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CUSD Today

December 2023

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

Volume 26, No. 5

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Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Attendance map changes coming

Public input, feedback to be sought at school meetings

Changes will be coming to student attendance boundaries for several Clovis Unified schools, and public meetings and opportunities for community input will begin in late January.

With the opening of a new educational center in the south-eastern corner of the district in less than two years, a steering committee of approximately 50 Clovis Unified employees and administrators is meeting this winter to research adjustments to school attendance maps.

The committee is looking at enrollment trends and student populations across the entire district and at the individual school level, and it is also considering future housing development plans in the cities of Fresno and Clovis that will bring new growth and enrollment. Clovis Unified's 198-square-mile boundaries, which extend south to Kings Canyon Boulevard and north to the edge of Millerton Lake, include most of the city of Clovis, 20% of the city of Fresno and a small portion of unincorporated Fresno County.

While the driving force behind the review is the addition of the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center at Highland and Clinton avenues in Fresno – a campus that will house Clovis South High School and a yet-to-be-named intermediate school – the committee's boundary review includes looking at all district schools in terms of capacity and recommending adjustments to create more efficient use of schools that are under capacity while easing crowding at those that are over capacity.

Initial findings by the committee show that schools in the Clovis East Area and some in the Clovis Area are currently overcrowded, and likely some of those students will become part of the new Clovis South Area. On the opposite side of the district, data shows that most schools in the Clovis West Area have seats available, while several schools in the nearby Clovis North Area and Buchanan Area are at or above capacity.

"It is our responsibility as stewards of these public facilities that as we revise our attendance boundaries for the Bradley Center that we look at the entire district to ensure we are best utilizing all schools' capacities as we continue to plan for future growth," said Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. "And I have tasked the committee to work on scenarios which minimize student disruption while maximizing the use of our district facilities."

By late January, the committee will release drafts of possible new attendance lines that determine what school a child attends. Livestream events, area community meetings and SART (parent)

➤ Please see *Boundaries*, Page 4

Join the conversation

- **Area meetings:** Community review in each school area to be scheduled for late January. Two will be livestreamed.
- **SART meetings:** Parent meeting at each school
- **CUSD.com:** Meeting information, updates, map proposals, timeline, comment form

“ We know boundary changes are hard and can cause stress, but I want to reassure our Clovis Unified families that all our schools are special. ”

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
CUSD Superintendent



GAME CHANGER

Marquee soccer complex opens at CE



Soccer fans can now enjoy some of the area's top high school soccer competitions in Clovis East High's newly constructed soccer complex – up to 1,500 fans to be exact!

The Timberwolves are celebrating the completion of the district's newest marquee venue that in the future could become the site for area championships, tournaments or even a professional soccer exhibition game.

The nearly yearlong construction project included adding bleachers that seat 1,500 people, two field houses with bathrooms, lights, a sound system, video scoreboard, ticket booth and concession stand surrounding the T'Wolves' existing soccer field.

"We believe the new Clovis East Soccer Stadium is a game changer, and it will further inspire students to pursue a passion for one of the world's most popular sports," said Clovis East Principal Ryan Eisele, Ed.D.

The first official Clovis East home game was played in the complex Nov. 16, and the district held a ribbon cutting ceremony in early December that included CUSD Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. – who played soccer in college and as a student at Buchanan High – kicking a goal during the festivities.

Initial plans for the complex were developed when the school was built, with Phase 1 being the development of the field and Phase 2, the additional amenities. Work on completing the second phase began in December 2022 following the community's support of a bond measure that among other district projects included this.

➤ Please see *Complex*, Page 2

Stadium features have been added to Clovis East High's soccer field to include a scoreboard, ticket booth, lights, bleachers, field houses and restrooms, thanks to voter-approved bond dollars.

Photos by Kendra Burt/CUSD Today



CDE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

CTE health pathway teacher in state's Top 10

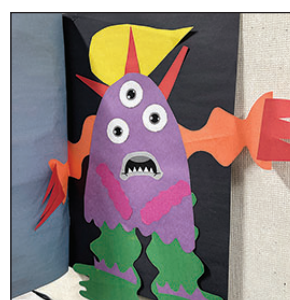


Clovis East High teacher Kelly Eichmann, Ph.D., RDN, will be celebrated in the new year as a Top 10 finalist in the California Department of Education's 2024 California Teacher of the Year Awards. Eichmann teaches the Career Technical Education (CTE) Patient Care Pathway: Medical Careers and Health and Medical Wellness. She was named Fresno County Teacher of the Year in 2022 and then was nominated for the state honor.

The awards program recognizes educators and their outstanding work. For Eichmann, that includes her advocating for her students through community partnerships and equipment that allows her to provide real-world health-setting experiences to spark an understanding of the medical field. Her classroom is set up much like a make-shift hospital, and students – wearing scrubs – learn everything from first-aid to CPR. They study the anatomy and body systems on a medical-school grade Anatomage Table that allows virtual dissection. They also visit local healthcare mentors who share even more about the variety of careers in the industry by letting students shadow their work.

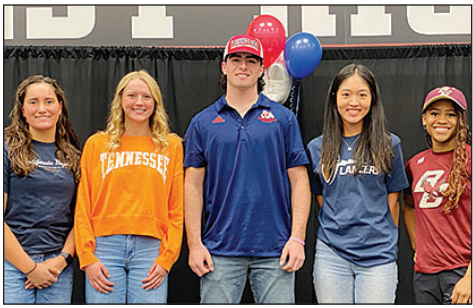
When asked about her approach to teaching, Eichmann responded: "I see myself in my students. As someone who struggled with learning disabilities, I realize that not all students learn in the same way. ... My philosophy of teaching is you can do it and I'm going to help you. This belief is a very empowering idea. Everyone deserves to have someone who pushes them to realize their best self."

