terry Slatic USMC (Retired)

Area 7  
[terry.slatic@fresnounified.org](mailto:terry.slatic@fresnounified.org)  
Liaison: Michelle Asadoorian  
[michelle.asadoorian@fresnounified.org](mailto:michelle.asadoorian@fresnounified.org)

## Administration

### Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

Superintendent

### Misty Her

Deputy Superintendent

### Santino Danisi

Chief Financial Officer

### Nikki Henry

Chief Information Officer

### Paul Idsvoog

Chief Human Resources/Labor Relations Officer

### Tami Lundberg

Chief Technology Officer

### Wendy McCulley

Chief Engagement and External Officer

### Kim Mecum

Chief Academic Officer

### Lindsay Sanders

Chief Equity and Access

### Karin Temple

Chief Operations Officer

## Building Futures

### Tony Bernard

Media Technician

### Anne Ellis

Community Relations Officer

### Bryce Marshall

Media Production Specialist

### Keith Rybaczyk

Media Production Specialist

Building Futures is a monthly publication of Fresno Unified School District prepared by the Communications Office. To place an ad, contact (559) 457-3733 or email [Communications@FresnoUnified.org](mailto:Communications@FresnoUnified.org).

Non-Discrimination Policy: Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political

affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital, pregnancy or parental status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by

law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment (BP 0410). For the full policy, a list of compliance officers, and Title IX information, go to [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org).