

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

Community Invited to Roundtable Talks on Improving Education

Come join district education partners, including parents, educators, students, employees and other community members for an evening to discuss how to improve education in Fresno Unified.

All are welcome to the in-person [roundtable discussions](#), where childcare, translation services and dinner are provided. Also, each adult participant will receive a free admission ticket for an adult and a child to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo and a ticket to feed the giraffes.

Discussions will be held at Sunnyside High School on Feb. 3, McLane High School on Feb. 8, Hoover High School on Feb. 9 and Edison High School on Feb. 15. All discussions begin at 5:30 p.m.

Virtual discussions will be held in English, Spanish and Hmong in February as well.

The district held workshops at Bullard High School, Fort Miller Middle School in the Fresno High School region and Roosevelt High School in January.

The discussions this month will provide updates on district spending priorities and include the most recent district data, including student performance and outcomes.

Input from the community helps inform the district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), where nearly \$200 million is allocated to increase or improve services for students living in disadvantaged circumstances. For Fresno Unified, this is 89% of the student population.

Previous spending priorities aligned to stakeholder feedback have included:

- Early learning investments for preschool and transitional kindergarten expansion
- Student technology, supporting classroom learning and device use beyond the classroom
- Expansion of dual language immersion programs, where students receive instruction in two languages
- Additional teaching positions to eliminate elementary combination classes and reduce class sizes at all grade levels

Connection to [District Goals](#): "We value people and our community."

Schedule of Roundtable Discussions

February 3	Sunnyside High School cafeteria	5:30 p.m.
February 8	McLane High School library	5:30 p.m.
February 9	Hoover High School cafeteria	5:30 p.m.
February 15	Edison High School cafeteria	5:30 p.m.
February 10	Virtual in English	5:30 p.m.
February 17	Virtual in Hmong	5:30 p.m.
February 22	Virtual in Spanish	5:30 p.m.



Fresno Unified provides childcare and activities for children at the roundtable discussions it is holding throughout the district to allow for input on improving education.

Celebrating Black History Month

Dancers from the King African American Dance Troupe rehearse for the annual Edison Region Black History Month Program, which is available for viewing at fresnounified.org throughout February. The show premiered virtually Feb. 1.



District Honors Exemplary Employees through Excellence in Education

• Five will be Selected as Winners

Every year, the district showcases some of its finest employees, nominated by their colleagues, through the Excellence in Education awards.

Fifty finalists have been selected. A dinner celebrating all finalists and winners has been postponed until May due to health concerns and the continuing pandemic.

Excellence in Education honors finalists in five categories: classified; elementary certificated (teachers, nurses, speech language pathologists and library media teachers); middle school certificated; high school certificated; and administrators.

Finalists include academic counselors, attendance clerks, campus culture directors, custodians, library technicians, managers, nurses, office managers, paraprofessionals, psychologists, principals and teachers.

They are described as problem solvers, mentors, cheerleaders, passionate about students, having high standards, team players and flexible.

As a group, they are admired by their colleagues for their work ethic, dedication to the district and being fantastic

co-workers. Some had a lifelong dream of being a teacher, while others discovered their calling as a second career. The finalists illuminate the depth and breadth of the talent that makes up Fresno Unified employees.

One teacher and the classified and administrator winners will move on to Fresno County's Educator of the Year awards.

District Highlights Ways Families can Engage in Student Learning

The district continues to connect its daily work with a set of [new goals](#) adopted in October 2020 that include an explicit family goal: Increase inclusive opportunities for families to engage in their students' education.

The district offers a variety of resources that bolster that goal and help families support their student's academic journey.

- [ATLAS Connect](#): A new tool in the ATLAS portal to help parents stay connected one-on-one with teachers, with messages translated into parents' preferred language. Teachers can also send classroom announcements to parents. It works on any cell phone with text messaging and any computer.
- [Clever.com](#): A portal that houses all the curriculum and resource apps a student uses, including math programs, i-Ready lessons, Sora online library and Tutor.com. Students use Clever in their classrooms daily but can also access their Clever account at home for extra support.
- [Exercise your Brain](#): Frequently updated resources for outside the instructional day to help families promote learning at home. The lessons – in English, Hmong and Spanish – can be printed, and skill building activities completed side by side with a family member. The resources include a variety of engaging digital links designed to hone academic skills.
- [Partnership with ValleyPBS](#): Fresno Unified teachers lead lessons on TV through the Reading Explorers show every weekday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. for students in kindergarten through second grade to watch as they get ready for school. Every episode is available in English and Spanish to watch online any time.
- [Parent University](#): Offers classes and workshops for parents to help them better support their student and become leaders in their community. Family learning is focused on how to utilize district resources, advocate for needed services for students and navigate transitions within the district and then prepare for their student's next steps after graduation.
- [Family Learning and Technology Support Centers \(FLATS\)](#): Many of the resources offered by the district to families require using a device and the internet, which the district provides to all students. Anytime there's an issue with one of the district's devices, FLATS is the place to call or visit. They can help parents and students get logged in, reset passwords, get into ATLAS or Clever, navigate programs and troubleshoot issues. Services are provided in English, Spanish and Hmong for callers and visitors.

To learn more about all of the district's resources, head to fresnounified.org. ATLAS, Tutor.com, FLATS and Exercise Your Brain are accessible from the homepage under Popular Resources – and all other resources can be found under the Student and/or Parent tabs on the main toolbar at the top of the homepage.

“We know our parents are the biggest resource to our students' learning outside of the classroom and our teams are ready to ensure you have everything you need to keep the learning rolling at home,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

El Distrito Destaca las Formas en que las Familias Pueden Participar en el Aprendizaje de los Estudiantes

El distrito continúa conectando su trabajo diario con un conjunto de [nuevas metas](#) adoptadas en octubre de 2020 que incluyen una meta familiar explícita: Aumentar las oportunidades inclusivas para que las familias participen en la educación de sus estudiantes.

El distrito ofrece una variedad de recursos que refuerzan ese objetivo y ayudan a las familias a apoyar el trayecto académico de sus estudiantes.

- [ATLAS Connect](#): Una nueva herramienta en el portal ATLAS para ayudar a los padres a mantenerse conectados individualmente con los maestros, con mensajes traducidos al idioma preferido de los padres. Los maestros también pueden enviar anuncios del salón de clases a los padres. Funciona en cualquier teléfono celular con mensajería de texto y en cualquier computadora.
- [Clever.com](#): Un portal que alberga todas las aplicaciones de recursos y planes de estudios que utiliza un estudiante, incluidos los programas de matemáticas, las lecciones i-Ready, la biblioteca en línea de Sora y Tutor.com. Los estudiantes usan Clever en sus aulas todos los días, pero también pueden acceder a su cuenta de Clever en casa para obtener apoyo adicional.
- [Exercise your Brain](#): Ejercite su cerebro: recursos que se actualizan con frecuencia fuera del día de instrucción para

ayudar a las familias a promover el aprendizaje en el hogar. Las lecciones, en inglés, hmong y español, se pueden imprimir y las actividades de desarrollo de habilidades se pueden completar junto con un miembro de la familia. Los recursos incluyen una variedad de enlaces digitales atractivos diseñados para afilar las habilidades académicas.

