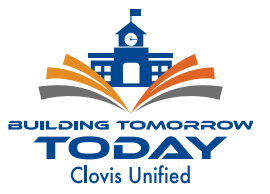


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CUSD Today

November 2022

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

Volume 25, No. 4

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

SAY NO TO DRUGS

Celebrate Life!



All Clovis Unified schools held activities during the annual Red Ribbon Week drug prevention campaign to educate students about the dangers of drugs and to encourage an active, healthy life. Pictured, from top, counter-clockwise: Weldon Elementary's student body returned to the streets of Old Town Clovis following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic and marched in their Red Ribbon Week Parade. Transitional kindergartners and kindergartners lined the streets to watch, as did several community members. Clovis North High students signed a pledge at lunchtime to be drug free. Gettysburg Elementary displayed entries from its annual Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest. Woods Elementary cheerleaders kick off an assembly that also included a CHP helicopter landing on the baseball field, carrying mascot Willie the Wolverine.

Photos by Kenny Gilman, P.J. Lippert/CUSD Today

2 Clovis Unified schools earns top national award

Congratulations to Woods Elementary and Granite Ridge Intermediate, both of which were awarded as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School this month in Washington, D.C. They are the only schools from the Valley announced for this national award and are among just 29 California schools selected.



"This prestigious honor is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication from the students, staff and Granite Ridge community," said Granite Ridge Intermediate Principal Josh Shapiro, Ed.D. "The commitment to excellence and providing a high quality education where individuals can grow in Mind, Body and Spirit is the foundation of our success. Granite Ridge Intermediate is grateful for all the individuals who contributed to achieving this esteemed award."

Woods Elementary Principal Cecelia Dansby said, "We have a phenomenal team who goes above and beyond to prioritize the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. Earning this prestigious award is the result of years of hard work combined with the gracious support of our entire Woods community. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of such an incredible school."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program of the U.S. Department of Education presents the award to public and private elementary, middle, and high schools for overall academic excellence, as well as closing achievement and opportunity gaps. The recognition is intended to affirm the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating environments where students feel safe, welcomed, and can master challenging and engaging content.

Southeast boundary study for new elementary school

Boundary discussions have begun as Clovis Unified prepares to open its 35th elementary school in 2024 near Fowler and McKinley avenues to keep pace with growing residential development and increasing enrollment in the southeast area of the district.

A recent study of school enrollment shows that without a new elementary school, within 10 years elementary schools in the Clovis East Area would be severely overcrowded, with student populations of 1,000 or more.

Since early October and continuing through the winter, work will be done to draw attendance boundaries for the new school. Preliminary meetings were held throughout the Clovis East Area elementary schools and at community-wide meetings for

► Please see *Boundaries*, Page 4

Strategies in place to help kids overcome pandemic learning loss

State test scores still put Clovis Unified top in area

Just-released state assessment test results showed Clovis Unified School District has the highest percentage of student-proficiency passing rates among public school districts in the area, and the second highest in the state among districts with enrollments of 40,000 students or more.

The last time all students in California took the California Smarter Balance assessment testing was in 2019, and last month's release of data from spring of 2022 provides the first statewide look at student achievement following the pandemic. Learning loss among students was expected nationwide during that time due to the two years of various stages of school closures that included online, remote and hybrid instruction, and recent studies have shown that to be true. Overall, Clovis Unified students experienced a 6% decrease in English language arts and 9% decrease in math scores.

Clovis Unified, the first district in the area to open its campuses as soon as allowed by the state, had educators ready to re-engage students and who sought out new strategies to support students academically and socially. Last summer alone, more than 500 teachers voluntarily attended professional development trainings looking to adopt new strategies to address the unique learning challenges students face today.

"I am so proud of our staff. They are devoted to helping every child succeed, and willing to seek out and implement different approaches for a different time in our world," said Superintendent Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

► Please see *Scores*, Page 4

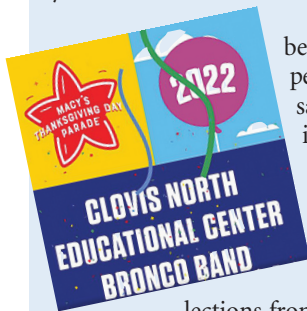
NYC Stampede!

Clovis North marches in Macy's Parade

Set the turkey aside and tune in Thanksgiving morning to celebrate the 132 Clovis Unified students who will be marching in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City!

Sprinkled among the iconic enormously oversized balloons the likes of Snoopy, Grogu, Pikachu and Paw Patrol will be performers, floats and marching bands – including the Clovis North High School Marching Band and Colorguard!

It's the first time a Clovis Unified school has been in the parade in 22 years.



"The opportunity to march in the parade has been a lifelong dream and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for myself and definitely for these students," said Clovis North Band Director David Lesser. "It is an honor to be selected, and a privilege to represent Clovis Unified, our community and California on this large of a stage."

The band will play "California Dreamin'" during their portion of the parade that will be televised, and they will play three other selections from "The Nutcracker." The day prior to the event, Clovis North will also be featured in an hour-long special broadcast on NBC.

Lesser and his students have been preparing for months, and enthusiasm has been high since the band learned of their selection nearly two years ago.

"When I was little, my parents would put [the parade] on TV Thanksgiving morning and we would watch," said senior and saxophone section leader Jack Lawrence. "I didn't think it would be a possibility for us to go when I signed up for band in high school. It is really exciting!"

