

From: [Communications](#)
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May 30, 2023



Photo of the Week



Design Science Middle College High School Graduation

Dates to Know

May 24 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Celebrating Seal of Biliteracy at Edison 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.

Community News

Senior Spotlight: Ben Vang from Design Science Middle College High School

Meet one of our outstanding seniors – Ben Vang from Design Science Middle College High School. This highly motivated graduate is headed to UC Berkeley where he will study business. He is a Fresno Unified Scholarship winner, a valedictorian and earned his associate degree from Fresno City College while still in high school. He was also named to the all-league team in volleyball and was in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp. His proud parents are Hmong immigrants from Thailand. Way to go, Ben!

Water Safety Videos Available

With summer and warm weather comes water recreation and the potential for accidents, especially this year with water levels dangerously high. Below are links to new water safety PSAs in English and Spanish.

English: [Water Safety PSA](#)

Spanish: [Water Safety PSA \(Spanish\)](#)

Check out Spring Edition of "Faces of Fresno Unified" Digital Magazine

The district has launched the second edition today of its "Faces of Fresno Unified" digital magazine. The magazine features the accomplishments and talents of the Fresno Unified family through words, photos and videos. This spring edition highlights the district's six Excellence in Education winners, a student who starred in a Disney series and much more! Read about the inspiring stories of principals at Tehipite and Terronez middle schools, the music teacher at Wawona K-8 School and a custodian who became a teacher. Find out what drives the intervention specialist at Kirk Elementary School and an Edison alum now doing graduate studies at Purdue University. Learn more about a 1960 Roosevelt High School graduate who has endowed a \$5,000 annual award for a Roosevelt teacher.

[Spring Edition of "Faces of Fresno Unified" Magazine](#)

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration Underway

Preschool registration is underway for Fresno Unified's high-quality early learning programs for the 2023-24 school year. Free programs are available for all 3- and 4-year-old children. An online process is available. Visit: earlylearning.fresnounified.org

Research shows that children who start school early build a strong foundation for future success. For more information, parents can go to earlylearning.fresnounified.org, or call (559) 457-3416. Options include [dual immersion language programs](#) at select schools. Through dual immersion, students learn to speak, read and write in two languages. Programs are available in Spanish and Hmong.

Registration is also ongoing for [transitional kindergarten](#) (TK) for students turning 5 between Sept. 2 and April 2. Students who are 5 on or before Sept. 1 qualify for kindergarten. Dual immersion language programs are available at select schools.

[Online Registration](#)

[Kinder and TK Enrollment Video](#)

[Preschool and Kindergarten Flyer](#)

Superintendent Board Remarks from May 24, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks sending our deepest condolences to our Fresno Unified family who lost two of their beautiful children to rushing waters below Pine Flat Dam last weekend. Additional supports are being provided to the family and to the staff and students who have lost their friend and student. Superintendent pleaded with our community to please stay away from all closed rivers, canals and recreation areas as this year the conditions are more unpredictable and dangerous than ever with our huge melting snowpack. Superintendent led the room in a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of our student Victoria and her brother Santiago.
- Superintendent then provided a bargaining update. Superintendent shared that in order to meet the requests of FTA in providing a full proposal, we have moved back to traditional, position-based bargaining. With that move we can now begin to publicize our ongoing negotiation efforts. Last week, we provided a full response to FTA's almost 30 pages of interests and we look forward to sharing our first full initial proposal publicly by June 1. Superintendent is confident that our proposal will take into consideration the transformative work needed to support our students in this post-pandemic world AND be a historic, mutually beneficial offer to our amazing teachers whom we appreciate and value. As we have been, we will continue to meet with FTA leadership every week and will provide negotiation news updates following meetings.
- Superintendent shared that graduation season kicked off this week with Design Science's graduation ceremony on Monday. He shared more graduations happening next Thursday and Friday, and our comprehensive and specialty high schools on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week. He shared our excitement to celebrate alongside our seniors and their loved ones.
- Superintendent then shared his excitement that we have over 11,000 summer camp spots filled with just less than 800 spots still available. Superintendent shared with families that if you have not yet signed up your student for summer camps, it's your last chance to get one of those final 800 spots! Families can [register their children through this link](#) on our Fresno Unified website.
- Superintendent reminded all 22-23 retirees it is time to RSVP for our annual retirement celebration! This year's event will be held on June 23 indoors at the Belmont Country club. Retirees attend for free and all other guests are \$50 per ticket. There will be dinner, recognition, and dancing – you don't want to miss this amazing night as we honor your incredible career! RSVP now to Vangie Carrillo in our Communications department by calling

457-3733.

