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August 28, 2023



Photo of the Week



First week of school at Calwa Elementary School (See more great Fresno Unified back-to-school photos on our [Flickr](#))

Dates to Know

August 23 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

October 12
State of Education Gala

Video of the Week



Kick-off event for the [Step Up HBCU program Video](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to Community Zone, an e-newsletter from the Fresno Unified School District featuring news of the district and schools. [Sign up](#) to receive this newsletter every two weeks. Questions? Contact Communications@fresnounified.org.

Celebrating Our Employees, Schools and Students

Big First Day at Del Mar Elementary School

Del Mar Elementary School had an especially great first day of school! The school was one of just 18 elementary campuses from across the country selected for Office Depot's Start Proud! community investment program. The [Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools](#) nominated Del Mar for the recognition. The school celebrated on August 14. What it won:

- Backpacks and supplies for students
- \$20,000 in merchandise cards for Principal Nicole Woods for the school
- Teacher Sara Bozkurt selected by her peers to receive \$2,000 in equipment and supplies

Manchester is Ranked Fourth-Best Elementary School in California

Manchester GATE Elementary School was ranked No. 4 in California in the U.S. News & World Report Elementary Schools Ranking. U.S. News analyzed 102,451 pre-K, elementary and middle schools.

[U.S. News Schools Rankings](#)

District Wins Budget Presentation Award

Our district has been recognized for excellence in the presentation of the budget! Fresno Unified has been awarded a Meritorious Budget Award for fiscal year 2023-24 by the Association of School Business Officials International. The award program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation.

Bullard High School Student Wins Flight Training Scholarship

Sarah McClelland, a senior at Bullard High School, has won a full scholarship for flight training at JB Aeronautics, based at Fresno Yosemite International Airport, through the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 376 of Fresno and the Ray Aviation Scholarship Program. The scholarship is designed to support a flight student through both written and practical

segments of flight training that are part of successful FAA pilot certification.

Sarah has already completed several lessons at JB Aeronautics. She is interested in pursuing aerospace engineering in college, which prompted her to enroll in an EAA-sponsored ground school class. During one of these classes, Sarah learned about the Ray Aviation scholarship and applied in May.

Longtime Edison and Safety Assistant has Retired

Danny Alberty, a longtime beloved staff member and coach at Edison High School, has retired. Danny served Edison for 20 years as a campus safety assistant and track and field coach. He was the classified employee Excellence in Education winner for the district in 2016 as well as the Employee of the Year for Fresno County's Educator of the Year awards.

Gala set for October to Raise Funds for Scholarships

Save the date for the State of Education Gala to benefit students, put on by the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. The dinner is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 12 at The Manor Estate in Madera.

[State of Education Gala Flyer](#)

Superintendent Board Remarks from August 23, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks sharing his gratitude and pride in a wonderful kick-off to the 23/24 school year! Superintendent shared his excitement being able to see our student investments in action both inside the classroom and beyond the classroom. Superintendent Nelson mentioned younger siblings joining for free breakfast with their school-aged siblings, our new Campus Safety Assistants, and some of the 22 clothing closets for students across the district. Superintendent [shared this video](#) showcasing some of the opportunities, support, learning and love across the district in the first week of school.
- Superintendent Nelson then shared several celebrations including:
 - Our very own [Trustee Keshia Thomas who has been selected as one of Marjaree Mason's Top 10 Professional Women](#),
 - Tami Lundberg, Chief Technology Officer, for her national recognition from the Council of the Great City Schools and from Fresno State as the Distinguished Alumnus from the school of Math, Science and Technology,
 - [Manchester GATE claimed the impressive No. 4 spot for the best elementary schools in California by the U.S. News](#), and
 - Our [Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools and Office Depot for showering Del Mar with so much love \(and supplies!\)](#) for the first day of school!

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from our District

Calwa Students Receive Backpacks from Trustee

Board member Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas donated 50 backpacks to students at Calwa

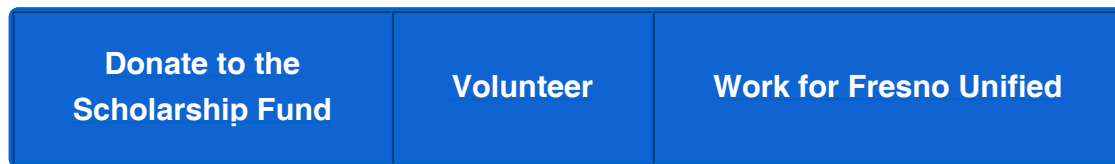
Elementary School on August 17.

Important Information about Social Services Benefits

Our Department of Social Services needs the community's help with spreading the word about the county (and state) system changes coming soon. For anyone accessing benefits from our social services, they need to know that the system they've used (MyBenefits CalWIN and DSS PASS) will switch to a new system called BenefitsCal. Any Fresno County family accessing Medi-Cal or Cal-Fresh services from Social Services will need the attached information.

[BenefitsCal Info in English](#)

[BenefitsCal Info in Spanish](#)



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