

September 1  
2023

# TUSD NEWS

Tracy Unified School District



Published the first Friday of each month

Superintendent's Office



## Board Meetings:

September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

## Homecoming Dates:

West High: Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

Kimball High: Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

Tracy High: Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

ERMs: September 11, 18, 25

Labor Day: September 4<sup>th</sup>

**TUSD Info Page:** [View Here](#)

(Click the link from the District Homepage)

## Dr. Rob Pecot, Superintendent

Thank you for the wonderful start to the 2023/2024 school year. We are in the full swing of the school year as Back to School Nights, activities, and excellent instruction are occurring district wide. I am proud to be a part of a team that is giving so much to our local community. Some of the highlights thus far have been the offering of universal TK, increased enrollment in our GATE Program and progress on various facility/modernization projects district wide.

Through a great deal of hard work and diligence we have managed to fill most of our open classified and certificated positions, including the expansion of our substitute teacher list. Human Resources continues to advertise for those positions that remain open. If you know of anyone who is looking for a position, please have them visit [EDJOIN](#) and search Tracy.

This Fall marked the inaugural year for Girls Flag Football. I enjoy supporting all sports, but it was especially exciting to see this new sport introduced at West High and Tracy High. Kimball will start their team the following year. The dedication that all our students show to their sports and activities is something to marvel.

This past week I was able to attend Survival and Triumph, which featured Holocaust Survivor Joseph Alexander speaking to our students and community. The event was excellent. Mr. Alexander was witty, informative, and reflective. There were thoughtful questions from the audience and his appearance was well received. If you did not have opportunity to attend yourself watching a video link (link will be available in the coming weeks on the TUSD Website) is well worth your time.

TUSD has some of the most involved student groups in the Central Valley. As the year progresses, I look forward to attending more events both student and community led, and seeing these talented individuals in action. I hope you will join me in supporting all that our youth has to offer.



Visit our social media pages!

Select the icon of the page you would like to visit



## In the Spotlight

Please take a moment to read through our school's learning activities and exciting events below! Follow this link:

[In the Spotlight page](#)

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



## Prevention Services

**Mental Health Services:** Tracy Unified School District continues to promote available tier 3 school based mental health services for all students. Individual and small group counseling is also accessible on-campus for students.

With the effort to increase advocacy and awareness of mental health services, suicide awareness and prevention training will be administered to students in grades 8 and 10 during the National Suicide Prevention week; September 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Parents can opt their student out of the program if they prefer for them not to participate.

All students in grades 6-12 were emailed a mental health poster displaying self-care and mental wellness along with contact information for school site assistance and national lifeline numbers.



## Stop Social Bullying

TUSD does not tolerate written, verbal, or other means, to harass, threaten, intimidate, retaliate, or cyberbully against any student or school personnel. Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images as defined in Education Code 48900. Bullying and or Cyberbullying also includes taking video and or pictures without the written consent of others. The school takes these actions seriously and will conduct investigations and students found in violation Ed code 48900 Bullying will be subject to disciplinary action, up to expulsion from school.

## Saturn App Alert!

**Parents & Students:** If your child installed the Saturn App on their iPhone, you may want to delete it. The app claims to be the ultimate organizer for busy high school life, but lacks important features that protect the users from predators, cyberbullying, inappropriate content and privacy.



**Special Education:** On August 22, 2023, our Special Education Department its first of three Special Education Committee Meetings in our general board room. The goal of our Committee Meetings is to share information relevant to special education with our parents and community members. Our next scheduled committee meetings dates and times will be posted on our district website for public attendance.

Parents and teachers can refer their students for mental health counseling through their site school counselor, school psychologist, or administrator.

This school year, TUSD students will have additional access to mental health services during after school hours at a newly established Wellness Center in collaboration with Community Medical Center. The center is expected to open during the 23/24 school year.

To review a list of local mental health services, click [Mental Health Services Resources.docx](#)

**McKinney-Vento Families:** The Department of Prevention Services assists students experiencing housing insecurity or in the foster care system so as to remove barriers and promote student success. Students have access to mental health counseling, school supplies, tutoring support and referrals to local community agencies.

## Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention

**Curriculum:** Pursuant to [AB 329 Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention](#) and Board Policy (BP) 6142.1 and Administrative Regulation (AR) 6142.1, TUSD will be implementing Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction to students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade during the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and to students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the week of January 2<sup>nd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is a voluntary lesson and parents may opt out their child by submitting a written request to their child's school office.



**California Healthy Kids Survey:** During the 2023/2024 school year, TUSD will administer the [California Health Kids Survey \(CHKS\)](#) to students in grades 5,7,9 and 11. This anonymous and confidential survey is a student data collection system that addresses school climate, health risks and behaviors, and youth resiliency. Parents of students in grade 5 will need to permit their students to participate while student in grades 7,9 and 11 will need parents to opt their student out of the program. The survey will be available to schools starting in September 2023 and will need to be completed by February 2024.

## Continuous Improvement State & Federal Programs:

Hello and welcome to the 2023-24 School Year! The Continuous Improvement, State & Federal Programs Department is here to support our students, families, and staff. Our department oversees several programs and services in TUSD, but the **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)** is a top priority. The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities. The LCAP provides an opportunity for local educational agencies to share their stories of how, what, and why programs and services are selected to meet their local needs. Tracy Unified's LCAP was approved by the TUSD Board in June and by the San Joaquin County Office of Education in August. The 2023-2024 LCAP is posted on the TUSD district website [HERE](#).

A new LCAP Student Advisory Committee will start this school year. A flyer and application have been sent out to all 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, families, and school site staff for those students who would like to offer valuable feedback regarding our schools and their experiences. The application window is open from 9/1/23-9/29/23. We would like our Student Advisory Committee to be representative of all student groups in TUSD. Please see our [FLYER HERE](#).



**GATE Program:** We are excited to welcome many new students and families to our TUSD GATE Program located on our SouthWest Park, Monte

## What schools will be entering the STEAM Fair?

*There's more than the science fair you remember. Now there are 2 categories:*

- Investigative
- Showcase

Tuesday August 22, we hosted an informational meeting about the San Joaquin County Office of Education STEAM Fair. Registration for school sites opens in September.

## Human Resources

In preparation for the opening of the new school year, TUSD held several recruitment events throughout the Spring and Summer to hire for both certificated and classified positions. Events were held on June 3, July 22, and on August 19. College recruitment events at CSU Hayward and Teachers College of San Joaquin were also attended. The District's next recruitment event will focus on certificated positions, and will tentatively be scheduled in November to recruit teacher candidates who will be December program graduates. More details will follow as plans are confirmed for this event.

## Business Services

### EV Charging Station Update:

This week staff received an email with information regarding the changes coming to EV Charging Stations at school sites. Charging will remain free for all district staff, however staff will need to download the ChargePoint app and follow the directions or video that was emailed to all staff. The email with directions includes a connection code for the app which is required to charge for free. This new process will start Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please check your email for this important information. If you have questions, reach out to the Facilities Department at 209.830.3246 or email [DECFacilitiesStaff@tusd.net](mailto:DECFacilitiesStaff@tusd.net)

## More Facilities.....

### Tennis Courts at THS, WHS, & KHS:

Due to the lighting delays these projects have extended into the beginning of the school year, however sites have planned for alternative locations for training or use.



WHS Tennis Courts



KHS Outdoor Basketball Court

Vista, and Williams School campuses. Important GATE Dates for the 2023-2024 School year:

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Parent Information at Monte Vista

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** GATE Applications are open and due by December 8, 2023

**January 27, 2024** GATE Testing at SouthWest Park School

Please visit our [GATE resource page](#)

## School Readiness Program

The School Readiness Program is off to a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Preschool students have settled in and are enjoying their first school experiences. Students have been learning what it means to be responsible, respectful, and safe, a way to promote healthy social-emotional development and long-term success in school.

Something new to our program this year is that parents of TK and preschool students will be invited to be a part of our TUSD School Readiness Family University. This is a series of weekly family education classes to empower families to become full partners in their children's education. We are very much looking forward to an amazing year!

For more information about our Preschool Program, please visit our TUSD website's [PRESCHOOL PAGE](#)

For more information about our Transitional Kindergarten Program, please visit our TUSD website's [TK PAGE](#)

## Facilities Updates:

**Villalovo:** This summer's complete refurbishment of one the districts oldest campus sites, came down to the wire. The scope of work which included many upgrades to existing conditions, also bolstered its security by providing a forced entrance reception area and security fencing. All consideration were taken into account into its planning, however both material and labor shortages created a demand of the contractors which including working multiple shifts and extended hours to complete and have our students and staff ready for the first day of school.



