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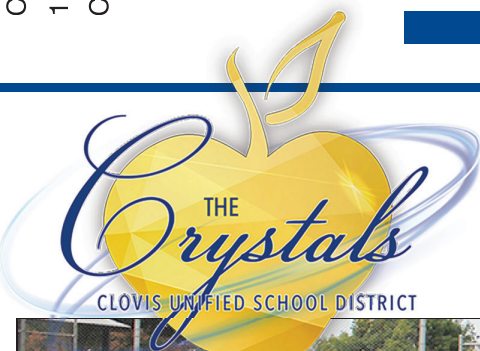
Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

February 2024

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

Volume 26, No. 7

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Best of the Best



Crystal Award winners were surprised with the big news earlier this school year. Photos Special to CUSD Today

Help us celebrate!

Twenty eight Clovis Unified employees will receive the district's highest employee honor Feb. 28. See who and find the details, Page 9.

Changes to school attendance boundaries underway

Clovis Unified's school attendance boundaries are in the process of being revised in anticipation of the 2025 opening of a new high school area. Initial drafts of two different scenario maps are available for review. Area community meetings were held in late January and early February, and several schools potentially impacted by the update are continuing to hold parent meetings. (See your school's website or newsletter for details.)

An online comment form is open for public input through April 12.

One final recommended map proposal will be developed for release March 29, and it will be considered by the CUSD Governing Board for action in April.

Any approved changes would take effect in Fall 2025.

➤ See Page 9 for draft scenario maps (also available online) and other information about the current boundary review process.

Congratulations!

Granite Ridge, Clark earn award

Clark and Granite Ridge intermediate schools have both earned redesignation as 2024 California Schools to Watch, and they will be honored with the award at the California League of Educators' conference in March.

The Schools to Watch program recognizes schools serving intermediate-level students who show significant efforts with continuous growth toward student success in all areas, from academic to social-emotional. Schools must complete an extensive application and have a site visit to be considered for the honor that is sponsored by the California Department of Education, the California League of Educators and the California Middle Grades Alliance.

"Junior High is a rewarding yet challenging grade level to teach," said Clark Intermediate Principal Matt Hernandez. "The magic in what we do is to create a smooth learning transitioning from elementary to high school. The Clark

staff is dedicated to academics, co-curricular, social-emotional learning and so much more. We love what we do!"

Granite Ridge Principal Joshua Shapiro, Ed.D., said the award validates the work of his school's team.

"The dedicated staff and students at Granite Ridge are proud of the exceptional instructional programs and co-curricular options available to every student," Shapiro said. "Achieving success demands dedication and collaboration from all stakeholders. I am pleased to affirm that every person associated with Granite Ridge exemplifies these qualities and supports our mission of educating the whole child in mind, body and spirit."

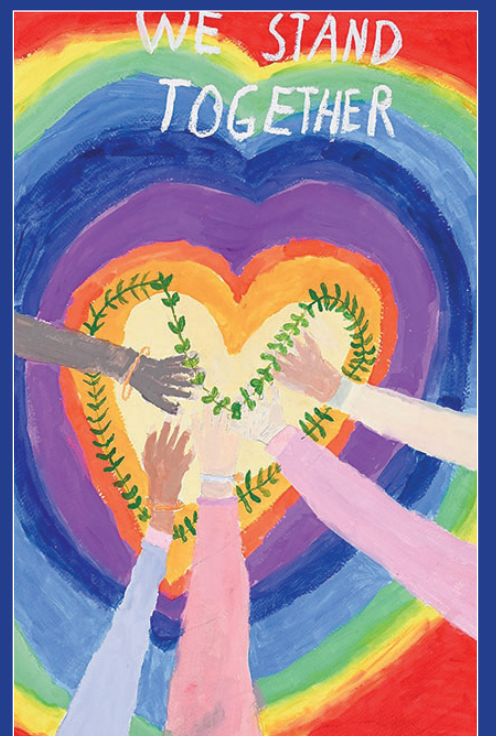
The designation is for a three-year term, and Clovis Unified's Alta Sierra, Kastner and Reyburn intermediate schools also hold the Schools to Watch designation.



"We love what we do!"

Clark Intermediate Principal Matt Hernandez

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.



CUSD student art, essays shine in county MLK contest. See Page 2.



KASTNER TEACHER IS TOP EDUCATOR

➤ Seventh grade math teacher Richelle Renfro is a finalist in state award. See Page 4.



Modeling culture at SV

Students at Sierra Vista Elementary were treated to a very special fashion show that featured teachers and administrators modeling Hmong culture on the “runway.” The Vikings’ staff took to the stage of the multipurpose room to showcase traditional Hmong clothing, instruments, tools and toys. Students cheered as each familiar face emerged on stage wearing beautiful Hmong outfits and were in awe of the culturally significant items that were being demonstrated.

Second grade teacher Yee Thao served as emcee for the event and provided valuable context and insight for everything the students were seeing.

This was the first time the Hmong Fashion Show had been held at Sierra Vista since the pandemic, and bringing it back was extremely important for Principal (and runway model) Jennifer Thao.

“Our school population is very diverse, which is why it is so important to bring back this event,” she said. “We want all our students to better understand and appreciate the different cultures they are around every day.”

Teachers weren’t the only ones who were invited to show off traditional outfits. Students were also encouraged to wear any culturally significant clothing. Those that did were invited on stage at the end of the event to show off their outfits and take part in a group photo.

Curiosity-driven lessons

Four- and five-year-olds are taking charge of their learning in Clovis Unified’s Expanded Learning Club. A new program in which TK and kindergarten students get to pick the topic they will explore has youngsters engaged in the before- and after-school club. They’ve been investigating everything from trees to tractors to farm animals.



The project-based learning program was launched last year and is now being used by nine Expanded Learning Clubs (formerly known as Campus Club) in the district.

Said Shera Scott, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Supervisor, “Children gain deep understanding and knowledge by seeking answers to their questions through rich sensory, firsthand investigations. Projects are usually undertaken by a whole class, divided into small groups. These groups become experts in different aspects of the topic.”

At Cedarwood Elementary, for example, kids wanted to learn about farms, especially the machines. That interest guided instructor Whitney Riccobono to shift her lesson focus and find books and videos on farm machines to show the class. Kids also brought in recycled materials that they used to make their own miniature machines. As the project continued, kids had more questions, sometimes in an entirely new direction, like what kind of tape was best to use when building their mini-models.

“We didn’t have any rules really. We just kept experi-

The dream continues

Several Clovis Unified students were recognized at an awards ceremony for their winning artwork, essays and speeches that reflect upon the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work for Civil Rights.

Sponsored by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the annual MLK contest invites students from kindergarten through 12th grade to participate. This year’s prompt asked students to reflect upon a historical event that improved lives or to imagine a scene that reflects a future of inclusivity.

Congratulations to the top three of each contest category:

■ **ART, Lower Elementary School:** Allie Liang, Fugman, 1st Place; Cassidy Park, Fugman, 2nd; Edward Liang, Fugman, 3rd; **Upper Elementary School:** Evelyn Hanson, Valley Oak, 1st; Chelsea Park, Fugman, 2nd; Amelia Yu, Fugman, 3rd; **Intermediate School:** Dominic Aparicio, Clark, 1st; Kalia Stanton, Clark, 2nd; **High School:** Isabella Avery, Clovis, 1st; Summer Jewell, Clovis, 2nd; Riley Higuera, Clovis, 3rd.

■ **SPEECH, Elementary School:** Alice Feng, Fugman, 1st; Ava Kim, Fugman, 2nd; **High School:** Angad Dulai, Clovis North, 1st; Priya Prajapati, Clovis North, 3rd.



■ **ESSAY, Elementary School:** Blake McLaskey, Fort Washington, 1st; Paige Liang, Fugman, 2nd; Ajooni Cheema, Century, 3rd; **Intermediate School:** Natasha Drigpal, Kastner, 1st; Kinsley Murray, Kastner, 2nd; Sophia Stermer, Kastner, 3rd; **High School:** Marian Pineda, Clovis North, 1st.

menting and learning and then we painted, and it was a mess, a big mess! But who cares? The children were so engaged and learned so much!” Riccobono said.



SANDS OF UNDERSTANDING: The Fugman Elementary Marlins decorated the school blacktop with beautiful Rangoli artwork recently while learning about the Indian holiday Diwali. Parent volunteers drew images in chalk the night before, and around 600 students were invited to use colorful sand to fill in the designs and create the final pictures. It was a fun and creative way for students to learn about another culture, one that many of their peers are a part of. Diwali, or the Festival of Light, is a large holiday in India that celebrates light winning over darkness. In addition to decorating with candles and strings of lights, Rangoli art is created on the floor with chalk and colorful sand.