- [Partnership with ValleyPBS](#): Asociación con ValleyPBS: Los maestros del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno dirigen lecciones en televisión a través del programa Reading Explorers todos los días de la semana de 6: 30-7: 30 a.m. para que los estudiantes de jardín de infantes a segundo grado las vean mientras se preparan para la escuela. Cada episodio está disponible en inglés y español para verlo en línea en cualquier momento.
- [Parent University](#): Universidad para Padres: ofrece clases y talleres para padres para ayudarlos a apoyar mejor a sus estudiantes y convertirse en líderes en su comunidad. El aprendizaje familiar se centra en cómo utilizar los recursos del distrito, abogar por los servicios necesarios para los estudiantes y navegar por las transiciones dentro del distrito y luego prepararse para los próximos pasos de su estudiante después de la graduación.
- [Family Learning and Technology Support Centers \(FLATS\)](#): Centros de Apoyo Tecnológico y de Aprendizaje Familiar (FLATS): muchos de los recursos que ofrece el distrito a las familias requieren el uso de un dispositivo e Internet, que el distrito proporciona a todos los estudiantes. Siempre que haya un problema con uno de los dispositivos del distrito, FLATS es el lugar para llamar o visitar. Pueden ayudar a los padres y estudiantes a iniciar sesión, restablecer contraseñas, ingresar a ATLAS o Clever, navegar por programas y solucionar problemas. Los servicios se brindan en inglés, español y hmong para los que llaman y para los visitantes.

Para obtener más información sobre todos los recursos del distrito, visite fresnounified.org. Se puede acceder a ATLAS, Tutor.com, FLATS y Exercise Your Brain desde la página de inicio en Recursos Populares, y todos los demás recursos se pueden encontrar en las pestañas de Estudiantes y / o Padres en la barra de herramientas principal en la parte superior de la página de inicio.

“Sabemos que nuestros padres son el recurso más importante para el aprendizaje de nuestros estudiantes fuera del aula y nuestros equipos están listos para garantizar que usted tenga todo lo que necesita para mantener el aprendizaje en marcha en casa”, dijo el superintendente Bob Nelson.

Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Qhia Cov Hauv Kev Rau Cov Tsev Neeg Kom Koom Nrog rau Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm li Kev Kawm

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tseem yuav txuas ntxiv nws txoj hauj lwm ua txhua hnuv nrog rau ib co [hom phiaj tshiab](#) tau txais thaum Lub Kaum Hli 2020 uas suav nrog tsev neeg lub hom phiaj meej: Ua kom muaj kev sib koom ua ke rau cov tsev neeg los koom nrog lawv cov tub ntxhais kawm txoj kev kawm.

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv muaj ntau yam kev pab uas txhawb nqa lub hom phiaj ntawd thiab pab cov tsev neeg txhawb nqa lawv cov tub ntxhais kawm txoj kev kawm.

- [Txuas rau hauv ATLAS](#): Ib qho cuab yeej tshiab hauv Atlas portal los pab niam txiv nyob sib txuas ib toj ib nrog tus kws qhia ntawv, nrog cov ntaub ntawv muab txhais ua niam txiv cov lus nyiam. Cov kws qhia ntawv kuj xa tau cov lus tshaj tawm hauv chav kawm ntawv rau niam txiv. Nws ua tau hauj lwm ntawm txhua lub xov tooj ntawm tes nrog kev xa ntawv thiab txhua txhua lub computer.
- [Clever.com](#): Ib lub chaw nkag uas muaj tag nrho cov ntaub ntawv kawm thiab cov kev pab cuam rau tub ntxhais kawm txoj kev siv, suav nrog cov programs ua leb, i-Ready cov kev kawm, Sora online tsev qiv ntawv thiab Tutor.com. Tub Ntxhais kawm siv Clever hauv lawv lub chav kawm txhua hnuv tab si kuj nkag mus rau hauv lawv tus Clever account nram tsev kom pab txhawb nqa ntxiv.
- [Exercise Koj Lub Hlwb](#): Nquag hloov cov kev pab cuam tshiab thaum tsis muaj kev qhia ntawv kom pab tsev neeg txhawb kev kawm hauv tsev. Cov zaj lus qhia- lus Askiv, Lub Hmoob thiab lus Mev- kuj luam tawm tau, thiab tsim kev txawj ntse ua tiav nrog ib tug neeg hauv tsev. Cov kev pab cuam muaj xws li ntau yam kev siv txuas digital uas tsim los txhawb kev kawm.
- [Kev Sib koom tes nrog ValleyPBS](#): Fresno Unified cov kws qhia ntawv qhia cov zaj lus kawm hauv TV los ntawm Reading Explorers txhua txhua hnuv ua hauj lwm thaum 6:30-7:30 sawv ntxov rau cov tub ntxhais kawm nyob kindergarten mus txog qib ob tau saib thaum yuav pib npaj mus kawm ntawv. Txhua ntu muaj ua lus Askiv thiab lus mev los saib hauv online txhua lub sij hawm.
- [Parent University](#): Muaj cov chav kawm thiab kev cov qhia rau niam txiv kom pab lawv txhawb lawv cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab ua thawj coj hauv lawv lub zej zog. Tsev neeg kev kawm yog tsom mus rau kev siv hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov kev pab cuam, tawm tswv yim rau cov kev pab cuam rau tub ntxhais kawm thiab pab qhia kev hloov pauv hauv

koog tsev kawm ntawv thiab tom qab ntawv npaj rau lawv cov tub ntxhais kawm cov kauj ruam tom ntej tom qab kawm tiav.

- [Family Learning and Technology Support Centers \(FLATS\) Tsev Neeg Kev Kawm thiab Chaw Txhawb Nqa Kev Siv Tshuab los leg dej num](#): Ntau qhov kev pab cuam muaj muab los ntawm hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv rau tsev neeg yuav tsum siv ib lub cuab yeej (*device*) thiab *internet*, uas hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv muaj muab rau tag nrho cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv. Thaum twg mauj ib qho teeb meem rau hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv ib lub cuab yeej, FLATS yog qhov chaw uas koj yuav hu tau thiab mus ntsib. Lawv yuav pab tau niam txiv thiab tub ntxhais kawm nkag mus tau, muab tus *password* hloob tshiab, nkag mus rau hauv ATLAS los sis Clever, nrhiav cov programs thiab daws teeb meem. Cov kev pab cuam no muaj lus Askiv, Mev thiab Hmoob rau cov neeg teb xov tooj thiab tuaj ntsib.

Xav kom paub ntxiv txog tag nrho hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov kev pab cuam no, mus rau fresnounified.org. ATLAS, Tutor.com, FLATS thiab Exercise Koj Lub Hlwb yuav nkag tau los ntawm nplooj ntawv *homepage* hauv qab *Popular Resources* – thiab tag nrho lwm cov kev pab cuam yuav nrhiav tau hauv qab daim *tab* Tub Ntxhais kawm thiab/ los sis Niam Txiv ntawm tus *main toolbar* ua nyob saum toj ntawm daim nplooj thib ib.

“Peb paub tias peb cov niam txiv yog cov kev pab cuam loj tshaj plaws rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm txoj kev kawm nyob sab nraud ntawm chav kawm thiab peb pab pawg yuav npaj los xyuas kom koj muaj txhua yam qhov koj xav tau los ua kom txoj kev kawm kawm tau nram tsev,” hais los ntawm Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Connection to [District Goals](#): "Increase inclusive opportunities for families to engage in their students' education."

