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May 1, 2023

 Fresno Unified School District

COMMUNITYzone

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

ACHIEVING OUR GREATEST POTENTIAL



Photo of the Week

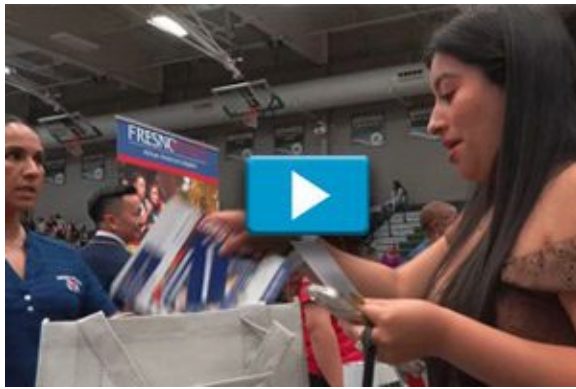


Tournament of Technology

Dates to Know

May 10 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Fresno State Send-Off 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

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](#)

Wow! College Options!

The college acceptances are rolling in for Fresno Unified seniors – and the news has already been exciting for Edison High School's Thomas Stewart and Duncan Polytechnical High School's Anna Hun. About Thomas:

- Thomas accepted at four Ivy League schools: Yale, Columbia, Brown and Cornell
- Accepted also at Stanford and UC Berkeley
- Goal is to be a top editor for a publication like the New York Times
- Interested in studying English, creative writing and journalism
- Is senior class vice president
- Involved in band, speech and debate, the Black Student Union, water polo and swim and dive

About Anna:

- Believed to be Duncan's first student accepted to Ivy League campus – and she has been accepted to three: Harvard, Dartmouth and University of Pennsylvania
- Also been accepted at Stanford, Duke, Vanderbilt, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC San

Diego and to the Smittcamp Family Honors College at Fresno State

- Plans to major in human biology with the goal of being a family physician
- Is the associated student body president and in the Air Force Junior ROTC program for four years
- Activities include the California Association of Student Leaders and the Youth Leadership Institute
- Leads science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) projects for elementary students every week through Valley STEM

Arts Education Department Wins Award

Congratulations to the Arts Education Department, honored with a Best Communities for Music Education Award from the NAMM Foundation. The NAMM Foundation celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education. "This award recognizes the work of our teachers, TSA's, administrators, parents and board members who pushed to have music K-12 in our district. It also celebrates the fact that our community has opportunities outside of school, like Youth Orchestra of Fresno, Children's Musical Theatre and local music camps like Sequoia Lake and La Sierra for our students to play music outside of school," said Heather Kuyper-McKeithen, manager of the Arts Education Department.

The application focused on average years experience of the music teachers, music teacher education levels, ratio of students to number of music teachers, examples of integrated lessons, yearly budget for music and other local music opportunities.

Sunnyside Region ArtHop Presents "The Colors of Emotions: Views on the Pandemic Experience"

The Sunnyside region will present a show as part of ArtHop on Thursday, May 4 from 5-8 p.m. at the district's [REAL Collaborative](#) Galleries at the M Street Art Complex, 1419 M. St. (Tuolumne and M streets). "The Colors of Emotions: Views on the Pandemic Experience" encompasses students' visual stories using a range of artistic expressions to share the many ways students discovered the strength and courage to be resilient and sometimes to even thrive.

Sunnyside region students have created various forms of visual and written work using such media as paper, clay, glass, graphite, colored pencils and acrylic paint. As students processed their experiences during this unprecedented time in history, their creative work reflects individual perspectives and the impact of social distancing, isolation, virtual school and family dynamics while in quarantine.

Questions: [Alana Hill](#) in the Arts Education Department.

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 April 26, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks encouraging families to open a CalKIDS ScholarShare account for their students. More than 58,000 of our more than 70,000 students qualify to get an automatic \$500 deposit, with an additional \$500 automatic deposit for our students who are foster youth and/or unhoused. In addition, any new or newly linked 529 college savings accounts by Sunday are also eligible to receive an additional \$50 deposit! Families and students are able to check their eligibility and sign up [at this link](#).
- Superintendent Nelson then invited the public to join us at Hoover's Event Center this Saturday for our esports tournament and our high school robotics competition. The esports tournament for middle and high schoolers where our Fresno Unified students will compete against teams across the valley, kicks off at 8 a.m. The robotics competition with eight schools and 13 robots in head-to-head competition, kicks off at 8:30 a.m.
- Superintendent then celebrated our Fresno State Send-Off event earlier this week. Fresno Unified had 2,106 seniors apply to Fresno State, with 95% of those applicants being accepted! Superintendent shared his joy that these almost 2,000 students will continue to learn, grow, and put down roots here in Fresno.
- Superintendent then went on to shout out and celebrate just a few of our amazing seniors in this exciting season of college acceptances and scholarship awards.
 - Anna Hun of Duncan who has been accepted to Harvard, Stanford, Dartmouth, Duke, UPenn, Vanderbilt, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and the Fresno State Smittcamp Family Honors College. To our knowledge, Anna is the first Duncan graduate to be accepted to the Ivy League!
 - Thomas Clark Stewart of Edison who has been accepted to Yale, Brown, Columbia and Cornell! Thomas also had a powerful op-ed article in The Fresno Bee recently and was honored as the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools March Superstar!
 - Joslyn Conchas of Sunnyside has been selected for a new program for high school students committed to a medical career and serving the valley's needs. Joslyn is in Sunnyside's Doctors Academy and earned one of just 12 spots out of 1,200 applications! The program, San Joaquin Valley PRIME + BS/MD, is an educational pathway partnership between UC Merced, UC San

Francisco-Fresno and UC San Francisco. During the eight-year program, Joslyn will earn a four-year degree from UC Merced, complete her pre-clinical medical training at the UCSF medical campus planned for UC Merced, and will complete her remaining training at the UCSF campus right here in Fresno.

