

May  
2024

# TUSD NEWS

Tracy Unified School District



Published the first Friday of each month

Superintendent's Office



**Board Meeting:**  
May 14, 28

**ERMs:** May 6, 13, 20

**Teacher Recruitment Fair:**  
May 23, 4:00-5:30 @ Teachers College of San Joaquin

**No School:** May 27  
Memorial Day

**Williams Middle School Art Show:**  
Opening May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Virtual  
[View HERE](#)

**Minimum Days:**  
M-4 (9-12): 28, 29, 30  
M (All): 31

**Last Day of School 2023-24:**  
May 31

**First Day of School 2024-25:**  
August 5, 2024

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



## Dr. Rob Pecot, Superintendent

Last week students across the district and Tracy community participated in the Earth Day Challenge. This is the second year of the Earth Day Challenge which is put on by the Earth Day Project Committee, directed by Dotty Nygard and June Yasemsky. The Challenge consisted of students finding solutions to some of the biggest environmental challenges that the world faces today. Winners of the Earth Day Challenge received \$1,000 to spend on science related activities, were honored at the Earth Day Event last Saturday, and will be honored at our next school board meeting. Elementary winners were Stephanie Olsen's K/1 Class from Louis Bohn, Middle School, winners from Lauren Coker's 7/8 Class at Duncan Russell, and in the High School category there was a three-way tie between Eustacia Hall's 11/12 Class from Stein High School, Jen Botelho's 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class from Kimball High School, and Paul Bessemer's 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class also from Kimball. Congratulations to all the winners and all the students and teachers that participated.

Earlier this week I was able to attend one of my favorite events of the year, the All-District Music Festival. Watching the talent of our students and passion of our teachers at the event is always inspiring. The event featured students district wide from all grades participating as one at the Tracy High School Stadium. Students performed beautifully, and it is always fun to hear a mix of modern and classic music.

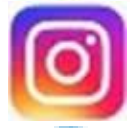
The coming weeks are full of student activities, culminating with promotions, graduations, and preparations for the last day of school on May 31<sup>st</sup>. One of our bittersweet events will happen next Monday, when we honor all of our retirees for the 2024 year. While it is a pleasure and honor to recognize all of our retirees, it is also a reminder of the fantastic educators that we will be losing. Thank you to all of our retirees for your dedication and service to the Tracy Unified School District and Tracy community. I hope to see you soon as we close out the 2023/2024 school year.

## FOOD SERVICES

TUSD Food Services Department is operating a Seamless Summer Feeding Program at Hirsch, Jacobson, McKinley, North, SouthWest, Tracy High, and West High. Breakfast and lunch will be offered at no charge to all students enrolled in TUSD and SJCOE programs, the Boys & Girls Club participants, and the community feeding program for all children ages 2-18. We are planning to serve approximately 2500-3000 students per day. The attached flyer gives additional details about the community feeding sites and the attached spreadsheet breaks down the different summer programs and projected enrollment.



Visit our social media pages!  
Select the Icon of the page you would like to visit



Like & Follow Us!

## 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](#)

**SEAMLESS SUMMER 2024**  
**FREE FOOD FOR KIDS 2-18**

**fresh zone**

**FREE!** **FREE!**

SCHOOL SITE	DATES	BREAKFAST	LUNCH
All Sites will be closed on June 19, July 4 and July 5			
Hirsch Elementary School	June 7- July 3	8:00am - 8:30am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
Jacobson Elementary School	June 7- July 12	7:30am - 8:00am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
McKinley Elementary School	June 7- July 12	7:30am - 7:45am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
North Elementary School	June 19- July 3	8:00am - 8:30am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
SouthWest Elementary School	June 7- July 12	7:30am - 8:00am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
Tracy High School	June 7- July 3	8:00am - 8:30am	12:30pm - 1:00pm
West High School	June 7- July 12	7:30am - 7:45am	12:30pm - 1:00pm

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!!**

Meal prep is work. Let us take care of that. Text FOOD or "COMIDA" to 304-304 to find free summer meals for kids and teens near you. To learn more, visit: [tusdfoodservices.com](http://tusdfoodservices.com)

This inclusion is an equal opportunity provider.