Hoover Students March in Tournament of Roses Parade

Four Hoover High School students receiving special education support services marched with the Bands of America Honor Band in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year’s Day. The students were part of the United Sound program that partners general education students with students receiving support services from Special Education. From left, students are Carl Johnson-Travis, Joseph Veloz, Savannah Espitia and Nathaniel Rice. Heather Kuyper-McKeithen, Instructional Services manager, is in the center and students on the right were from another school.



Fresno Unified School District Important Dates

Feb. 7 and 21 Holidays

Feb. 28 and March 21 No School for Students (Professional Learning Days for Staff)

Superintendent's Message

District Teams Working Hard Amid COVID-19 Challenges

Hello #FUSD Family! I want to recognize February as Black History Month and remind you of our amazing 8th Annual Edison Region Black History Month program happening on Feb. 1. We have a virtual program again this year, and if you missed it on the 1st, you can head to our website at www.fresnounified.org and click the link on our homepage to watch the

full recording. Absolutely beautiful as always and a big thanks to our teams for making this program happen! This is just the kick-off to many celebrations and educational opportunities across the district in February celebrating Black History Month.

I'm sure we're all tired of hearing about it, but just a few weeks ago we started our second semester in the midst of yet another surge of COVID-19 cases. I'm not sure I can properly convey how incredibly difficult this pandemic has been on our district and districts across the nation. We're grateful that this wave has proven to be less deadly, but the insane increase in transmissibility has rocked our entire system. We've had to work even harder to ensure classrooms are covered with substitutes or appropriate credentialed staff while more staff are on quarantine or isolation. We've had to work even harder to ensure our quarantined and isolated students have the access they need to keep their learning moving at home. All the while, we've been working hard to increase our safety mitigations for our schools, especially through more testing resources for our students and staff.

We've added additional testing teams through a partnership with the California Department of Public Health, increasing the accessibility of the Curative testing clinics at our sites, and we're increasing the hours and locations of our testing for students and staff. Parents can complete an online registration and consent form for their student(s) at <https://tinyurl.com/rapidtestconsent> so their student can be tested at school if they're identified as a close contact. This consent will also allow parents to take their student to our regional high schools on Tuesdays in February between 4 and 7 p.m. for a rapid test for any reason. These tests will only be administered to current FUSD students and staff; all others will be turned away. Anyone can make an appointment at our Curative testing hubs at [Gaston Middle School](#), [Hoover](#), [McLane](#), [Roosevelt](#), [Sunnyside](#), and [Fresno high schools](#) by clicking the school name. Testing is also available through your primary care provider and through the Fresno County Department of Public Health at <https://tinyurl.com/fresnotesting>.

While it seems the COVID-19 pandemic is never-ending, you'll find all throughout this issue great people and great things happening across our district. Nothing can hold our people back from making a difference each and every day with our students, and I could not be prouder of our #FUSDFamily for pulling together in the hardest of times (even when it seems to get harder, not easier, each day). I'm thrilled to share our Excellence in Education finalists in this issue, because they are some of the best educators you'll find anywhere! These folks have been nominated by their colleagues for going above and beyond for our students, and these finalists were selected from one of the largest groups of nominations we've ever seen! That's a huge point of recognition of their hard work and dedication. We're so grateful to each and every one of them.

We're postponing our in-person Excellence in Education event to May, as we are really committed to celebrating in person and we know this month is not the right time for that with cases of COVID-19 higher than they've ever been. Keep your eye out over the next couple of months for tickets and tables to go on-sale as this is always a sold-out event!

As always, I want to remind our whole #FUSDFamily that you can always find the latest information and protocols regarding COVID-19 at www.fresnounified.org/covid19/. Also, I want to remind everyone to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to see daily highlights of amazing work happening across the district as we highlight every school campus and every department throughout the school year.

En febrero, Celebramos la Historia Afroamericana, Damos la Bienvenida a Medidas de Seguridad Adicionales para COVID-19

¡Hola #FUSDFamily! Quiero reconocer a febrero como el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana y recordarles nuestro increíble 8° programa Anual del Mes de la Historia Afroamericana de la Región de Edison que tendrá lugar el 1° de febrero. Tenemos un programa virtual nuevamente este año, y si se lo perdió el día 1°, puede ir a nuestro sitio web en www.fresnounified.org y haga clic en el enlace en nuestra página de inicio para ver la grabación completa. ¡Absolutamente hermoso como siempre y muchas gracias a nuestros equipos por hacer posible este programa! Este es solo el comienzo de muchas celebraciones y oportunidades educativas en todo el distrito en febrero para celebrar el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana.

Estoy seguro de que todos estamos cansados de escuchar sobre esto, pero hace solo unas semanas comenzamos nuestro segundo semestre en medio de otra oleada de casos de COVID-19. No estoy seguro de poder transmitir adecuadamente lo increíblemente difícil que ha sido esta pandemia en nuestro distrito y en los distritos de todo el país. Estamos agradecidos de que esta ola haya demostrado ser menos mortal, pero el increíble aumento de la transmisibilidad ha sacudido todo nuestro sistema. Hemos tenido que trabajar aún más para garantizar que las aulas estén cubiertas con sustitutos o personal acreditado apropiado mientras más personal está en cuarentena o aislamiento. Hemos tenido que esforzarnos aún más para garantizar que nuestros estudiantes en cuarentena y aislados tengan el acceso que necesitan para seguir aprendiendo en casa. Mientras tanto, hemos estado trabajando arduamente para aumentar nuestras mitigaciones de seguridad para nuestras escuelas, especialmente a través de más recursos de pruebas para nuestros estudiantes y personal.

Hemos agregado equipos de pruebas adicionales a través de una asociación con el Departamento de Salud Pública de California, aumentando la accesibilidad de las clínicas de pruebas curativas en nuestros sitios, y estamos aumentando las horas y las ubicaciones de nuestras pruebas para estudiantes y personal. Los padres pueden completar un formulario de registro y consentimiento en línea para su(s) estudiante(s) en <https://tinyurl.com/rapidtestconsent> para que a su estudiante se le pueda hacer la prueba en la escuela si se identifica como un contacto cercano. Este consentimiento también permitirá a los padres llevar a sus hijos a nuestras escuelas preparatorias regionales los martes de febrero entre las 4 y las 7 p. m. para una prueba rápida por cualquier motivo. Estas pruebas solo se administrarán a los estudiantes y personal actuales de FUSD; todos los demás serán rechazados. Cualquiera puede hacer una cita en nuestros Centros de Pruebas Curativas en las escuelas [Gaston Middle School](#), [Hoover](#), [McLane](#), [Roosevelt](#), [Sunnyside](#), y [Fresno high schools](#) haciendo clic en el nombre de la escuela. Las pruebas también están disponibles a través de su proveedor de atención primaria y del Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Fresno en <https://tinyurl.com/fresnotesting>.

