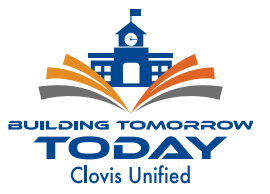


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CUSD Today

August 2022

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

Volume 25, No. 1

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

WELCOME TO CLOVIS UNIFIED

It's going to be a great year!



CUSD file photos.

W

ELCOME to *CUSD Today's* Back-to-School edition, where we are delighted to share some of the exciting plans afoot for our students as they prepare to return to our 52 campuses.

Our team has been carefully preparing for the start of the 2022-23 school year, and we can't wait to welcome our students back to campus on Aug. 22. There's a lot that goes into getting classrooms and campuses ready for that first day of school, and in the pages of this issue of *CUSD Today*, you'll find news and information that will help you and your family be ready to launch into the new year with success.



From our youngest students preparing for their first-ever day of transitional kindergarten to the Senior Class of 2023, every day matters. Our focus is on providing our students with a wide range of skills that will propel them forward into a future full of opportunity and potential. We recognize that our students ARE our future, and with

every lesson, every event, every learning experience comes another chance for our students to engage in the building of a bright and positive future for themselves and our world.

In the pages of this Back-to-School issue, you will find useful insights about preparing students to come back to campus like recent changes to the CUSD Dress Code and information about new bell schedules in place following California's implementation of its late start law. You will also find tips about getting ready for school and how parents can best stay informed about district and school news.

Please know that our full Clovis Unified educational team of 6,000-plus employees is here to support you, and we encourage you to reach out with any needs.

We are building tomorrow in our classrooms today, and we are ready for a great year!

Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

Superintendent



Clovis Unified School District begins the new year on Aug. 22. We have been preparing all summer for our students, and will be ready when the school bells ring. Buses are polished, classrooms are prepared, and staff is excited to greet each child, from brand new kindergarteners who are the Class of 2035 to our seniors in their final year, who are the Class of 2023!



10

quick facts!

Get ready for the new school year

1. Clovis Unified School District begins the new school year Monday, Aug. 22.
2. School starting and ending times have changed. Check your school's website for the new bell schedule.
3. COVID health and safety mandates as determined by California and Fresno County health agencies are followed. For the latest, please see cUSD.com.
4. Cafeteria breakfast and lunch meals will again be free this year for all students. Daily school menus can be found at www.cUSD.nutrislice.com or on Clovis Unified's mobile app.
5. Check out Clovis Unified's dress code, which was revised earlier this year, before doing any back-to-school shopping. Information can be found at cUSD.com/dresscode.
6. Bus schedules are available at cUSD.com/ViewSchoolBusSchedules.aspx
7. Seven CUSD schools will have new principals: Matt Papendorf, Copper Hills Elementary; Carisa Cordova, Fancher Creek Elementary; Jeremy
8. Back-to-School Night will be held in the first few weeks of school at each campus. Parents should plan on attending to learn from their child's teacher about coursework, expectations, grading policies and preferred communication methods. Dates and times can be found on individual school websites.
9. Parents can help their school and students by filling out the Educational Benefit Survey when completing the Annual Information Update. The survey can also be accessed through cUSD.com/EducationalBenefitSurvey. Data from this survey can lead to additional state and federal funds for schools and programs.
10. CUSD's free mobile app keeps you in touch with your school and upcoming events. Be sure to download the app from the Apple and Android stores and follow your school, if you haven't already.



CUSD Today photos by Darren Grubel.



It's going to be a great year!



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Clovis Community College has late start classes. There is still time to enroll!

Courses listed are 100% online. Online, hybrid, and in-person classes available.

Section Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
COUN-53-81688	College & Life Management	Aug. 29	Dec. 9
ECE-14-80045	Lifespan Development	Aug. 22	Dec. 9
FN-35-80074	Nutrition & Health	Aug. 22	Dec. 9
HIST-12-80754	US History Since 1865	Sept. 7	Nov. 2
OT-10-80104	Medical Terminology	Aug. 29	Dec. 9
PSY-2-80723	General Psychology	Sept. 19	Dec. 9
STAT-7-80117	Elementary Statistics	Sept. 19	Dec. 9



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Clovis Community College is the college of choice for academic excellence, innovation, and student achievement. Clovis Community College is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Get to know us!

School area system creates smaller, vibrant communities

CUSD Today

For families new to Clovis Unified, it is helpful to understand the structure of the district and how to interact with us. We highly value people-to-people connection and want to hear from you.

The district is the 14th largest public education district in California with around 43,000 students. It operates five traditional high schools, five intermediate schools and 34 elementary schools, and it also oversees four alternative education schools, an online school, an outdoor school, an adult education school and jointly operates the Center for Advanced Research and Technology with Fresno Unified.