The band will leave Nov. 20 and has planned a full agenda for the week including stops at the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, the 9/11 Memorial Museum and a New York Philharmonic Concert.

"Many of our students have never been on a plane before. It will be exciting to see all the wide-eyed looks from students who will be reacting to all the new things they are witnessing for the first time," Lesser said.



MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

- 9 a.m. to Noon
- Nov. 24
- Watch: NBC or Peacock





10 enter Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame

A Super Bowl champion and professional basketball, football and soccer players are among the Clovis Unified alumni athletes selected for induction into this year's Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame.

Eight individuals and two Clovis Unified teams were celebrated at the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Oct. 29 at the Shaghoian Concert Hall with on-stage interviews and video profiles of each honoree.

They were selected from hundreds of nominations as athletes who contributed foundational pieces upon which Clovis Unified built and grew its athletic dynasty. The CUSD Athletic Hall of Fame serves to preserve the inductees' important contributions to the district's history and to inspire current student athletes to dream big.

"Each inductee has an incredible story of hard work, determination and discipline as they pushed themselves to be the best they could be," said Assistant Superintendent Steve France who oversees the event. "From their days attending our Clovis Unified schools to their rise as athletic greats, they have had amazing journeys. We are proud to be a part of their story."

Meet the Legends

■ **Jaime Ramirez - Soccer**
Representing: Pre-1960s/60s/70s
 (Clovis High) Soccer star. Played soccer for more than 20 years before becoming head soccer coach at Fresno Pacific University. After graduating from Clovis High, he played and was the team's MVP for four years in a row at FPU. Post college played

2022 CLOVIS UNIFIED ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- Paige Bowie
- Tom Deel
- Matt Giordano
- George Petersen
- Keith Poole
- Jaime Ramirez
- Dr. Torrey Schroeder
- 1974 Clovis High School Football Team
- 1997-2019 Clovis West High School Girls Swim and Dive Teams
- Roger Oraze, Ed.D.
- Doc Buchanan Award



Members of the Clovis High School 1974 Football Team are recognized during the Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Oct. 29 at the Shaghoian Concert Hall with on-stage interviews and video profiles of each honoree. **TO VIEW VIDEOS:** cUSD.com/athletichalloffame.aspx.

in several international soccer clubs and played professional soccer for Los Angeles Aztecs. Earned three NCAA West Region Coach of the Year.

■ **Tom Deel – Coach**
Representing: 1970s/80s/90s/2000s
 (Clovis West High) Football, golf and softball coach extraordinaire. Coached the Golden Eagles softball team for seven years, earned All-Valley Coach of the Year twice; boys golf team for 19 years and started the girls golf program; coached football for more than 40 years. He is currently on the coaching staff at Buchanan High.

■ **George Petersen – Football & Wrestling**
Representing: 1980s
 (Clovis West High) Football and

wrestling standout. At Clovis West, was the first Golden Eagle to place in the state championships, earning a 2nd Place, earned the All-North Yosemite League football defensive back of the year award, and was the male athlete of the year. Played in college and signed with the Kansas City Chiefs. Currently the principal of Clovis Unified's Liberty Elementary School.

■ **Paige Bowie – Basketball & Softball**
Representing: 1990s
 (Clovis West High) All-Valley honors in basketball and softball at Clovis West. Played as a four-year girls basketball starter at Cal Berkeley and is among the Top 3 on Cal's All-Time list in 3-pointers made with 129. Played professional basketball in Europe. Only female to have won the GORUCK selection.

■ **Keith Poole – Football**
Representing: 1990s
 (Clovis High) Football standout. All-American, All-State and All-Conference player at Clovis High. Played four years for Arizona State and in the Rose Bowl. Drafted by the New Orleans Saints, was the 2001 MVP, and played for the Denver Broncos. Led NFL in yards per catch for three years.

■ **Matt Giordano – Football**
Representing: 2000s
 (Buchanan High) Football and track standout. All-Valley football and won 400m League title. Played for Fresno City College and Cal Berkeley, earning All-Pac-10 player twice. Played professionally for Indianapolis Colts and earned 2007 Super Bowl XLI championship, and also for Green Bay Packers, Oakland

Raiders and St. Louis Rams. Coached former alma mater Buchanan High football for five years.

■ **Dr. Torrey Schroeder – Softball & Volleyball**
Representing: 2000s
 (Buchanan High) Softball and volleyball star. Played varsity four years for softball and volleyball. Earned MVP awards for both sports, CIF Female Athlete of the year and finalist for state player of the year. Played softball for University of Texas, Austin, and New Mexico State University; was ASA National Championship All-American Team.

■ **1974 Clovis High School Football Team**
 North Yosemite League Champions & CIF Section Champions.

■ **1997-2019 Clovis West High School Girls Swim and Dive Teams**
 23 consecutive CIF Central Section Championships. 77 individual CIF Central Section Champions. 85 All-Americans.

■ **Roger Oraze, Ed.D.**
Doc Buchanan Award
 During his 38-year career in Clovis Unified, Roger Oraze was instrumental in establishing and perpetuating a legacy of athletic and academic excellence. He began as a math teacher, advanced to become the principal of Clovis West High School, developed Clovis Unified's first assessment department, and then created the district's Facility Services Department. It was in the latter role that his influence on the future of the district's athletics took shape as he prioritized Clovis Unified to becoming home to first-class athletic and performance venues.