CE students become the teachers

Clovis East High agriculture students shared their knowledge with young students from around the district this fall. About 100 high-schoolers manned close to 50 educational booths designed to educate the visiting kindergartners and first graders from Clovis Unified elementary schools about agriculture.



The younger students had the chance to milk a dairy cow model, watch sheep being shorn and pet goats, horses and pigs. They learned about plants and horticulture by playing a seed matching game, discovering the benefits of insects and creating a flower arrangement. And, they also learned ag mechanics by watching a welding demonstration, learning how to use hand tools safely and attaching different equipment.

The fair, which is also held in the spring, is designed to educate kids about their food and where it comes from, which is especially meaningful in the Central Valley where agriculture is a top industry. Schools participating in the Fall Agriculture Fair were: Orazo, Freedom, Garfield, Copper Hills, Liberty, Riverview and Century elementary schools.



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Spring 2024

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Course Information:

0 Units / Section #81324; Online, Synchronous course
9 Weeks – Mondays 12-1:15pm, March 18 through May 17th
Instructor – Heather Boynton heather.boynton@cloviscollege.edu

FREE course starts March 18

Upcoming Summer Session classes:

- ECE 1: Principles & Practices of Teaching Young Children
- ECE 2: Child Growth & Development
- ECE 4: Child, Family and Community
- ECE 6: Health & Safety
- ECE14: Lifespan Development
- Education 10: Intro to Teaching



Clovis
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► Announcements

Student leadership conferences

Clovis Unified has opportunities for students to participate in student leadership conferences each year. The district partners with the community in creating these cultural events where students can learn about themselves and one another.

Conferences include keynote speakers and professionals in the community discussing their experiences, answering questions, and providing information about college and careers.

Remaining conferences are:

■ **CUSD African American Student Leadership Middle School Conference**, Feb. 23, at the Clovis North Educational Center. Open to Central Valley Intermediate Schools.

■ **CUSD Latino High School Student Success Conference**, March 4, Clovis North Educational Center

■ **CUSD Officer Jesus Ceron Latino Student Success Middle School Conference**, March 22, at Kastner Intermediate

More information and student signups are available through school counseling offices.

'Hello, Dolly!' coming soon

Buchanan High's production of "Hello, Dolly!" will be performed soon. The lively musical tells the tale of Dolly Gallagher Levi, a middle-aged widow who begins her life again as a matchmaker in New York.

The curtain goes up at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29, March 1, 2 and 7-9, and at 2 p.m. March 2 and 9, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. For information and tickets: cusd.com/events.

'The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens' by CW

Get ready as Clovis West High's drama students perform the hilarious murder mystery "The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens." The story follows a playwright named Walter as he creates the perfect murder mystery on stage and discusses it with the audience.

The fun begins at 7:30 p.m. March 14-16 and 21-23, and 2 p.m. March 16 and 23, at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: cusd.com/events.

College financial workshops

Clovis Unified high schools are offering workshops to assist seniors who will plan to attend college next fall and their parents complete 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 of financial aid and it is also used for college scholarship information that can include need-based, academic merit and athletic scholarships.

Remaining free workshops hosted by school counseling

offices will be at Buchanan High, March 20; Clovis East High, March 19; Clovis High, Feb. 26 and March 13; Clovis North High, March 4; and Clovis West High, Feb. 13 and March 18.

Details are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers' websites. The FAFSA online application can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

District earns ASBO award

For the 26th year in a row – the longest consecutive streak for any school district in California – Clovis Unified received the Association of School Business Officials award for excellence for the district's 2022-23 budget.

Young artists celebrated

The hallway walls outside of the Clovis Unified Governing Boardroom will feature artwork in February created by elementary students from schools throughout the district. Each school selects student work for the special display, and receptions are held recognizing the youth.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools and business offices will be closed Feb. 12 in honor of Lincoln's Birthday and Feb. 19 in honor of Presidents Day.

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. There are more than 3,000 expert tutors in 250-plus subject areas available to help.

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.

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

Parent Academy workshops

Clovis Unified Supplemental Services' 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:

■ Feb. 20 – "Understanding Academic Interventions, 504's and IEP's"

■ March 19 – "Family Safety Night" (held at Weldon Elementary)

■ April 11 – "Building Readers at Home"

Workshops are at the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 326 N. Clovis Ave., in Clovis, unless noted, 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.

Family Resource Center workshops

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

■ 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.

■ March 12 – "Life After High School: Planning for the Future for Students with a Disability," 5-6:30 p.m., online. Learn about transition planning, preparing for changes, diploma track versus certificate of completion, and CUSD Adult Transition Programs. Register: www.tinyurl.com/FRC3-12-24.

Questions: 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.

Exceptional Person nominations

CUSD Special Education Department's "Exceptional Persons Awards" is now receiving nominations through March 15. The award celebrates those district employees and volunteers who are exceptional at helping students with special needs. A judging team will determine the recipients and a ceremony will be held April 24. More information: CUSD Family Resource Center, 327-8455. To submit a nomination: <https://tinyurl.com/ExPer2024>.

Advisory committee meetings

Clovis Unified holds regular meetings throughout the year of its Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that are open to the public. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education Local Plan Area. Its goal is to raise community awareness about the needs of students and their families regarding Special Education programs and to provide information, workshops and resources to families to help ensure that quality programs educate the student with exceptional needs in mind, body and spirit.

CAC meetings are held from noon to 1 p.m. at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis, and a complimentary lunch is provided. Dates and topics for the school year are:

■ Feb. 28 – "Individual Transition Plans (ITP)"

■ May 15 – "Annual Service Plan Review, SPED Budget and Student Voices"

For more information or to request an interpreter for a meeting, call 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.



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Kastner math teacher earns top Valley honor

Congratulations to Kastner Intermediate math teacher Richelle Renfro who is being considered for the California League of Educators Middle School Educator of the Year award that will be presented in March.



Renfro won the league's Region 7 title earlier this year, which advanced her to the state-level category. Region 7 includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties.

"I was and still am shocked beyond belief!" said Renfro of the honor. "It has made me feel extremely validated, and I'm very thankful to my colleagues for thinking of and nominating me."

She said her favorite part of her job is working with her students and engaging them in math lessons.

Renfro graduated from Clovis High after moving from the Bay Area during her high school years. After earning a business degree, she worked for a benefits company, human resources and later in lending. But when the market crashed in 2006, work slowed down and having two young children of her own, teaching piqued her interest.

"I decided to go back to school and get my teaching credential, knowing that as a teacher, I would never be bored at work," she said.

Renfro has been a teacher for 17 years now, the last eight in Clovis Unified teaching math at Kastner Intermediate. Learn more about this award-winning educator in her own words:

Q: Why did you decide to teach math?
A: I actually fell into teaching math by

accident. [While getting a credential, I was offered a job in Firebaugh teaching RSP English to sixth, seventh and eighth graders.] ... My first year was a wild ride, to say the least! [After completing my general education credential] my principal offered me a job teaching sixth grade math and science. I jumped on that and now here I am. I've been teaching math ever since."

Q: What is your approach to teaching?
A: I try to make learning fun, while maintaining a high standard for learning.

Q: What is it about your students that inspires you?

A: I love their honesty and willingness to be real with me every day! I love when they share their ideas about what a math lesson should look like, as well as what it shouldn't, LOL. I love that they are willing to talk to me (both about math and about life in general). Being in seventh grade can be such a difficult time for many, so I try to help each individual as much as I can in whatever way they need.

Q: What advice would you have for a brand new teacher?

A: Be patient and listen! Listen to everyone: your family, your friends, your co-workers, your admin, your students and yourself! I find that when I'm open, everyone around me that truly loves me always has valuable insight to share.

Q: In three words, how would you describe yourself?

A: Energetic. Strong-willed. Compassionate.

Q: If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A: This is a hard one to answer. I wasn't always a teacher, and now having taught for 17 years, I know I'm doing exactly what I'm meant to do! Though, if there were a job as a professional relaxer on the beach with a good book, that's what I'd be doing!

Employee briefs

Health heroes

Two Clovis Unified educators were among eight celebrated as Health and Human Services Heroes by the Fresno State College of Health and Human Services for their contributions to health and wellness in the community.