Creativity Captured



Around 900 students in special education programs from all 34 Clovis Unified elementary schools created masterpieces for the district's Special Education Fall Art Show. The creative work can be viewed during business hours through mid-December in the district's Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis.

Photos by Kendra Burt/CUSD Today



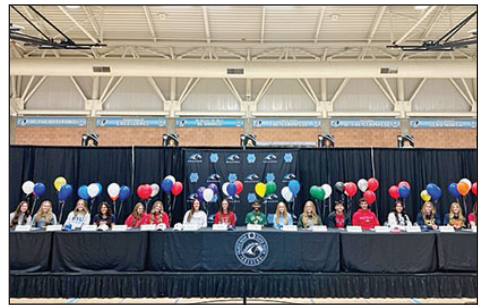
Clovis West High



Buchanan High



Clovis East High



Clovis North High

38 athletes sign college letters of intent to play

The commitments have begun. Thirty-eight standout Clovis Unified athletes took part in National Letter of Intent signing ceremonies in November.

Northwestern University, UCLA, Fresno State and the Virginia Military Institute are just some of the college destinations of seniors who, in front of cheering family, friends and coaches last month, made known their commitment to play their sport in fall 2024.

Congratulations to:

Buchanan High

Megan Avery, Beach Volleyball, Cal State Bakersfield; **Chris Bettencourt**, Golf, Fresno State; **Avery Chaney**, Soccer, California Polytechnic State University; **Grace Goudy**, Beach Volleyball, Stetson University; **Isabella Hernandez**, Stunt/Cheer, Vanguard University; **Vanna Quintana**, Basketball, Weber State University; **Hollie Saucedo**, Water Polo, Virginia Military Institute; **Morgan Schink**, Water Polo, Indiana University; **Stefania Sesock**, Track and Field, University of California, San Diego; **Derek Smith**, Track and Field, University of California, Los Angeles; **Logan Studt**, Football, Fresno State; **Calen Sullivan**, Wrestling, Wayland

Baptist University.

Clovis East High

Shelby Folmer, Track and Field, Fresno Pacific University; **Zoie Lango**, Soccer, Fresno Pacific University; **Julia Schulze**, Softball, Webber International University; **Carter Spradling**, Cross Country/Track, University of Missouri.

Clovis North High

Emma Blea, Softball, Northwestern University; **Elise Bliss**, Water Polo, Cal State Fullerton; **Allison Bone**, Water Polo, University of California, San Diego; **Samantha Ebell**, Cross Country/Track, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; **Kaitelyn Emmons**, Cross Country/Track, Utah Valley University; **Jordan Espinoza**, Basketball, Cal State East Bay; **Sierra Garza**, Beach Volleyball, Saint Mary's College; **Makenna Genco**, Water Polo, Santa Clara University; **Jayden Hertel**, Baseball, University of Las Vegas, Nevada; **Shae Kuntz**, Soccer, Fresno State; **Ava Mirelez**, Soccer, Cal State Fullerton; **Alexis Naranjo**, Swimming, University of Illinois, Chicago; **Sommer Nestman**, Soccer, Brigham Young University; **Teg Pandher**, Cross Country/Track, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; **Kaitlin**

Powell, Beach Volleyball, Morehead State; **Kiara Sipe**, Softball, Fresno State; **Kaylin Wheeler**, Soccer, Nicholls State University.

Clovis West High

Avery Easterling, Swimming, California Baptist University; **Hannah Marinovich**, Swimming, University of Tennessee; **Tyler Patrick**, Baseball, Fresno State; **Lisa Shim-**

mon, Golf, California Baptist University; **Athena Tomlinson**, Basketball, Boston College

Editor's Note: Clovis High is planning to hold a signing ceremony in December. Watch CUSD social media for pictures and names of those student athletes to be posted when available.

Fall sports champions celebrate wins

Thousands of students across the district took part in fall sports, learning not just the skills of their chosen game but also developing traits of working hard, dedication and being a good teammate.

In Clovis Unified elementary schools, the fall sports season culminated in district championships held in and around Veterans Memorial Stadium on the Buchanan Educational Center. In secondary schools, intermediate teams finished strong in the CIAL league, and high school teams topped TRAC play, with many advancing to compete in regional and state playoffs.

Congratulations to all participants, coaches and fans on a great season!

ELEMENTARY TITLES

Cross Country: Fourth Grade – Girls Team: Fugman Elementary; Boys Team, Dry Creek Elementary;

Girls Individual: Briele Marina, Fugman, 6:03.92; Boys Individual, Dylan Greenberg, Fugman, 5:38.82

Fifth/Sixth Grade: Girls Team, Dry Creek; Boys Team, Woods Elementary; Girls Individual, Ava Marquez, Mickey Cox, 5:45.03; Boys Individual, Chase Davis, Red Bank, 5:06.97 (new record)

Girls Volleyball: Dry Creek, first; Sierra Vista Elementary, second

Football: Fugman, Reagan and Cedarwood elementary (champions); Pinedale, Riverview, Dry Creek (runners up)

INTERMEDIATE – CIAL CHAMPIONS

Seventh Grade: Football, Kastner; Girls Volleyball, Reyburn; Boys Water Polo, Alta Sierra; Girls Water Polo, Kastner; **Eighth Grade – Football,** Clark; Girls Volleyball, Alta Sierra; Boys Water Polo, Alta Sierra; Girls Water Polo, Clark; **Seventh/Eighth Grade:** Girls Tennis, Granite Ridge; Girls Golf, Granite Ridge; Boys Cross Country, Granite Ridge; Girls Cross Country, Alta Sierra.