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➤ Announcements

College financial aid window opens, workshops

Seniors planning on attending college in the Fall of 2023 can submit their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. The application window opened in October and closes on March 2, 2023. Through these documents, students can learn if they are eligible for financial aid.

The 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 will also be used for college scholarship information and many student athletes are asked to complete the application. Starting with the Class of 2023, Assembly Bill 469 makes applying for the FAFSA mandatory for all seniors, however, students/parents can also choose to complete a FAFSA waiver form. Contact your high school counselor for more information.

Clovis Unified schools have been holding workshops to assist families in completing the FAFSA. The upcoming workshops are on the following dates: Buchanan High, Jan. 31; Clovis East High, Nov. 15; Clovis High, Nov. 9 and Dec. 5; Clovis North High, Nov. 7; Clovis West High, Nov. 7, Dec. 12, Feb. 6, and Feb. 14. Links, information and workshop times are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers.

The FAFSA online application is available at fafsa.gov.



2022-23 Parent Academy

Clovis Unified's Supplemental Services has joined with CUSD high school transition teams and the Foundation for Clovis Schools to offer the 2022-23 Parent Academy featuring six free workshops throughout the school year on topics chosen based upon parent feedback.

The workshops are open to all parents district-wide and have a goal of supporting parents



Kelly Eichmann

Gabriel Hughes

Leeann Errotabere

CUSD educators among county's best

Award ceremony held Nov. 17

Clovis Unified's three nominees for the annual Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Educator of the Year Awards will be among those celebrated this month.

Congratulations to Clovis East High teacher Dr. Kelly Eichmann (Teacher of the Year) and Weldon Elementary/Clark Intermediate student relations liaison Gabriel Hughes (Employee of the Year) who are among the top-three finalists in their respective categories, and to Clovis Unified Director of Purchasing and Warehouse Leeann Errotabere for her nomination as Administrator of the Year.

The winners of each category for Fresno County will be announced during the FCSS Awards Ceremony taking place at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the William Saroyan Theatre, 700 M Street, Fresno. Entry is free.

on how to foster a lasting, positive educational environment and school partnership for their children both at home and at school through proven activities and lessons.

- Topics and dates are:
- "Suicide Awareness and Prevention" – Nov. 8
 - "Drug Awareness" – Jan. 10
 - "Anti-Bullying" – Feb. 21
 - "Social Media Awareness" – March 21
 - "How to Help Your Student at Home" – (Concluded)
 - "Social Emotional Wellness" – (Concluded)

Each workshop includes an in-person presentation at the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 362 N. Clovis Ave., Suite 101, Clovis, CA 93612, from 6 to 8 p.m. Free childcare and a light dinner are available. The sessions are recorded and will be available to view online.

To register or find out more, visit: <https://www.cusd.com/Parents-ParentAcademy.aspx>.

'Singin' in the Rain,' in November

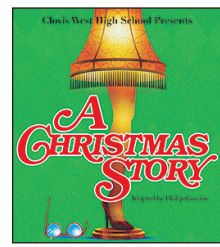
Buchanan High Bear Stage Productions



will perform the musical classic "Singin' in the Rain" as its fall show. The romantic comedy about three Hollywood stars adjusting from silent films to talkies features such known songs as "Singin' in the Rain,"

"Fit as a Fiddle" and "Make 'Em Laugh." Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10-12 and 17-19, with matinees at 2 p.m. Nov. 12 and 19, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. Tickets are available at the door or at cusd.com/EventsTickets.aspx.

'A Christmas Story,' in December



Clovis West High Theater will bring the holiday memories of youngster Ralphie Parker to life in the comical production of "A Christmas Story." In the fictional tale, the

boy dreams of getting a "Red Ryder air rifle" as a present and hopes against all odds – involving crazy antics of his family, neighborhood bullies and even a broken leg lamp – it will be under the Christmas tree. Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1-3 and 8-10 at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. Tickets are available at the door or at cusd.com/EventsTickets.aspx.

Leadership conferences for students

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.

Upcoming conferences are:

■ CUSD Asian Student Success Conference, Nov. 30, at the Reagan Educational Center

■ CUSD Transition Student Conference, Jan. 24, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre & Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Transition students only.

■ Fresno County Superintendent of Schools African American High School Student Leadership Conference, Feb. 7, Fresno Convention Center

■ CUSD African American Student Leadership Middle School Conference, Feb. 24, at the Clovis North Educational Center. Open to Central Valley Intermediate Schools.

■ CUSD Latino High School Student Success Conference, March 13, Clovis North Educational Center

■ CUSD Officer Jesus Ceron Latino Student Success Middle School Conference, March 31, at Kastner Intermediate

Clovis Unified's leadership conferences are open to all students regardless of race and ethnicity.

"Knowing each other's culture and diversity is important and can lead to better understanding between students and our community," said CUSD Coordinator of Community Relations Saul Salinas, Ed.D. "It's also vital students learn about paths to success as they consider their futures after high school."

More information about conferences or how to sign up is available through the district's intermediate and high schools' counseling offices.