Si bien parece que la pandemia de COVID-19 nunca termina, encontrará a lo largo de este número grandes personas y grandes cosas sucediendo en nuestro distrito. Nada puede impedir que nuestra gente marque la diferencia todos los días con nuestros estudiantes, y no podría estar más orgulloso de nuestra #FUSDFamily por unirse en los momentos más difíciles (incluso cuando parece ser más difícil, no más fácil, cada día). ¡Estoy encantado de compartir nuestros finalistas de Excelencia en Educación en esta edición, porque son algunos de los mejores educadores que encontrará en cualquier lugar! Estas personas han sido nominadas por sus colegas por hacer todo lo posible por nuestros estudiantes, ¡y estos finalistas fueron seleccionados de uno de los grupos de nominaciones más grandes que jamás hayamos visto! Ese es un gran punto de reconocimiento a su arduo trabajo y dedicación. Estamos muy agradecidos con todos y cada uno de ellos.

Estamos posponiendo nuestro evento de Excelencia en Educación en persona para mayo, ya que estamos realmente comprometidos a celebrar en persona y sabemos que este mes no es el momento adecuado para eso con los casos de COVID-19 más altos que nunca. ¡Esté atento durante los próximos meses a las entradas y mesas para salir a la venta, ya que este es un evento que siempre se agota!

Como siempre, quiero recordarle a toda nuestra #FUSDFamily que siempre puede encontrar la información y los protocolos más recientes sobre COVID-19 en www.fresnounified.org/covid19/. Además, quiero recordarles a todos que nos sigan en [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) y [LinkedIn](#) para ver los aspectos destacados diarios del increíble trabajo que se lleva a cabo en todo el distrito a medida que destacamos cada plantel escolar y cada departamento a lo largo del año escolar.

Lub Ob Hlis, Peb Ua Kev Zoo Siab Rau Keeb Kwm Dub, Zoo Siab Txais Tos rau Kev Ntsuas Ntxiv Kev Nyab Xeeb rau COVID-19

Nyob zoo #FUSD Tsev neeg! Kuv xav lees paub tias Lub Ob Hlis yog nco txog Lub Hli Keeb Kwm Dub thiab qhia koj txog ntawm peb qhov kev ua yeeb yam zoo tshaj uas yog Xyoo thib 8 ntawm txhua xyoo Edison Region Black History Month uas tshwm sim rau Lub Ob Hlis Hnub Tim ib. Peb rov muaj qhov txheej txheem rau saum huab cua xyoo no, thiab yog tias koj tsis pom thaum tso tawm hnub tim ib, koj mus saib tau ntawm peb lub website www.fresnounified.org thiab nyem qhov txuas ntawm peb lub homepage kom saib tag nrho cov kaw cia. Zoo nkauj kawg li thiab ua tsaug ntau ntau rau peb cov neeg ua haujlwm ua rau qhov txheej txheem no tshwm sim! Qhov no tsuas yog ib qho pib rau ntawm ntau qhov kev ua koob tsheej thiab kev kawm thoob plaws peb ib cheeb tsam tsev kawm ntawv nyob rau lub Ob Hlis uas ua kev zoo siab rau Lub Hli Keeb Kwm Dub.

Kuv paub tseeb tias peb txhua tus nkees hnob txog, tab sis tsuas yog ob peb lub lis tiam dhau los peb tau pib lub semester thib ob nyob rau hauv nruab nrab ntawm ib qhov kev nce ntxiv ntawm COVID-19. Kuv tsis paub yuav qhia tau tias tus kab mob sib kis no tau tshwm sim nyob rau hauv peb cheeb tsam tsev kawm ntawv thiab cov tsev kawm ntawv thoob plaws hauv lub teb chaws no nyuaj npaum li cas. Peb ua tsaug uas cov mob nthwv no ua tau tsis tshua muaj neeg tas sim neej, tab sis qhov kev sib kis mas ua rau peb cov txheej txheem hauj lwm muaj teeb meem kawg nkaus. Peb tau ua haujlwm hnyav kom ntseeg tau tias cov chav kawm muaj neeg tuaj hloov qhia ntawv lossis cov neeg ua haujlwm muaj ntau ntawv pov thawj tsim nyog thaum cov neeg ua haujlwm ntau nyob rau hauv cais lossis cais tawm lawm. Peb tau ua haujlwm hnyav heev kom ntseeg tau tias peb cov tub ntxhais kawm uas raug cais tawm thiab mus nyob ib leeg muaj txoj hau kev kawm ntawv tom tsev yam tsis tu ncu. Txhua lub sijhawm, peb tau ua haujlwm hnyav kom muaj kev nyab xeeb rau peb cov tsev kawm ntawv, tshwj xeeb tshaj yog los ntawm muaj kev pab kuaj kab mob ntau ntxiv rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab cov neeg ua haujlwm.

Peb tau ntxiv neeg kuaj mob los ntawm kev koom tes nrog California Department of Public Health, ntxiv kev nkag mus tau ntawm cov chaw kuaj mob Curative ntawm peb cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab chaw ua haujlwm, thiab peb tau ntxiv cov sijhawm qhib thiab cov chaw ntawm peb qhov kev kuaj mob rau cov tub ntxhais kawm thiab cov neeg ua haujlwm. Niam txiv mus ua daim ntawv sau npe saum huab cua ntawm <https://tinyurl.com/rapidtestconsent> mus tso cai rau lawv cov tub

ntxhais kawm ntawm kuaj kabmob hauv tsev kawm ntawv thaum raug txheeb xyuas tias yog ib tus neeg nyob ze. Qhov kev tso cai no tseem yuav tso cai rau cov niam txiv coj lawv cov tub ntxhais kawm mus rau peb cov tsev kawm theem siab hauv cheeb tsam txhua hnuv Tuesday thaum Lub Ob Hlis 4 teev txog 7 teev tsaus ntuj rau qhov kev kuaj kab mob paub sai sai. Cov kev kuaj no tsuas yog muab rau cov tub ntxhais kawm FUSD thiab cov neeg ua haujlwm tam sim no; tsis muaj muab rau lwm cov. Leej twg teem caij los tau, mus ntsib ntawm peb cov Curative chaw kuaj mob uas mus nias ntawm tsev kawm ntawv lub npe ntawm [Gaston Middle School](#), [Hoover](#), [McLane](#), [Roosevelt](#), [Sunnyside](#), thiab [Fresno high schools](#) cov tsev kawm ntawv. Kev kuaj kuj muaj nyob rau ntawm koj tus kws kho mob thiab Fresno County Department of Public Health ntawm <https://tinyurl.com/fresnotesting>.

Txawm hais tias nws zoo li COVID-19 kev kis thoob qhov txhia chaw tsis muaj qhov xaus, koj yuav pom cov neeg zoo thiab muaj ntau yam zoo tshwm sim ntawm qhov teeb meem no tag nrho thoob plaws hauv peb cheeb tsam tsev kawm ntawv. Tsis muaj ib yam dab tsi yuav cuam tshuam uas peb yuav ua tsis tau los ntawm kev ua zoo txhua hnuv rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm, thiab kuv zoo siab tsis txawj tag rau peb tsev neeg #FUSDFamily rau peb los nyob ua ke rau lub sijhawm nyuaj tshaj plaws (txawm tias nyuaj tsis yooj yim, txhua hnuv). Kuv zoo siab los qhia peb cov neeg tau txais qhov Kev Ua Zoo Tshaj Plaws hauv Kev Kawm (Excellence in Education) hauv daim xov xwm no, vim lawv yog qee tus kws qhia ntawv zoo tshaj plaws uas koj yuav pom nyob txhua qhov chaw! Cov neeg no raug xaiv los ntawm lawv cov npoj yaig uas pom tias lawv ua ntau tshaj lawv txoj dej num rau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm, thiab cov neeg no tau raug xaiv los ntawm ib pawg coob tshaj li yav dhau los uas peb tau pom! Qhov ntawd yog qhov los nco txog lawv txoj haujlwm lawv ua nyuaj thiab mob siab rau. Peb zoo siab thiab ua tsaug rau lawv txhua leej txhua tus.

