

January
2024

TUSD NEWS

Tracy Unified School District



Published the first Friday of each month

Superintendent's Office



Board Meeting:
January 9, 23

ERMs: January 8, 22, 29

MLK Day:
January 16

MLK Breakfast:
January 16 - 8:30

[Purchase Tickets HERE](#)



Dr. Rob Pecot, Superintendent

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Break and are excited to see what 2024 brings. The second semester of the 2023 2024 school year is now here, and as always there are a plethora of events and activities happening in our school district. Whether it is attending a sporting event, arts performance, or community meeting you are sure to see the best that TUSD has to offer.

One of the highlights of this semester is sure to be Mr. Kafele speaking at Kimball High School on January 11th. Mr. Kafele, who goes by "Principal Kafele", is a nationally renowned speaker and best-selling author who will be speaking to parents about how to best provide an effective education to students. Principal Kafele will discuss the link between home and school, and how students can best be supported. I personally have had the privilege of listening to Principal Kafele and was quite impressed with his knowledge, passion, and guidance. I hope to see you at the Geri Neylan Theatre at 6:00 p.m. on the 11th.

On January 15th Tracy, West, and Kimball High School are partnering to present a Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. Breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:00 a.m. at the Kimball High School Cafeteria. This is a student run event that involves multiple organizations working together to honor Dr. King. I would in particular like to thank the Tracy Breakfast Lions who will be donating their time and preparing food. Organizations like the Lions are what make this community so special.

I hope to see you out and about this semester. Happy New Year, and good luck to all in 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS !!
Outstanding Employees of the Fall Term
We appreciate you!!

Teacher Recruitment Fair:
February 3: Tracy Unified District
Event, Freiler Elementary School,
9:00 - 12:00.

TUSD Info Page: [View Here](#)
(Click the link from the District Homepage)

CERTIFICATED: Stephanie Mason (9-12), Lynette Carter (6-8) Duane Voller (K-5)
CLASSIFIED: Melanie Boynton (9-12), Sandra Bowman (6-8), Carmen Serrato (K-5)
MANAGEMENT: Sofia Avalos (Villalovoz Elementary School)



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LCAP SURVEY



The LCAP Survey will open from **January 23rd-February 23, 2024**. The LCAP survey is an opportunity to collect feedback from TUSD students, parents/community, and staff. The data collected from these surveys will aid in the development of our LCAP's goals and actions. Last year, we collected over 9,000 responses and know this number will grow. Thank you for your continued support and commitment toward our LCAP Goals and academic engagement for our students. Three surveys, Staff Survey, Parent & Community

In the Spotlight

Please take a moment to read through our school's learning activities and exciting events below! Follow this link:

[In the Spotlight page](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES: Teacher Recruitment Events

Tracy Unified will be participating in a number of Teacher Recruitment Events.

February 3: Tracy Unified District Event, Freiler Elementary School, 9:00 - 12:00.

February 10: TUSD staff will be attending a recruitment event at CSU Stanislaus.

March 16: TUSD staff will be attending a recruitment event at Teachers College of San Joaquin

STEM

TUSD has created a [STEM website!](#) This website provides a way for all of our educational partners to stay up to date on all of the TUSD Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related activity that is happening in TUSD. We invite you to take a moment to visit the TUSD STEM website and take a look around! On the main landing page you will see an opportunity to provide input to help TUSD refine our STEM Vision by participating in the STEM Vision Survey. Please take a moment to read the TUSD STEM Vision Letter to Educational Partners - [English version](#), [Spanish Version](#). We invite all educational partners to participate: Family Members, Students, Teachers, STEM Advocates/Professionals, Site and District Administrators, and TUSD Board Members. The survey will be open for participation through the end of January. Please reach out to Dr. Dean Reese, TUSD STEM Director - dreese@tusd.net, if you have any questions. Thank you!



GATE

On January 27, 2024, we will host the GATE testing event for those students who would like to join our GATE program in 2024-25. All applications were due by January 4, 2024. For those parents who submitted an application, please watch for a letter coming to your email inbox soon regarding testing schedules.

Board Seeks Names for Tracy High Aquatics Center & Baseball Field

Tracy Unified School District is now considering names for the Tracy High Aquatics Center and the Tracy High Baseball Field.

The Board of Education will consider submitted names recommended by the screening committee. Suggestions may be submitted on the Request to Name a School/School Facility form which is available on all TUSD websites, or at the District office located at 1875 W. Lowell

Survey and Student Survey (with parent consent, grades 4-12) will be available beginning January 23, 2024, and will remain open through February 28, 2024. Parent consent forms will need to be returned to their school site by January 19th. Links will be available either by email, hard copy, texts and will also be posted on TUSD websites.

School Readiness Preschool Programs

Preschoolers have been preparing for the next step in their school experience as they enter the last half of the school year. The students were overjoyed to have a special visitor come to their classrooms before Winter Break. They had fun practicing their letters and shapes using holiday-themed curriculum.



Villalovoz Afternoon Preschool Classroom

Planning for the 2023-2024 school year has begun! Preschool enrollment applications will be available in March to interested families whose children have birthdays between September 2, 2019, and December 1, 2021. Our annual Kindergarten Bridge Program is on the calendar for the coming summer running from June 10 through June 21, 2024. Families will be asked to return their completed Kindergarten Bridge Program interest forms to their zoned schools along with their kindergarten enrollment packet information.

Tracy Unified Adult School-ESL Classes



Did you know that according to the US Census Bureau, 9,230 adults in our community speak English "less than very well"? The US Census Bureau also tells us that 7,155 adults in our community do not have a high school diploma. The good news is, the Tracy Adult School is here to help! Tracy Adult School has been serving the community since 1937. We offer courses that teach adults English. We prepare immigrants to take and pass the citizenship test, so they can become United States citizens. We also offer courses for students to earn their high school diploma or California High School Equivalency Certificate.