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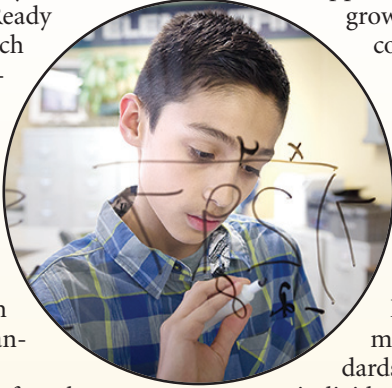
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Scores: State releases results

FROM PAGE 1

Their efforts are already showing. The district's i-Ready assessment scores, which track individual students' performance through the school year, are already suggesting students are rebounding quickly. Eighty percent of the district's elementary students grew in both reading and math standards over last year.



necessary social-emotional and academic supports and intervention, that growth is an outcome of our collective efforts," said Superintendent Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

The California Department of Education's Smarter Balanced assessments test students in third through eighth grades and 11th grade on English language arts and math Common Core standards. To learn more or see how individual school sites fared, visit

when our kids are in school, with our EdSource's searchable database at <http://caaspp.edsource.org/>, and provided the

California Smarter Balance Assessment Results

Region:

Clovis Unified is **No. 1** among local school districts on percent of students proficient in the English Language Arts and in Math on the 2022 state standard tests.

	ELA 2019 proficiency	ELA 2022 proficiency	Math 2019 proficiency	Math 2022 proficiency
STATE AVERAGE	50.87%	47.06%	39.73%	33.38%
Clovis USD	72.68%	66.2%	58.68%	49.25%
Central USD	44.4%	41.46%	32.85%	26.06%
Fresno USD	38%	32.24%	29.85%	20.82%
Madera USD	34.97%	30.36%	21.96%	15.77%
Sanger USD	52.75%	47.57%	43.19%	31.57%

State:

Clovis Unified is **No. 2** among the state's largest public school districts. When measured against districts with enrollments of 40,000 or more, Clovis Unified's percent of students proficient in the English Language Arts and in Math are second only to Orange County's Capistrano Unified.



Boundaries: 35th elementary school to open in fall of 2024

FROM PAGE 1

parents to learn more and to provide feedback to district staff. That information is being used to develop several potential boundary map options that the community can review at the next Community Forum on Dec. 6.

Criteria guiding the boundary development include:

- Utilize existing school design capacity whenever possible
- Keep neighborhoods together with contiguous boundaries that avoid gerrymandering and avoid crossing major streets and other barriers
- Consider neighborhood dynamics
- Consider transportation needs
- Consider implications to special programs

Input about potential options will be

processed in December and January, with a final recommendation anticipated to be developed and shared with the public and to the Governing Board in early February. The board is expected to take action on the proposal later that month.

To learn more about the boundary study – including Clovis East Area projected enrollment, timeline, and future school site location – and review FAQs, watch for upcoming meetings or submit feedback, visit: <https://rec.cusd.com/2022schoolboundaries.aspx>

Also, in the October 2022 issue of *CUSD 2 Minutes Today*, Assistant Superintendent of Facility Services Denver Stairs explains more about the boundary-setting process and how parents' voices are included in the process. The full video can be viewed at <https://www.cusd.com/2MinutesToday.aspx>.

Ready to work



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Superintendent Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D., celebrates with graduates of Clovis Unified's Clovis Adult Education Vocational Nursing Program at their pinning ceremony this fall. In the 2021-22 school year, CAE had the highest first-time passing rate of the State Board Nursing Exam than any other school in California, with 98% of CAE students passing. "We're the state champs!" said CAE Principal Ed Schmazel. "Our faculty and staff's student support, expectations and rigor are bar none."

Alzheimer's is the most common form of Dementia



The most common goal for someone with Alzheimer's is to stay at home as long as possible, but keeping the body moving and the brain working can be a challenge.

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Your voices keep us well connected

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DID YOU know that Clovis Unified, by any measure, is a very big place?

We have more than 43,000 students (and their families) and almost 7,000 employees. We cover close to 200 square miles in area stretching from the shores of Millerton Lake in the north to Kings Canyon Avenue in the south, from Van Ness Avenue in the west and into the Sierra Nevada foothills in the east. Within our Clovis Unified community, we serve residents of Clovis, Fresno and Fresno County and every day, in some way, we directly touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

In an organization our size, we could easily lose touch with the

voices of those we serve and it is why in Clovis Unified we have core values like "Our schools belong to the community," and sayings like "Education is built on teamwork and trust."

We can never lose sight of who we serve, and we can never stop listening to the individual voices of our students, employees and community in our decision making. I deeply appreciate the chance that I get every month to speak a word into our community through my column in *CUSD Today*. It's a chance not only for me to share with you something of the heart of our leadership, it also provides me with a chance to pause in the day-to-day busyness of leading such a large organization to reflect on the timely and meaningful point that I think you, our community, needs to hear from me as the superintendent.

As I reflected on the purpose of my column, the Thanksgiving season approaching, and the major issues ahead for Clovis Unified, it struck me that you need to hear from me, in my role as superintendent, an acknowledgement of the importance of your voice to us.

Your voices, for which I am so

thankful, are uniquely able to keep our big district small, our decision-making agile enough to respond to the unique needs of our community, and our humanity intact... even as we continue to grow in size and scale.

Last month we started the process to develop new attendance boundaries for our 35th elementary school, and in January 2023 we will begin the same process (but on a much larger scale) for our fourth educational center opening in 2025 to seventh through ninth graders. What school your child attends is significant, and we know that you as a family may have made life decisions based on things like attendance boundaries. At the same time, we continue to grow as a community, and no one wants our children to attend overcrowded schools where everything from restrooms to classrooms are impacted.

