

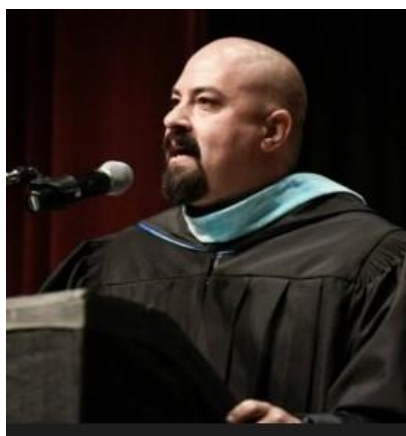
# FARBER EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS LEARNING UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

(Note: any item **highlighted in green** is a live url or link)



We just wanted to share some of the exciting instructional things happening in preparation for the move to the new **Farber Educational Campus**. Remember that the core values of Farber center around civic engagement, problem and project-based learning, community partnerships and career preparation. But before we jump into those, here are some updates first:

## NEW PRINCIPAL



Congratulations to **Carson Wood** who has been named the **Principal** of the new **Farber Educational Campus**. Carson has been the principal of the **JE Young Academic Center** for seven years. Additionally, Carson has worked at **Cambridge High School** and was part of developing the original **eLearn** program. As principal of JE Young, he led the school as they got out of CSI status in one year, increased their graduation rate from 35% to 89%, and designed a new, improved independent study program complete with *Career Technical Education, Dual Enrollment, Parenting, Leadership, Community Leadership* and more.

Carson has promised to all affiliated with or connected to the new Farber Educational Campus that his goal is to provide life-changing opportunities for all students. He said this includes, but is not limited to CTE programs with short-term certifications and relevant experience, as well as civic-centered problem and project-based learning where learning and serving our community are at the forefront of the curriculum.

“The Farber dream will be that of students leaving with not just a diploma, but a sense of service and community as well as skills that they can apply to a variety of future opportunities,” he said.

Carson added that he will be forever grateful for the vision and commitment to alternative education from Superintendent Nelson and the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education.

“They have created a school that is one of one. Nothing like Farber exists in our nation,” he said. “It is rare in our profession to be able to be a part of building a school from the beginning. Let’s not let this moment pass us by.”

### **NEW LOGISTICS INSTRUCTOR**

Congratulations to **Jonathan Hinojosa** who has been selected to be the instructor of the new **Logistics Program** at the **Farber Educational Campus**. We are very fortunate to have someone like Jonathan, who not only has 14 years in the Fresno Unified Warehouse, but also experience with our students having been the Office Assistant at Cambridge High School since last spring. Jonathan brings a wealth of professional and technical experience related to Logistics, but also a huge passion for working with our students. Anyone who has watched Jonathan work with the students, staff and families at Cambridge, knows that he has the ideal mentality and mindset for this position. He has also worked with youth outside of school and has long dreamed of combining his professional experience and his passion for young people into an ideal position as this.



“I am passionate and believe in what we do here at Fresno Unified. That’s why my heart is committed to the students and the community around them,” said Jonathan. “I am here to serve and make an impact on our students’ lives. I want to be a part of creating life ready students.”

Partnerships with the likes of the Central California Food Bank, Amazon and others are already underway. Expect to hear great things from Jonathan and the Logistics Program as he prepares to launch in August. Congrats once again Jonathan!!!

## PROBLEM & PROJECT-BASED LEARNING / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT / SHIFT



**SHIFT** is now finalized with lots of staff input and feedback. **SHIFT** is now **Sustainability, Humanity, Innovation, Food and Technology**. **SHIFT** is more than an acronym. It's a mindset. It's a way to connect student projects and learning to real world problems, issues and challenges in our community. **SHIFT** fosters a '**Glocal**' approach - solving global issues locally. This is a vehicle for students, teachers and the community to come together and embrace new ideas and solutions for the community's common good and progress. **SHIFT** implies change, action, vision and forward thinking.

The logo above is the official logo and open for anyone at Farber to use and connect to in any number of ways. If you look closely at much of the project or civic engagement work teachers are currently doing with students, they connect to **SHIFT** in many ways. Naturally, teachers and students can always design projects that are outside of **SHIFT**. It is just one way to align and connect. And again, this is an opt-in for teachers. As you read these updates, see if you can see **SHIFT** come alive in many ways.

As part of the ongoing preparation for moving to Farber, as well as to increase engagement and student success, several teachers have embarked on some exciting projects and problem/project-based learning experiences.

As shared previously, nine teachers from Cambridge and JE Young launched official **Civic Engagement Projects** this semester working in conjunction with our local partner the **Civic Education Center**. The intent is to have students work on real local problems and advocate for solutions or specific actions. They will work with community partners and present their work publicly. The student projects will be eligible for the **California State Seal of Civic Engagement** and for a culminating project showcase and presentation at the **Tower Theater** on **May 7th**.

These nine teachers are: **Elva Carlos, Peter Fortuna, Meliza Gonzalez, Jennifer Gross, Fay Opoku, Joel Smith, Chris Valle, Robert Vega and Ryan Williams.** Project topics thus far are addressing diverse issues and problems around ***food and clothing insecurity, the environment, race, mental health, immigration, sexual assault and violence, bee pollination, human trafficking, substance abuse, domestic abuse, gang violence, world hunger, redesigning high school, air pollution*** and many others.

**Dr. Della Caver** at Cambridge has started two interesting projects with her Senior English students. One class is focusing on **Homelessness** and the other classes are focusing on **Mental Health**. Students are working in teams and are investigating specific aspects of these large issues. Meanwhile, Dr. Caver has worked to connect with several community partners such as the **Poverello House, Fresno Housing, Fresno Madera Continuum of Care, NAMI, Fresno Community Health Improvement Partnership** and others. Great job Dr. Caver and we cannot wait to see the final presentations.