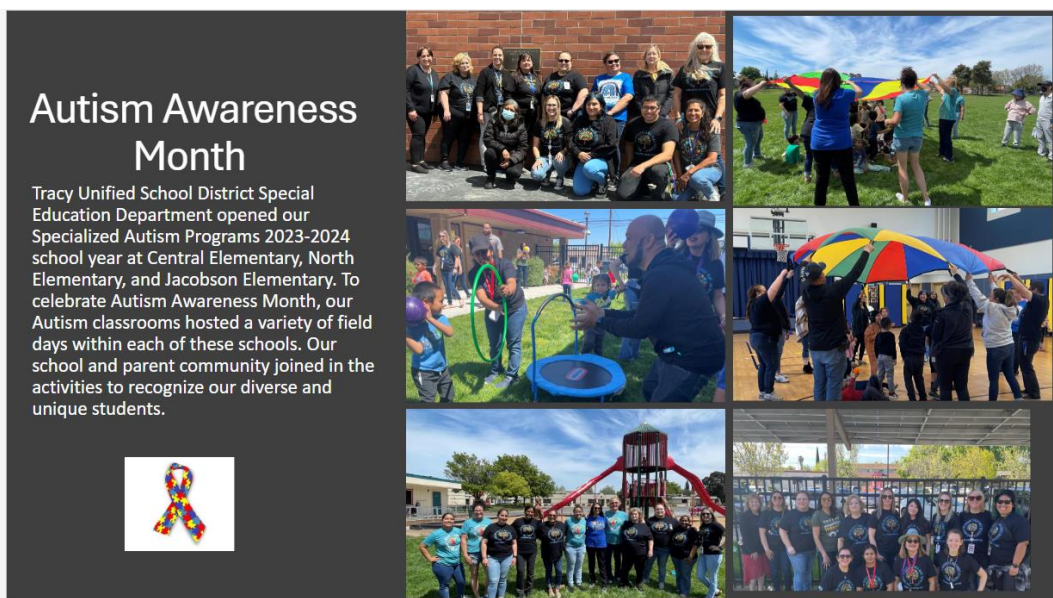
## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### JASON CHEESEMAN

Mr. Cheeseman was not only named Classified School Employee of the Year by the [San Joaquin County Office of Education](#) but also by the State of California!!! We are so very excited for him and glad that he is a part of the staff at TUSD! Congratulations Jason Cheeseman!!!! Thank you for making [North School](#) and TUSD shine with pride! [#tusdistheplacetobe](#)

[View Video HERE](#)



### Autism Awareness Month

Tracy Unified School District Special Education Department opened our Specialized Autism Programs 2023-2024 school year at Central Elementary, North Elementary, and Jacobson Elementary. To celebrate Autism Awareness Month, our Autism classrooms hosted a variety of field days within each of these schools. Our school and parent community joined in the activities to recognize our diverse and unique students.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

Tracy Unified School District will be attending a teacher recruitment event at Teachers College on Thursday, May 23. The event is from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. The District will also be scheduling a teacher recruitment event to be held at the District Office in early June. More information will be posted to TUSD social media sites once the date and time are confirmed.



### ISSET

#### We are moving to Windows 11:

This summer, we will be updating all student devices from grades 4 - 8 to Windows 11 to ensure compliance with Microsoft's security protocols. ISET Site technicians have scheduled collections of laptops at all K - 5 and K - 8 schools. Bags and chargers will NOT be collected during this period.

At each of the high schools, laptops, bags and chargers will be collected for ONLY for Seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade). The collection date has already been scheduled beginning May 15, 2024. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be issued a windows 11 laptop at the beginning of the school year (Aug, 2024). Grades 10 and 11 will update their laptops throughout the 24-25 school year. More information to follow when the collection process begins for grades 10 and 11.

**Parent Square:** I am pleased to announce that TUSD has partnered with Parent Square - our new Community Communication System. Parent Square will replace our old platform called School Messenger. Beginning August, communication to the community will be made via Parent Square using, text, email, app notification or a traditional phone call if necessary. Aside from community notifications, Parent Square may also be used by teachers to communicate to their students / parents using the Parent Square app.