Faced with the certainty that we need new schools, we also recognize the emotional impact attendance boundary changes have on families and therefore we have created systems within this planning process to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share their input.

It's important that we hear the thoughts and concerns of families involved in these changes.

In every one of the schools we have opened in the past decade or more, there are things that I can point to that reflect the ideas of our community. I see the fingerprints of community input in the final adopted attendance boundaries and their implementation; in the name, mascot and school colors recommended to the Board; in the very fabric of the school family that takes shape in the early years after opening.

This doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of intentional efforts to involve those we serve in important decisions, and it's the way that we honor and hold true to those core values I mentioned above. For our community in the Clovis East Area, where we are actively working to develop elementary attendance areas, please stay engaged in this process.

If you weren't able to attend the meetings held last month, make sure you mark your calendar now for the Dec. 6 forum where potential boundaries will be reviewed, and your feedback will be gathered. Watch for articles in *CUSD Today* and information emailed directly to you from

your school or the district. Bookmark the boundary webpage that has been created and is linked to every one of our Clovis East Area elementary school websites, and go there for answers to your questions, to see presentation materials and to leave a comment. Our ears are open, and we want to hear from you.

For our entire community, be attuned to announcements after the first of the year related to the year-long process to adopt new attendance boundaries for the Terry Bradley Educational Center's high school and intermediate school.

This process will take most of the year, and boundaries will be adopted about a year and a half prior to the school opening so that the new community can be involved in naming, school colors and mascot decisions that will also be taking place before the school opens.

Simply by reading this column, you are engaging with the local schools who serve you and your family, and I thank you. It's through working together and keeping our eyes on the well-being of all of our students that we can hold onto what makes this district a unique and special place for families.

Every good citizen adds strength to our nation

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Granite Ridge Intermediate student Arshdeep Khehra who won the Clovis Veterans Memorial District's annual 2022 Veterans Day Essay Contest grand prize. His essay appears below. Other grade-level winners from Clovis Unified are:

Seventh-Grade Essay: Sailor Wimmer, first place, Alta Sierra Intermediate; Allie Fernandez, third place, Reyburn Intermediate; Maureen Gill, honorable mention, Alta Sierra Intermediate.

Eighth-Grade Essay: Megan McGinthy, first place, Alta Sierra; Maximus Garcia, second place, Kastner Intermediate; and honorable mentions to Micah Goodman and Franchesca Requind, of Reyburn; Ava Darnay, Granite Ridge; and Jacelyn Hanson, of Kastner.

By Arshdeep Khehra
Granite Ridge Intermediate

What does it mean to be a good citizen? What does it mean to serve your country? What does it mean to bring pride to your country? Veterans have done this and more. They fought great and small and brought pride to America. We have to honor their memory and bring pride to their actions. First, ask yourself what it means to be a good citizen? To be a good citizen means to help others and put your country first. It means to live with duty and honor to your country. Anyone can be a good citizen regardless of race, age, religion, language, or profession. Good citizens add to the country not take away from it. Every person has an effect on what the future of this country will be, by their actions and choices.

Children can be good citizens to our country by learning the strengths of our country and learning about our nation's history. They can also learn about the great challenges our nation has been through and what

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Special to CUSD Today

Valley Oak Elementary second-grader Ariana Sifuentes won Best of Show in the annual Clovis Veterans Memorial District Art Contest that this year had the theme, "Every Good Citizen Adds to the Strength of Our Nation." In grade-level contests, other first-place winners are Emilia Gonzalez, Young Elementary, kindergarten; Allie Liang, Fugman Elementary, first grade; Audrey Alvarado, Copper Hills Elementary, second grade; Kaylee Chen, Fort Washington Elementary, third grade; Cadence Provchy, Riverview Elementary, fourth grade; Carson Maddox, Dry Creek Elementary, fifth grade; and Neisha Daniel, Fugman, sixth grade.

"Freedom is never free."

ANONYMOUS

we have accomplished so far. Children should ask questions and learn and understand how to help others. It is crucial for children to know how to help one another and the concept of giving to others. It is great for anyone to be compassionate to family, friends, and peers or anyone that affects your life. Children and adults alike should also do productive work or research that helps others.

Teachers can be good citizens by correctly educating and preparing children's young minds for the world. Teachers play a fundamental role in our society; they determine how the future generations will impact the world. They play a vital role to carefully mold young minds to prepare

them for challenges they will face. Teachers condition young, precious children to turn into hard working, driven adults which will go forth and influence our modern society.

Parents can be good citizens by providing for their children with love and care. Parents also have an effect on the success of future generations. If parents convey a love of country and citizenship, with a strong understanding of the country's beliefs and ethics, children will be more prone to become good citizens. Parents are role models or guides to their children and lead them through the complex interconnected system we call life. Parents lead their children through hardships for the child to

reach achievements and success. A parent is the most important person influencing their children's lives. Parents are the guardians of their children and are not given much credit. They also give emotional support to a young growing child which grows up to become the face of the nation and the crown jewel of the nation itself. For future generations it is the most valuable thing the country can have. Parents take care of their child and raise it throughout life and provide their child support in all manners. Thus, parents can be good citizens by correctly caring and treating their child for it will have an impact on the world.

