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July 10, 2023



Photo of the Week



Summer STEAM Camp at Slater Elementary School

Dates to Know

August 9 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

August 14

Start of School

Video of the Week



[Diploma for Ernesto Palomino 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

New Edition of Digital Magazine Highlights Graduation

The first graduation edition of our district's "Faces of Fresno Unified" magazine captures the excitement of commencement and celebrates the accomplishments of valedictorians and Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients. Learn more about some of the outstanding graduates of the Class of 2023:

- Design Science Middle College High School's Ben Vang, son of Hmong immigrants, knows what it's like to grow up with little money. He will study business administration at UC Berkeley so that he can provide financial stability for himself and his family. He also wants a career that will allow him to help those on limited incomes.
- DeWolf High School's Sarah Corrales' turbulent childhood included living for a time in a motel and caring for younger siblings. She will start her journey to be a neonatal nurse at Fresno City College.
- Edison High School's Uzueth Ramirez Gallegos was raised by a single mother in a tough neighborhood. She decided to turn her life around, improving her GPA from 2.2 to 4.3 and will study biochemistry at UC San Diego with plans to be a cardiologist.

[Read the Graduation Edition of Faces of Fresno Unified Magazine](#)

Free Health Fair hosted at Chukchansi Park

A free health fair to help families prepare for returning to school in August will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 3-6 p.m. at Chukchansi Park. The fair will include health screenings, haircuts and free school supplies while they last.

[Flyer on Back to School Health Fair](#)

Books Giveaway Promotes Summer Reading

To promote summer reading, our district partnered with Scholastic to provide books to all

students in preschool through sixth grade who attended summer school in June. Students received a pack of five books, a journal and other reading resources. A Scholastic Grab-n-Go event was held on June 30 at Eaton Elementary School's library. This was our district's fifth distribution of book packs, and directly supports our literacy initiative to get students reading by first grade.

Parent University Celebrates Families who Participated in Family Learning

Fresno Unified's Parent University celebrated and recognized families who participated in family learning and family leadership opportunities as well as the Voices Leadership Council during the past school year. The June 9 celebration at No Surrender was part of the district's work to promote its Family Goal to "Increase inclusion opportunities for families to engage in their students' education."

District Recognizes Graduates from Teacher Residency Program

Our district celebrated the most recent group of new teachers from the Teacher Residency program, 84 graduates, on June 2. Residents' credential areas include Bilingual Authorization Program in both Spanish and Hmong, special education mild/moderate and moderate/severe, foundational math and science, math, biology, chemistry, English and transitional kindergarten. Our Teacher Residency program has 480 teachers currently serving Fresno Unified throughout all regions. More than 80% of all of our new hires for Fresno Unified were from teacher development pipeline programs like Transition to Teaching, student teachers, substitute teachers and the Teacher Residency program, demonstrating our district's commitment to growing our own teachers.

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 June 21, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks by thanking all upcoming retirees for their years of service and dedication to the students of Fresno Unified. Superintendent Nelson shared his

excitement for the upcoming annual retirement celebration this Friday at Belmont Country Club.

- Superintendent Nelson then shared his gratitude for all who are working to support our Summer Academies, and shared his gratitude in advance for all partners making our free Summer Camps a reality in July. Superintendent shared his gratitude to the teams who worked to ensure our students and families were able to take full advantage of our free Summer Camp opportunities, which resulted in over 11,000 spots being filled with more than 7,200 unique Fresno Unified students. Superintendent called out the success of engagement efforts in bringing about an 80% increase in registrations of English Learner students, and 93% increase in registrations of students receiving specialized services, and a 120% increase in registrations of our foster/homeless youth.
- Superintendent Nelson then closed his remarks sharing his gratitude to the Fresno Unified family for all of their hard work this school year from our academic gains, to the responsible budget being considered for adoption this evening, and to the important and necessary focus on early literacy our team will continue sharing tonight. Superintendent Nelson also thanked the Board of Education for their service and guidance through the 22/23 school year.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Ayer Elementary Student gets Bike for Perfect Attendance

Sophia Martinez-Ambrocio, a first grader at Ayer Elementary School, got a big surprise at the end of this past school year! The Fresno Exchange Club, facilitated by Fresno Unified trustee Valerie Davis, rewarded Sophia's perfect attendance with a new bike. Her dad was on hand for the special announcement.

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