HIGH SCHOOL – TRAC CHAMPIONS

Boys Cross Country, Buchanan, (Clovis East won Valley Title); **Girls Cross Country,** Buchanan (Valley Title); **Football,** Clovis North (DI Valley Title); **Girls Golf,** Clovis West (Valley Title); **Girls Gymnastics,** Clovis West; **Girls Tennis,** Clovis North; **Girls Volleyball,** Buchanan (DI- Valley Title); **Boys Water Polo,** Buchanan (DI-Valley Title); Clovis won DIII Regional); **Girls Water Polo,** Clovis and Clovis North.

Complex:

FROM PAGE ONE

“We are very excited for our students and community to get to play in such a great facility,” said Assistant Superintendent of Facility Services Denver Stairs. “We continue to be thankful to our community for supporting Clovis Unified projects that enhance student experiences and provide encouragement and inspiration for students to succeed.”

The new additions to the soccer field will also provide improvements to other athletic programs. Several of the features were intentionally designed so they can be used by neighboring sports fields. For example, the concession stand, field houses and bathrooms have dual entrances and can be opened on one side to serve soccer or on the other to serve a softball or football event.

“This is another example of our district supporting [founding district superintendent] Dr. Floyd B. Buchanan’s vision for providing our community with first-class facilities,” Eisele said.

For a look at the new complex, upcoming Clovis East home games are scheduled Dec. 15, 16, 18 and 29. See rec.cusd.com for more information.



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SCAN ME

► Announcements

Free tutoring help day or night

Is your child stuck on a math homework problem? Getting confused about adverbs and adjectives, and there's a quiz the next day? No worries! One-on-one tutoring help is just a click away 24-hours a day, 7-days a week for Clovis Unified students at all grade levels. The district makes available free access to tutor.com, a service of The Princeton Review, to provide students with online tutoring anytime without charge to families. Students using the service can expect one-on-one help through a live messaging window, with the ability for the student or tutor to share screens on a whiteboard on which both write and view.

"It's a great resource year-round, and right now as our students are heading into the end of semester and looking into unit tests and finals and needing some help, this is a great place to get it," said Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Superintendent Erin Waer.

To access the on-demand service, students can log into their Clever account and select the tutor.com app.

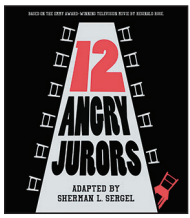
'The Lightning Thief' opens in January



Clovis High's production of "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical," will be performed in January. The lively musical tells the tale of Poseidon's son, Percy Jackson, discovering powers he doesn't yet know how to control, being chased by monsters and trying to keep the Greek gods from battling one another.

The fun takes place at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19, 20 and 25-27, and at 2 p.m. Jan. 20 and 27, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. For information and tickets: cUSD.com/events.

'12 Angry Jurors' coming soon



The courtroom drama "12 Angry Jurors" will be performed by Clovis East High at the Dan Pessano Theater starting in January. The play takes a close look at a jury panel as they consider the guilt or innocence of a young man accused of murder.

The production will be held at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25-27 and Feb. 1-3 at Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: cUSD.com/events.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 8 for Winter Break. The CUSD business offices at Herndon and Sunnyside avenues will be closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

College financial workshops

Clovis Unified high schools are offering workshops to assist seniors who plan to attend college next fall and their parents with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. FAFSA is not just for low-income students and should be completed by all students planning to attend a community college for either a career certificate or transfer degree and by all students planning to attend a four-year university. The application determines eligibility for financial aid

Curious about Career Technical Education?

Clovis Unified families are invited to learn more about the district's Career Technical Education (CTE) program offered to high school students at CTE Night, an informational fair in January that will have demonstrations, booths and details about the district's 21 different career education pathways.

CTE provides students opportunities to personalize their education based on career interest and learning needs. Pathways include agriculture, child development, construction, engineering design, financial services, patient care, software development and more.

These classes give hands-on instruction combined with real-world experience. CTE Night is designed for prospective students to visit with current students and staff to gain a better understanding of the many opportunities. The drop-in event will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 23 at



CTE Night

- 6-8 p.m., Jan. 23, 2024
- Clovis Memorial Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis
- Details: cUSD.com/cte

the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis.

Enrollment for 2024-25 CTE courses will begin soon after, and students can learn more about fitting CTE classes

into their schedule by talking with their school academic counselor. For a full list of pathways and more details about Clovis Unified's CTE program, visit cUSD.com/cte.

and it is also used for college scholarship information that can include need-based, academic merit and athletic scholarships.

Free workshops hosted by school counseling offices will be at Buchanan High, Dec. 18, Jan. 31, March 20; Clovis East High, Dec. 12, Jan. 16 and March 19; Clovis High, Jan. 29, Feb. 26 and March 13; Clovis North High, March 4; and Clovis West High, Dec. 18, Jan. 17 and 29, Feb. 5 and 13, and March 18. Links, information and workshop dates/times are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers websites. The FASA online application can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/>

Asbestos management plan in place

In compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Clovis Unified is providing written notification of the availability of the 2022-23 school year asbestos management plan for public inspection at each school site and at the district office, 1450 Herndon Ave., Clovis. The management plan includes inspection records as well as documentation of any asbestos removal that has occurred at the site. Arrangements may be made to review these plans by contacting the district's asbestos coordinator, Adam Belmont at 327-9491.

During the past school year, the district conducted two required six-month surveillance AHERA inspections at all sites. This included inspecting all known asbestos locations and reporting any changes in condition. Additionally, licensed contractors performed asbestos removal work at Clovis West High, Sierra Outdoor School and Clark Intermediate. For each of these projects, the district retained the services of a certified asbestos consulting firm to monitor the work and ensure compliance with all regulations and requirements.

For additional information about the district's asbestos

program, contact Adam Belmont at the number above.