Elected officials can be good cit-

izens by leading the country and the people to correct and wise decisions. Elected officials should be knowledgeable and care for the people and make choices that help and protect the people. Officials should care for our country and lead it to a bright future for their actions have a great impact on all people. They should have empathy for people and not rule with an iron fist. Officials should discuss daily problems and provide sustainable solutions and not just a one-time fix. Officials ought to have ideals and have integrity. Elected officials can be good citizens by making logical decisions and forming our nation to be great, powerful, and merciful. Officials must not abuse their power and use it only for the good of the people. They also must not let greed, anger, misery, and other strong emotions affect their actions.

Those who serve in the front lines can be good citizens by fighting for our country. Those who serve in the front lines make a commitment to this nation to fight and serve it even at the cost of their lives. They must hold this commitment close to their hearts and live up to it. They can live up the veteran's legacy and fight with courage and bravery. They must be dedicated to the nation and ready to fight for their country with no hesitation. One thing must be said however, men and women that fight and put their lives at risk for the general good of others are already good citizens.

A man by the name of C.K. Chesterton once said, "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." This quote states that a soldier, medic, general, anyone who serves in the front lines has dedicated their life to their country. They will fight to protect their country and the ones they hold dear even if it means going against unimaginable odds. Soldiers fight to protect and serve not out of hate and anger.

Veterans now should be praised

► Please see *Strength*, Page 6

— 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.
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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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Students study teaching career pathway

By Karen M. Boone
Assistant Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and Accountability

Clovis Unified offers a Career Technical Education (CTE) Education Pathway at all five comprehensive high schools for students to learn about what is involved in being a teacher and choosing education as a career. Students in the pathway can begin taking classes as sophomores and can earn six units of transferable college credit if they remain in the pathway through their senior year.

Courses available are:

■ **Grade 10–Exploration of Child & Adolescent Literature (HP):** This English Language Arts college preparatory course is integrated with the Education Pathway standards. This course allows students to utilize Language Arts skills to investigate and evaluate the value and purpose of world literature for children and adolescents.

■ **Grade 11–Contemporary Issues in Education (HP):** This course is a college preparatory 11th grade English course integrated with the Education Pathway standards of the Education, Child Development, and Family Services sector, which allows students to see where the skills of English intersect with the elements of education. Students conduct research, closely read and analyze complex texts, evaluate instructional methodology and philosophy, and create a



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Clovis West CTE Education Pathway student Marc-Anthony Carrol checks on the work of Valley Oak Elementary students during a lesson presented by the older education students.

portfolio of reflections, activities, and compositions that, when synthesized, serve as the foundation for three capstone projects.

■ **Grade 11–ROP Careers in Child Development (P):** Dual Enrollment with Child Development 1 (3 units) This course is designed to prepare students to work in fields dealing with children from birth to age 12. Students learn the organization and proce-

dures involved with a preschool or day care center, as well as techniques for instructing, guiding, and caring for children in a childcare program. Through off-campus internships, field trips, and classroom speakers, students will learn first-hand about career opportunities that deal with children. Students prepare for and take the Paraprofessional exam.

■ **Grade 12–ROP Careers in Education (P):** Dual Enrollment with Education 10 (3 units) Students in this class study the nature and scope of the school system, the duties and opportunities of the professional teacher, factors relative to success in teaching, and credentialing requirements. Students prepare for and take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and have an opportunity to observe and work in CUSD elementary and intermediate schools.

Education pathway students are also eligible to earn a paid summer internship by attending six professional development academies held on Saturdays throughout the fall and spring.

Last year, 24 CUSD juniors and seniors earned better than minimum wage to apply the knowledge they gained by participation in the academies to positions at elementary summer school sites and Child Development summer programs. The 2022-23 school year is off to an outstanding start as 175 students

attended the first academy of the year!

The Clovis West Pumpkin Patch offers a recent example illustrating the hands-on, real-world experiences students gain in the Education Pathway.

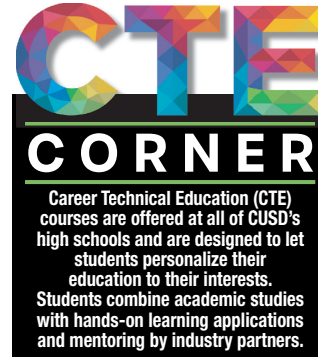
Taught by Jennifer Oren and Stephanie Avery, students in Clovis West's Education Pathway planned a pumpkin patch experience

for Valley Oak Elementary's TK and kindergarten students. The high school students planned five learning stations for the youngsters and consulted with Valley Oak TK and kindergarten teachers in advance to make sure the plans would meet with success on the day of the event. Stations included a science station investigating the life cycle of the pumpkin plants, a literature station, and an art station.

Education students then transformed Clovis West's amphitheater into a pumpkin patch, bringing in over 90 pumpkins and giant sunflowers as well as hay bales, and they created a photo area that made a fun backdrop for wonderful fall photos.

The project-based learning opportunity provided the CTE students real teaching experience and they had as much fun as the kindergartners. Many came away from the experience excited about a future career in education.

Learn more about CTE at school counseling centers.



Strength:

FROM PAGE 5

and honored for their grueling work serving the country. Veterans today stand as role models for current and future generations that will serve the country. They should be looked up at and seen as heroes for they are. They paved the way for our country fighting battles, so others don't have to. Veterans put their lives forward and it takes sheer determination and willpower to do that. Now it is their time to relax and encourage the next generation that will be in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force for the veterans before who have done the same. They worked for this proud nation to be good lawful citizens.