Clovis Unified's 200-square-mile boundary includes most of the City of Clovis, 20 percent of the City of Fresno and parts of Fresno County.

In order to maintain a smaller, interactive approach, the district is divided into five school areas and an educational service area that each has an overseeing area superintendent.

Each school area includes a high school and its feeder schools. We proudly have Bear Nation (Buchanan), Cougar Country (Clovis), The Wolf Pack (Clovis East), The Stampede (Clovis North) and Eagle Country (Clovis West)! Educational Services includes our online, alternative and specialty schools.

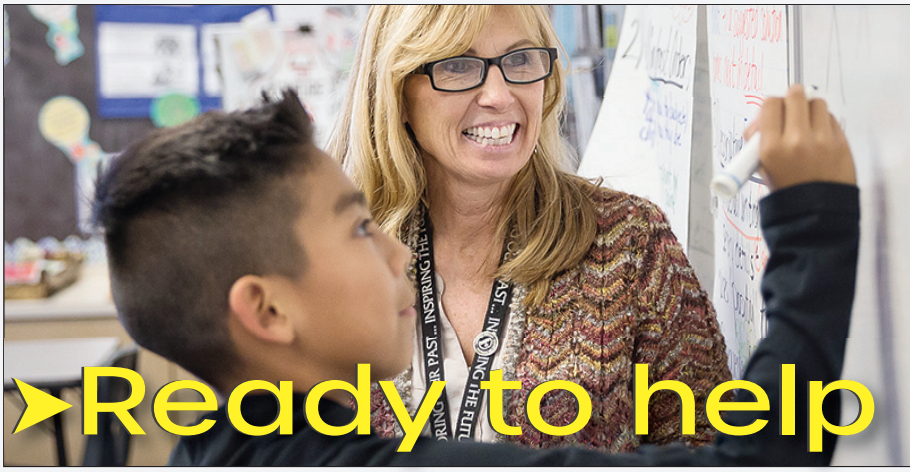
Clovis Unified will always be united in its core values and aims to provide the best education we can to all of our students, and our area structure supports those goals by creating easier access and customized leadership. Smaller areas help keep our growing size in check and allows for people to interact with one another.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Parents and the community are invited to share comments, questions or concerns by contacting a child's classroom teacher, school administrator or area superintendent. School websites have staff and administrator contact information. During back-to-school night, teachers will review with parents the best method to connect with them – some prefer emails, others like phone calls or texts.

Teachers generally should be a parent's first stop, but parents are always welcome to contact school staff, including the principal or a school's area superintendent as needed.

Working together, we will make a powerful team for our students and create a path for them to succeed!



➤ **Ready to help**

Clovis Unified's primary purpose is to provide an outstanding educational experience during the school day for our transitional kindergartners through high school seniors. We also want to support our students and their families in areas outside of the classrooms that will put all of our students on pathways to success.

A multitude of resources and opportunities are available at each school, ranging from emotional wellness support, academic counseling, special education, technology, co-curricular activities, teams and clubs, categorical programs and supplemental services. Check out your school's and Clovis Unified's websites to find out more.

➤ CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Clovis Unified's Child Development team offers academic enrichment and childcare for those who are in need of specialized services. They serve the unique needs of the diverse populations within CUSD, as well as provide a bridge between home and school. Activities are designed to be a balance of educational, social, and recreational opportunities for the children attending.

The programs are:

■ **CAMPUS CLUB:** A fee-based before- and after-school enrichment and childcare program for grades K-6, available at most CUSD elementary school sites. Before-school care starts at 7 a.m. and after-school care concludes at 6 p.m. Care is also available during fall, winter, spring and summer breaks. Details: 327-9160, www.cusd.com/campusclub.aspx.

■ **PRESCHOOL:** Clovis Unified offers two types of preschool programs: state funded and private pay at multiple elementary sites. The state-funded programs are Monday to Friday for 3 hours per day and available at no-cost to qualifying families. Private-pay program hours vary. Details: 327-9180, www.cusd.com/Preschool.aspx.

■ **EXPANDED LEARNING OPPOR-**

TUNITIES PROGRAM (ELOP): New this year, ELOP funding will provide additional free before- and after-school learning programs for students in grades TK-6 at some of the elementary school sites. Learn more: 327-9173.

■ **ASES:** The After School Education and Safety Program provides a safe and educationally enriching alternative for K-6 children during non-school hours through partnerships with local community resources. Priority registration for this free program is given to homeless and foster youth, and it is offered at 12 CUSD sites. Details: 327-0673, www.cusd.com/ASESprogram.aspx.

■ **YOUTH PARENT PROGRAM:** This program serves pregnant or parenting teens and their children, and its goal is to assist students earn their high school diploma while providing helpful resources and services. Details: 327-9186, www.cusd.com/YouthParentProgram.aspx.

