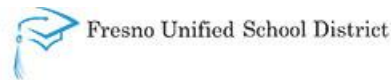


January 17, 2023



COMMUNITYzone

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

ACHIEVING OUR GREATEST POTENTIAL



Photo of the Week



Archery, Taekwondo, Parkour Winter Camp

Dates to Know

January 25 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Video of the Week: School Traffic Safety 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

District will Triple Scholarship Amounts



Fresno Unified will boost the amount of scholarship money it awards to \$300,000 for 2023, awarding three times what it has been able to award in past years. This means the district will triple the number of recipients as well, to more than 200 scholarship winners. This exciting expansion follows the launch of the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools last year and the subsequent \$20 million donation to the foundation

from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Students meeting the eligibility requirements should apply now for scholarships that will range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 1. Students are invited to apply online here: [Fresno Unified Scholarship Application](#).

Eligible students are also encouraged to apply for the Jim Newton Memorial Scholarship, a new \$5,000 scholarship offered through the foundation. Mr. Newton was a longtime principal in Fresno Unified.

[Information about the Jim Newton Memorial Scholarship](#)

Check out Fresno Unified's Digital Magazine



The new [Faces of Fresno Unified digital magazine](#) highlights stories and accomplishments of students and staff and outstanding programs in the district.

Duncan Hosts Ribbon Cutting for New CTE Building



Students at Duncan Polytechnical High School now have a new, 15,920 square-foot building for health-related career pathway learning. The district celebrated the new [Medical Academy of Science and Health \(MASH\)](#) building with a ribbon cutting on January 12. The MASH building houses the certified nursing, rehabilitation therapy and pharmacy technician pathways.

High School and Adult School Students can get Free FAX Bus Passes

Fresno Unified high school and adult school students now have access to free monthly passes for city FAX buses. The passes are available upon request from a student's school office. If parents do not want their student to have access to a bus pass, they can call their school's office to opt out and the school will ensure they do not give the student a pass, even if requested.

The district was able to obtain the free passes at a discounted price through its partnership with the City of Fresno.

Winners Named for Middle School Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Competition



The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Middle School Competition ran through November, with over 40 entries submitted. Entries included drawings, short essays and poems that reflected the diversity and inclusionary realities of FUSD and the challenges students notice at school and in their personal lives.

Congratulations to the grand prize winner from Tioga Middle School, who won an Apple AirPods, and the 20 students who each won a backpack filled with

stationery and books related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

District wins Safe Kids Award



Fresno Unified was awarded the 2022 Friend of Safe Kids Education Award by [Safe Kids Central California](#), led by Valley Children's Hospital. This award recognizes organizations that help students how to prevent injuries and learn about the wide range of opportunities in health care fields. The organization singled out the work of career technical education managers Michelle Mar and

Krishna Reyes.

Fresno Art Museum Recognizes Third Grade Students

Fresno Unified students were honored at the Winter FAMILY Day on December 11 at the Fresno Art Museum. The juried show honored these third graders:



Jordan Jaramillo; Celia Lopez, teacher – Ayer Elementary School
Bella Temores; Ellen Relojo, teacher – Hidalgo Elementary School
Aldo Alba-Perez; Shae Hill, teacher – Rowell Elementary School
Shayna Her; Kelley Paul, teacher – Storey Elementary School

The student art show was part of an [Art of the Word arts unit](#) that all third grade classes could participate in, a collaboration between Fresno Unified, the Fresno County Superintendent of School (FCSS) and the Fresno Art Museum. As part of the project, students go on a free field study trip to the museum to create a class book of student art to be exhibited at the museum. In alignment with the arts unit, the museum curates an exhibition annually that focuses on

illustrations and illustrators.

The "Art of the Word" project is an initiative from Any Given Child, a partnership of Fresno Unified, FCSS and the City of Fresno with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. More information: www.fresnoartmuseum.org.

Ninth Annual Black History Month Program



Save the date! Fresno Unified Black Student Unions proudly present the ninth annual Black History Month Program on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 6 p.m. The show will be at Roosevelt High School in the Audra McDonald Theater for students, parents, district leaders and community partners. This year's collaboration features the entire school district, including students from each region, and community partner Purposed II Praise School of Dance.

Superintendent Board Remarks from January 11, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks officially welcoming board President Islas and board Clerk Wittrup to their leadership roles on the board.
- Superintendent Nelson sent our thoughts and prayers to Abigail Zwerner, a first-grade teacher in Virginia who was tragically shot by one of her 6-year-old students. He shared how difficult this tragedy is for all educators, and reaffirmed our district's commitment to safety for our staff and students. Superintendent thanked the board for their continuing investments in physical safety improvements for our schools and increasing investments in social emotional supports. Superintendent pleaded with parents and the community to join us as one team in ensuring safety on our campuses. He asked parents to have important conversations with their children about gun safety, that if parents do have guns in the home that they are secured at all times and not accessible to children, and to please let our schools know if your child is going through any social emotional struggles. We can help! Superintendent highlighted our ongoing strong partnership with the City of Fresno Police Department. This partnership will soon bring a program called Handle with Care to our district, ensuring our schools are provided a warm handoff should any of our students or their families have contact with police or fire in dealing with trauma at home.
- Superintendent Nelson then took time to honor the legacy of Vurdell Newsome and condolences to his family. Mr. Newsome was a long-time teacher, counselor, and principal here at Fresno Unified, serving our district for more than 33 years.
- Superintendent then announced that free monthly FAX bus passes are now available to all Fresno Unified high school and adult school students! Students can request a bus pass directly from their school office. If any parents do NOT want their child to have access to this resource, they may call the school office and opt-out of this resource. The school will track those who have opted-out and ensure those students do not receive a FAX bus pass, even if requested. Superintendent thanked the Purchasing Department and the City of Fresno for partnering to make this resource a reality, allowing the district to purchase bus passes at a discounted rate.
- Superintendent urged all Fresno Unified seniors to apply to our Fresno Unified Scholarship program as the application window opened this week. With the amazing fundraising of our foundation, we are able to triple the number of scholarships and the dollars we're able to give in

scholarships this year. An additional scholarship opportunity is also available through the newly formed Jim Newton Scholarship, developed in honor of a highly regarded long-time principal of Fresno Unified. Superintendent encouraged all high school seniors to get their applications in well before the deadline on March 1. Students can work with their academic counselors to complete the application or can apply online through our district website at www.fresnounified.org.

- Superintendent Nelson then invited folks to join us tomorrow for the grand opening of the new Duncan Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) building tomorrow. The new 16,000 sq. ft. building brings cutting-edge facilities and equipment for our MASH students to learn and prepare for their future studies and careers. Superintendent thanked our operations and facilities team, our CTE team, and our voters for their support in funding important facility projects such as this.
- Superintendent shared that our district was awarded the 2022 Friends of Safe Kids Education Award by Safe Kids Central California, led by Valley Children's Hospital. This award recognizes organizations that help students learn how to prevent injuries and about the wide range of opportunities in health care fields. Superintendent specifically thanked career technical education managers Michelle Mar and Krishnna Reyes who were called out in the award.
- Superintendent Nelson closed his remarks with a focus on traffic safety. He shared a growing partnership between our district, the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, and our neighboring school districts to work together in increasing safety for our students as they walk to and from our schools. Superintendent Nelson shared this [traffic safety PSA](#) created from our Safety and Communications teams, as the first of several.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Heartwarming Gifts from Hoover Men's and Women's Alliances



The Women's Alliance and Men's Alliance at Hoover High School provided heartwarming gifts to homeless students in the Project ACCESS program in December after discussing the impact of homelessness on families and students. They learned that homelessness affects students' attendance, learning, social-emotional wellbeing, and overall wellbeing, and that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was created to support the education of homeless students. They also learned about FUSD'S Project ACCESS, a program created to support homeless students and families within FUSD, and selected it as their community project. The Alliance classes

handpicked and wrapped gifts for all 19 homeless Project ACCESS students at Hoover High School.

Learn more about Project ACCESS here: dpi.fresnounified.org/access

Learn more about the Women's and Men's Alliance here:

dpi.fresnounified.org/mentoring/alliance

RTC Musical Directed by Student for First Time



Rehearsals are underway for Roosevelt High School's School of the Arts' spring musical, 'Something Rotten.' The Roosevelt Theatre Company show is directed by senior Kennedy Ellis, the first time in Roosevelt's history that a student has directed the musical. Kennedy is doing well and leading a team of student designers as he learns on-the-job directing. This show is also remarkable because it is the first time a Valley school will produce the Tony-nominated 'Something Rotten.' Check out [Roosevelt School of the Arts'](#)

[website](#) for more information about the March opening.

Donate to the	Volunteer	Work for Fresno Unified
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Scholarship Fund		
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