VES Library

SJCOE STEAM Fair Resources: [Webpage](#)

2023-2024 SJCOE STEAM Fair Timeline: Event [website](#).

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY STEAM FAIR & EXPO**

"Treasure your curiosity and nurture your imagination."  
- Shirley Ann Jackson, first Black woman to receive a doctorate from MIT

**JOIN US FOR THE 2024 STEAM FAIR & EXPO**

Hosted at SJCOE Wentworth Education Center on Saturday, February 10th.

**6-12 Grade project interviews & judging in the AM**

**K-5 Grade project interviews & judging in the PM**

EXPO activities and STEM events held all day at the SJCOE FabLab

**LEARN MORE**

**BELLA GITHERE**  
bgithere@sjcoe.net  
209-448-9032  
[www.sjcoe.org/steam](http://www.sjcoe.org/steam)

**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER**  
Register your school site online. Provide us with a lead contact person and estimate of how many projects from each grade span might participate.

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER**  
Site safety check-in meeting. Schedule a 30 minute safety meeting or attend a pre-scheduled safety meeting with SJCOE to ensure all projects follow OEF guidelines.

**JAN 4TH - JAN 29TH**  
Student registration is open. Each site will receive a specific number of spots to participate in the STEAM Fair. The site used will receive. Sites to register those students the site has determined will receive spots for the SJCOE STEAM Fair.

## TUSD STEM Expo Adventure at Tracy Connects

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am-3:00pm  
@ Lincoln Park

You are invited to visit the TUSD STEM Expo Adventure at Tracy Connects. We will host scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Lab and have staff and students showing off their things to explore and STEM artifacts. In addition, scientists from Sandia National Lab will be there leading an interactive booth where students, families, and community members can make wind turbines and learn about green energy. We are eager to amplify the great STEM adventures TUSD students and STEM professionals experience.

Exploring. Connection-making. Innovating.

**Tracy Chamber of Commerce**

**3RD ANNUAL 2023**

**Tracy CONNECTS**

Connecting Our Community to Civic, Non-Profit, Service Organizations, Churches, Schools, Programs & More

Partnering with COT & TUSD

PEOPLE + BUSINESS + SERVICE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023**  
**10:00AM - 3:00PM**  
Lincoln Park, Tracy, CA

**FREE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**  
Entertainment & Free Refreshments for Everyone

**KID ZONE**  
Kid Games & Activities

For Vendor & Sponsor Information  
(209) 835-2131 or  
[info@tracychamber.org](mailto:info@tracychamber.org)

Non-Profit Benefit

**Academic Exercise & Creativity**

Focus On Behavioral & Mental Health

## Calling All Alumni!



**Did you know?** We have an [ALUMNI PAGE](#) that can be found from the District's homepage in the upper right-hand corner. We need your help so that we can provide the latest information. If you know of a reunion or class event that your class is having, please [SEND INFO](#) and we will post it on this page.

**Hydration Stations:** The summer long project, was completed and ready for use at all sites (typical unit below).



## Board of Education

A new board member was appointed at a special meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Navi Kahlon will take the seat vacated by Brian MacDonald, who resigned his term due to work conflicts. She will fill his unexpired term that would have gone through November 2024. Welcome!



### Informational Links

Keeping you in the Know

*Superintendent's Office*

[Board Meeting Info](#)  
[Employment Opportunities](#)

**STAFF ONLY:**

[2022-23 Calendars](#)  
[Bell Schedules](#)  
[E-forms](#)  
[Phone Directories](#)

### TUSD INFO PAGE

The latest updates

*Superintendent's Office*

Check out the [TUSD INFO PAGE](#) for important information including TUSD Programs, Bell Schedules, Calendar and Heat Risk Assessment.

Please also remember that each of our school sites have their own website and Facebook pages. From the District [HOME PAGE](#) you can use the drop-down list of schools in the upper right-hand corner to find your site!

### Work for TUSD!

Current Job Openings

*Human Resources*

Are you looking for a new job opportunity? Check out our current openings: [JOB OPENINGS](#)



**COME JOIN OUR TEAM!!**

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