Clovis East High Boys Tennis Coach Phil King is described as passionate about coaching and helping his student athletes improve. He offers tennis summer camps for intermediate and high school students, as well as private lessons. He also mentors student-teachers in physical education programs to help them learn and grow. "No two days are ever the same in the world of physical education and coaching, and that's what makes it fun and challenging," King said of his career in his acceptance message.

Gettysburg Elementary Principal Katie Scalzo emphasizes physical fitness as well as social-emotional learning to help her students succeed both in and out of school. Prior to being principal, Scalzo was a physical education teacher, and saw firsthand how staying active in sports can positively benefit students. "When students are actively participating in a sport, they are invested in a different way to their school. The positive involvement boosts their self-esteem, confidence and social-emotional well-being," said Scalzo in her acceptance message.



Congratulations to these educators who help their students aim for being their best in mind, body and spirit.

Seeing spots at Pinedale

Fourth- through sixth-grade Pinedale Elementary Eagles will soon be auditioning for and putting on a performance of "101 Dalmatians," thanks to an Innovation Grant from the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

Pinedale Special Day Class teacher Dina Emerzian wrote an application for the grant and was selected as a recipient in November. She is looking forward to using it to give students an opportunity to explore their creative sides.

"Drama empowers children to communicate confidently, and studies have demonstrated that drama supports student achievement by aiding in brain development and helping students learn teamwork and discipline," said Emerzian, noting the \$1,000 award will help fund costumes, props and mics.

This will be Emerzian's first time putting on a play, and she is excited to offer students from both general and special education classrooms the chance to work together on the entire drama production. The school play will be held in the spring and Emerzian said she hopes it provides students "a successful and memorable teambuilding experience."

SV teacher on TV

Sierra Vista Elementary sixth-grade teacher Jodi Anderson was KSEE24's Educator of the Week earlier this year. She was surprised in front of her students with the announcement and featured in a segment on the local news program where she said her job doesn't feel like work because she loves what she does. "It's the kids. I come here for the kids. I do it for the kids," Anderson said of her key role in preparing students to make the transition from elementary to intermediate school.

PEACHWOOD

MEDICAL GROUP

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<p>PEDIATRICS</p> <p>Dianne C. Hubbard, MD Brad Sumrell, MD 324-6202</p> <p>Amy E. Evans, MD Prabjot Singh, MD 324-6203</p> <p>ADULT MEDICINE</p> <p>Amitasha Mann, MD Robert Guzoujian, MD 324-6205</p>	<p>URGENT CARE</p> <p>MON-FRI. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. CLOSED SUNDAY</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">Our Urgent Care is open to the public on a walk-in basis for those non-emergency illnesses which need immediate attention. Most insurances accepted.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">324-6201</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Call 324-6201 to get information about sports physicals</p>	<p>FAMILY PRACTICE</p> <p>Jeffrey Aoki, MD Dennis Nakata, MD 324-6206</p> <p>Robert Castillo, MD Marguerite Smith, MD 324-6207</p> <p>Judy Miramontes, MD Patricia Quintana-Van Horne, MD 324-6208</p> <p>George Gonzalez, MD Jerry Reimer, MD 324-6209</p> <p>Harjagjit Maan, MD John C. Monteleone, MD 324-6210</p>
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Kerman Unified School District Community Health Center KUSD Student-Only 702 S. Eighth Street 559.364.2975	Golden Plains Unified School District Community Health Center - Tranquility 6171 S. Daniels Avenue 559.364.2984	Bishop Community Health Center Dental Services 459 W. Line Street, Suite B 760.784.7020	Bishop Community Health Center 459 W. Line Street, Suite C 760.784.7020	

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Engage with us during boundary study

By **Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.**
Superintendent

In April of this year, our Governing Board is expected to take action on new attendance boundaries for our schools that would take effect in August 2025. The potential for a change of attendance boundaries can be concerning for families who are impacted and who are deeply committed to their current school, but I also know (both from personal and professional experience) that we can get through this together.



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

As a seventh grader at Clark Intermediate, my family and I experienced such a change. The opening of Buchanan High School and the creation of the district's third area meant I would not be following my family's previous two generations in attending Clovis High School. As part of the first classes of students on that campus, I was witness to the care and effort every staff member at Clark Intermediate, Alta Sierra Intermediate and Buchanan High poured into supporting and assisting me, my family, and my friends in making the transition a success.

In the 20 plus years I have spent as a member of that same Clovis Unified staff, I have been a part of several changes in school attendance boundaries. Each time, I have seen that care, compassion and commitment to our students' well-being carried forward by our team. While

the idea of the attendance boundaries of your beloved local school changing can be upsetting, I want to reassure you we are here to listen, and our caring educators are prepared to support our students. While boundary changes are inevitable, our com-

mitment is to value the input of our community as we finalize scenarios, to support families and students through any transition, and to create unique and exciting opportunities to welcome incoming students to their new school.

We serve a community that covers two growing cities, which necessitates our district's need to reevaluate our attendance boundaries. Both Clovis and Fresno have many housing development plans that include our school district, and as a result, we

must plan to grow with them. Additionally, the reevaluation of attendance boundaries will further support maintaining school enrollments that are not too small or too large, to ensure we are maximizing our facilities.

As the cities of Clovis and Fresno grow, I want to assure you that our team is actively at work to make sure this process is transparent, that we gather the thoughts and opinions of our community, and that if change does come to your neighborhood, we are right there with you to lend a helping hand.

Please engage with us during this attendance boundary study. The initial scenarios are a starting point to our conversation, not the end of it. Through area and site meetings you can meet in person with our team to share your questions, comments and ideas on how these scenarios may be improved upon.

As we navigate through this process, we will continue to keep you informed through emails, our website, school newsletters, phone calls, app push notifications, our local media and every other tool we have available. At any time, you can submit a comment online in a form on our district website at cusd.com. If you have questions around the process, supports, timelines, or transfers, please reach out to your school. Your voice and input are important as we work through this challenging process.

Every one of our schools is devoted to providing the best educational experience possible for their students, both in academic and curricular opportunities.

I am confident that no matter what school your child attends, you will find a high-quality, first-class experience.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Photo by Kenny Gilman/Special to CUSD Today

Motivational speaker Dee Hankins encourages students at the January Clovis Unified Transition Student Leadership Conference to turn life's challenges into new opportunities to start over. The Transition Program provides support and services for students who may be struggling in areas of attendance, grades or resources.

“Nothing is impossible - the word itself says ‘I’m possible.’”

AUDREY HEPBURN, ACTRESS

Parental involvement will help your child succeed in school

In Clovis Unified, parent involvement is a critical piece to the overall educational achievement and well-being of our students. We are grateful that we have a community that cares about children and partners with our schools, teachers and staff to create student steps to success.

Not only does parent involvement benefit a child's academics, but also it can build relationships between the parent and school team creating a stronger school connection. Research shows the benefits can even spread to a child's classmates. Our CUSD parents truly make a difference in the lives of kids!

The following offers ways to help your child succeed in school.

Talk to Your Child

Having intentional conversations with your child about school and their work is a great way to get engaged. Ask open-ended questions about how school is going, things they like, or areas where they might feel they need help.

Talk to Teachers

Clovis Unified teachers are dedicated to making sure your child finds success in the classroom. They are one of the best resources if you are looking for ways to give additional academic support at home. Most teachers are available by phone or email before or after school. Consider setting up scheduled check-ins on a monthly basis.

Check Out Clever.cusd.com

Clever is the web portal where you can access all the resources you need to provide support for your child at home. There you'll find Parent Connect (for updates on student grades and attendance), Google Classroom, online textbooks and more. It's also where you can access TUTOR.COM where Clovis Unified students get free, one-on-one live support in more than 250 subjects from 3,000+ expert tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week!



(For Elementary School Parents) Create a Home Study Space

Help provide your child with a time and quiet place with convenient school supplies to complete homework and read. Read with your child a book for the whole family, or have your child read to you each night. Review student planners with your child to stay current on assignments and help prepare for assessments.

(For Intermediate and High School Parents) Interventions at School

Many of our school sites have different intervention and tutoring programs both during and after school. Ask your student's teachers, guidance counselors or main office staff about the tutoring and intervention options offered at your school.

Technology Help

If technology is the barrier in helping with homework, or your child just needs a password reset, our team is here to help. The CUSD Technology Department offers support for Google Classroom, Zoom, Clever and more. Call (559) 327-9595 to reach the Technology Helpline 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



327-9595 to reach the Technology Helpline 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

GET INVOLVED AT SCHOOL!