Parent Academy workshops

Clovis Unified Supplemental Service's Parent Academy hosts free, monthly Parent Night workshops for parents to learn about the many district resources and programs available to help their child. Upcoming meetings and topics include:

- Jan. 18 – "Newcomer Family Night"
- Feb. 20 – "Understanding Interventions, 504's and IEP's"
- March 19 – "Family Safety Night" (held at Weldon Elementary)
- April 11 – "Building Readers at Home"

Workshops are held at the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 326 N. Clovis Ave., in Clovis, with free dinner and childcare at 5:30 p.m., and the workshop at 6 p.m. Learn more: cUSD.com/ParentAcademy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Clovis Unified School District offers a variety of special education services and programs to serve children with communicative, physical, learning, emotional and other special needs. To learn more about special education services and the special education referral process, contact Clovis Unified School District Special Education Department at 327-9400.

Virtual Parent Café

Does your child have an IEP? Would you enjoy meeting for a virtual get-together with other parents? CUSD Special Education will host Parent Café from 10 to 11 a.m. Jan. 9 through Zoom. To register and receive the Zoom link, go to www.tinyurl.com/frcjan-9-24.

► Please see *Special Education*, Page 4



Register Now

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Spring semester starts
January 8, 2024



Fresno City College



State Center Community College District

Boundaries: Meetings planned for public review, input

FROM PAGE 1
meetings at all schools will be held to review proposed maps, provide discussion and gather input. That feedback will be used by the committee to consider more adjustments before creating a final draft later in the spring.

Again, community members will have opportunities to comment prior to a final map being recommended in late spring to the Governing Board for consideration of its approval.

Current information, updates and a comment form will be available online throughout the process at cusd.com.

"We know boundary changes are hard and can cause stress, but I want to reassure our Clovis Unified families that all of our schools are special. Our educational team holds tightly to our district values around high standards and having a contagious school spirit which is found at every one of our schools and areas," Folmer said.

As a former Clovis Unified student herself, Folmer experienced going to a new school because of boundary changes when the Buchanan Educational Center opened.

"Several of my neighborhood friends and I found that while we were not headed to the high school that we thought we would always attend, our new school provided us with all the same opportunities, caring educators, and sense of belonging. It wasn't long before our new campus became home, just as all our schools do."

Timeline

September through January	CUSD Boundary Advisory Committee conducts research, develops first draft of new attendance boundaries.
Late January	Draft boundary maps available. Livestream and area community meetings. Public review, feedback.
February through March	School SART (parent) meetings – check home school for date. Public review, comments.
April 15	Updated recommended maps released. Public review, feedback and meetings.
May 3	Online commenting period closes.
May 8	Recommended map presented to CUSD Governing Board for information.
May 22	CUSD Governing Board to vote on recommendation.
Fall 2025	New boundaries become effective.

Look for updates and details as available on cusd.com.

Special Education:

FROM PAGE 3
Family Resource Center workshops

Clovis Unified Special Education Family Resource Center offers free webinars that feature presentations, discussion and resource information. Upcoming are:

■ **Jan. 16** – "My Child is Neurodivergent – Now What?" 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. online, with presenter Melissa Rose. Learn about what neurodivergent means; evidence-based practices; and support strategies. Register: www.tinyurl.com/FRCJan-16-24.

■ **Feb. 6** – "All About Section 504 Plans," 6:30 to 8 p.m., online. Presenter Wendy Karsevar. Learn about how students qualify for a 504 Plan; what are accommodations and modifications; how a 504 plan is different from an Individualized Education Program. Register: www.tinyurl.com/FRC2-6-24.

■ **Feb. 8** – "Behavior Support for Parents of Preschoolers," 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., online. Presenters Jessica Cox and Leann Gajarian Keeler. Learn about typical early childhood behavior; strategies for difficult behavior; and effects of screen-time and alternatives. Register: www.tinyurl.com/FRC2-8-24.

Questions: 327-8455 or email familyresource-center@cusd.com.

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NOTE: Not all classes may count towards general education for transfer. High School Enrichment provides college credit only. Please check with your high school counselor or meet with a college counselor.

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SCD STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Other-people mindset spurs generosity in our students and our community

By Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DURING this time of year, there are abundant opportunities to do good for others in our community. It is our students' involvement in these opportunities that develops the human spirit and models the value of thinking of others first.



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," and her words ring true of our Clovis Unified community. Our students and staff model compassion and care for our community during a season filled with gratitude.

From the massive collection of coats every winter to record-setting canned food drives, giving in many different forms to our community is in action across the district.

Within these efforts, our students are learning the valuable life lesson of taking care of others. We believe these lessons are as equally valuable as the academic ones, because the future of our community depends on both the knowledge and character developed in our students.

To that end, we work intentionally on our campuses to develop qualities that create a well-rounded person whose intellect is paired with a healthy body and

strong character. This sentiment is our district's mission: "To be a quality educational system providing the resources for ALL students to reach their potential in mind, body and spirit."

One example of how some of our team is striving to build community and model our mission is the Positivity Project. This supplemental curriculum is used to teach our students about an "other

- people mindset." This mindset is characterized by five qualities:

- Supporting others when they struggle
- Identifying and appreciating the good in others

- Knowing that words and actions affect others
- Cheering others' successes
- Giving others our attention

These qualities are the basis of great discussion at school and home. At the same time, the community service projects on our campuses year-round are a way that we can create opportunities for students to live out what "supporting others when they struggle" or "giving others our attention" can look like in action.

Another reminder of community and caring for others is carried out through the slogans and mottos developed by our schools. Slogans such as "Cougar Country," "Stay Golden," "Bear Nation," "Wolfpack Means Family," "The Code of the North," "Be the Change" and "Believe, Achieve, Succeed" remind our students that they belong to something larger than themselves.

In our work with other municipalities we often say, "Great communities build great schools, and great schools build great communities."

I am humbled by the generosity of our students and staff and the care they take of each other and the greater community. And I am equally humbled by how generous the community is to our Clovis Unified family, donating clothing, toys, food, full Thanksgiving meals and much more to our students and families.