Active soldiers push forward to reach new heights and to persevere. They break barriers almost every day and never stop to

surprise and amaze. A good citizen has knowledge that they use wisely, integrity that they live up to, and education which they use to reach their position. Active soldiers hit all those marks and follow in the footsteps left by veterans.

Those who have lost their lives serving have died a hero's death. We remember them dearly and proudly as men and women that fought to overcome and overachieve. They did not back down even if it meant the loss of their life. We all have to look up to these men and women.

This society must remember the men and women who have lost their lives fighting. We must honor current men serving and the veterans who have served this great country and hold the value of these men and women close to our hearts.

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NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

ASI poet wins trip

Alta Sierra Intermediate eighth-grade student Sarah Ernster will be taking a trip to New York City as part of winning the Grand Prize in the annual Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' "One Voice – The Spirit of 9/12" Poetry Contest for Middle School Students.

The contest encourages students to look back at the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that created a defining moment in our country's history and to pay honor to those who perished and those who came together in the aftermath of the tragic events.

Top winners, along with their teachers, in the art and poetry contests received the trip that includes a visit to the National 9/11 Memorial that was built on the site where the Twin Towers fell. Ernster's teacher is Sheryl Milhous.

Clara Hoff and Tyler Thao (Alta Sierra) were finalists in the poetry contest; Kaedyn Powell (Alta Sierra) was a finalist in the intermediate art contest; and Julian Gimbel (Clovis East High) was a finalist in the high school art contest.

SLIMED!

The fall has been jog-a-thon season at many Clovis Unified schools, and staff often finds fun ways to motivate student participation. At Copper Hills Elementary, if students reached their goals, Principal Matt Papendorf would be slimed by goeey liquids. They hit their mark! And as a bonus, if a class raised more than \$1,500, their teacher could treat the principal to a whipped cream pie in the face. That happened, too!



National science awards for two Granite Ridge students

Two Granite Ridge Intermediate students' science projects placed in the Top 300 in the Broadcom Masters, a national premier Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competition. Participants were invited only after qualifying at regional levels, and more than 1,800 student projects were submitted from 47 states.

The students and their projects are: Kinnoree Pasha, "Smart Irrigation through Sensing Technology and Embedded Logic for Optimum Resource Use: A Comparative Analysis to Grow Daikon Radish in Winter Conditions;" and Achuth Vinay, "Do Word Recognition Software Have Racial or Gender Bias?"

"These young scientists, engineers and innovators will define our future. We need them to bring their passion and skill to help solve the grand challenges of our time and create sustainability here on Earth," said Paula Golden, President of the Broadcom Foundation.



During Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, activities were held around Clovis Unified School District such as these pictured. From left, Clark Intermediate students in the Latino Student Union met for the first time and shared about family history and traditions. Students at Clovis East High take part in a salsa tasting contest at lunchtime. Century Elementary students created story boards sharing about their heritage, like this one made by Silvia Saldivar.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated

From art projects to book readings to salsa contests and educational boards, schools in Clovis Unified held numerous activities during Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated annually Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The month recognizes the influence and contributions of Hispanic Americans and their history, culture and achievements in the United States. Some of the activities students took part in at schools across the district included:

- Folkloric dancing at Century and Weldon Elementary schools
- Non-fiction reading focused on Hispanic Heritage

- at Temperance-Kutner Elementary
- Cultural Proficiency Fridays at Mountain View Elementary, with presentations and discussions
- Art projects making traditional items from Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Spain and more at Clovis Adult Education
- Lunchtime activities at Clovis West High with the Latino Success Club and Spanish Club
- Educational social media posts at Alta Sierra Intermediate
- Grito-calling competition and salsa tasting at Clovis East High

CHS wall of memories

Those who attended Clovis High's musical production, "Tuck Everlasting," may have noticed an integral part of the set: the tree of life from which a spring of water got its eternal power. The tree was created using sheets of paper with written memories of key life moments by the cast, crew and other Clovis High students and staff. Some included descriptions of camping with family, a friend standing up for them against a bully, going to Disneyland, being scared when moving to a new town and meeting a best friend. "It is those special



moments we share with the ones we love that shape us and that we hold dear as the years pass," said director Megan Hamilton of the idea to build the tree using memories.

Tarpey invited to Capitol

The Tarpey Elementary's Student Council has been invited by the California State Judicial Council to speak at its Civic Summit in November in Sacramento. The invitation follows Tarpey Elementary honored as the only elementary in the state – out of more than 5,800 public elementary schools – to receive the California Civic Learning Award of Excellence from the California Courts. "Others can learn about the many ways you, our young people and your school leaders, are developing responsible future citizens," said Superintendent Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D., in surprising the children with the news.

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. Items for consideration may be sent to cusdtoday@cUSD.com.