Peb tau ncuab lub koob tsheej Excellence in Education tim ntsej tim muag mus rau lub Tsib Hlis, raws li peb tau npaj koom kev zoo siab tim ntsej tim muag thiab peb paub tias lub hlis tam sim no tsis yog lub sijhawm zoo rau qhov muaj cov xwm txheej kab mob COVID-19 ntau dua li ib txwm. Saib ob peb lub hlis tom ntej no yuav muaj pib thiab rooj muag uas tsam neeg muab yuav tag lawm!

Li txhua zaus, kuv xav ceeb toom peb tag nrho #FUSDFamily Tsev neeg tias koj tuaj yeem nrhiav cov xov xwm tshiab thiab cov txheej txheem hais txog COVID-19 ntawm www.fresnounified.org/covid19/. Ntxiv ntawd, kuv xav qhia sawv daws mus caum peb rau hauv [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) thiab [LinkedIn](#) kom pom cov lus tseem ceeb txhua hnuv ntawm kev ua haujlwm zoo tshwm sim thoob plaws hauv cheeb tsam tsev kawm thaum peb hais txog txhua lub tsev kawm ntawv thiab txhua qhov chaw ua haujlwm thoob plaws xyoo kawm ntawv no.



Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Message from Stephen Morris, CEO of Civic Education Center

Civic Education Center Partners with Fresno Unified

Not long ago, I was at a very productive Civic Education Center (CEC) planning meeting at a local Fresno restaurant. There was a celebration at the restaurant; lots of singing and even an old-fashioned sing-along of a popular song from the '40s. I saw the woman who led the sing-along. I thanked her for singing and adding a much-needed moment of community fellowship. The woman thanked me and then brushed my face with the back of her hand. I was taken aback as she made

comments about my smooth dark skin.

Two years of quarantine has produced some very bad and inappropriate public interactions. Examples include fights at the Fresno State football stadium, a parent attacking a referee on the soccer field, the increase in violent and verbal confrontations at local school board meetings, parents ripping down students' posters they disagree with, the increase in campus school violence and destruction of school property as a social media challenge. It is almost like we have forgotten how to act in public and be civil towards one another.

As the Civic Education Center CEO, I am thankful that our youth still desire to improve their schools. Before the pandemic and quarantine, a group of students at Terronez Middle School were very concerned about the lack of civility on their campus. Students reported fights weekly and very demoralizing social media attacks that led to the fights. During one of our sessions, these students expressed their concerns. When asked what they wanted to do, they went silent; then, one student stated, "What can we do about it? Nobody listens."

CEC came alongside these students, teaching, guiding, and listening, giving them a sense of agency and awareness. Soon these students decided to research the influence of social media on school violence. They developed and deployed a schoolwide survey based on their research. When they analyzed the results, they formulated an action plan that included students, teachers, and administration. Mrs. Brown, the principal, was very supportive and empowered her students to act. The students sought information about peer mediation and restorative practices. The principal and the students formed a restorative practice class based on their research.

The students wanted a visible symbol of their desire to change the climate at Terronez. The students and Mrs. Brown, with the help of local artist Will Portis, created a 25-foot mural in the middle of the campus. This mural is a working mural, as students in the restorative practice class use the mural as an aid, a tool to mediate conflicts.

CEC and Will Portis completed the mural during the early months of the 2020 lockdown. Each semester, new students who understand the vision choose to attend the restorative practice class online and in-person. The peace mural is a tribute to the power and success of students who exercised their voices to create change.

The work and commitment of Terronez Middle School shine as a beacon of hope that stems the darkness of incivility and rudeness growing in our communities. CEC's mission is to equip youth to become engaged, informed citizens practicing democratic skills based on democratic values.



Stephen Morris
CEO of Civic Education Center

Excellence in Education Finalists 2022

Administrators



Angela Balliet
Powers-Ginsburg
Elementary School



Dan Bordona
Hoover High School



Kimberly dela Concepcion
Easterby Elementary
School



Beth Doyle
Addams Elementary School



Timona Martin
Baird Middle School



Jose Perez
DeWolf High School



Eugene Reinor
Scandinavian Middle
School



Debra Ryland
State and Federal Programs



Maiv Thao
Teacher Development



Paula Zamorski
Olmos Elementary School

Certificated Elementary School



Tiffany Castillo
eLearn Academy



Melody Compton
Lincoln Elementary School



Tonia Dubberke
Mayfair Elementary School



Allison Lott
Prevention and Intervention



Isabel Mayoral
Wilson Elementary School



Brenda McLain
McCardle Elementary
School



Carlanda Miller
King Elementary School



Peter Montoya
Phoenix Elementary
Academy



Mary Rueda
Easterby Elementary
School



Carolyn Winnett-Hanlon
Kirk Elementary School

Certificated Middle School



Jessica Cisneros
Yosemite Middle School



Kristin Cosentino
Sequoia Middle School



Annamarie Herrick
Baird Middle School



Amanda Horvath
Fort Miller Middle School



Hasmik Khalachyan-Cañas
Bullard TALENT K-8
School



Gavino Morales
Yosemite Middle School



Nancy Pellegrini
Sequoia Middle School



Charles Rocha
Baird Middle School



Aaron Wall
Cooper Academy



Cheyenne Walvatne
Scandinavian Middle School

Certificated High School



Lauren Beal
Edison High School



Cheryl Catanzarite
Design Science Middle College High School



Matt Jordan
Center for Advanced Research and Technology



Sheri Mauro
Hoover High School



Gary Mrkaich
Edison High School



Kevin Ochs
Fresno High School



Michael Tittle
Adult Education



Liz Torres, R.N.
Health Services



Denise Valdez
Sunnyside High School



Kristiana Wallwork
Phoenix Secondary Academy

Classified Employees



Anthony Aboularage
Transportation



Christine Certain
Design Science Middle College High School



Dawn Gardner
Educational Resource Center



Andrew Gomez
Olmos Elementary School



Samantha Gonzalez-Lopez
Olmos Elementary School



Lubia Leyva
Wawona K-8 School



Yesenia Lopez
Yosemite Middle School



Amber Neulinger
Career Technical Education



Maiyia Vang
Special Education



Peter Yang
Bakman Elementary School

District Roundup

Watch Party for Teacher

Ann Sin, a math teacher at eLearn Academy, competed on The Price is Right that aired on Jan. 21 and won the final showcase: a Kia Forte, 65-inch TV and numerous kitchen appliances.

Computech Students Attend Disney Workshops

Four Computech Middle School performing arts classes attended workshops at Disney's California Adventure on Jan. 22. Computech's band and orchestra performed in a recording session with a Disney conductor. Computech's choir and acting students worked with Broadway actors in a workshop on acting, singing and dancing.

Fresno Adult School Awarded Grant

Fresno Adult School's (FAS) citizenship teachers have been awarded the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Grant again. FAS is one of only two schools in the nation to be awarded this grant. With the help of the grant and partners at San Joaquin College of Law, the FAS team helps students to become U.S. citizens.