Recognizing our interconnectivity and responsibility toward each other is what makes us the unique and very special place that we are, and in this season of gratitude I am most grateful for that!

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Photo by Kenny Gilman/Special to CUSD Today

PERFECT NOTE: In a rare performance, all Clovis Unified's 10 high school and intermediate school marching bands played the National Anthem together at Veterans Memorial Stadium for CUSD Band Day. The nearly 1,000 musicians then took turns on the field doing their individual shows and cheering for one another.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

PLATO, ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER

Helping kids navigate phone notification overload

Editor's note: "Screenagers – Growing Up in the Digital Age" is a documentary created and directed by Delaney Ruston, a physician and film director, that examines what it is to grow up in a tech-saturated time and how balance might be achieved between screen time and screen-free time. Clovis Unified has brought this film and follow-up conversations to its high schools. Further discussion from Dr. Ruston is offered occasionally in CUSD Today. Taken from her weekly blog, the following highlights current trends and offers conversation starters for parents to have with their children.

By Delaney Ruston, M.D.
Screenagers moviemaker



Recently in the *New York Times*, there was an article about social media and teens. The article's brilliant graphic captured young people's digital and emotional reality. The graphic showed all the notifications on their phones, laptops, tablets, etc., like texts from mom reminding them to be safe, a new grade posted, a Snapchat arrival, a missed Facetime, a troubling news headline, etc.

There is stress that comes with so many things flying at them constantly. In interviewing teens about this, here's what one teen said:

"I'll send streaks at 7:30 a.m. I'll put my phone down, I'll go eat breakfast, I'll shower. I'll do whatever. I come back at 8 a.m. I'll have like 17 different Snaps from people. And then I'll have people asking me about homework. Just the sheer amount of things that you have to check up on and make sure you're not ignoring them – it's a lot."

What can we do as adults in our children's lives to help reduce stress and phone notification overload? I offer a story you can share with your kids that brings up fruitful discussion points to grapple with together. In addition, if this story inspires you to tweak your own phone (tablet, etc.) screen notification settings, tell your kids (students, athletes, etc.) about it. In this way, you will be modeling to them the act of doing an assessment/intervention to decrease tech dictating you vs. the other way around.

My story

Know oneself. There is one area I know about myself well: If I get a text alert, I want to check it. And it causes a distinct itch under my skin until I do so.

Therefore, I have my phone set only to notify me of texts. I had a new realization recently when I went on my monthly solo hike in the mountains near where I live. I got a text alert while hiking from someone asking me to donate money. A short time later, I got another text, and this time, it was someone asking me to do something for a political candidate.

The first thing that went through my head is that there has been serious speculation that spam is indeed on the rise, given the ease with which these new large language AI models can so easily generate content.

The second thing that went through my head was, "Wait, Delaney, this is ridiculous. Turn off your text notifications altogether while you are hiking." I did so and immediately felt a strong sense of relief.

As I continued my hike, I thought about why I had notifications for texts anyway. What if I make it a point when I take a break from work to check my texts? Not only will I not get interrupted, but it will be at a time when I can respond more thoughtfully.

So, I have since kept my notifications off.

There is a potential downside. Not having the notification feature on means I can be tempted to pick up my phone more often to see if there is a new text. I was doing this the other afternoon and realized I would need to be very conscious to avoid getting into this trap.

As an aside, my phone ringer is usually on, so family and such can reach me unless I am seeing patients. In this case, I will see the missed call and respond later.

Using the "Do Not Disturb" feature

While I only got notifications from my texts, some people have notifications from many sources and find it easier to put their phone on "Do Not Disturb." Let me explain how:

- For people with iPhones, one can go into Settings
- Find "Focus"

- Go to the "Do Not Disturb" option

■ Adjust your notification setting. It can be for one time or you can set up a schedule. For example, you can set the phone to be on "Do Not Disturb" every day from 7 to 9 a.m. or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You get the gist. In this mode, you can set it to allow you to be "disturbed" by certain people, i.e., your family.

(For people with Android phones the process is very similar, but it can vary depending on which phone and software version you have. You can Google this feature noting your phone model.)

Ideally, if students take their phones to school, their "Do Not Disturb" function should be on for school hours.

For all the years I have had a smartphone, the best move I have made is not having notifications other than texts. I highly recommend it. Now, I know myself better and will try to allow text notifications rarely. We are all evolving. We are all trying to know ourselves better.

Talking with our children about how we as adults monitor our relationship with notifications will benefit them. It's not about modeling perfectionism. It's about modeling how you think about the situation and ways you are trying to improve it. We're modeling problem-solving!

Questions to get the conversation started with your child:

- What are the benefits of notifications?
- What are the downsides of notifications?
- What do you think about Dr. Ruston's dilemma that when she turned off her text notifications, she realized it was tempting to check her phone more?
- What are our current notifications? Let's all open up our settings and see if there are any things we want to stop notifications on.
- What about the idea of using the "Do Not Disturb" feature? When do you think are some times of the day that should be guarded from notification overload?



To sign up for Dr. Ruston's weekly blog or read more on her research regarding the impact of screen use by teenagers, visit www.screenagersmovie.com.

— ABOUT US —

CUSD Today, Clovis Unified's good news publication, is sent directly to the homes of all CUSD parents and staff, as well as district supporters. In an effort to unify the CUSD community, the newspaper highlights the achievements of Clovis Unified students and staff; profiles new and updated Governing Board policies; and shares general news and information happening within the district.

Circulation: 34,000.

Funding: All costs associated with producing, printing and mailing *CUSD Today* are entirely funded by our advertisers. To show your appreciation of their support, we ask you to consider patronizing these businesses and services as the need arises.

Story submissions: Please submit all ideas to the Site Coordinator at your school. Please contact your school to find out who your Site Coordinator is. Editorial deadlines are two weeks before the publication date. We do our best to include as many submissions in each issue as our editorial space will allow.