Our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes run Monday through Thursday, from 8:30am to 2:30pm and from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Students come to our school with a variety of home languages. At last count, there were 23 different home languages represented at our school!

Our compassionate staff works hard to eliminate barriers and focus students' attention on the courses they need to complete in order to earn their Tracy Adult School High School Diploma. With a reduced number of course requirements and our learning modules that adult students take home to work on, many students find adult school less distracting and easier to work around their busy schedules.

Tracy Adult School receives quite a few calls from adults "wanting a G.E.D." For decades, the term G.E.D. has been synonymous with a test that adults can take to earn a high school diploma. However, the term is somewhat of a misnomer. What these students need is to prepare and then take the tests to earn their California High School Equivalency Certificate. In recent years, the California Department of Education has decided to allow only two companies, GED® and HiSET®, to issue a California High School Equivalency Certificate. The Tracy Adult School is pleased to offer preparation classes and to be a testing center for the HiSET®.

In addition to our ESL and HSD classes, Tracy Adult School also offers classes for English learners to gain computer skills as well as job readiness skills. One of our most popular programs is Tracy Adult School's ESL Café. Held most Thursdays between 9:00am and 11:00am, TAS's ESL Café is a student ran café that serves bagels, donuts and a variety of drinks to TUSD employees!

If you have a friend, relative or neighbor who would benefit from learning English, or earning a high school diploma, please send them our way. We are located just behind the District office and can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TracyAdultSchool/> You can also go to our website located at <https://tracyadult.tracy.k12.ca.us/> or simply give a call.

We are here to serve the community!

Avenue. Completed requests shall be submitted to the Superintendent's Office. The District will accept requests received in the Superintendent's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2024.

Calling All Alumni!

Did you know? We have an [ALUMNI PAGE](#) that can be found from the District's homepage in the upper right-hand corner. We need your help so that we can provide the latest information. If you know of a reunion or class event that your class is having, please [SEND INFO](#) and we will post it on this page.

Professional Learning (Continued)

If you need to pass your RICA, come join to learn tips and tricks on how to pass as well as strategies to use in your classroom reading instruction! If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bailey at abailey@tusd.net.

Ed TSA: Ed TSAs support their sites with technology platform use. They provide training in a variety of ways, catering their topics and delivery methods based on what works for them and their colleagues. The group has recently explored resources made available for all teachers and students through our library programs, including TeachingBooks and ProQuest's Homework Central, an almost limitless database of resources.

DnA Assessments: The TOSAs are continuing to meet with groups of teachers from each grade level/content area to build and review ELA and math district assessments.

Interim Assessments: Several sites are implementing CAASPP interim assessments! Teachers and administrators are participating in professional learning about using interim assessment data and CAASPP instructional resources. Staffs are examining the instructional shifts needed to help students meet the rigor level of the standards and start closing the achievement gap and how to build agency for growth at the site and classroom level. For additional resources and support on Interim Assessments, email tosa@tusd.net.

District ERM: We have two more District ERMs left for the 2023-2024 school year: January 22, 2024, and March 25, 2024.

Informational Links

Keeping you in the Know

[Board Meeting Info](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

STAFF ONLY:

[2023-24 Calendars](#)

[Bell Schedules](#)

[E-forms](#)

[Phone Directories](#)

TUSD INFO PAGE

The latest updates

Check out the [TUSD INFO PAGE](#) for important information including TUSD Programs, Bell Schedules, Calendar and Heat Risk Assessment.

Work for TUSD!

Current Job Openings

Are you looking for a new job opportunity? Check out our current openings: [JOB OPENINGS](#)



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!!

Professional Learning Department

Vision: *We create and support exceptional professional development opportunities.*

The Professional Learning Department is here to support TUSD with instructional strategies, pedagogy, lesson studies, and PLCs. In addition, we offer various programs to support the continuous growth of our staff.

Tracy Teachers Induction Program (TTIP): We are happy to welcome two new teachers to TUSD this January. We have also kicked off our Spring observations for new teachers in TTIP to observe in classrooms across the district. It has been great to see TUSD Key Instructional strategies highlighted across the district. We will continue with our Professional Learning workshops in January. Please check out GSMU for the various topics being offered.



Tracy Unified Accredited Induction Program: Induction candidates are kicking off the Spring Inquiry this month and setting goals for their ILPs. Thank you to all of the Induction Mentors for facilitating this learning process. If you are interested in being an Induction mentor, be on the lookout for mentor applications coming out later this month.

Peer Coaching Program: We continue to welcome new teachers into our Peer Coaching program. If you are interested in being a Peer Coaching Mentor, be on the lookout for Peer Coaching applications coming out later this month.

Professional Learning Workshops and Curriculum Saturdays: We offer sessions throughout the year that are grounded in the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, educational research, and best practices. The workshops offer a variety of topics. In January and February, sessions will be offered covering the topics PLC Cycle, STEM Explore and Explain, ELD Text Deconstruction and Reconstruction, Collective Educator Agency, and Building Students Language through Guided Language Acquisition. Check out Go Sign Me Up for all of the workshops being offered.

Curriculum Saturdays are also offered, the next one for PK-6 is on January 27th and the next one for 7-12 is on February 3rd.



Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA): *Do you need to pass your RICA still?* Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) Test Prep Session SERIES 2 is coming up soon with the first session on 1/23 from 3:30-5:00 in the Professional Learning Training Room. GoSignMeUP code is #5687. This workshop is a SEVEN-part series that covers all of the domains on the RICA. Please join if you are looking for support on how to prepare to take your RICA.