Tenaya's Dancing Teacher on Ellen

Tenaya Middle School campus culture director Austin Lemay was featured on the Ellen Show with host Adam Devine on Jan. 21, sharing about his TikTok-famous dancing, the school and his students. To help Austin with his work at Tenaya the host presented him with \$10,000.

[Austin Lemay on Ellen Show](#)

Hidalgo will Showcase Student Art at ArtHop

ArtHop on Feb. 3 will feature student art from Hidalgo Elementary School in the McLane High School region as part of a districtwide art collaborative. The exhibit will be in Fresno Unified's space at the [M Street Arts Complex](#) Gallery 4A and 5A from 5-8 p.m. This year, the collaborative is learning about the family farm. Hidalgo teachers and students learned about the rich fertile soil that is needed to grow crops and how it also helps to shape daily lives and the environment. The art complex is at 1419 M St.

Employees Donate Coats to Homeless

Employees donated 224 coats to the Great Winter Holiday Coat Drive, with the Special Education Department winning the Golden Stapler prize for the department collecting the most coats – 150. The winner was announced Dec. 3. The coats were donated to Project ACCESS to distribute to students in homeless situations.

Edison Collects Toys for Poverello House

The Edison High School Key Club collected hundreds of toys for children who attended a Christmas Eve dinner at the Poverello House. This year, the Key Club also invited the community to a wrapping party. The Key Club has been holding the Tiger Toys for Cubs toy drive since 2012 after learning that not enough toys were collected for all the children at the Poverello House dinner.

Eaton Collect \$1,300 for Poverello House

Eaton Elementary School fifth and sixth grade students raised more than \$1,300 in change over five days for the Poverello House prior to the holidays, exceeding their goal of \$1,000. The students were inspired by a visit from Poverello House representatives, who educated the students about hunger and homelessness in the Valley. Students presented a check to Poverello House executive director Zack Darrah on Dec. 1.

McLane Students' Films Selected for Swedefest

Two films created by students from the ArtVenture Production Academy at McLane High School were selected for Swedefest 2021, an international film festival hosted by CMAC and held in Fresno last December. The films premiered in front of a live audience at the CMAC outdoor theater in downtown Fresno and streamed worldwide. Students involved were Justin Vang, Alisson Yang, Aliyah Barajas, Evelyn Ramirez, Keyjuan Jones, Siahong Lor Fabiola Martinez and instructor is Kevin Clifton.

Computech Student Teacher Wins Award

Student teacher Caitlin Stahl was awarded the Best Student Teacher Award from Grand Canyon University (GCU) for her work this past semester at Computech Middle School. Every year, GCU awards five student teachers from all teaching subjects – and a theater education student teacher has never been honored. Caitlin has been doing her student teaching at Computech under Rachel Hibler. Caitlin has scored 100% on every evaluation this semester and graduated with her degree and teaching credential from GCU on Dec.17.

Teacher is Music Educator of the Year

Anne Hendrickson, band director at Manchester GATE and Del Mar elementary schools, has been named Music Educator of the Year by the California Music Educators Association – Central Section. Hendrickson will be honored on Feb. 18 at the California All-State Music Educators Conference in Fresno as one of California’s finest music educators. In addition to being a music educator, Hendrickson had a career as a professional musician, performing on several cruise ships as a woodwind musician and worked in New York City for several years performing in jazz bands, Broadway pit orchestras and on national Broadway show tours.

Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School will Open in August

Fresno Unified’s newest campus, Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School, has begun enrolling students as it prepares to open its doors in August.

[Herrera’s website](#) contains information on the school’s boundaries and on its unique emphasis on STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

Students will have the opportunity to conduct research and learn about real world issues and problems as they work on projects. Content standards will be integrated so that teachers can maximize their instructional time and students can explore the interconnections of the world.

The campus will also have a Spanish dual language immersion program.

Herrera Elementary is under construction on 17 acres south on Church Avenue between Peach and Willow avenues. The school is being built with funds from the Measure X bond voters overwhelmingly approved in 2016.

The school’s namesake is a Fowler native whose parents were migrant farmworkers. Juan Felipe Herrera was the nation’s Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017 and a former Fresno State professor. He is serving as the artistic cultural advisor in the conceptual development of the school.

The school’s first principal is [Miguel Naranjo](#).



Board members and district leaders tour the Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School on Dec. 9. The district’s newest school, on Church Avenue between Willow and Peach avenues, will be ready to open its doors in August.

Apply for Fresno Unified Scholarships

Fresno Unified seniors are invited to apply for Fresno Unified Scholarships. Last year, \$165,000 in scholarships was awarded to 76 students from all of the district's high schools. The online application is due by March 1.

[Apply for Fresno Unified Scholarships](#)



McLane High School Student is Proud to be CTE Ambassador

Videography class wasn't the elective junior Aliyah Barajas had planned on, but it's ended up being among her favorite experiences at McLane High School.

"I think getting put [in videography class] was the luckiest choice the universe has made for me this school year. I learned I love videography and producing videos. The process of creating the scripts, filming the videos, editing, then seeing your product is satisfying and very enjoyable," Aliyah said.

Aliyah is part of the [ArtVenture Academy](#) at McLane, one of dozens of career pathways offered at high schools throughout the district. She is also a CTE Ambassador, part of a new program for students in career technical education programs (CTE).

Ambassadors are selected through a nomination process at each high school that has a CTE program. Ambassadors represent their school's CTE pathways, helping to promote the programs, recruit students and communicate with industry partners.

They also serve as representatives within their schools and pathways to provide student voice and valuable insights as to how to improve programs and increase student interest.

Aliyah said she is proud to represent ArtVenture Academy. Although she said she tends to be nervous speaking in front of others, "I do feel gratification being able to educate, or even brag, about the ArtVenture production academy."

She said that career pathways like ArtVenture Academy can help students get into college and provide exploration of possible careers.

"I think everyone should attempt to be in a pathway they enjoy, even if it isn't the exact career path they had planned," Aliyah said.

"I think my video production class has been the root of all the best experiences I have had at McLane this year. I have made friends, helped with events I would have never gone to before, and gained experience with activities I didn't realize I could be so interested in.

"I love my photography club, helping with broadcasts, having fun creating short videos. The best part about my time at McLane has all involved the ArtVenture production academy."

Aliyah's goal is to be a journalist, perhaps for the New York Times. For years her dream school has been New York University. Her work this year on videography and photography and as a CTE Ambassador will be great additions to her college applications.



McLane High School junior Aliyah Barajas hopes to attend New York University and become a journalist.

McLane Students Recognized for Encouraging Vaccinations

Students from McLane High School will be honored by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Office for their work encouraging other students to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The students will be recognized Feb. 17 at the Fresno County Board of Education meeting as the Superintendent's Superstars for February.

The group of seven McLane students went through 40 hours of training with the Central Valley Health Policy Institute to prepare them to accurately address questions from other students and the community about the vaccine.

"Students had an opportunity to learn how to be an effective advocate for COVID-19 safety and protocols, to help increase public access to COVID-19 vaccines and to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in their schools," said Grady Lane, a career education manager for Fresno Unified.