- Attend school and area parent meetings like SART and IDAC
- Volunteer at your child's school or in the classroom
- Join the school parent club or booster club
- Schedule academic counseling meetings
- Follow your school's social media
- Read school newsletters
- Visit the school website for news and calendar items
- Attend school events like plays, sports and Open House
- Check Peachjar regularly for flyers about school and district events
- Watch for emails from your school
- Be sure your contact information is current with the school
- Download the district app (Clovis USD) and follow your school
- Visit cusd.com and click on "Parents" tab for an array of resources

— 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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- Getting financial aid, even if you make a lot of money.
- Avoiding scholarship scams & loan pitfalls. Know more about the least expensive loans.
- Why most student loans aren't the answer anymore, and other college funding options.
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Here is what parents like you are saying about our FREE College Funding Webinar...

"Very informative. The presenter told us many things that I was totally in the dark about."

Rosie P,
Parent of High School Junior

"Information was clear, easy to understand and straight forward. Excellent presentation - no hidden agendas."

Lynn M,
Parent of High School Senior

"Opened up opportunity to look at colleges we thought were out of our price range."

Barbara E, Parent of High School Sophomore

"Covered a lot of ground - easy to follow and moved quickly."

Sara P,
Parent of High School Junior

"Demystified the college funding process."

Joseph M,
Parent of High School Senior

"Brought a whole new look at ways that add value to our personal finances."

Bill H,
parent of a High School Freshman

GENEROSITY

Projects help others, teach kids

CUSD students, staff pour into community

Several valuable lessons learned this winter did not come from textbooks but instead, came straight from the heart. All Clovis Unified schools offered events and opportunities for students, staff and families to support their community in a variety of ways.

"One of the most important lessons our students can learn from this event is a better understanding of the challenges that others may face in their lives, helping them develop a sense of empathy and compassion for others while also teaching them the importance of gratitude and appreciation," said Francisco Gutierrez, Clovis High student relations liaison, of the school's efforts collecting and assisting in food distribution at the Jefferson Elementary Food Pantry.

"I'm beyond impressed by our staff, students and families for their generosity and desire to help others in need," said Granite Ridge Intermediate Activities Director Kari Genco of the Broncos' canned food drive.

The following is a sampling of the many student-driven events held around the district from November through January.

Century, Copper Hills, Fugman, Reagan and Riverview elementary schools

KIDS HELPING KIDS: Several Clovis Unified elementary schools shared in a collective Giving Tree drive that benefited kids at Birney Elementary, a Fresno Unified school. Students picked an ornament off a tree that had information about a student - their clothing size and age - and then they could purchase a present for that child to brighten their holidays.

Clovis East Area

GENEROUS T'WOLVES: The Wolfpack family, from the youngest elementary students to the high school Timberwolves, collected 77,231 food items for Central California Food Bank! The annual food drive has been held for nearly 20 years at Clovis East High and Reyburn Intermediate, and in recent years grew to include the elementary schools in the Clovis East area. Large trucks were needed to deliver the canned peas, soup, chili, tuna, corn and other food items that will help support community members in need.



CARING FOR VETS:

The REC family made more than 300 custom, thoughtful cards to be given to patients at Veterans Memorial Hospital.



Clovis East High

CLUBS THAT CARE: Clubs created a multitude of caring activities. The Gym Rats Club gave away bags of chips to students. The Punjabi Club set up décor for the Diwali Festival of Lights celebration. The Anti-Bully Club wrote letters to residents in senior homes for the holidays.

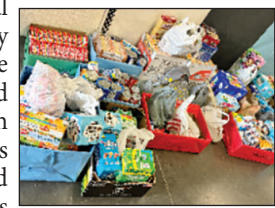
Clovis High

KINDNESS IN A BOX: One hundred families in the Clovis High area were gifted food for the holiday week thanks to a collection drive organized by the Cougars' Interact Club. Peanut butter, ramen, pasta, canned foods and more filled boxes that were given to 10 families in need from Clovis High and 10 families from the nine Clovis High intermediate and elementary feeder schools.



Clovis North High, Granite Ridge Intermediate

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Clovis North and Granite Ridge held annual food drives, with nearly 10,000 items donated to the CUSD Transition Team and Clovis Rotary to share with families in need. Students brought canned goods and other non-perishable foods to their classrooms and school events (for instance, a recent Granite Ridge Intermediate movie night event had an "entry fee" of five cans of food).



Clovis North High

SHARING THE WARMTH: AVID students worked together and made blankets for the homeless.

BUILDING BRIDGES: The Clovis North High Stable Circuits Robotics team visited Valley Children's Hospital - with Legos and robots! The team held its annual Lego Drive to collect toy sets for the young hospital patients and also were sure to bring the Bronco's robots they've built to provide a demonstration!



light up, as they are going through a rough time," said team captain Milo Cazzell.

Clovis West Area Schools

EVERY CAN COUNTS: The Clovis West Area schools joined forces in a canned food drive benefiting the Poverello House, a local rescue mission for the homeless. Clovis West High leadership students visited each CW area elementary school - Fort Washington, Liberty, Lincoln, Nelson, Maple Creek, Pinevale and Valley Oak - and Kastner Intermediate to collect the 5,641 pounds of total canned donations.



Fancher Creek Elementary

CARING FOR KIDS: Generous teachers and staff helped provide presents for students in need at their own school through an anonymous Giving Tree program that was also assisted with donations from Toys-for-Tots and Adventure Church.



Fugman Elementary

MAKING HISTORY: For the first time, Fugman Elementary partnered with the Fresno Rescue Mission, collecting canned donations to serve the facility that assists around 100 women and children daily. Canned corn, peas, soup and beans were among the 5,602 item donation that Fresno Rescue Mission said was the largest drive in its history.



Gettysburg Elementary

PUZZLES, BALLS, GAMES & DOLLS: The Gettysburg Elementary Generals collected more than 300 toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Fifth-graders in Gurleen Chalah's class brought in the most at 53!



Jefferson Elementary

IMPORTANT LESSONS: The Jefferson Blue Jays made sure every family had access to fresh groceries during winter break! Thanks to generous donations and a partnership with the Central California Food Bank, the Blue Jay Pantry supplied Clovis Unified families in need with canned goods, fresh produce and cold meats.



One of the most important lessons our students can learn from this event is a better understanding of the challenges that others may face in their lives, helping them develop a sense of empathy and compassion for others while also teaching them the importance of gratitude and appreciation," says Francisco Gutierrez, Student Relations Liaison in the Clovis High Transitions Team

Kastner Intermediate

GIFT OF LIFE: Two staff members fighting cancer inspired Kastner Intermediate to hold a blood drive, the first event of its kind for the school. Nearly four dozen staff and community members made donations. "I hope students learn that when there is a member on your team knocked down, you help pick them up and support them by rallying the resources and positive energy around them," said Principal May Moua.



HYGIENE DRIVE: The Thunderbirds collected items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and more to provide to local students and families in need. "We want our students to feel the joy that comes when looking outside themselves and helping others," Moua said.

Maple Creek Elementary

FILLING THE BUCKET: The annual Red Bucket Brigade donation drive at Maple Creek Elementary resulted in several families receiving all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including vegetables, stuffing and a gift card for a turkey. The event is organized by the school PTC with the assistance of Student Leadership. "The project reinforces the idea of thinking about and giving to others," said Principal Gina Kismet.



"Our students continue to take an active role learning that they can have a positive impact on other families within our school community."

Mickey Cox Elementary

BLESSING BAGS: Mickey Cox Functional Life Skills classes grades K-6 filled 200 Blessing Bags with non-perishable snacks and hygiene items as a part of their yearly classroom service project. The white lunch bags were printed with words of encouragement and joyful statements that were then colored by the SDC students and general education buddies!



Miramonte Elementary

DIFFERENCE MAKERS: During January, Miramonte Elementary held its Mustangs Make A Difference Backpack Project, with each classroom collecting items to fill backpacks that will be donated to the Fresno County Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services. Items included books, socks, stuffed animals, school and hygiene supplies, and a personal message of encouragement.

Mountain View Elementary

HELPING HANDS: Mountain View Elementary fourth-grade teacher Amy Rios organized a Community Service Project called "Operation Warm Up!" Student volunteers met on the weekend and together made more than 20 blankets that were donated to the Poverello House.



BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS: Sometimes giving projects are designed to stay on campus, letting students experience generosity first hand. The Mountain View Elementary Student Council did just that when the small group made nearly 700 friendship bracelets over the period of several early mornings and recesses. The bracelets were then handed out to every Golden Bear. With colorful, smiley face beads and phrases like "You are fabulous" and "Be silly," the bracelets helped spread positivity and happiness.



"They brought so many smiles to so many students and staff members. They should be proud of themselves," said student council advisor and sixth-grade teacher Vanessa Avitabile.

Riverview Elementary

GIVING GENEROUSLY: Riverview Elementary students took part in a canned food drive that supported a food giveaway by Clovis Rotary; a toy collection drive for Toys for Tots; and the Giving Tree gift donation supporting neighboring Fresno Unified school Birney Elementary.



Sierra Vista Elementary

HELPING ONE ANOTHER: Around 400 Sierra Vista Viking students and their families enjoyed flapjacks, took pictures with Santa and did some affordable holiday shopping at the "Penguin Patch" in the school's Multi-Purpose Room - all thanks to the combined help of community partners the Clovis Elks Lodge, Clovis Kiwanis and The Lions Clubs. More than \$2,600 was raised during the event for student programs.

Valley Oak Elementary

GREAT PACKAGES: Snacks, toiletries and kindness were packed into Blessing Bags at Valley Oak Elementary to be donated to those in need. Students and staff held a collection drive and the PTC made donations that helped fill the many parcels.



Woods Elementary

WE ARE FAMILY: Around 100 Clovis Unified students and their families received gifts and food thanks to a collection drive at sister school Woods Elementary. The Wolverines' Giving Tree project was aided by two bags of additional toys from Toys for Tots and also from donations made by Buchanan High. Woods held a food drive where each grade level was asked to collect a specific item. Food boxes were then assembled by Woods leadership students and given to families along with the gifts.



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By William Shakespeare
Adaptation by Scott Kaiser
Directed by Janine Christl

March 15 • 10:00AM
March 15, 16 • 7:30PM
March 16, 17 • 2:00PM
Studio Theatre




Visit us online for a complete list of upcoming events!

Crystal awards for exceptional employees

Clovis Unified will celebrate 28 employees for their exceptional work conducted in the 2022-23 school year with a Crystal Award, the district's highest employee honor. These educators – ranging from teachers and administrators to librarians and athletic directors – were nominated by their peers or supervisor in the fall and found deserving by employee judging panels to merit the top recognition. Honorees were surprised with the news before Winter Break and will be celebrated this month.

All district employees, family, friends and school community members are invited to attend The Crystals gala on Feb. 28 at the CUSD Performing Arts Center.

The Crystal Award is given to those employees whose passion, innovation, dedication and dynamic work ethic far surpasses their job description. These are people who in tangible, measurable ways selflessly help students reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit. They go above and beyond what is expected, and they do so without prompting. They lead and inspire others by their humble nature and heart-felt examples.

In this issue of *CUSD Today*, we begin a series in alphabetical order meeting our honorees and will continue through upcoming editions.

By Carol Lawson-Swezey
Special to CUSD Today

Stephanie Avery Clovis West High



Clovis West High English teacher Stephanie Avery stacks an impressive list of additional duties to her roster. She serves as the CSF coordinator, Western Association of Schools and Colleges visiting committee member, PLC lead, Color Guard Director, mentor and class and club advisor. Avery pioneered the school's new Golden Hour flex intervention model, developing the comprehensive plan for implementation. This intervention period provides every student an hour catch-up period with a teacher, resulting in significant gains in grades and overall academic performance.

Her desire to do what's best for all students opened doors for CTE Education Pathway students to job shadow and be placed in a Special Education functional life skills program. This allowed future educators options to explore classroom settings in special and general education in both elementary and high school settings.

Last year, Avery volunteered to take over the class of a colleague on leave, which doubled her AP Composition caseload to 70 students. She moved her classes to a lecture hall and doubled her grading tasks to ensure students received proper instruction and feedback. That dedication and conscientious effort led to a 4.3% increase in the AP pass rate in the 2022-2023 school year.

Alison Bartosch Buchanan High



Through efficiency and accuracy, Buchanan High Data Control Specialist Alison Bartosch keeps student records in pristine compliance. She spends countless hours working with the head counselor, registrar and administration to provide a seamless method of entering grades, creating reports and streamlining the master schedule.

When many families struggled to complete the Annual Enrollment Update, Bartosch partnered with Buchanan's staff to keep those families in focus. She bridges home-to-school communication, especially with new families, establishing personal relationships to help them connect. Her open-door policy is a gateway for families with questions regarding CUSD online opportunities.

Bartosch, as Buchanan's webmaster, continually updates and improves the site as well as the school's presence on social media. She created a shared space for all staff members to add vetted photos, to enable the community to be well informed and to visualize the activities and spirit of Bear Nation.

And if that's not enough, after her day at the computer, Bartosch puts on her running shoes to coach track and cross country. She helps with training athletes; planning the State Track Meet; and volunteering at cross country meets at Woodward Park.

Benjamin Canzano Special Education



Adapted PE teacher Benjamin Canzano empowers students of diverse abilities and ensures they not only have access to physical education, but also thrive through intentional lessons and experiences.


Canzano's collaboration with physical and occupational therapists and school staff promotes inclusion and belonging. He pioneered "Fun Days" that are competitive adapted PE clinics and world-class student-centered events. They give students in special education the traditional Clovis Unified sporting event experience – complete with the inflatable mascot tunnels, elementary cheerleaders, high school leadership ambassadors and high school student-athletes coaching at skill-based stations. Ensuring access for all, wheelchair events and "cool-down" tents are present at clinic events, equipped with yoga mats and sensory regulation items. In the 2022-23 school year, 65 Clovis Unified special education programs participated, representing 530 students.

Additionally, Canzano and his collaborators used research-based strategies to increase students with disabilities to join into general education PE classes. Through innovative lesson plans, Canzano increased participation and engagement for all students. The experience helped foster relationships among students with peer mentors. Teachers report that some of those relationships have lasted beyond high school and into adult life.

David Castle Kastner Intermediate



If one man has transformed the social and support landscape of Kastner Intermediate, it's been Activities Director David Castle. He implemented MINGA, a site communication app for staff and students, and integrated an awards system



CELEBRATE WITH US
6:45 p.m., Feb. 28
CUSD Performing Arts Center
2770 E. International Ave., Fresno
Free.
The public is invited to join us as we celebrate the year's top employees.

- ### Crystal Award Winners
- Stephanie Avery, Clovis West High, Teacher
 - Alison Bartosch, Buchanan High, Data Control Specialist
 - Benjamin Canzano, Special Education, Teacher
 - David Castle, Kastner Intermediate, Activities Director
 - Lesley Chance, Gateway High, Transition Counselor
 - Shawna Cook, Sierra Outdoor School, Campus Catering Supervisor Sr.
 - Cassandra Germond, Woods Elementary, Teacher
 - Nicholas Gonzalez, Boris Elementary, Instructional Assistant IV
 - Stephanie Henderson, Dry Creek Elementary, Teacher
 - Jennifer A. Knight, Clovis East High, Teacher
 - Tanisha Laret, Boris Elementary, Student Activities Specialist
 - Jenny Mammen, Gateway High, Teacher
 - Jill M. Moorhead, Orazo Elementary, Library Technician
 - Matthew Moss, Bud Rank Elementary, School Plant Manager I
 - Carlie Negrete, Pinedale Elementary, Teacher
 - Erynn Nelson, Fancher Creek Elementary, Instructional Assistant I
 - Dianne S. Oller, Cole Elementary, Teacher
 - Sandy Paez, Temperance Kutner Elementary, Instructional Assistant Home Liaison
 - Mark Perez, Pinedale Elementary, Custodian II
 - Sarah Perkovich, Clovis High, Teacher
 - Liz Peugh, Mickey Cox Elementary, Teacher
 - Adam Reid, Clovis West High, Teacher/Girls Swim & Dive Coach
 - Erica Robinson, Granite Ridge Intermediate, Teacher
 - Steve Soma, Sierra Vista Elementary, Plant Supervisor
 - Libby Trutna, Special Education, Occupational Therapist
 - Tachua Vue, Ed. D., Tarpey Elementary, Principal
 - Vance Walberg, Clovis West High, Teacher/Boys Basketball Coach
 - Tina Wood, Clovis North High, School Counselor

for both. Partnering with PTC, he led the transformation of the employee break room into a reenergizing "Faculty Wellness Lounge," stocked with recliners, snacks, books, exercise equipment and more. And, for students, he created a student safe space, the "Thunder Dome," with innovative games and even a pool table.