## CURRICULUM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Twenty-nine of our classified employees are finishing their first semester with Reach University. Reach is a university specifically for classified employees who are looking to become teachers. 18 of these employees qualified for the Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program Grant that TUSD applied for and was awarded this year. This means that their tuition cost was \$0 this semester as they work toward their Bachelor's Degree. We have more employees signing up for next semester as well. Within a few years many of these classified employees will qualify to become teachers with little to no student debt. TUSD is fortunate to have this unique opportunity for our classified employees and we look forward being able to hire employees out of this program in the near future.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

### School Readiness Program

Tracy Unified School District (TUSD) is happy to announce that we are now offering Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at all 11 of our Elementary School sites, and enrollment is now open! Families can enroll their children in TK if they turn 5 between September 2, 2019, to June 2, 2020. TK families are also invited to participate in our annual Summer Bridge Program scheduled from June 10 through June 21, 2024, at McKinley School. Families have been asked to return their completed TK/Kindergarten Summer Bridge Program interest forms to their zoned schools along with their enrollment packet information.

Enrollment applications for TUSD's Free Preschool Program are now available to interested families whose children have birthdays between September 2, 2019, to December 1, 2021. Hard copy applications are available for pick up from our Preschool Enrollment Office located at SouthWest Park School.

### EASIE Grant

**Are you interested in learning about services that are available to TUSD Native American/Alaskan Native students?**

Please join us at our public meeting to learn about resources that are available to students and to provide input on the 2024-25 EASIE Grant:

**What:** Public Meeting for EASIE VI Grant

**Date:** May 6, 2024

**Time:** 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**Location:** General Conference Room,  
Tracy Unified School District  
1875 W. Lowell Avenue  
Tracy, Ca. 95376

## FACILITIES

The Facilities Department aims to have another busy and productive summer as it targets various projects to start in the 24-25 school year. Some of these projects include; Roofing at both West High School and Williams Middle School, Installing additional Modular Bldgs. (6) at various campus sites, Installing Shade Canopies to assist with providing students with additional shade and increasing the use of outdoor classroom functions, Installing a New Refrigeration Unit at West High School, completing various asphalt paving projects at school sites, installing new flooring at various locations, and begin the West High School Ag Expansion Bldg.

This summer, ISET will be working on configuring Parent Square to make it ready by the beginning of the school year. ISET will be providing resources to the community on how to use Parent Square preferences and as a communication tool. More information to follow throughout summer.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



**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.

**Induction:** On May 1, 2024, approximately 65 Induction Candidates and 45 mentors celebrated their Induction successes at the colloquium meeting held at Tracy High School. Candidates shared with each other and their mentors their growth in learning and teaching throughout the year from their inquiries. Sharing consisted of student work products, reflections, and aha moments. We also celebrated 35 Year 2 and Early Completion candidates that have successfully completed the program and will be applying for their cleared credentials. Congratulations to all Induction Candidates on their work in induction this year and mentors for mentoring and facilitating candidates through the induction process. If you are interested in being an Induction Mentor next school year, please email Jennifer Kassel at [jkassel@tusd.net](mailto:jkassel@tusd.net) for an application.



**Do you need to pass your RICA still?**  
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! Reading Instruction



West High School



Williams Middle School

The past summer successes included the following; a full refurbishment/remodel of the Villalovoz Elementary School, final installation of the solar at North School, final completion of 60 Electric Vehicle Charging stations, Installation of Modular Bldgs. (12) at various school sites, refurbishment to the school libraries at Jacobson, Freiler, and Kelley, installation of blinds at various school sites, the complete refurbishment of all tennis courts at Tracy, West, and Kimball High Schools, installation of various Hydration Stations installed at all schools district-wide, installation of Energy Management Systems for HVAC systems at Stein, Freiler, and Kellye schools, installing a New HVAC system at Monte Vista Middle School., and refurbishing the pools at both West and Tracy High Schools. Tracy Unified School District received the **Environment + Energy Leader Award for Top Project 2024!!**

## STEM

It has been a banner season for STEM in the Tracy Unified School District! All over town, school sites, teachers, community members, and students are collaborating to learn about STEM.

All kinds of STEM community partnerships took place, including:

- STEM Nights at Bohn, North, Villalovoz, & Kelly Elementary
- Visits to local highlights including STEM Day at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Science Blast at University of the Pacific, and trips to Durham Ferry
- The Tracy Earth Day Challenge included projects from at least 8 Tracy sites and spanned grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Tracy Earth Day!

STEM Nights come to Tracy! Hats off to the sites along with their staff, community members, and families that have been spending quality time exploring and discovering how much fun STEM can be.

Field Experiences are also embedded in our students' educational year. STEM is all around us: in our town, by the river, at centers of higher learning, and in labs and businesses across the valley and into the bay area. Our students are primed to take an active part in the STEM economy.

Tracy Earth Day "Electrify Tracy" was a great opportunity for students, families, and community members to be mindful of our own energy usage. There were over 55 environmentally minded vendors promoting everything from electric cars to sustainable practices we can all embrace, to student created Earth Day Projects!

In partnership, the TUSD STEM department invited several STEM professionals to join us with engaging hands-on activities that aligned to this year's theme of "Electrify Tracy"! Lawrence Livermore National Lab brought their power generating bicycle so people could see how much physical energy it takes to light up LED light bulbs as opposed to incandescent bulbs. Sustainable practices took on new relevance as we peddled away. Quest Science Center hosted Plank Puzzlers and Circuit Connections. Sandia National Lab helped us investigate lemon circuitry while Girls N Gears promoted women in STEM. The TUSD STEM Department was in the thick of it with Lego maze coding.

The Earth Day Challenge invited students to identify a local environmental issue, research, design action steps to address the issue, and put into practice solutions that they designed including passing along their ideas and research to organizations and businesses in the community that could be instrumental in either supporting solutions or preventing the environmental issue. The winning groups earned \$1,000 for their classroom! We are proud to announce the winners:

- Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Protect our Pollinators* from Mrs. Stephanie Olsen's K-1 Class from Louis Bohn Elementary
- Middle School: *Saving Energy* from Mrs. Lauren Coker's class from Duncan Russel
- High School (There was a 3 way tie!):
  - *Queen Bee's* Mrs. Eustasia Hall's class from Stein
  - *School Recycling* from Mrs. Salazar's class from John C. Kimball High School
  - *Green and Grow* from Mrs. Salazar's class from John C. Kimball High School

We can't wait to see the competition next year and what transformative ideas the students of Tracy think up to improve Tracy. STEM in TUSD: Empowering every student for success in tomorrow's world!

Competence Assessment (RICA) Test Prep Session SERIES 2 is wrapping up with **Session 2-Subtest 3: Preparing for the Case Study**. This upcoming session is on 5/14 from 3:30-5:00pm in the Professional Learning Training Room. GoSignMeUP code is #5693.

Please join if you are looking for support on how to prepare to take your RICA. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bailey at [abailey@tusd.net](mailto:abailey@tusd.net).



### TUSD Tech Trainings: Aeries Gradebook, DnA, and FastBridge

Do you (or someone you know) need help navigating and using Aeries gradebook? There's a new resource for that! TOSAs have made screenshot-filled, click-along-with-me trainings on creating gradebooks, creating assignments and navigating the gradebook, and completing report cards. There are separate trainings for elementary (rubric-based) and secondary (traditional). These are housed in:

**Staff portal à Curriculum à Curriculum Resources à Aeries support trainings.**

We also have click-along-with-me trainings for DnA Illuminate and FastBridge. Learn how to give an assessment, create an assessment, re-open an online assessment a student clicked through thoughtlessly in five minutes instead of taking seriously, use reports to determine small groups and intervention needs, etc. These are housed in:

**Staff portal à Curriculum à Local Assessment à Documents**

## TRACY ADULT SCHOOL

### Success Stories: Highlights and Achievements at Tracy Adult School in 2023-2024

Tracy Adult School had a successful year in 2023-2024, with several noteworthy programs and accomplishments.