➤ CAMPUS CATERING

Campus Catering creates healthful, delicious meals for students across the district. This year, meals will be free for all students for the entire school year.

Campus Catering employees serve more than 4.5 million meals annually and are ready to welcome back students with a smile and a tasty meal to fuel them for learning.

By introducing a variety of choices like fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins, the Campus Catering team is teaching students to develop healthy eating habits.

The food service team hosts taste tests and focus groups with students throughout the school year to make sure our menus are full of customer favorites like breaded chicken drumsticks, crispy Cobb salad, freshly baked whole-grain rolls and more.

Parents and students can view breakfast and lunch menus on the CUSD app and clicking on "Meal Menus" on your school's resource list, or by visiting www.cusd.com/nutrislice.

➤ TRANSPORTATION

Clovis Unified school buses provide transportation to and from school for students who live outside an established radius zone and for those meeting the eligibility criteria for ridership.

New this year, all student riders will be given a bus ID card that will be swiped when boarding or departing a bus. Called the Tyler Drive, the program will help with student safety, tracking, maintaining seating capacities and ensuring students are departing at the correct bus stop.

Students residing outside the walk boundaries of their home school will receive a card. Intermediate and High School students will receive their cards when they pick up their back to school packets. Elementary students will receive their cards from their bus driver the first week of school. Students will all be routed to the bus stop closest to their home.

Learn more and find bus schedules at <https://www.cusd.com/Transportation.aspx>.

➤ CUSD RESOURCE LINKS:

- 2022-23 School Year. Latest updates, quick facts about 2022-23 School Year. www.cusd.com/BacktoSchool.
- Homework: Creating healthy homework habits and tips on how parents can offer support. <https://www.cusd.com/Homework.aspx>
- Nursing Services: Services, resources and health information. <https://www.cusd.com/NursingServices.aspx>
- Online Safety: Guidelines and tips. <https://www.cusd.com/InternetSocialMediaAwareness.aspx>
- Special Education: Programs, resources, supports. <https://www.cusd.com/SpecialEducation.aspx>
- Supplemental Services: Categorical programs, parent involvement. <https://www.cusd.com/SupplementalServices.aspx>
- Technology: Help for students, password reset, how to videos. <https://www.cusd.com/Technology-HelpforStudents.aspx>
- Wellness: Multiple supports regarding wellness, mental health, mindfulness and more. Site is managed by Clovis Unified's lead psychologists. <https://www.cusd.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject.aspx>

<p>BUCHANAN AREA Area Superintendent: Kevin Kerney, 327-9370 High School: Buchanan Intermediate: Alta Sierra Elementary: Century, Cole, Dry Creek, Garfield, Tarpey, Woods</p>	    	<p>CLOVIS NORTH AREA Area Superintendent: Darin Tockey, 327-9355 High School: Clovis North Intermediate: Granite Ridge Elementary: Bud Rank, Copper Hills, Fugman, Mountain View, Riverview</p>
<p>CLOVIS AREA Area Superintendent: Scott Dille, Ed.D., 327-9360 High School: Clovis Intermediate: Clark Elementary: Cedarwood, Clovis, Gettysburg, Jefferson, Mickey Cox, Red Bank, Sierra Vista, Weldon</p>		<p>CLOVIS WEST AREA Area Superintendent: Marc Hammack, Ed.D., 327-9375 High School: Clovis West Intermediate: Kastner Elementary: Fort Washington, Liberty, Lincoln, Nelson, Maple Creek, Pinedale, Valley Oak</p>
<p>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES Area Superintendent: Steve France, 327-9380 Specialty Schools: Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART); Clovis Adult Education; Clovis Community Day Elementary; Clovis Community Day Secondary; Clovis Online; Enterprise High; Gateway High; Sierra Outdoor School</p>		



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➤ Announcements

We'll keep you informed!

■ District, schools provide multiple ways to stay in touch

If you are reading this edition of *CUSD Today*, thank you. This is one of many tools Clovis Unified uses to keep in touch. Communication is critical in our 43,000-plus student district – the 14th largest public school district in the state.

There are multiple ways Clovis Unified will share information this school year, and we encourage our stakeholders of students, parents, staff and community to watch for these important messages.

Our most frequently updated platform is our website, cusd.com. It should be the first stop when looking for COVID-related updates, district resources, school board agendas or program information. Time-sensitive news will also be sent out through emails as needed; parents

and guardians should make sure their contact information on file is accurate.

On a monthly basis, Clovis Unified mails families and employees *CUSD Today*, from August through June. Our district newspaper – paid for by advertisements by community partners – showcases some of the bigger events and general news of the district while also highlighting many great things going on in our 52 schools.