- Annabelle Raley of Design Science who has been awarded a four-year scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation worth \$55,000 dollars per year to pursue her post-secondary dreams!

- Superintendent shared congratulations to our Arts Education Department, which received a Best Communities for Music Education Award from the NAMM Foundation. The NAMM Foundation celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education. "This award recognizes the work of our teachers, TSA's, administrators, parents and board members who pushed to have music K-12 in our district. It also celebrates the fact that our community has opportunities outside of school like, Youth Orchestra of Fresno, Children's Musical Theatre, and local music camps like Sequoia Lake and La Sierra for our students to play music outside of school." – Heather Kuyper-McKeithen. The application asked questions like average years' experience of the music teachers, music teacher education levels, ratio of students to number of music teachers, examples of integrated lessons, yearly budget for music, other local music opportunities, etc.

- Superintendent Nelson closed his remarks by sharing this great video of last week's groundbreaking for Sunnyside's new CTE building. [Check that video out here.](#)

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Sunnyside Senior Selected for New MD Program

Joslyn Conchas has been selected for a new program for high school students committed to a medical career and serving the valley's needs. The senior in Sunnyside High School's Doctors Academy earned one of just 12 spots out of 1,200 applications. San Joaquin Valley PRIME + BS/MD is an educational pathway partnership between UC Merced, UC San Francisco-Fresno and UC San Francisco. Details:

- Will educate and support valley's future physicians in serving the needs of community
- During eight-year program, students earn four-year degree from UC Merced, complete pre-clinical medical training at UCSF medical campus planned for UC Merced and complete remaining training at the UCSF campus in Fresno

Edison High Shines at National History Day California

Edison High was well represented at the National History Day California competition, with four of nine student projects making it to the finals April 15 and 16 at Sacramento State. Results:

- Uzueth Ramirez and Estrella Garcia finished in Top 15 for Group Documentary on the bracero program
- Yosef Aklilu, Leo Price, Matthew Pitcher and Mason Pitcher finished in Top 6 while receiving

perfect scores in preliminary judging for Group Performance

- Rowan Crass, Adam Kirkpatrick and Sade Walls received honorable mention (third place) for Group Podcast on Earth Day and the Clean Air/Water Acts
- Willow Bolton was the state runner-up for Individual Podcast on thalidomide

Sunnyside High Breaks Ground on Health Science Building

Sunnyside High School held a groundbreaking ceremony April 20 for a 12,900-square-foot building that will house Health Sciences Pathway classrooms and labs. The new building will allow more students to participate in the pathway and expand space for industry-standard equipment to help students be career-ready, competitive in the job market and better prepared for health-related college studies.

The new building will house classrooms for Applied Medical Sciences, Medical Careers, Medical Terminology/Sports Medicine and Athletic Training courses as well as labs for Rehabilitation Therapy and Human Performance classes.

Steve's Scholars Cohort Connection

Tehipite Middle School eighth graders in the Steve's Scholars scholarship program visited Roosevelt High School on April 14 for the annual Cohort Connection, a bridge experience for students as they prepare to enter high school. Students enjoyed lunch in the library with Roosevelt Principal Michael Allen and Francine and Murray Farber, founders of Steve's Scholars.

RSA Produces Weekend of One Acts

The Roosevelt Theatre Company will present Weekend of One Acts May 12-14. The weekend will feature five shows, including two written by students. The One Acts are all directed by seniors who have been studying directing and producing. Tickets are only \$5 and cover at least two shows with each ticket. Each show will run twice over the weekend and are performed in the Little Theater at Roosevelt High School.

Shows:

- "12 Incompetent Men," directed by Sophia Medrano
- "The Butleress," directed by Jonas Kramer
- "The Trysting Place," directed by Nick Sterling
- "Amter-Dang," written and directed by Juan Lozano
- "Living in Oblivion," written and directed by Logan Payne

[RSA One Act Weekend Flyer](#)

Kings Canyon Celebrates ELAC

For the 2022-23 school year, Kings Canyon Middle School had the pleasure of working with Guillermo Berumen, Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Department, in welcoming parents to the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings. Parent involvement is essential to helping students achieve their academic goals. Kings Canyon thanked all parents who attended ELAC meetings with a little celebration, including breakfast and certificates. Home school liaison Julia Sanchez is looking forward to working with all incoming seventh and eighth grade parents for the 2023-24 school year.

CTE Spotlight

Construction Teacher Shines at Fresno High

Joel Osuna is a highly respected construction teacher at Fresno High School. With many years of experience in the industry, Joel brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role, inspiring and motivating his students to achieve their full potential. Joel's teaching style is both engaging and effective. He uses a hands-on approach to teaching, which allows his students to learn by doing. He provides them with real-world experiences, such as working on construction projects in the community and working with Grid Alternatives, which prepares them for success in the workforce. Joel goes above and beyond for his students and is always focused and proud of his students.

Employee Spotlight

Nutrition Services Director Part of First Partner Earth Day Event

Amanda Harvey, director of Nutrition Services, was invited to be part of a Farm to School event convened by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom in honor of Earth Day on April 22 at Rancho Cordova. Farm to School connects local farmers and food to students while creating a more sustainable and equitable food system. Governor Newsom, along with several other community leaders and elected officials, attended.

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Scholarship Fund**

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