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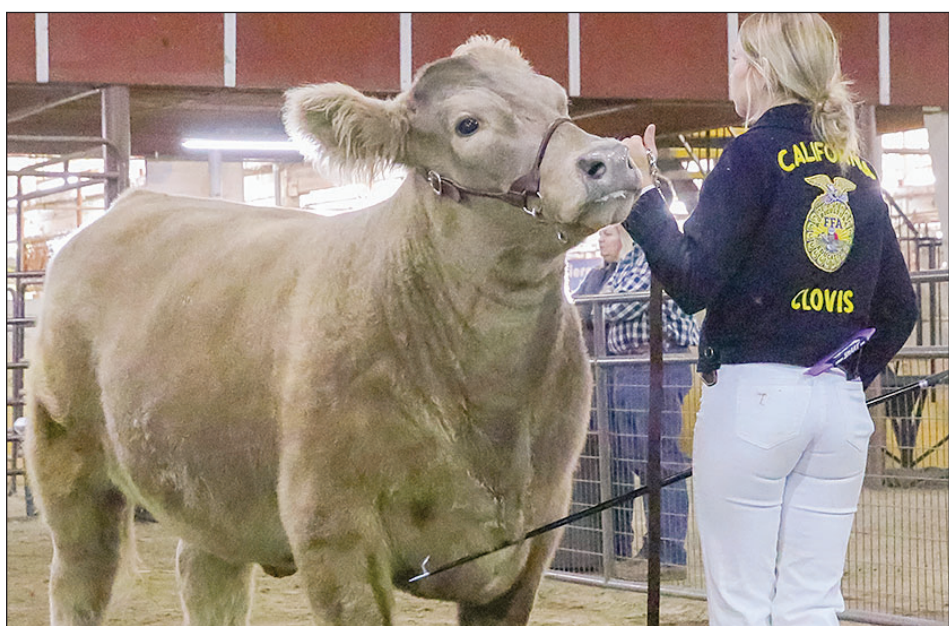
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Ag students score well at Fair

Close to 100 Clovis FFA students from Clovis Unified's McFarlane-Coffman Ag Center at Clovis East High participated this fall in the Big Fresno Fair where the Small Animal and Livestock Show Teams won numerous champion awards.

Clovis FFA students raise everything from goats and cows to turkeys and pigs. Students invest several hours each day for up to 11 months a year tending to the animals that they will show at the fair. But there is a lot more involved than just animal care.

The ag students work as independent entrepreneurs, obtaining advisory from teachers, parents and animal breeders, said Clovis East ag instructor Jennifer Knight. Individually, they build strategy and project plans including budget, time and financial management, data tracking, data analysis and marketing.

"They have to market their project to ensure they will break even financially or end up making a profit when selling their animal. They also learn to manage their feelings when the animal they have created a bond with will be sold as food at the Livestock Auction," Knight said.

Students support and work alongside one another, helping and representing Clovis FFA, though they compete individually. Knight said she is proud of the level of dedication and professionalism her students possess. "They learn that just because you work hard does not always mean you will win, yet they learn to be proud of the success they've found making great choices and representing our school and community in positive ways."

■ BEEF AND CATTLE HIGHLIGHTS: Supreme Champion Market Steer, Chase Gann; Champion Advance Showman, Chase Gann; Reserve Champ Registered Yearling, Champ. Bred By exhibitor market steer, Champion Bred by Exhibitor Heifer, Overall Champion Of Excellence, Catherine Heather.

■ SWINE HIGHLIGHTS: Champion Yorkshire, Gracee Peters; Reserve Champion Light Cross, James Parris; Chapter Freshman/Sophomore Showman, Jillian Scarborough

■ GOAT AND SHEEP HIGHLIGHTS: Caleb Gann, Supreme Grand Champion Goat; Sadie Keller, Middle Weight Champion Goat; Logan Price, Fresh/Soph Showmanship Winner (goats), 3rd place Round Robin (overall showman); Chase Gann, Reserve Champion Hampshire; Ryan Hayashi, Reserve Champion Bred By Exhibitor market Lamb, All Around Ag Award; Faith Collup, Champion Feeder Lamb; Aidyn Price, 4th in Novice Showmanship; Bailey Sisterson, Gragnani Family Scholarship

■ SMALL ANIMAL HIGHLIGHTS: Grand Champion Pen of 3 Market: Jeremiah Costilla, Reserve Grand Champion Pen of 3 Market, 1st Lightweight Mini rex solid Doe, 1st Lightweight mini rex solid buck, 1st Lightweight mini rex broken: Ariana Zamora, Paige Mercer, Supreme Champion Turkey; Jaliyah Jones, Reserve Champion Turkey; Elizabeth Brandon, Supreme Champion Layer Hens; Aiden Belknap, JR high 1st place showmanship poultry; Logan Price, Intermediate 1st place showmanship poultry, overall round robin showmanship reserve champion; Patrick Palmer: 1st place advanced showmanship poultry, overall round robin showmanship champion



Art students earn ribbons

The creativity and imagination of Clovis Unified artists captured 15 top ribbons this year at the Big Fresno Fair. The Junior Exhibit Art Awards had a standing-room only crowd as winners were announced for a variety of categories. CUSD students swept the Middle School Art awards for ceramics, crafts and fine art drawing. Seven district high school students won Best of Show in their medium, and five more awards in specialty categories were received.

"This is like the Valley Championship for the Arts!" said Clovis West High art teacher Craig Campbell. "We have very dedicated and gifted instructors that provide awesome opportunities and tutelage to our CUSD students."

"Having the students' artwork displayed at the Big Fresno Fair is a big deal for the kids as they know that thousands of people will get to admire their talent and work," said Clovis East art teacher Danny Vasquez.