Castle helped plan a successful incentive program to reduce chronic absenteeism that rewards students for attendance with Croc charms, early lunch releases and pizza parties. He worked with a Mentoring Leadership class and Autism Intervention Program to develop the Kastner Food Cart that provides both student groups life skills. Last year, he was instrumental in the "Ready, Set, Fund" campaign that raised \$40,000.

During Castle's eight years of increasing school activities, Kastner has seen a boost in school spirit which helped the school earn national recognition with a "Schools to Watch" award in Washington, D.C. In Castle's downtime, he has mentored four activities directors at Clovis West in the past year and a half and serves as the school's 2025 class advisor.

Lesley Chance Alternative Education



Alternative Education Transition Counselor Lesley Chance has a full plate. As an advisor for Clovis Online, Gateway High and Clovis Community Day, she has a natural gift of "believing in every student she works with and pushing them to believe in themselves," says her nominator.

Chance has facilitated multiple support groups in topics like anger management, grief and loss, parenting, self-esteem and self-care, and substance use insight. Since being trained in Clovis Support & Intervention Training, she has led more alternative education support groups than all other employees combined. Her innovation doesn't stop there. Chance created the Youth Parent Program and Women's Alliance Program for students to discuss essential life topics. Soroptimist International partnered with Chance to create the "Dream it, be it," conference for young women. Participants created dream boards and were inspired by speakers discussing overcoming obstacles and achieving goals.

In the seven years Chance has been a Transition Coordinator, she brings a "fix it or change it" attitude to the work she loves. She is a builder, not only of bridges, but of possibilities.

Shawna Cook Sierra Outdoor School



Sierra Outdoor School Campus Catering Supervisor Shawna Cook is much more than a chef.

Her main job of planning, preparing and serving meals for students at the district's nature camp includes overseeing the kitchen and its seven employees, the student store, the Five-Mile Coffee Shop and all onsite vending machines. She also oversees everyday finances and designing, ordering and stocking all store merchandise.

The kitchen operates 73 hours a week and annually hosts 181 elementary schools statewide for outdoor education, weeklong basketball and wrestling camps, and Clovis Unified's leadership students. Last year, 12,287 participants were served 55,656 meals, many of them on special diets. On Wednesdays, when schools are both leaving and arriving, her staff may be cooking and serving more than 500 people.

Despite staff and supply chain shortages and burgeoning food costs, Cook trimmed \$74,000 off the budget last year by adjusting the menu and having staff prepare more scratch-made items. She's maintained excellent standards in the kitchen and has had zero health inspection infractions.

Cook's a clutch in an emergency as well. Last February, several

elementary schools had to be evacuated because of an impending major snowstorm. Within two hours, she and her staff fed and loaded 150 students to safety.

Cassandra Germond Woods Elementary



In every way, Woods Elementary fifth/sixth grade combo teacher Cassandra Germond excels at Clovis Unified's mission to help students succeed in mind, body and spirit.

She has a rigorous project-based curriculum, incorporating collaboration and technology to create an engaging, dynamic learning environment. Her lessons build background knowledge and inspire students to delve deeper into content that promotes problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and collaboration. Her class test scores show the success. One-hundred percent of her 39 students met or exceeded grade level standards in state scores; 83% of sixth graders showed measurable growth in English/Language Arts, and 100% improved in math; and for fifth-graders, 73% grew in ELA, and 86% improved in math.

Germond also serves as Woods' athletic director and maintains eight co-curricular assignments, including coaching basketball, softball and track. She spearheads a talent show, showcasing students from K to 6th and SDC Autism classes. At her highly anticipated Olympic Day, students are assigned countries and teams for friendly competitions, fostering unity, teamwork, and collaboration among all grades and abilities.

Nicholas Gonzalez Boris Elementary



Nicholas Gonzalez does what he knows best, and that is, to do what he loves best. He believes that, like district founding superintendent Floyd Buchanan, Ed.D., used to say, "people, not programs, make the positive difference for students."

The Boris Elementary Instructional Assistant IV in the Elementary Intervention Program serves as an IA, coach, school videographer and mentor. Gonzalez has coached football, basketball and baseball. He also supports the school's drama and performing arts productions. Gonzalez's positive influence helped build Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavior interventions and support systems in Boris Elementary's PBIS program to promote high expectations. He created powerful relationships with colleagues, students and their families. Several students, not only in the EIP classroom but also schoolwide, check in with him regularly for positive affirmation and reminders of their daily behavior expectations.

Working with students and staff, Gonzalez created a seven-part PBIS Behavior video series to help students with Tier 2 and 3 interventions. He worked actively with Boris Student Council members to create fun, innovative and informative Friday announcements that encourage school involvement on the student-hosted news channel, Charger Connections. Office referrals for inappropriate behavior decreased by 15% with the use of the video series.

Stephanie Henderson Dry Creek Elementary



Dry Creek Elementary third grade teacher Stephanie Henderson has spent 23 years as an educator believing every child can learn.

Henderson uses a "secret student" strategy, where students are recognized for their respectful, responsible and safe behavior. She prioritized teaching Second Step curriculum, which emphasizes social-emotional learning, and collaborated with the school psychologist to extend the lessons to relatable real-life situations.

Her students have shown test score growth, with math scores 17 percentage points and ELA scores 44 points higher than the district average. In state tests, an impressive 92% of her students met achievement standards in both ELA and Math.

Henderson integrates the TWIG Science curriculum that views interactive, hands-on learning as essential to understanding science. Her students have conducted creative interactive experiments like dissolving gummy bears or testing the success of different waterproof materials. One lesson had students perform a group drama with key vocabulary and scientific terms.

She'll do what it takes to help all students. For example, she noticed one student struggling with academics and anxiety upon returning to the classroom following remote learning; she identified his challenges, and more importantly, his potential by facilitating an IEP. Two years later, that student is thriving academically and involved in school clubs and sports.

Jennifer A. Knight Clovis East High



Real world experience for real life success. That's what Jennifer Knight, Clovis East High CTE agriculture teacher, arms her students with. When the pandemic paused classroom trips to observe area businesses, Knight transformed her class into a functioning veterinary hospital, ensuring authenticity with communication between industry professionals and vet facilities.

Students in her courses learn by experimenting in the classroom and farm laboratories, and engaging in real world conversations. Her classroom is now a model for other ag programs statewide.

Under Knight's leadership, the Clovis FFA program ranked among the top in the state. This year, 14 FFA students will receive their American Degrees at the national convention in Indianapolis. And the Clovis FFA team placed third in last year's competition.

Her dedication to the ag program includes mentoring CEHS's two newest agriculture teachers and three student teachers this year. Knight believes a strong teaching foundation and confidence in younger educators will benefit the entire ag community.

As Department Head, Knight created a professional learning calendar for each ag pathway. This partnership helped departments vertically integrate introductory, concentrator and capstone CTE curriculums, accomplishing a goal years in the making.



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LILY DHUNGANA, FNP-C

Principal named for Clovis South High

By Kelly Avants
CUSD Chief Communications Officer

Jan. 17

Students from the Inter School Council (ISC) were present at the Jan. 17 meeting of the Clovis Unified Governing Board to give an update on their work across the district's comprehensive high schools to build unity and encourage connect- edness to school.

ISC officers shared photos and feed- back from this year's Student Leadership Camp, a service project at the Central California Food Bank, their mid-year meeting, and the Harvest Festival Dance and Winter Holiday Dance for students with special needs who may otherwise not be able to access school dances.

In other action, the board:

■ Appointed Nicolas Trujillo, current learning director at Clovis East High School, to the open position of Deputy Principal, Reagan Educational Center, effective July 1.

■ Ratified an agreement with Educa- tional Research Consultants to assist the district in developing an application for an up to \$15.1 million California Com- munity Schools Partnership Program Implementation Grant.

■ Accepted the annual third-party fi- nancial audit report for fiscal year 2022- 23 that included zero findings requiring corrective actions.

■ Approved the new course of study proposals for use in the district's inter-

► BOARD BRIEFS

mediate and high schools for the up- coming school year.

Dec. 8

The district's next secondary school campus has a principal following the Governing Board's action to appoint cur- rent Deputy Principal at the Reagan Edu- cational Center Sonia Torossian to the role. Torossian will assume the job as of July 1, and work to prepare for the opening of the grades 7-12 campus and the creation of a new school community in advance of the opening of the educational center in August of 2025.