One standout program is our ESL Café, where ESL students practiced their English skills while selling coffee, donuts, bagels and other treats to district employees and fellow students in the Café. This contextualized ESL program fostered cultural exchange and community bonding, showcasing both the diversity of our students and their acquisition of the English language.

Enrollment in our ESL program was robust, with 543 students attending classes held in both the mornings and evenings. This reflects the community's strong interest in English language education.

Additionally, the high school diploma/high school equivalency program experienced record enrollment, with over 230 students enrolled. A record 45 students are set to graduate this year, a testament to the hard work of students and staff.

Tracy Adult School also hosts a credit recovery program, allowing students to retake failed classes. This year, over 500 students participated, successfully completing over 950 classes.

These achievements are due to the dedicated staff whose unwavering support has made a significant impact on the school and its students. Tracy Adult School



## TUSD Libraries Celebrate Our 3-Year Effort to Improve Collections

Guided by national and state library standards, we have purchased thousands of new books that address students' interests and provide curriculum support for teachers' instruction. Doing that work has

1. Decreased the overall age of our collections by 6 years by buying more relevant, contemporary texts that students want to read and removing outdated, inaccurate materials and books not circulating for five or more years;
2. Kept our collection size at about 15 books/student (while we continue to work to reach the state average of 18 books/student);
3. Increased the number of books that address topics of diversity, equity and inclusion by 4% by buying more materials that represent our students, our families and our community; the average age of these titles is 9 years younger, that is, recently published, more accurate and more relevant to TUSD students.
4. Increased the books that address social and emotional learning, both fiction and non-fiction, by 9%; the average age of these titles is 8 years younger, that is, far more relevant and contemporary that they were three years ago.
5. Connected TUSD students to ebooks and audiobooks at the county's public library system
6. Created an e-book and audiobook collection that has seen 3283 unique users with over 43,500 checkouts in the 23-24 school year in grades K-12, an increase of 16% over the 22-23 school year.

To reach our goals, library staff has read thousands of reviews, attended author panels virtually and in person, talked to students and teachers, consulted with publishers, learned about the California curriculum standards, and spent hours making book lists that have improved TUSD's collections.

We appreciate hearing from you that you notice the expanding diversity topics, the increasing number of books to support STEM learning and design challenges, the focus on social and emotional wellness, and more. We invite you all to talk to us about how the libraries—and all their resources—can support your students' learning, literacy, academic engagement, and motivation to read more.

**Instructional Materials Accomplishments:** TUSD Teachers participated in 15 IM adoption committees this year. Two courses decided to use updated editions of textbooks already in use, but 13 others worked through the TUSD toolkit for instructional materials adoptions to determine relevant, engaging, and effective instructional materials for TUSD students.

Many thanks to those teachers whose work will benefit thousands of students and their teaching colleagues.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

Visit our Summer Programs [Webpage HERE](#)

TUSD is looking forward to hosting a variety of Summer Programs for students this June! Please refer to the list of programs below and contact information for any questions. 😊

A letter will be sent home the week of May 20 to families providing further information regarding their student's participation in these programs.

(Summer Programs Continued)

COUNTY ESY Pre K-12

Contact: Julie Ramirez

[jramirez@tusd.net](mailto:jramirez@tusd.net)

County: Shannon Soriano

[ssoriano@sjcoe.net](mailto:ssoriano@sjcoe.net)

June 7, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: Pre K - McKinley

Location: K-12 - Southwest Park (A Building)

remains committed to providing quality education and support to all students as it continues to grow and flourish.



## Unlocking Opportunities: Tracy Unified School District Career Technical Education (CTE)

Tracy Unified School District's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are thriving! TUSD has expanded its CTE offerings across all three comprehensive high schools, thanks to consistent support from the Tracy Unified School District and grant funding from the State of California and the Federal Government.

Within TUSD, students have access to a wide range of vocational courses, including Welding, Auto Mechanics, Culinary Arts, Child Development, Teacher Education, Fire Service, Videography, and Drone Piloting. These programs emphasize hands-on learning and partnerships with industry professionals, providing students with practical skills and real-world experience.