■ THE PHYLLIS JOHNSON BEST OF SHOW: Drawing: Black & White, Daisy Dressel, Buchanan; Drawing: Colored Pencil, Felt Markers Pastel, Oil Pastel, Allison Taylor, Clovis West; Drawing: Black & White Pen, Ink or Black Felt Marker, Endrae Tan, Clovis East; Painting: Tempera Painting or Water Color, Natasha Iqbal, Buchanan; Ceramic: Sculpture, Micaela Devincenzi, Clovis North; Ceramic: Pottery, Functional Pieces, Sarah Richards, Clovis East; Photography: Manipulated or Altered, Sam Pakingan, Clovis East

■ MIDDLE SCHOOL ART AWARDS: Ceramics: Kailin Withrow, Reyburn Intermediate; Crafts: Leah Fisk, Alta Sierra Intermediate; Fine Arts Drawings: Eliana Anguiano, Kastner Intermediate

■ ALLARD'S HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS: Daisy Dressel, Buchanan High; Morgan O'Neal, Buchanan High; Cailyn Ross, Clovis North High

■ SOCIETY OF WEST COAST ARTISTS: Casey Andrus, Buchanan High

■ CLAY MIX AWARD: Clovis East High

■ FLORAL: Misheila Pena, 1st place floral arrangement; Gianna Debbas, 1st place floral arrangement; Kylie Lewis, first place floral arrangement; Kaya Rengh, first place floral arrangement; Ornamental Horticulture and Collaborative mentoring class (pairing of general education students as mentors to our special education students): 1st place classic scarecrow; 2nd place scary scarecrow and funny scarecrow; 3rd place pretty scarecrow; and 1st place succulent arrangements



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Editor's note: "Around the District" is a regular feature of CUSD Today that highlights positive activities and accomplishments of students and schools throughout the district.

Part of the CW nest!

The Clovis West Class of 2036 are already showing their Golden Eagles pride thanks to a special gift. Around 500 kindergartners in the Clovis West area received a "Future Golden Eagles" t-shirt hand delivered from Clovis West High Principal Eric Swain, Kastner Intermediate Principal May Moua and Clovis West High Transition Specialist Amber Kalustian.

The shirts were deliberately made in adult sizes so the 5-year-olds could grow into them over their school years. "This shirt looks like a dress on me!" said one kindergartner to Swain. A note sent home with the shirt encouraged parent to take a yearly photo of their child, so they could look back one day at their journey to Clovis West High.

"Our hope is that this shirt will symbolize their future goals as they are developing and creating some of their most cherished memories as future Golden Eagles," said Kalustian.

A special thanks to Clovis West alum Louis Brosi who sponsored the shirts.

Golden State success

Eight Clovis Community Day high school students were VIP's at a recent Golden State Warriors basketball game, enjoying courtside seats and a gourmet meal. The trip to the Bay Area game was a reward for students who have been showing great academic growth and personal development.



"It was more than just a basketball game for these students; it was a chance to celebrate their accomplishments and to be recognized for their hard work," said CCDS Principal Sean Osterberg. "It was also a reminder that anything is possible if they set their minds to it. This experience is something they will never forget."

Said CCDS student Dayli - pictured left with student Shalaya, middle, and CCDS teacher Katie Hammond, right - of the experience: "The entire trip was amazing, but knowing that my mindset and dedication made it happen made me proud of how far I've come."

The tickets were generously donated by local philanthropists (and friends of a Community Day School teacher) Mark and Mary Stevens.

Desk on the roof



Tarpey Elementary Principal Tachua Vue, Ed.D., stepped out of her office for a day - to work up on the roof of the school as a reward for the entire student body surpassing the school's \$25,000 fundraising goal. Throughout the day, she

Veterans Day celebrated at CUSD

In November, Clovis Unified students recognized Veterans Day by hearing from guest speakers, holding assemblies, making cards for veterans and participating in community events.

"I hope our students were able to take away a sense of pride and appreciation for their country as well as a better understanding of what Veterans Day is about and why we honor the brave men and women who have served or are currently serving our country in the military," said Miramonte Elementary Principal Michelle Dodson of her school's special assembly.

Some of the many activities designed to honor veterans and active military members follow.

■ In an inaugural event, Miramonte Elementary invited several parents and grandparents who are veterans or actively serving in the military to a Veterans Day school assembly. The entire student body met on the blacktop with their classroom American flags, recited the Pledge of Allegiance together, listened to the National Anthem and heard a speech from one of the servicemen in attendance.

■ The Cole Elementary Choir performed a Patriotic Concert at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District as part of the CVMD's activities Nov. 11 that also included a pancake breakfast, car show and "Faces of Veterans" exhibit.

■ Many Clovis Unified students entered the Clovis Veterans Memorial District's Art and Essay contests. With the theme "E. Pluribus Unum: One Nation Under God," students were tasked to create an art piece or submit an essay surrounding the national motto and why it is important. Congratulations to the CVMD Art Contest "Best in Show" winner, sixth-grader **Nese Yilmaz** from Riverview Elementary; and, congratulations to the district-wide winner of the CVMD Essay Contest, eighth-grader **Isabella Abraham** from Alta Sierra Intermediate. Clovis Unified grade-level first-place winners were **Edward Liang**, Fugman, Grade 1; **Allie Liang**, Fugman, Grade 2; **Ariana Sifuentes**, Valley Oak, Grade 3; **Chelsea Park**, Fugman, Grade 4; **Alyssa**



Blancaflor, Mickey Cox, Grade 5; **Christian Gonzales**, Riverview, Grade 6; **Sailor Wimmer**, Alta Sierra, Grade 8. All submitted artwork was displayed at CVMD.

