

August 29, 2022



Photo of the Week



First Day of School at Cooper Academy

Dates to Know

September 5

Labor Day Holiday

September 7 Board Workshop (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Grand Opening of Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School 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 Elementary School Hosts Grand Opening Ceremony



Fresno Unified's newest campus, [Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School](#), hosted a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on August 22. Guests had the opportunity to tour the school and learn more about the Spanish dual language immersion program, how teachers are integrating science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) into daily lessons, and United Health Centers' on-campus family health clinic.

Speakers included [Juan Felipe Herrera](#), a Fowler native who was the nation's Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017 and a former Fresno State professor. Superintendent Bob Nelson and members of the Fresno Unified Board of Education also spoke. Guests were welcomed by the Sunnyside High School band.

Governor Visits McLane High School



McLane High School hosted Governor Newsom on August 18, where he announced a \$4.7 billion investment in mental health and substance abuse supports for Californians up to age 25. Speakers included McLane student Aliyah Barajas, who shared her personal mental health story. Superintendent Bob Nelson said about hosting the governor: "They chose Fresno Unified as the location because they see us as a model for other districts across the state in regards to

our social emotional and mental health supports for students and families. We've been growing our investments in these areas drastically over the last decade, far before this announcement, and Governor Newsom acknowledged that they were learning from us when producing their plan. I'm especially proud of Aliyah Barajas, senior at McLane, who shared her tough story of self-harm and our school response to her as a fifth grader. It was tough to hear and incredibly important to hear, as eight years ago when this happened, she didn't receive the follow up and support from us as a district that she would have received now."

Family Workshop from A4 and Student Engagements

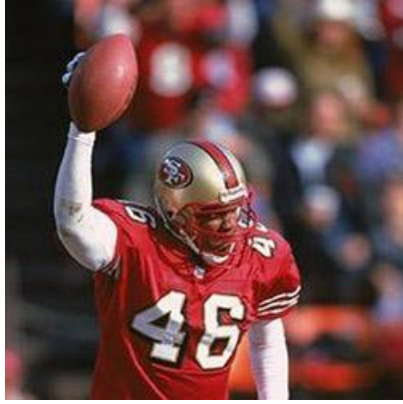
A workshop for families will be held on Monday, September 12 with the theme "Building Blocks for Black Excellence." Organized by the district's Student Engagements Department and the Office of African American Academic Acceleration, the workshop will feature guest speakers and provide dinner and childcare. The event is 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fresno Convention Center. See the flyer to make a reservation by September 5.

[Flyer for Family Workshop](#)

Four District Alumni in First Class for California Football Hall of Fame

Four of the six Valley players named to the first class for the [California High School Football Hall of Fame](#) are from Fresno Unified.

The Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation announced its inaugural class of the hall of fame on August 15. The 100-name list includes Hoover High School's Henry Ellard, Class of 1979; Edison High School's Charles Young, Class of 1970, and Tim McDonald, Class of 1983; and Fresno High School's Les Richter, Class of 1948. The hall will be established at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, with a formal ceremony in the spring.



Superintendent Board Remarks from August 24, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks thanking our Fresno Unified family for a great opening of schools – one of the best he’s experienced in 32 years of education.
- Superintendent Nelson then shared about the [Governor and First Partner’s visit to Fresno Unified](#), specifically McLane High School, to lift our district up as a model for supporting our students’ social emotional and mental health needs. We’re proud of McLane senior, Aliyah Barajas, for so courageously sharing her own story and bringing us all back to our why.
- Superintendent then shared his excitement about the official [grand opening of Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School](#). Earlier this week the district celebrated with Juan Felipe Herrera himself, his family, our students, staff, and community leaders. This is our first wall-to-wall STEAM elementary school, with dedicated maker spaces, specially designed early learning classrooms, and the first elementary school with a dedicated music room. The 17-acre school includes much green space, a health clinic through United Health Centers, and many other amenities to the southeast Fresno community. Superintendent thanked our voters for passing our bond measures, which make investments such as this school a reality.
- Superintendent then shouted out all of our champions who have helped to [launch our HBCU Step Up Program](#). This program created a partnership between Fresno Unified and Benedict College, a HBCU, or historically black college or university. This program brings the opportunity for students at three of our comprehensive high schools to be dually enrolled at their high school and Benedict College, where our students will participate in live, virtual college courses with Benedict professors. Students will be able to earn a full semester’s worth of transferable credit as they build their college-goer identity and explore the amazing benefits of a HBCU.
- Superintendent shared his excitement for the upcoming renaming celebration of H. Roger Tatarian Elementary School next week.
- Superintendent congratulated Deputy Superintendent Misty Her for being named one of Marjaree Mason Center’s Top 10 Professional Women for 2022.
- Superintendent ended his remarks [sharing this video](#) wrapping up the excitement from our first week of school.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Real Estate Association Donates to Storey

The local branch of the Asian Real Estate Association of America donated backpacks and supplies to all students at Storey Elementary School on August 26. This was the second year the association donated backpacks and supplies to Storey.



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