The McLane students are among several groups of *promotoritos* from throughout Fresno working to dispel misinformation among Latino young people about the vaccination. The groups are modeled after adult community health workers encouraging vaccinations in the adult Latino community, which has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

As junior health workers, the students were assigned to a community-based organization and are serving as paid interns. They hand out flyers about testing and vaccinations, and use social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and TikTok to encourage vaccinations among their peers.

They also reach out to the community at vaccination events with information about food and rental assistance.

The program was sponsored and developed by Fresno Building Healthy Communities. More opportunities are available this winter and spring for junior health worker and youth ambassadors, with a focus on parks and outdoor spaces. Contact Gerardo Carranza at (559) 256-8722.

Mini-Pitch Built at Computech

Students have fun at Computech Middle School's new soccer mini-pitch during P.E. on Jan. 26. The mini-pitch was constructed for use by the Edison High School region. Mini-pitch fields are smaller than a regular soccer field and have walls to keep the ball in play. The mini-pitch is one of 18 being completed as part of a [national partnership](#) between Black Players for Change (BPC), Black Women's Player Collective (BWPC), the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Musco Lighting, and adidas in communities of significance for members of BPC and BWPC. The mini-pitch at Computech honors the BPC Executive Board's Quincy Amarikwa, whose family resides in Fresno.

The mini-pitch initiative is part of partners' collective efforts to remove systemic barriers that keep children of color — specifically Black children — from playing the game and gaining the many benefits that come with being involved in the sport.



Fresno High School Carrying Stories Project Touches Community

Fresno High School senior Natalie Galicia has experienced what it's like to create a piece of art that deeply resonates with another person – someone she had never met.

Her painting, entitled “Teresa,” features a butterfly painted with one-shot enamel on a 2-by-2-foot wooden panel with a handwritten story surrounding it. While the piece was on display at The Big Fresno Fair, Mayra Contreras read the story of Teresa. She cried because it reminded her of her own mother's experience as a young immigrant from Mexico.

Sabina Fernandez-Lopez contacted Natalie's teacher, Marina Santos, and arranged to buy the piece for Contreras, who is graduating from the CHP Academy on Feb. 4.

“When the artwork, especially the story, resonates with our community, it reinforces the significance of this project, Carrying Stories,” Santos said.

Natalie said she was happy to know that her painting elicited an emotional response.

“It reminded me that everyone is connected to a story and those stories need to be shared because not everyone survives their journey in life. I am blessed to have my parents. If they did not struggle, then I would not have all the opportunities in life,” Natalie said.

“Teresa” was part an interdisciplinary project led by Santos and fellow English language arts teacher Meghan Schimmel as part of [Fresno High's International Baccalaureate program](#). Video production teacher Mahon Brown directed a team of students in documenting the project and construction teacher Joel Osuna assisted in curating the art in Warrior Park at Fresno High last May.

The Carrying Stories project highlighted stories of change, including students' pandemic experiences. Natalie wrote about her mother, Teresa, and coming to the United States.

“I love it because the story has similarities to mine, and everyone's life experiences are different. Knowing that someone has had the same struggles makes you feel like you aren't alone. ‘Teresa’ has been touching in an emotional way for me,” Contreras said.

Connection to [District Goals](#): “We value people and our community.”



Fresno High School student Natalie Galicia, right, created her painting “Teresa” as part of a Carrying Stories project in the English language arts class taught by Marina Santos, left.

First Ever Winter Session offered Learning, Fun and Adventure

Fresno Unified's first ever Winter Session was a huge success thanks to FUSD staff, community partners and families.

"It was heartwarming to see our students participate in the many opportunities offered through our Winter Session," said Jeremy Ward, assistant superintendent for career education.

Winter Academies were held at 21 elementary schools, 14 middle schools, eight high schools and eight specialty schools. For students in elementary and middle school this was a fun opportunity to continue their learning in literacy and math in the mornings and hands-on enrichment activities in the afternoons. Students in high school had the opportunity to recover credits for graduation and to meet A through G college requirements.

Additionally, Winter Camps provided a variety of experiences for our students through partnerships with community-based organizations. Opportunities offered were learning at Fresno Chaffee Zoo Camp, Cultural Arts Camp at Arte Americas, Performing Arts Camp, Fishing Camp, Climbing Camp and Winter Sports Camp, which included a day at Yosemite, ice skating, and skiing and snowboarding at China Peak.

Many of the camps provided a family component that allowed students to showcase their learning.

"It was exciting to see the smiles on the faces of students and families at the family events. What a great way to spend winter vacation!" Ward said.



Students are attending Winter Academy at Duncan Polytechnical High School on Dec. 21. Winter Academies were held over the winter break to help students recover credits.



Students have fun at China Peak snowboarding as part of Winter Session.



Students visit the Chaffee Zoo on Dec. 21 as part of Winter Camp enrichment activities for students over the winter break.



Students learn dance moves on Dec. 20 during a Performing Arts Camp at Baird Middle School.



Students could participate in rock wall climbing as part of Winter Session.

Duncan Construction Students helping to Rebuild after Creek Fire

Duncan Polytechnical High School construction students are making life a little better for some of the Shaver Lake property owners who lost their homes in the 2020 Creek Fire.

Juniors and seniors in Ash Jones' classes are building sheds and pumphouses for survivors of the fire. The structures make it possible for the property owners to safely store their tools and materials as they rebuild their homes.

In the process, the students are learning a variety of construction skills and something more: “Equally important, the students are learning how to use their talents to give back to the community. The students all shared that ‘Even though it is hard work, it is worth it,’” Jones said.

The [Construction Technology Pathway](#) at Duncan is among several exemplary career technology education (CTE) programs at Duncan and other high schools.

The first shed was delivered on Dec. 11, with the students traveling to Shaver Lake to help reassemble the pieces on the property. Students are working on a second shed.

Duncan had enough donated materials to complete two sheds, thanks to the Logs to Lumber program. Duncan students hope to encourage other high schools to get involved as well.

The students’ involvement was initiated by a call from Steven Bell of the Mennonite Disaster Relief Service in late 2020 to Cara Jurado, coordinator of CTE and the Innovative Design and Applied Technology Academy at Duncan. Along with the Mennonite organization, partners in the project are Rebuild Our Sierra, the Creek Fire Recovery Collaboration and Catholic Charities. Southern California Edison donated the lumber, made from logs salvaged from the burn area. The logs were milled by Logs to Lumber and delivered to Duncan.

Due to the restrictions of distance learning, Duncan’s current students had not built a complete structure like a shed before. The first shed took about three weeks as the students worked through the design, adjusting for efficiency. Once completed at Duncan, it was taken apart, trucked to Shaver Lake and reassembled.

The shed project directly supports the CTE standards for framing, footings and foundations, roofing, blueprints, site-layout, and wood finishing trades. The project also helps students learn and reinforces the Student Learner Outcomes/Graduate Profile skills, such as collaboration, communication, and problem-solving.

The property owners who received the first shed were very thankful to everyone involved and are looking forward to rebuilding, Jones said.



From left, Duncan Polytechnical High School student Ever Jimenez, teacher Ash Jones and students Bet Ochoa and Juan Arambula work on a wall for a shed. The sheds are donated to homeowners rebuilding after the Creek Fire.



Students from Ash Jones' construction class at Duncan Polytechnical High School gather in December in front of a shed in Shaver Lake that they constructed for homeowners rebuilding after the Creek Fire.