The district also uses *Two Minutes Today*, a short video blog emailed monthly to parents, to provide information about current news. (Watch for this month's segment that will discuss ways to get ready for the school year and emotional wellness support)

The CUSD Parent Bulletin, a two-sheet newsletter, is produced when it becomes important to delve deeper into a trending topic to provide parents with information to consider for their child, such as emotional wellness, navigating social media or the dangers of vaping. These

reports are directly emailed to parents and contain tips on how to talk with your child about these challenging issues.

Clovis Unified's social media platforms are filled with some of the daily happenings of our students, schools and staff. Followers on Facebook (Clovis Unified School District) and Instagram (ClovisUSD) will learn of a variety of district good news, upcoming workshops, awards and events.

Additionally, each of our schools has its own newsletter, website and social media channels with useful information specific to that campus. They also offer links to Clovis Unified's ParentConnect, NutriSlice and PeachJar that let parents and students easily find out about grades, school-work, lunch menus and more.

Many of these resources are available on Clovis Unified's mobile app, and those who do not yet have it on their phone or device are encouraged to download it today!

Income applications help schools secure funding

Families are urged to fill out the Educational Benefit Survey that is part of the Annual Information Update and can also be found online at cusd.com/EducationalBenefitSurvey. Previously this form was required for students to qualify for no-cost meals, but with meals free now for all students, some families who qualify may not have thought it necessary to fill out the Educational Benefit survey. This important data can make available



federal and state funding for schools with concentrations of students in need.

Additionally, those who qualify become eligible for many benefits including discounted home internet, test fees waived for AP, SAT and ACT tests, and discounted college application fees. Please help your schools and our students by filling out this form.

Find out more at: <https://www.cusd.com/NoCostMeals.aspx>.

School safety updates

Clovis Unified has spent the last several months evaluating its safety system and procedures. Enhanced training and protocol refinement with current staff, new staff and area law enforcement is ongoing.

The district is implementing a system envisioned last fall that increases the speed of a campus lockdown and allows for quicker messaging to parents. The system includes a new alert system for administrators; teacher training and requiring all classrooms with students present to be locked; and later installing an automated system that can lock unmanned campus doors (library, bathrooms, cafeteria, etc.) from a remote location. Students will receive training and safety drill practices on procedures.

Bonner awards

Ten Clovis Unified elementary schools were awarded the Virtues and Character Recognition Award by the Fresno State Kremen School of Education and Human Development Bonner Advisory Board, it was announced in June. The award recognizes schools' dedication to character development and civic education. Congratulations to Boris, Cedarwood, Clovis, Cole, Fancher Creek, Freedom, Pinedale, Reagan, Weldon and Young elementary schools!

Annual information update

Each year Clovis Unified School District requires parents or guardians to review the address, contact phone numbers, emergency and health information for their student that is contained in Parent Connect and to review the district's policies and procedures.

The update process is now in process. Per Clovis Unified policy and student safety, this information must be reviewed and updated before the new school year begins Aug 22. Students will not receive their schedule or teacher assignments until the forms are completed.

Emails have been sent to all parents and guardians on file with full instructions. The updates can be accessed through Parent Connect accounts using <https://qweb>.

clovisusd.k12.ca.us/Parent-Portal. A temporary Parent Connect Help Desk is available at 327-0789.

New students, employment-based enrollment open now

Registration remains open for the 2022-23 school year for students who are new to the district. Additionally, employment-based enrollment is available for students whose parent or guardian works within the Clovis Unified boundaries but does not live within the boundaries. Instructions and online pre-registration forms for enrollment from preschool to 12th grade are

available at cusd.com/enrollment.aspx.

Immunizations, physicals available at SV Center

Clovis Unified's Sierra Vista Children's Health Center is open Mondays through Thursdays for immunizations, well-child exams and sports physicals. The services are available to children up to 18 years of age and are free of charge to income-eligible families. Patients who have Medi-Cal are also eligible for these services as well as those who do not have health insurance coverage. Sports Physicals are \$30, cash only. The center is located on the Sierra Vista

Elementary School campus at 510 Barstow Ave., Clovis. Appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling 327-7976.

Mark your calendars!

Clovis Unified's 2022-23 student calendar is available online and indicates holidays, grading periods and end of quarters/semesters for the upcoming, new school year.

Here are a few key dates:

- Aug. 22, School starts
- Nov. 21 to 25, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 26 to Jan. 9, Winter Break
- April 3 to 10, Spring Break
- June 9, School ends

The Class of 2023 can circle the date on the calendar for their graduation celebration. Clovis Unified's ceremony schedule is:

- Clovis West High, May 30, Veterans Stadium
- Buchanan High, May 31, Veterans Stadium
- Clovis North High, June 1, Veterans Stadium
- Clovis Adult Education, June 3, Mercedes Edwards Theatre
- Clovis Online School, June 3 or 6, TBD
- Alternative Education, June 5, Mercedes Edwards Theatre
- Clovis East High, June 7, Lamonica Stadium

■ Clovis High, June 8, Lamonica Stadium

Win a home, support CUSD!