Before the announcement, the Gov- erning Board held its annual organiza- tional meeting at which Hugh Awtrey was elected President, Yolanda Moore was elected Vice-President, and Clint Olivier was elected Clerk. The officers will hold these positions for the next 12 months.

In other action, the board:

■ Approved an agreement with Ewing Consulting, Inc. to conduct a reclassi- fication study of district positions as re- commended by the Employee Compen- sation Committee.

■ Adopted two textbooks for use in secondary schools for the 2023-24 school year.

■ Accepted the 2022-23 Developer Fee Findings and Public Information Re-

port (available for review in the Facilities Department) as submitted.

■ Approved an agreement with Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., for facilities geographical information system services to map operations data for CUSD school sites that will allow for more efficient operations and mainte- nance, and improved security of facili- ties.

■ Adopted amended bylaws and pol- icies to reflect current practices and ex- isting laws including updates to Policy 1340 – Access to District Public Records/Public Records; 9000 – Role and Responsibility of the Board; 9110 – Terms of Board Members; and 9220 – Board Elections.

■ Ratified a right of entry agreement and the agreement to grant an easement for off-site utility improvements with E.& J. Gallo Winery.

■ Approved an option and license agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for the installation, operation and maintenance of a communications antenna and related equipment to be lo- cated on a designated space at the Bu- chanan High campus.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way in Clovis. Complete agendas, minutes and videos of meetings are available online at cUSD.com.



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Attendance Boundary Review

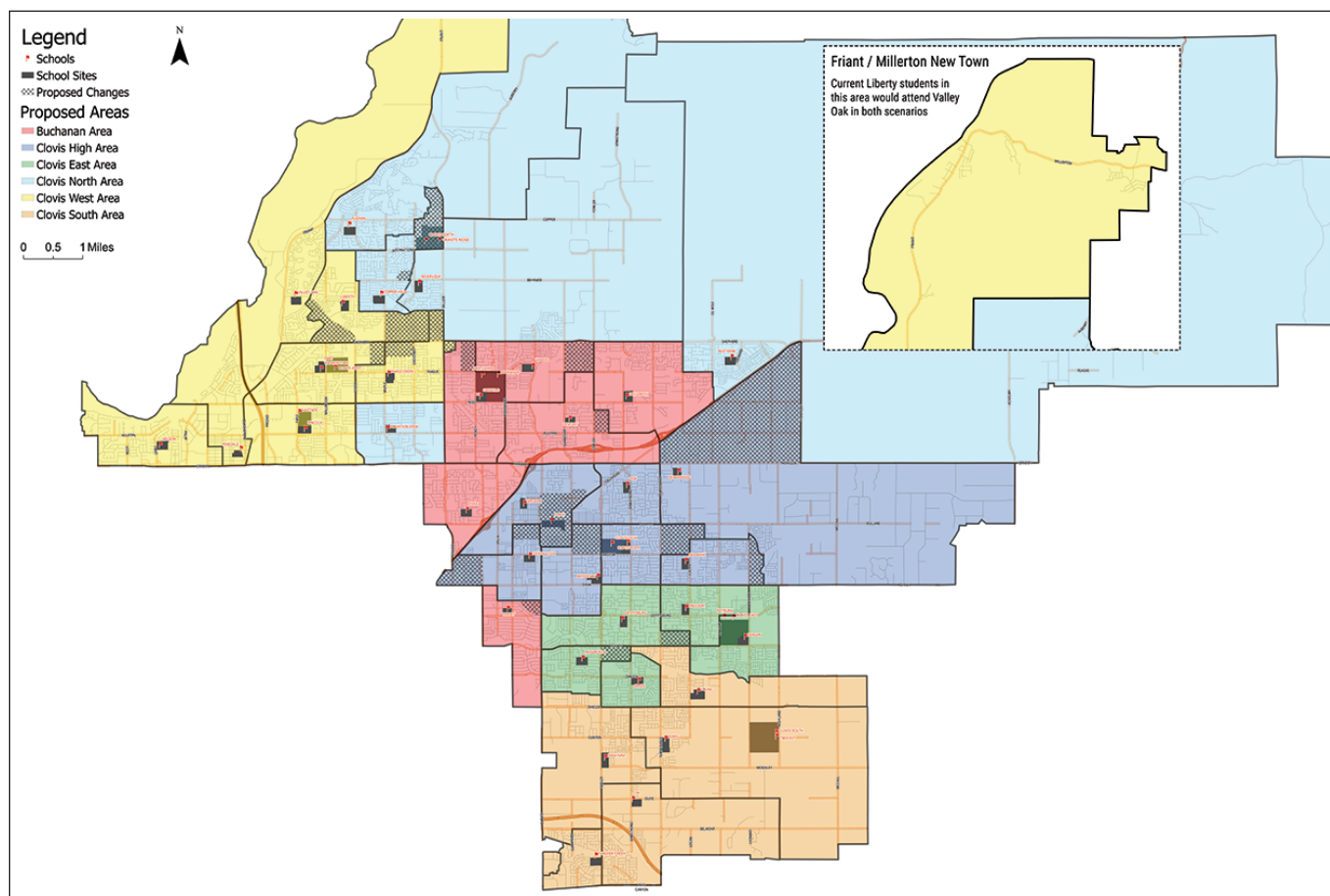
Clovis Unified is in the process of reviewing attendance boundaries for all schools in anticipation of opening a new high school area in 2025. Two initial draft scenarios have been developed that reflect possible changes.

Multiple schools will be impacted, and families are encouraged to review the maps and offer feedback.

While the driving force behind the review is the 2025

opening of an entirely new CUSD school area, a 50-member steering committee of employees was tasked since the fall to study enrollment trends and plans for development in the cities of Fresno and Clovis. They've looked at enrollment trends, school populations and anticipated housing growth that impact schools as they consider revised attendance lines for the district's 44 comprehensive schools.

Scenario 1



Elementary School Changes by Current Area

Buchanan Area				
	Any proposed changes	Gain neighborhood	Lose neighborhood	Change to high school area?
Century	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost
Cole	Yes	No	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost
Dry Creek	Yes	No	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost
Garfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost
Tarpey	Yes	Yes	No	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Woods	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