- Superintendent then congratulated Doua Vu, manager in our English Learner Services department. Doua is being recognized nationally by the Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education, receiving the 2023 Promoting Bilingualism Award. Doua's work in growing our Hmong Dual Language Immersion and Heritage programs is of particular note – programs that have been recognized locally, statewide, and nationally as trailblazing curriculum for a language at risk of being lost.

- Superintendent also congratulated the 130 Edison graduates who have earned the state's Seal of Biliteracy for their proficiency in at least one language other than English during their academic careers. In addition to the 130 graduates at Edison who have earned their seal, another 323 graduates throughout the district have earned this recognition. Our students have earned Seals of Biliteracy in Spanish, Hmong, Latin, French, Arabic, Vietnamese, Russian and Chinese. Superintendent shared [this video of Edison's Seal of Biliteracy event](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Edison Celebrates Students Earning Seal of Biliteracy

Edison High School honored 130 graduating seniors on May 18 who earned a [California Seal of Biliteracy](#). While Edison has the most students in the district earning the Seal of Biliteracy, a total of 453 students have earned the seal at high schools throughout Fresno Unified this year in Spanish, Hmong, Latin, French, Arabic, Vietnamese, Russian and Chinese.

The Seal of Biliteracy program recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. The seal is affixed to diplomas.

Wilson Front Office Staff Recognized for Customer Service

Superintendent Bob Nelson and Deputy Superintendent Misty Her presented the Wilson Elementary School front office staff with the district's Golden Heart Customer Service Award on May 3.

The award was based on customer service feedback from parents who visited Wilson's front office, rating the staff on friendliness, timeliness of response and their professionalism. The award is given quarterly.

Groups Donate Scooters to Webster Sixth Graders

Thanks to the generosity of Fresno Rotary Club and Teens that Care, all sixth graders at Webster Elementary School received a new scooter and helmet during a presentation on May 19.

Kings Canyon Celebrates Reclassification of English Learners

Kings Canyon Middle School is proud to announce 29 students have been reclassified to Fluent English Proficient in English and were celebrated at a luncheon with their parents.

Congratulations to all students.

Sunnyside Photo Students get Real World Experience

Sunnyside High School senior photo students in Tamela Ryatt’s class captured photos for their portfolios as part of a collaboration with Paul Mitchell cosmetology school students. The students welcomed Paul Mitchell student stylists into their studio for a photo shoot on May 12. Sunnyside students gained experience in fashion photography and Paul Mitchell students gained experience in makeup and styling.

[Fashion Photo Shoot Video](#)

Employee Spotlight

English Learner Department Manager Wins National Award

Doua Vu, manager in the English Learner Department, has won the 2023 Promoting Bilingualism Award by the Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education. Doua will be honored at the Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Conference on Friday, June 23 at the Sacramento Convention Center. This national award is presented to educators and researchers who have been trailblazers in establishing powerful dual language immersion program options for students. Doua has been instrumental in the growth of Fresno Unified’s Hmong dual language immersion program.

CTE Spotlight

CTE Pathways will Expand at Edison when New Building Opens

Edison High School hosted a “demo party” on May 25 to clear space for a new 31,000-square-foot, two-story building for classrooms and labs. When the building is completed in 2024, Edison will be able to expand its various career technology education (CTE) pathways. The CTE pathways include:

- Biomedicine and Kinesiology
- Engineering Design and Development
- Green Energy and Technology Academy
- Computer Science
- Teacher Academy

The building will include a robotics workshop, sports medicine lab, state-of-the-art technology labs and a Collaborative Career Center serving all Edison students.

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