The Foundation for Clovis Schools is one of 12 community nonprofits that will benefit from Granville Homes "Hope of Hope" fundraiser. Granville and its trade partners are donating a brand-new house valued at more than \$500,000 in Deauville East (in the Buchanan area) and selling a limited number of tickets to be entered into a drawing Sept. 28.

Tickets are \$100 each. Also being offered is a two-ticket bundle for \$200 that includes two tickets for the house and automatically en-

ters those tickets in an additional drawing for a 2-year lease on a Lexus SUV. There are other additional prizes.

Tickets purchased directly from the Foundation for Clovis Schools benefit Clovis Unified through student scholarships and teacher grants. To purchase a ticket call the Foundation at 327-9095.

The Foundation for Clovis Schools is a nonprofit fundraising organization made up of volunteers that supports the district with such programs as Students of Promise, Superintendent's Breakfast and Classroom Grants.

Details: FoundationFor-ClovisSchools.com.

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NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Each year holds the potential for greatness

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

AS MUCH as our students anticipate the start of school with excitement and maybe a little trepidation over the as yet unknown, there is not a teacher around who doesn't do the same. I remember from my teaching days the eagerness with which I would anticipate the first day of the school year and the first opportunity to meet my students.



Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

Each one had a unique personality and learning style, and it was always a joy to begin the process of getting to know each student, to understand how they learned best, to discover what kinds of things engaged them in lessons and what caused them to lose interest. Who would be the quiet and introspective ones and who would be outgoing and a bit of a chatterbox?

In the weeks leading up to the first day of school, I would

pour over their student records, carefully plan out my lessons, ponder how best to ignite a love of learning in their hearts, decorate my room to create a welcoming and inviting environment, and polish desks so that my students' first impression was a great one. I recognized that my work had an impact far beyond any single school year, and that as an educator I was building tomorrow in my classroom today.

Though my role as Superintendent has taken me a few steps away from those earlier days of my career, I know that the same level of detail and preparation is happening at every school and grade level of our district in the weeks leading up to the start of the 2022-23 school year. I also know that as much time and attention our classroom teachers are putting into readying their instructional space, there is an even larger team of support staff who have spent the past several months focused on the myriad details needed to be ready to



greet close to 43,000 students on Aug. 22.

Almost before the final school bell of the 2021-22 school year rang, teams from our maintenance and construction departments were at work on projects

to keep our school buildings in good repair.

Our bus drivers have been thoughtfully mapping out efficient transportation routes, so bus riders get to school safely and on time.

Campus catering employees have been developing new recipes and creating inviting lunch and breakfast menus.

School leaders and teams have been planning out events and activities, building opportunities for families to connect to their schools, and laying the groundwork for achieving a high standard in the coming year.

In Clovis Unified, we believe every single employee plays a part in the educational process and has a role to play in the success of our students.

From the school registrar who may be the first contact a new family has to our district, to the bus drivers who greet students early in the morning and often bid them goodnight after a late game or activity, to the caring nurse who tends to hurts or illness, or our

technology team who ensures stable and secure access to the tools we use for learning and business, the list of people working to ensure we deliver a great educational experience for our students is long and diverse. We want each child to be the best he or she can be in mind, body and spirit, and we're willing to put in the effort to create opportunities for them to achieve their full potential.

Our theme for the 2022-23 school year reflects this: *Building Tomorrow Today*.

This idea serves as a constant reminder that each day matters in achieving our ultimate goal, whether that is in the classroom, on the playing field, in the cafeteria or in the office.

The students who will arrive in our classrooms in August represent our community's future, and we embrace the responsibility and obligation to do our best for them.

There are still a few weeks before school begins but be assured that there are 6,000+ educators in Clovis Unified who are eager to welcome your child to school, and who may already be lying awake at night planning how to make sure this year is your child's best one yet.

TIPS FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR

Start now to prepare and support your child

CUSD Today

More than 43,000 students will return to Clovis Unified's campuses Aug. 22, but helping students now can give them a great start to having a successful school year.

The following recommendations are offered by Clovis Unified teachers, staff and administrators that will help children get ready!