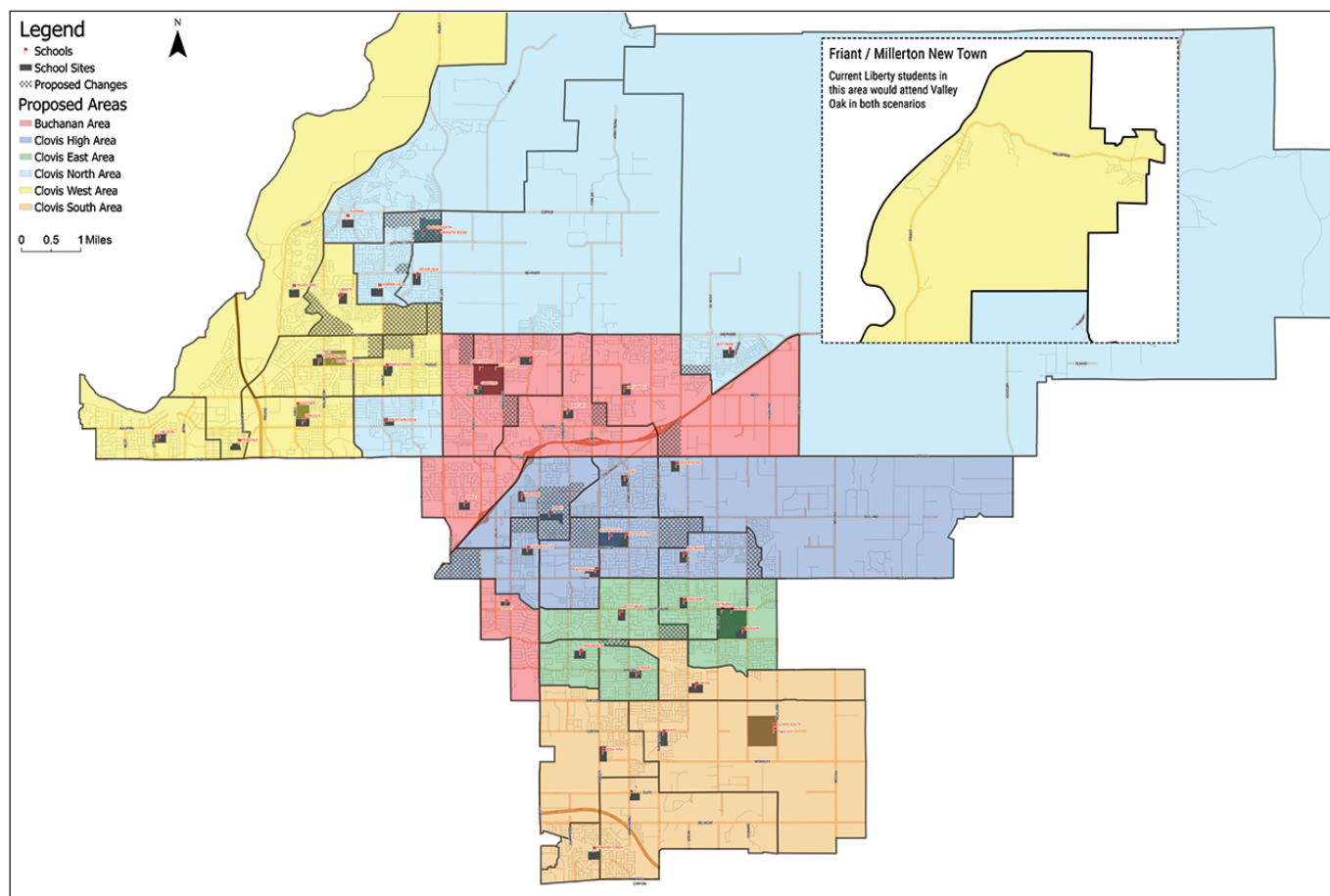
Clovis Area				
	Any proposed changes	Gain neighborhood	Lose neighborhood	Change to high school area?
Cedarwood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Clovis Elem	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mickey Cox	No	No	No	No
Gettysburg	Yes	Yes	No	Whole School Change
Jefferson	Yes	Yes	No	No
Red Bank	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sierra Vista	Yes	Yes	No	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Weldon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Clovis East Area				
	Any proposed changes	Gain neighborhood	Lose neighborhood	Change to high school area?
Boris	Yes	No	No	Whole School Change
Fancher Creek	Yes	No	No	Whole School Change
Freedom	Yes	No	Yes	No
Hirayama	Yes	No	No	Whole School Change
Miramonte	Yes	Yes	No	No
Oraze	Yes	No	Yes	No
Reagan	No	No	No	No
Temperance-Kutner	Yes	No	No	Whole School Change
Young	Yes	No	No	Whole School Change

Clovis North Area				
	Any proposed changes	Gain neighborhood	Lose neighborhood	Change to high school area?
Bud Rank	Yes	Yes	No	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Copper Hills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost
Fugman	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mt. View	No	No	No	No
Riverview	Yes	No	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Lost

Clovis West Area				
	Any proposed changes	Gain neighborhood	Lose neighborhood	Change to high school area?
Fort Washington	Yes	Yes	No	No
Liberty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Lincoln	No	No	No	No
Maple Creek	Yes	Yes	No	Yes for Neighborhood Gained
Nelson	No	No	No	No
Pinedale	No	No	No	No
Valley Oak	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Scenario A



➤ Address check, comment form, updates: CUSD.COM

➤ Frequently Asked Questions

Why are attendance boundaries being reviewed?

While the driving force behind the boundary review is the addition of the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center in the Fall of 2025, this review is also meant to ensure enrollment across existing facilities is balanced. This ensures we are using existing facility space, avoiding overcrowded conditions at any school, and only building new schools when they are absolutely necessary.

Why aren't the changes limited to the schools that will populate the new Clovis South Area?

Initial findings, following a months-long study by the 50-member steering committee of employees and Facilities staff, 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.

The Bradley Center is currently under construction near Highland and Clinton avenues in Fresno. It will house the new Clovis South High School and a yet-to-be-named intermediate school.

How can I find out specifically how this affects my child's school attendance?

Visit cusd.com to view maps and use an address locator tool that will indicate school attendance under each possible scenario. A recording of a community meeting containing the committee's presentation and information is available for viewing online. Watch also for your school, if impacted, to hold meetings at your site to discuss specifics. (See school newsletters, website, social media.)

What are the school district and committee's guidelines for creating new attendance boundaries?

When evaluating potential changes to attendance boundaries, district decision-makers weigh possible options against five guiding principles. While we recognize that not every proposed change will meet all five of these principles, they provide an important framework for student-centered decision making when developing new attendance areas.

- Maximize facility space while moving as few students as possible,
- Value neighborhood schools and keep neighborhoods together,
- Reduce operational expenses,
- Create boundaries that will

last for 5-10 years whenever possible, and

- Balance enrollment across high school areas.

When would any changes take effect?

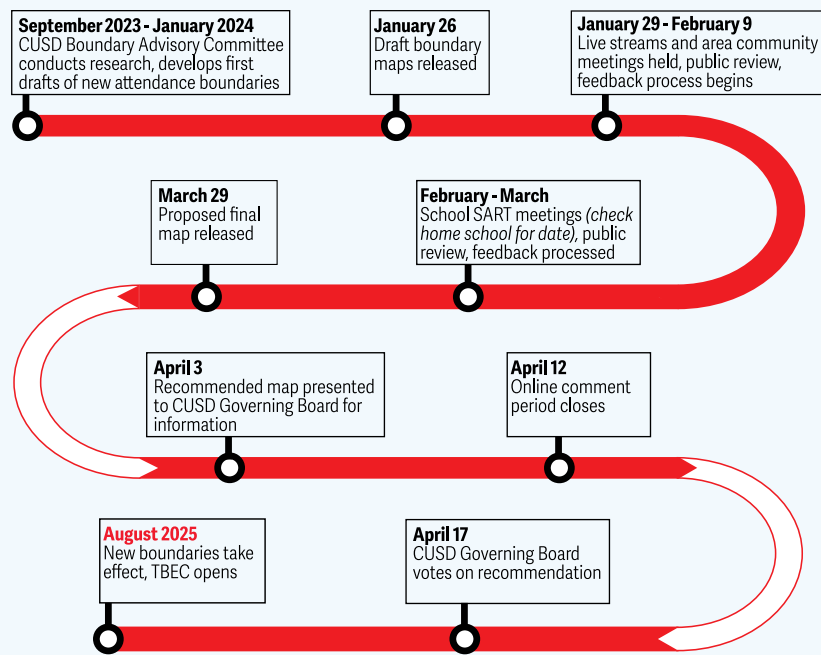
The new attendance area boundaries developed and approved this Spring will take effect when our new secondary campus opens at Terry P. Bradley Educational Center in August 2025.

How can I share my feedback?

No decision has yet been made on new attendance bound-

aries and your voice is a valuable part of this process! To provide your input, attend one of our upcoming community meetings, attend any meetings at your school, review information on the cusd.com website, and use our online comment form available through April 12. A committee of enrollment, facilities and school leaders will analyze community input and share feedback received with the Governing Board. This input is used to develop a final map proposal that will be released online March 29.

➤ Timeline:





HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: COLLEGE ADVISING IS ALMOST HERE

Advising sessions will be held on the dates below for all seniors planning to attend community college as their first choice or a backup option. Students will have the opportunity to meet with college counselors to plan their first semester of college courses. This will qualify and prepare students for Priority Registration in late April.

Reminder: Completing the online orientation is also required to qualify for Priority Registration. The completion date determines your registration date/time so make sure to finish your orientation today at www.sccd.edu/orientation

Join us to discuss your college and career options!

Advising Session Dates

Counselors from Clovis Community College, Fresno City College, Madera Community College and Reedley College will be at your high school on the following dates:

High School	Date(s)
Clovis East	February 14, 15
Clovis North	February 21, 22
Gateway	February 27
CART	April 12

If you miss a session above, contact your high school counselor



High School Students:

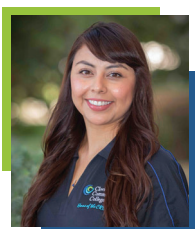
Please contact your high school counselor or community college Outreach Specialist assigned to your high school for exact times and location.



David-Anthony Navarro
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david.navarro@cloviscollege.edu



Amy Yocupicio
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559-325-5401
mckay.duran@cloviscollege.edu

?? Still Have Questions ?? Visit www.cloviscollege.edu/outreach for links to live Zoom help, YouTube videos, or to make an appointment with an Outreach Specialist.



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