TUSD's CTE instructors teach to industry standards and offer industry-recognized certificates, enhancing students' employability after graduation. By providing diverse pathways to college and career readiness, TUSD's CTE programs empower students to pursue their passions with confidence. Through continued growth and dedication, TUSD remains committed to preparing students for success in the workforce and beyond. Remember, every pathway leads to a career!



### Informational Links

Keeping you in the Know

*Superintendent's Office*

[Board Meeting Info](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

**STAFF ONLY:**

[2023-24 2024-25 Calendars](#)

[Bell Schedules](#)

[E-forms](#)

[Phone Directories](#)

If your child will no longer be participating in Extended School Year, please contact the Special Education office at (209) 830-3270.

**\*In recognition of the Juneteenth National Holiday, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, there will be (no school for students/staff) for all Summer Programs.**

### K-8 SUMMER SCHOOL

(Contact: Susan Hawkins

[shawkins@tusd.net](mailto:shawkins@tusd.net)

June 10, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: North School

### 9-12 CREDIT RECOVERY

Contacts: Mauricio Martin

[mmartin@tusd.net](mailto:mmartin@tusd.net)

Hannah Green, [hgreen@tusd.net](mailto:hgreen@tusd.net)

Counselor: TBD

June 10, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: Tracy High School

### PRE K -12 ESY/TYAP

Contacts: Julie Ramirez

[jramirez@tusd.net](mailto:jramirez@tusd.net)

Principal, Sophy Reese

[sreese@tusd.net](mailto:sreese@tusd.net)

June 7, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: Pre K-8 ESY: Hirsch Elementary School

Location: 9-12 ESY/TYAP: Tracy High School

### HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE/ KINDER BRIDGE

Contact: Kinder Bridge: Rocio Garcia

[rgarcia@tusd.net](mailto:rgarcia@tusd.net)

Contact: THS Bridge: Meagan Strelka

[mstrelka@tusd.net](mailto:mstrelka@tusd.net)

Contact: WHS Bridge: Maricio Martin

[mmartin@tusd.net](mailto:mmartin@tusd.net)

Contact: KHS Bridge: Elisavet Barajas

[ebarajas@tusd.net](mailto:ebarajas@tusd.net)

June 10, 2024 - June 21, 2024

### HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE

Location: High School Bridge - WHS, THS, KHS

### KINDER BRIDGE

Location: Kinder Bridge: McKinley

### 6-12 EL ACADEMY

Contact: Jose Jimenez

[jjimenez@tusd.net](mailto:jjimenez@tusd.net)

June 10, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: North (6-8);

Tracy High School (9-12)

### Boys and Girls Club (June 10th - July 19th)

Locations:

- West High School
- Monte Vista Middle School
- Southwest Park Elementary School
- Jacobson Elementary School
- McKinley Elementary School

### TCS - Grades 9-12

Contact: Annabelle Lee [alee@tusd.net](mailto:alee@tusd.net)

June 10, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: Tracy Charter School

### ADULT SCHOOL

Contact: Sam Strube

[sstrube@tusd.net](mailto:sstrube@tusd.net)

June 10, 2024 - July 3, 2024

Location: Adult School

PreK-12 and TYAP Extended School Year Program is in the month of June for students with a disability who require continued services identified, stated, and recommended in an IEP.

ESY for grades PreK-8 will occur June 7, 2024 - July 3, 2024 at Hirsch Elementary School.

ESY for grades 9-12 will occur June 7, 2024 - July 3, 2024 at Tracy High School.

Tracy Young Adult Program (TYAP) will also occur June 7, 2024 - July 3, 2024 at Tracy High School.

## 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.

## TUSD INFO PAGE

The latest updates

*Superintendent's Office*

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

Please also remember that each of our school sites have their own website and Facebook pages. From the District [HOME PAGE](#) you can use the drop-down list of schools in the upper right-hand corner to find your site!

## Work for TUSD!

Current Job Openings

*Human Resources*

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



**TUSD IS THE PLACE TO BE!!**

May  
2024

# TUSD NEWS