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

- **Visit school** to help your student become familiar with where things are. Be sure to find your child's classroom, or classrooms for those in intermediate or high school. Note where the restroom, library, cafeteria and nurse's office are located.
- **Identify your child's drop-off and pick-up meeting place** on the school site. If a child is participating in Campus Club or taking a bus home, be sure he or she knows where to go.
- **If your child will be walking to school, practice the route.** If possible, arrange for your child to walk to school with a friend or child in the neighborhood.
- **Visit the school website.** It contains valuable information including school start and end times, Back-to-School Night dates, lunch menus, and details about getting involved in co-curricular activities. There is also a full listing of teachers and administrative staff, including contact information.
- **If your child is interested in sports or co-curricular activities, find out** through on the website how to get involved and when signups are. Help your child prepare and begin to train or practice.
- **Ease students back into a regular school schedule.** The week before school starts, have students go to bed and wake up earlier a little more each day, moving them closer to what the school bedtime/wake-up routine will be. (*Many Clovis Unified school starting and ending times have been changed – be sure to check our your school's website for this year's bell schedule.*)
- **Grab a good book.** If students have not been reading this summer, there is still time to warm up those skills. Have bedtime reading with younger students.
- **Set up a homework station in the home.** Find the best place for students to get their work done, and have kids help as you equip it with necessary supplies.
- **Go back-to-school shopping.** Take inventory of what your child has and fill in the gaps with what he or she needs. Keep in mind Clovis Unified's dress code if purchasing clothes. On many teachers' websites (found



CUSD Today photos by Darren Grubel.

through the school website), class supply lists are available. Other items to consider are a backpack, water bottle or athletic shoes.

- **Talk about what that first day may be like** and ask your child how he or she feels about it. Offer reassurance, enthusiasm and support. Let them know it's OK to be nervous and let them know that lots of other students feel the very same way.
- **Have your child plan out** what he or she will wear for the first day of school.
- **Encourage your student** to enter the new school year with a mindset of meeting new people and having new experiences. Talk about getting involved at school and joining at least one activity such as a club, academic or sports team, or the performing arts.
- **Fuel the body well.** Take a shopping trip with your child now to help choose foods that are nutritious and that they will enjoy bringing to school.
- **Pre-make a few dinners** that can be frozen. Having meals ready the first week of school can help the whole family keep things running smooth.

AFTER SCHOOL STARTS

- **Make sure your child eats breakfast** before school. Have students bring a water bottle to keep hydrated throughout the day. Pack a good lunch. Send a few healthy snacks.
- **Be sure your child gets enough sleep.** Doctors recommend children up to the fifth grade get as much as 10

to 11 hours of sleep each night.

- **Establish regular weekday routines** for school, homework, mealtime and bedtime.
- **Have your child go to bed organized** with backpack, P.E., or co-curricular clothes and equipment ready for the next day.
- **Make lunches the night before.**
- **Drive safe.** Stop when the school bus red lights are flashing, indicating students are boarding or exiting, and pay attention to crossing guards and school speed limits.
- **Keep informed** through the school's website. Review all materials the school sends home.
- **If the first couple of days are a little difficult: remain positive and calm.** Let your child know you care and are there to support him or her.
- **Check in with your child after school.** Review homework. Follow your student's progress on Parent Connect. If a child begins to struggle in a subject, talk it over with his or her teacher.
- **Help your child learn how to keep organized** by creating check lists or using a daily planner. Students should note their homework assignments, upcoming deadlines, practice schedules, club meeting times, when permission slips are due and any other important dates.
- **Plan some down time for your child.** Kids do better having some time to play or relax. Encourage them to go outside, listen to music, ride a bike or play a game.
- **Attend Back-to-School Night** and meet your child's teacher. This informative night provides parents with an understanding about the structure and expectations.
- **Consider volunteering** in your child's class, library or parent club.
- **Students, don't procrastinate.** Plan your week ahead and don't leave things until the last minute. Pack your backpack the night before.
- **Students, take P.E. class seriously.** Set fitness goals and try to improve daily.
- **Students, put your phones away** and spend part of your free-time unplugged. Talk with friends, get outside or join in a family activity.
- **Secondary students, always communicate with your teacher** about upcoming co-curricular events that will take you out of class. Find out how to make up the missed work and instruction.
- **Secondary students, remember your learning director and counselor are there to help you succeed.** If you have a problem – academic, social or emotional – talk with them as there is support available to assist you.
- **Everyone, count on having a great school year!**

— 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.

CUSD Today Staff

Publishing & Editorial
Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Avenue
Clovis, CA 93611
Telephone (559) 327-9094
cusdtoday@cusd.com

Kelly Avants, APR
Chief Communications Officer
327-9092

Patti J. Lippert
Managing Editor
327-9094

Verna Garcia
Graphic Designer
224-9711

CUSD Governing Board Members

Tiffany Stoker Madsen
President
392-1014

David DeFrank
Vice President
327-9000

Yolanda Moore
Clerk
437-6580

Hugh H. Awtrey
437-6580

Steven G. Fogg
269-7000

Betsy Sandoval
291-7564

CUSD Administration

Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent
327-9100

Norm Anderson
Deputy Superintendent
327-9107

Robyn Castillo, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
Instructional Services
327-9373

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
School Leadership
327-9350

Barry Jager
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources and
Employee Relations
327-9308

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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. In the following, we share some exciting events from the end of the 2022 school year and summer.



Hope of America winners

Five Clovis Unified eighth graders received the Hope of America Award from the Old Town Clovis Kiwanis. The award recognizes students who demonstrated academic accomplishments, leadership and good character. Receiving the honor were Logan Wulf, Alta Sierra Intermediate; Jesus De La Cruz Jr., Clark Intermediate; Stella Seita, Granite Ridge Intermediate; Isabella Herting, Kastner Intermediate; and Connor Sandoval, Reyburn Intermediate.

Imaginations soar at State

Four Clovis Unified elementary Destination Imagination teams competed in the State Finals at the Riverside Convention Center, with Liberty Elementary students Felicity Hardy and Franchesca DeMeza of the team "The Crewmates" earning third place in the elementary technical challenge. Other teams were the Mighty Miners (Liberty), Marlin Builders (Fugman) and Squad Goals (Liberty). Also recognized at the State Finals were seniors from the Buchanan High team "Tomato Twist" who are Hailey Ferris, Amelia Gillanders and Jacob Chant.

Art to be published

Reyburn Intermediate eighth-grader Jaquelyn Aguire won the Clovis Unified Budget Book Art Contest, and her work will be made into the cover of the district's 2022-23 Budget Book. Runners up, whose work will be section dividers within the book, are Jaisley Garduno, Fort Washington Elementary, first grade; Dane Herwaldt, Woods Elementary, fifth grade; Amara Rankin, Woods Elementary, fifth grade; and Isabella Mayorga, Clovis West High, 10th grade.

State history champions

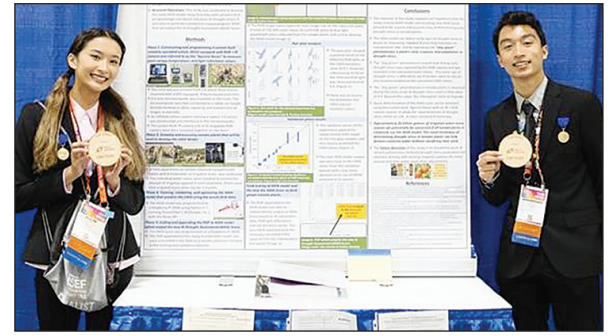
Three Clovis Unified students won first place in their respective categories at the California State History Day. They advanced to the national competition that was held

CN siblings win at international science fair

Clovis North High students and siblings Pauline Estrada and John Benedict Estrada continue to earn awards for their science fair project that looks at solutions to the impact of drought on agriculture. This summer they won the 2022 U.S. National Stockholm Junior Water Prize, and this month, they will take their research abroad and compete at the International Stockholm Junior Water Prize in August.

At the end of the school year, the duo won first place in the Plant Science category at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair held in Atlanta, after winning at the Fresno County Science and Engineering Fair for their project, "Early Detection of Drought Stress through a Novel AI Drought Assessment Model in Field Grown Tomato Plants Using a Custom-Build 'Specta-Rover'."

The brother and sister previously had individual science fair projects that involved using a rover to detect



hydration needs of farm plants, with John winning the grand prize at ISEF and Pauline, then in intermediate school, winning at the Broadcom Masters. With both in high school for the 2021-22 year, they joined forces to collaborate their ideas and further advance their research.

virtually. Congratulations to, for Group Exhibit, Eliza Taylor and Keira Ngo of Kastner Intermediate, for their project "Jane Addams: Demanding Debate and Leading Diplomacy for Women's Suffrage;" and for Historical Paper, Marco Feng of Alta Sierra Intermediate, for "Bretton Woods Conference: Precedential Success after a History of Failed Economic Diplomacy."

District art awards

Congratulations to artists across Clovis Unified's intermediate and high schools who were awarded top places in the annual CUSD Secondary Art Show. A reception was held at the end of the school year, and the student artwork was displayed in the corridors outside of Clovis Unified's Governing Boardroom. Winning Best of Show for their respective categories are:

Intermediate school

- 2-Dimensional Art: Best of Show – Marlen Pacheco, "Hard to Leave"

- 3-Dimensional Art: Best of Show – Mia Baly, "Glass Waves"

High school

- Sculpture: Best of Show – Hleeda Yang, "Teddy Bear;"

- Pottery: Best of Show – Nicole Bang, "Egg of the New Era"

- Painting and Drawing – 3D Media: Best of Show – James Badua, "Camera/iPhone Holder"

- Classic Photography: Best of Show – Julien Daniel, "Dimensional Portal"