■ Students at Boris Elementary received a unique lesson about Veterans Day when a United States Army Blackhawk Helicopter landed on their campus during an assembly. Students waved, pointed and jumped up and down with excitement as a crew of four circled over the campus and then landed on the football field. U.S. Army Capt. Alexander Martinez, also a parent to two Chargers, spoke about the importance of Veterans Day and ways students can share their gratitude with those that serve in our military. Several students thanked the crew, and some gave them handwritten notes and cards of appreciation.



lowered a bucket from her rooftop office (that even included a desk!) and students put in notes and other treats for their principal.

Bronco scientist in Top 30



A Clovis North science student was among the 30 finalists in the 2023 Society for Science's Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (formerly known as the Broadcom MASTERS) held in Washington, D.C., this November. **Kinnoree Pasha's** science fair project (conducted when she was in eighth grade at Granite Ridge Intermediate) tested ways to reduce the amount of water needed to grow plants.

The Junior Innovators Challenge is a national middle school science and engineering research competition that an estimated 65,000 students participate in through regional

science fairs. The top 10% of intermediate-level projects from around the country affiliated with the Society for Science were considered for a spot in the Top 300, and from that 30 finalists were selected to compete in a final week of STEM challenges. Kinnoree, in developing her project, said she would help her father care for their home vegetable garden. "But while doing so for the last few years, I noticed it needed a lot of water for irrigation," she said. She read about the increasing water shortage in the Valley and wondered, "Is there any way to optimize water use by improving soil's ability to hold water?" From there, she created an automated irrigation system and changed the soil's components to see if she could save water.

Three Clovis Unified students' work also placed in the Top 300 of the Junior Innovators Challenge. They are **Nolan Aalto**, Alta Sierra Intermediate/Buchanan High; **Arnav Guptav**, Granite Ridge; and **Achuth Vinay**, Granite Ridge/Clovis North High.

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District to acquire land near future ed center

By Kelly Avants
CUSD Chief Communications Officer

BOARD BRIEFS

Nov. 8

Stomping feet, clapping hands and voices raised in song marked the start of the Nov. 8 meeting of the Clovis Unified Governing Board, as student vocalists from the Clovis West Chamber Choir delivered a lively performance of two folk songs. Director Tonya Florer led the choir in “Marie Madeleine,” arranged by Jeanette Gallant, and “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around,” arranged by Rollo Dilworth and was met with applause and accolades from those in attendance.

In other action, the board:

■ Approved an agreement to exchange properties with CLW Family Trust. Clovis Unified School District is the owner of approximately 3.68 acres of undeveloped real property located at Herndon and Clovis avenues in Clovis. The district is currently not using the property for classroom instruction or office spaces and will exchange its property with property to be acquired by CLW Family Trust (CLW) near Leonard and Shields avenues and designated as APN 310-310-38 (CLW Property). The CLW property is situated adjacent to the district’s new K-12 educational center, the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center.

■ Approved all conference requests, fundraiser requests, student trip requests, change orders, voluntary community recre-

ation programs, and the Oct. 18 meeting minutes as submitted.

■ Adopted a resolution for the annual agreement with the California Department of Education for services to be provided to preschool students in the district during the 2024-25 school year.

■ Approved the move of the Career Technical Education Salary Schedule to the Certificated Salary Schedule.

■ Awarded construction bids related to Phase I of the district campus project

at Fowler and Herndon avenues, and a construction management agreement with Mark Wilson Construction for the project.

■ Approved a resolution declaring the intent to convey an easement to Fresno Irrigation District for pipeline and other incidental purposes for the Herndon/Fowler campus project.

■■■■
The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Governing Board will take place at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 in the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis.

CUSD teachers are EOY finalists

Several Clovis Unified teachers have been named finalists in the Annual Region 7 California League of Educators “Educator of the Year” awards! Seventeen teachers from the district’s elementary, intermediate and high schools were chosen for their educational excellence from among dozens of nominations from throughout the region. Region 7 includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties. Winners of Region 7 will be announced this winter, and they will be advanced for consideration of the California League of Educators’ state title to be announced in 2024. Congratulations to the finalists!

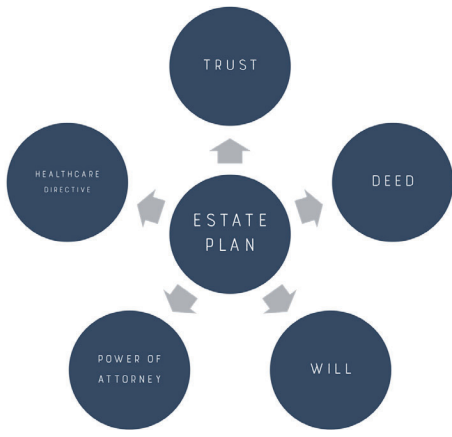
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL: Bryan Byrd, Cedarwood; Julie Terrence, Clovis; Courtney Spurrier, Freedom; Michelle Houston, Mickey Cox; Dina Emerzian, Pinedale; Kathryn Konze, Riverview; Roberto Sandoval, Tarpey

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL LEVEL: Rachael Watson, Alta Sierra; Mark Prandini, Clark; Ellen Nielson, Granite Ridge; Richelle Renfro, Kastner; Scott Case, Reyburn

HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL: Stephen Kidd, Buchanan; Ralph Garcia, Clovis; Johnathan Benson, Clovis North; Stephanie Avery, Clovis West; Amy Bonsell, Gateway

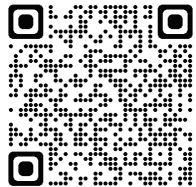
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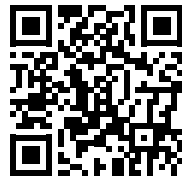
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Want to take a class before graduation? CCC is still accepting Spring 2024 applications for the High School Enrichment program. Visit www.cloviscollege.edu/hse for more information.



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- **Latinx** students' rate of transfer to a 4-year institution.
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CCCCO Student Success Metrics per 100 students, 2021-22 academic year