From left, Duncan Polytechnical High School teacher Ash Jones and students Bet Ochoa and Ever Jimenez work on a shed in class. Pieces of the shed are reconstructed on site near Shaver Lake.

Sequoia Middle School Named a California School to Watch

Sequoia Middle School has been designated as a 2022 [School to Watch](#) for its exemplary programs.

Sequoia was recognized in part for improving academic outcomes on both state and local assessments, a performing arts program that prepares students for the Roosevelt School of the Arts, an award winning career technology education pathway program focused on technology, Junior Doctors Academy, strong campus culture and climate that supports student social and emotional needs, and a rich co-curricular program with dozens of clubs, academic competition teams, and championship athletic teams.

All of these serve to support students in their academic, social, and emotional preparation for high school and beyond.

To earn the designation, schools must complete an extensive application and host a site visit by middle-grades experts. To retain the designation, each school is re-evaluated every three years. Kings Canyon Middle School was previously named as a School to Watch.

“We are thrilled to be recognized for the amazing work our staff does on behalf of our students and community every day,” said Matt Ward, principal at Sequoia. “It is through the collective efforts of our Sequoia family that we have shown sustained improvement and we are now included with other outstanding middle schools in the Valley, the state, and the nation as Schools to Watch.

“We look forward to continuing our work in reaching new heights as we help our students achieve their greatest potential.”

The honor for Sequoia was announced on Dec. 17 by Scott Steele, director of the California Schools to Watch program.

The program is sponsored by the [California Department of Education](#), [California League of Schools](#), and the California Middle Grades Alliance, in association with the [National Forum](#).



Sequoia Middle School has been recognized as a School to Watch for improving academic outcomes on both state and local assessments and numerous programs that benefit students.

Edison to Offer College Level Research Diploma Program

Edison High School is one of approximately 2,000 schools worldwide to implement the [AP Capstone Diploma™ program](#) to promote college and career success through critical thinking, research, collaboration, and communication skills.

The program, which Edison will launch this fall, consists of two yearlong courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research. Fresno Unified's Patiño School of Entrepreneurship has had the program since the campus opened in 2016.

Students who score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams of their choosing earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills.

Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research (and not on four additional AP Exams) earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

“The AP Capstone program will prepare our diverse student population to become skilled collaborators, critical thinkers, and consumers of information,” said Edison’s AP coordinator, Janina Schulz. “The Capstone courses will give students flexibility to explore the complex topics affecting their lives, and we are excited to see their research.”

In AP Seminar, typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, students choose real-world topics and evaluate them from multiple perspectives. Students identify credibility and bias in sources and develop arguments in support of a recommendation.

In the AP Research course, students design and execute a college-level research project on a topic of personal interest. Students write a research question, execute an appropriate method, analyze data, present their results, and defend their findings.

Both AP Capstone™ courses are project based, and students are required to deliver written arguments, collaborate in teams, and deliver professional multimedia presentations as part of their AP Exams.

“The AP Capstone courses enable students to explore real-world issues in great depth through research and collaboration,” said Rushi Sheth, executive director of the AP Capstone Diploma program.

“This provides terrific opportunities for students to write and present their work effectively, both individually and in teams – the very skills professors and employers are demanding.”

Connection to [District Goals](#): "Improve academic performance at challenging levels."

"Expand student-centered and real-world learning experiences."

Edison Region Black History Program Features ‘Untold Stories’

The annual Edison Region Black History Month Program this year focused on “untold stories,” with the narrative featuring two grandparents passing along stories to their grandchildren. The production includes song, dance and drama.

The program is available virtually through February on fresnounified.org. It is the eighth edition put on by students from Gaston Middle School and Edison High School Black Student Union (BSU) clubs. Students from King and Kirk elementary schools, Computech Middle School and Wawona K-8 School were also involved, as were community partners and Purposed II Praise School of Dance.

The production was overseen by Lisa Mitchell, a vice principal on special assignment in the district’s Student Engagement Office. She said she’s especially proud of this year’s program because of the difficulties they had to overcome due to student and staff absences from COVID-19. The program was completed with three weeks of practice by students instead of the normal three months.

The program launches a month of various activities honoring Black History Month at schools throughout the district, including at Edison and Sunnyside high schools, Tehipite Middle School and Thomas Elementary School. One of the goals of BSU is to organize activities and experiences to educate the community about Black culture and history.

The production is student-centered, with high school students creating and teaching the dances with help from co-director and choreographer Staci Jones. Students involved ranged from kindergarten through high school. Fresno City College allowed the students to use its theater stage for the program.

Sponsors are Educational Employees Credit Union, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the Black Students of California United, Purposed II Praise School of Dance, Fresno City College African American Faculty and Staff Association, Fresno City College Theater Department, Let’s Talk About Culture, Mad Illustrators, Saint Rest Baptist

Church and ABC30.

How to Watch

Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.: Live streamed from the Fresno Unified webcast (<https://tinyurl.com/y278svvt>) and cmac.tv/edu

After Feb. 1: fresnounified.org



Students who are part of the Edison Region Black History Month Program break into free-style dance as part of the ending to the pre-recorded program.



From left, student Jonynae Jackson-Boyd, district co-athletic director Pat Riddlesprigger, community member Leslie Kelly and students Keniyah Morgan and Joseph McCoy present a scene about grandparents sharing stories with their grandkids. The performance is part of the Edison Region Black History Day Program.



From left, Nikayla Ashley-Chandler, Nikeyla Ashley-Chandler and Joy Vance portray Ida B. Wells, Harriett Tubman and Madam C.J. Walker.

Amazon Donating \$200 for Teachers' Classroom Projects

Fresno Unified is among just two districts in California selected for Amazon's Teachers' Wish List campaign.

Amazon will fund up to \$200 per classroom project through the nonprofit [DonorsChoose](#), designated for schools that are racially diverse with high levels of poverty. Amazon will also donate to San Francisco Unified School District.

This funding is available to all teachers whether they currently have projects on DonorsChoose or not. The campaign will continue through the end of the school year or until funds have been dispersed. The gift is expected to be granted to hundreds of teachers in Fresno Unified on a first come, first served basis.

All but 13 of the district's more than 100 schools will qualify for the Amazon funding under the DonorsChoose criteria that a school's students be at least 50% Black, Latinx, Native American, Pacific Islander or multiracial, and that at least 50% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Schools NOT eligible based on the DonorsChoose formula: Baird Middle School, Duncan Preschool, Eaton Elementary School, Forkner Elementary School, Heaton CDC, King CDC, Lori Ann Infant Center, Malloch Elementary School, Roosevelt PACE, Scandinavian Child Care Center, Starr Elementary School, Turner Elementary School and Webster CDC.

To redeem their Amazon gift, teachers sign up on DonorsChoose here <https://www.donorschoose.org/teachers>. They create a project following any applicable terms. After submitting their name and email, it will prompt them to choose their school. Because they are a part of one of the covered schools, they will automatically get \$200 toward their project while funds last. Teachers who already are signed up on DonorsChoose should have received an email describing the program.

Making Lifelong Readers at McCardle Elementary

McCardle Elementary School library technician Monica Jacobs is always looking for ways to engage students, including a recent snowman caption contest, recruiting student helpers, book clubs and a weekly recorded book reading.



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