- Altered Image Photography: Best of Show – Marcus Velasquez, "Serenity within Entropy"

- Painting and Drawing: Best of Show – Jocelyn Rummel, "Dr. Lecter"

- 2D Media: Best of Show – Jana Coetzee, "Visual Journal"

- Drawing – Best of Show: Jane Coetzee, "Study of Blue"



CW mechanics win top prize

Clovis West High students Alejandro Garzon-Ramirez and Tyler Copple teamed up to take home a first-place award at University Technical Institute's Top Tech Challenge. Along with the first-place finish in the Auto Top Tech Competition, both students won a \$10,000 scholarship to UTI and a toolbox full of automotive tools for Clovis Unified's Career Technical Education Systems Diagnostics Service & Repair Pathway program at Clovis West High.

During the event, Alejandro and Tyler were given tests and challenges to show their knowledge of automotive tools, systems and repair procedures. Several of the team's classmates cheered them along at the event, including Auto Club Secretary Rashel Rivas and Vice President Haygen Kiser of Clovis West, and Angelina Molina, Alejandro Calderon, and Eric Cosdel of Buchanan High.

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CART

Summer Academy 2022



The Center for Advanced Research and Technology, a collaborative learning lab for high school students, kept its doors open for the CART Summer Academy for younger students for one week this summer. From "Mini-Med School" and "Builders Workshop," to "Robots, Rockets & Airplanes" and "Movie Magic," kids took part in a variety of hands-on projects.



PHOTOS
SPECIAL TO
CUSD TODAY
BY KENNY GILMAN



► BOARD BRIEFS

By Kelly Avants
Chief Communications Officer

June 8

The Governing Board accepted the recommendation of the 40-member Employee Compensation Committee and approved a 7% salary schedule increase effective July 1 and set aside \$12.8 million in the 2022-23 budget to be used to begin implementation, once complete, of the salary schedule market study that was begun in the current fiscal year. Members of the Employee Compensation Committee worked over the year to develop the recommendation and will continue to work on the analysis and data provided by Koff and Associates at the start of the coming year. Also approved in the recommendation is:

■ A continuation of the daily and long-term substitute teacher rates that were increased on a temporary basis this year to \$165 and \$175 daily

■ Elementary and secondary class coverage stipends started on a temporary basis this year will remain in place into the future

■ \$1 million earmarked for use to increase hours of some classified positions to now be eligible for health benefits

In other action, the board:

■ Approved a resolution honoring retiring employees of the district. Earlier in the day, a special event was held to recognize the 134 employees who retired during the past year and thank them for their combined service of more than 2,400 years.

■ Approved the district's 2022-23 Budget, and the annual Education Protection Account as submitted.

■ Approved the 2022-23 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at 1680 David E. Cook Way in Clovis. Complete minutes, agendas and videos of meetings at cUSD.com.

July 13

The Clovis Unified Governing Board continued preparing for the upcoming school year by appointing new leaders to positions vacated by recent retirements, promotions or growth. At the July 13 meeting, the board approved:

■ Janette Garcia Zuniga, currently Director of Child Nutrition in Sanger Unified School District, to Director of Campus Catering.

■ Carrie Carter, currently Director of Special Education, to Administrator, Special Education. This position assumes additional leadership responsibilities in the District's growing special education programs.

■ Carlos Zuniga to learning director at Clovis North High, Hailey Bonds to learning director at Clovis West High, and Amandeep Athwal to learning director at Clovis East High.

In other action, the board:

■ Accepted requests for annual community funded bus routes.

■ Accepted the fourth quarter Williams Report in which the district received zero complaints.

■ Awarded bids for custodial supplies and musical instruments for use in the district's schools.

■ Approved an amendment to the Superintendent's contract related to annual salary.

■ Approved a new job description for an Assistant Director of Nursing Services to support growing needs in the nursing services department.

■ Scheduled a public hearing to sunshine a proposal for an initial collective bargaining agreement between the district and ACE Psychologists and Mental Health Support Providers.

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Community Health Partners is honored to include Dr. Badrinath Kulkarni among our remarkable team of physicians. Dr. Kulkarni completed his pediatric residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and his Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Children's Hospital of Michigan. He moved to the Valley over 18 years ago and has been a leader in pediatric care in our region ever since. He treats every child as he would treat his own children, believing this philosophy helps him understand the unique needs of each child and their family. He also enjoys serving underprivileged children across the globe, having participated in several missions worldwide over the years.

At Community Health Partners, we're proud to work with the Valley's finest physicians, like Badrinath Kulkarni, MD. **So no matter the need, it's met by a community of the best doctors.**

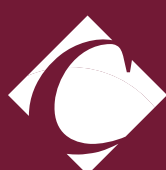


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