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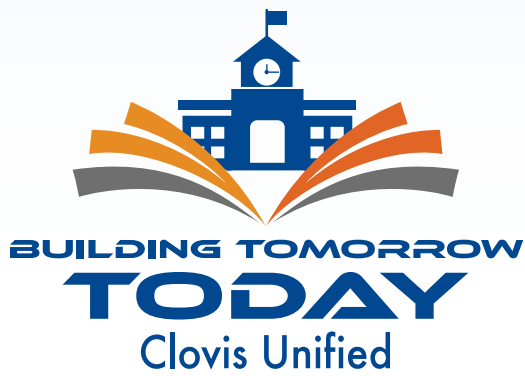
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Board policies updated, athletes recognized

By Kelly Avants
CUSD Chief
Communications Officer

Oct. 19

Clovis Unified's Governing Board adopted a resolution celebrating National School Psychology Week in Clovis Unified from Nov. 7 – 11. Members of Clovis Unified's team of school psychologists were present, and Governing Board members expressed appreciation for the valuable role of school psychologists to support student success.

In other action, the board:

- Accepted the first quarter Williams Complaint Summary Report which contained zero complaints.

- Approved the participation of students from Buchanan, Clovis, Clovis East, Clovis North, Clovis Online and Clovis West high schools in the Concurrent Public Education Program for the first semester of the 2022-23 school year.

- Adopted amended board policies number 5111, 5123, 6020, 6144, 6171.10 and 6190 as part of the regular review and updating of policies to ensure they reflect current practices and any applicable changes in law. The policies and adopted changes can be viewed at cusd.com.

Oct. 5

The Oct. 5 Governing Board had more than 100 students on hand as representatives to be recognized for team League or Valley championship athletic seasons during Spring 2022, including:

- Clovis High School: Softball, and California State Track and Field Champions Christopher Caudillo and Sydnie Vanek.

- Clovis East High School: Girls Badminton, Baseball (CIF Division II Champions), Boys Tennis, and California State Track and Field Champions Lylah Davis, Sydney Flynn and Feyi Olukanni.

BOARD BRIEFS

- Clovis North High School: Boys Golf, Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming, 2022 California State Track and Field Champions Takiya Cenci and 4x400m Relay Team of Maya Cordoba, Takiya Cenci, Emerson Parks and Tatum Zinkin.

- Clovis West High School: Boys Volleyball

- Buchanan High School: Boys Tennis (CIF Division II Champions), Boys Track and Field, Girls Track and Field; and the 2021-22 Athletic Supremacy Award.

Before the start of their regularly scheduled meeting, the Governing Board held a policy study session in their on-going work to maintain and update policies on a number of different topics. Once review is completed, policies will be seen at a future meeting of the Governing Board for action.

In other action, the board:

- Held a public hearing and later adopted a resolution affirming sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials for the current school year.

- Adopted an addendum to the environmental impact report for lighting projects at Buchanan High and Alta Sierra Intermediate. The board also authorized the filing of an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding the athletic field lighting replacement project at Clovis West High. Copies of the documents are available for review in the Facilities Department.

Sept. 21

Members of the district's Plant Operations team were honored in celebration of School Plant Operations Day.

More than 400 employees in the district's Plant Operations Department set a high standard to ensure schools are well maintained, the grounds and playfields in good condition for student activities, and classrooms and offices are clean and inviting.

In other action, the board:

- Received a written report on the district's 2022 Summer School. A copy of the report is available in the agenda material on cusd.com.

- Approved an annual agreement with Educational Resource Consultants for grant writing and research work to support the district's educational programs.

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with J&D Mind Builders, Bricks4Kidz to provide enrichment experiences to all students participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP).

Sept. 7

The Governing Board welcomed new 2022-23 student board representatives Riley Thomas (Buchanan High), Sklyer Thao (Clovis East High), Clare Lucas (Clovis High), Loie Madsen (Clovis

North High) and Nathan Rush (Clovis West High). Students will alternate attending Governing Board meetings through the school year and read reports about the activities from the different school areas.

In other action, the board:

- Adopted Resolution No. 3888 authorizing the district to submit an application to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to participate in the Zero-emission School Bus Replacement Incentive Program; if awarded, two district diesel fueled buses would be replaced with zero-emission school buses.

- Adopted Resolution No. 3889 authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds Election of 2020, Series B, in the aggregate principal amount of \$100 million and approve related documents and actions. The full report is available on cusd.com.

The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Governing Board are at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9 and 12:30 p.m. Dec. 9, in the CUSD Governing Boardroom, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. Complete minutes, reports and videos of meeting are available online at cusd.com.

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WHATCHA MUNCHIN? | Illustrated by Joyce Voraphongphibul - Former CART Student

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Number of transfer students to UCs/CSUs, based on enrollment

CCCCO Student Success Metrics per 100 students, 2019-20 academic year

In California

Clovis Community College is the college of choice for academic excellence, innovation, and student achievement.

FREE

Regardless of income

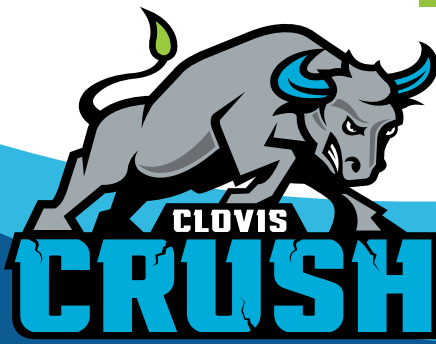
Enrollment fees waived up to four semesters

Contact our Financial Aid Office to learn how to qualify!

(559) 325-5239 or

clovis.financialaid@cloviscollege.edu

Check out our "How to" videos on YouTube -
Clovis Community College: Welcome Center



Clovis Community College Outreach Specialists



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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.

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STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT