

August 15, 2022

Fresno Unified School District

COMMUNITYzone

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

ACHIEVING OUR GREATEST POTENTIAL



Photo of the Week



Leadership

Dates to Know

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

August 15
First day of 2022-23 Academic Year

Video of the Week



[Back to 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

Fresno Community School Kickoff

The Office of African American Academic Acceleration (A4), in partnership with Gaston Middle School, is excited to host the annual Fresno Community School Kickoff on **August 20 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gaston**. This event brings together various community organizations and offers ALL FUSD students free food, free school supplies and free haircuts. Fresno State student-athletes will provide a short sports clinic. Students wanting to participate in the sports clinic MUST register for the clinic by scanning the QR code on the flyer or visiting the link: <https://tinyurl.com/SchoolKickoff>.

Please Note: Food and school supplies and are on a first-come, first-served basis. A4 looks forward to seeing you there!

[Community School Kickoff Flyer](#)

District Launches College Program for African American Students



Students and their families who will participate in a new partnership with Benedict College, one of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), gathered August 11 for the official launch of the program. The first cohort of the HBCU Step Up Pathways Program is made up of sophomores from Bullard, Edison and Sunnyside high schools. The district is the first in California to partner with a HBCU for a dual enrollment program of this kind. Students accepted into the program have the opportunity to earn up to 12 free college units through live virtual classes with Benedict professors.

Students who successfully complete the HBCU Step Up program are guaranteed admission to Benedict College, and will have access to a HBCU tour, college fairs and summer enrichment, additional academic support, and scholarship opportunities. The program will expose students to the academic and cultural experience of an HBCU while earning college credit.

Speakers at the event August 11 at Fresno City College included Superintendent Bob Nelson; Gloria Ponce-Rodriguez, Fresno Unified College Readiness manager and a member of the Step Up team; Dr. Kalisha Spomer, a counselor and articulation officer at Fresno City College and the California representative for Benedict College; and Zerina Hargrove-Brown, principal at Terronez Middle School and Step Up coordinator. The launch will include a video message from Benedict College's Dr. Roslyn Artis, president, and Dr. Janeen Witty, vice president of academic affairs. Fresno Unified trustees also attended.

Raptor Visitor Management System

This school year, the district will begin to use the Raptor Visitor Management System in all schools, building on the district's already established safety plans. Part of keeping students and staff safe is knowing who is on campuses and in buildings, and the Raptor system will allow the district to do that. Knowing which visitors, contractors and volunteers are at a school site provides a safer environment, especially in the event of an emergency. For questions or additional information, please contact Amy Idsvoog at Amy.Idsvoog@fresnounified.org. [Raptor Flyer](#)

Superintendent Board Remarks from August 10, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks welcoming all enthusiastically to the 2022/2023 school year! Superintendent shared his excitement and gratitude as we move into a new school year, as close to "normal" as we have had in a few years.
- Superintendent spent the rest of his remarks sharing his gratitude for several great things happening in the district including:
 - Teachers and administrators highly engaged in their professional learning during their "buyback day" today, all focused on teaching and learning and not overwhelmed by COVID protocols as in years past,
 - Successful summer learning which included summer academies at almost all school sites in June, and over 40 summer camps throughout the month of July – all fantastic opportunities for our students to learn and build relationships,
 - Starting the 22/23 school year with a 99.9% teacher fill rate with 76% of our newly hired teachers coming through our own teacher development pipeline programs,
 - A newly executed side letter agreement with our labor partners FASTA, increasing our daily pay rate for substitute teachers to \$200, preparing our district to be highly competitive in the

case of an increased need for substitutes during a COVID spike,

- High quality professional learning happening across the district all summer including our leadership camp, our new leader onboarding, paraprofessional and office staff trainings, and more,
- IT's work to bring Promethean smart boards to all of our elementary school classrooms over the next several weeks and opening a new temporary FLATS center at Edison High School,
- Safety improvements including Active Assailant training for staff, the "See Something, Say Something" campaign to high schools, implementation of the Raptor Visitor Management System at our school sites, an additional campus safety assistant at each of our comprehensive high schools, and the return of SROs to some of our middle schools this year,
- And lastly, Superintendent shared his gratitude for the Office of Engagement and External Partnerships for hosting the first board meeting for the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools, their upcoming launch at the State of Education Gala on October 6th at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Any businesses interested in sponsoring the gala can reach out to Ms. Wendy McCulley.
- Superintendent closed his remarks sharing a way to support the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools through Amazon Smile – check out this quick video to learn more.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Bullard Students go to Spain



Rosa Gamez, Spanish Language and Culture AP teacher at Bullard High School, led a group of students on a northern Spain trip over the summer. The trip had been in the works for a few years but delayed by the pandemic. Students traveled to Madrid where Castilian originated; Toledo, known as the city of the three cultures; Segovia and a medieval castle; Burgos; Bilboa; San Sebastian and its beaches; Pamplona; and Barcelona, where Rosa studied for a semester in college. Rosa said: "This is one of the reasons why I

choose to expose my students to traveling and to pursue a language -- because it will open up doors, doors to seeing new places, cultures, people, learning about the arts and history, and my favorite -- trying new foods. Overall, it was a trip that I will never forget, and I know for a fact my students grew as individuals through this experience."

Employee Spotlight

Deputy Superintendent Recognized



Deputy Superintendent Misty Her will be honored as a Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards recipient at an [awards ceremony](#) October 12 at the Save Mart Center. The Marjaree Mason Center's annual awards honor local women who have excelled professionally and given back to their communities. One business, Bank of America, will be honored as the Leading Business for its support of women and women's issues in the workplace.

Donate to the
Scholarship Fund

Volunteer

Work for Fresno Unified