**Cambridge English Teacher Kara Marquez** recently did a project about *Living on Minimum Wage*. Students studied the idea of the American Dream and then examined how to afford their American Dream. Students read several articles and then had to do online research. Some students even made phone calls to local apartment complexes for pricing. Checkout this **[Student Presentation](#)** here. Great topic and work Kara Marquez.

**Cambridge Math Teacher Brad Powers** uses lots of technology to engage his math students. He uses **[Geogebra](#)** to produce things like **[This Spreadsheet](#)** to support his Statistics students. **[Here](#)** is how he uses Geogebra to teach probability. Finally, check out this **[Midpoint Calendar](#)** that Mr. Powers developed himself to help his students. Great job Mr. Powers.

**Cambridge Cyber Security Teacher Peter Fortuna** is moving ahead with his **Seniors Supporting Seniors Project** with the **[California Armenian Home](#)**. His team of students is working with senior citizens on how to avoid internet theft and fraud, while understanding internet safety and protections. Ultimately, the students will produce a **How-To Cyber Safety Guide for Senior Citizens**. Students will be working with the senior citizens remotely, as well as at Cambridge High School and the California Armenian Home. Look for an upcoming feature story on **Channel 30**. Thank you for this work Mr. Fortuna.

**Cambridge Science Teacher Jadrian Ejercito** continues to work on hydroponics and future vertical farming projects. Students are currently growing food in their indoor hydroponic labs and will take those home at the end of the quarter or semester. They are currently producing stop-motion videos showcasing Mitosis. Students will also continue to study cell differentiation and mitosis in live specimens (onion root tips and flatworms). This work fits into all of the **SHIFT** themes of *Sustainability, Humanity, Innovation, Food and Technology*. Great work Mr. Ejercito and we can't see how this grows next year at Farber.



**Cambridge Social Studies and Women's Alliance Teacher Meliza Gonzalez** has her Women's Alliance students working on sexual violence and domestic abuse projects. They are partnering with the **Marjaree Mason Center** and engaging in exciting, important work. Additionally, Women's Alliance recently hosted a **Valentine's Tea Party** (see photos below). They have upcoming field trips to the Fresno Zoo or the Museum of Tolerance. Finally, March is **Women's History Month** and the Women's Alliance students will choose a woman to research and do a presentation on how they have helped shape women of today. Great work Ms. Gonzalez and Women's Alliance students.



**The Men's Alliance at both Cambridge and JE Young** have been active as well. The Men's Alliance at Cambridge, under the direction of **Social Studies Teacher Rober Vega**, has been focusing on their civic engagement project and character development. They are investing heavily in the [School-Connect Curriculum](#). They are also already preparing for their senior banquet in May. At JE Young, **Men's Alliance Teacher Shaun Brown** recently completed a unit on **Composure**. They focused on the MLK quote "*Anger is only one letter short of danger*" as a lens for all of the lessons. They discussed possible scenarios where having composure matters and what would happen with or without this trait. They looked at handling anger with the use of composure and how to avoid fighting. Finally, they examined how temper overtakes people when they lack composure. Next, they are focusing on the topic of **Empathy**. Here is the link to the district's [Men's and Women's Alliance Website](#).

**JE Young and Cambridge Public Services Instructor John Mendoza** has been working hard on both campuses to establish this new program and provide all of the students multiple opportunities for certifications and more. Here is a summary of some of Mr. Mendoza's work thus far with the students:

- The program has become an informal [American Heart Association](#) satellite training site under the umbrella of Express Training Solutions
- This partnership enabled them to certify students and staff for American Heart Association (CPR) and [American Red Cross](#) (First Aid) courses.
- Under this umbrella, he has successfully certified **63 students** as **AHA basic life support & CPR Providers**.
- Additionally, nine students were certified for **ECG/Pharmacology** during Winter Break.

For the spring semester, there are additional certifications in the works. They are:

- Students are currently taking an **Advanced Cardiac Life Support** certification course. **8 Students** have already been certified.
- Currently, the program is accredited to certify students for **Emergency Medical Responder** and are awaiting approval to be able to certify students for **EMT**.
- Students have started a **First Aid Certification Course**.

Additionally, Mr. Mendoza and his students are current working on establishing the following:

- **Red Cross affiliation, a Red Cross Student Club, as well as affiliations with American Ambulance and Hope Ambulance**

Great job Mr. Mendoza for all this work with these great students.

**Cambridge Multimedia Teacher John Chang** and his students have been working hard all year long on a variety of digital photography and video projects. These projects include individual and team efforts and require students to learn a variety of both design and technical skills. Recently, students have been learning about photography and focusing on camera shots, photo composition, photo poses, photo poses with low f-stop lens and micro photography. Students have also been improving keyboarding skills and working on Imago Leadership Videos. Just before Winter Break, Mr. Chang's classes embarked on a lip dub video challenge where each class produced their own lip dub video. See the videos below:

### Per. 2 - Last Christmas



### Per. 3 - Mistletoe



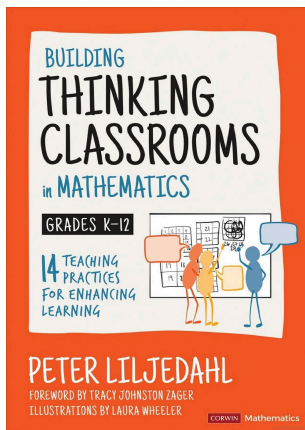
### Per. 4 (Team A) - Santa Tell Me



### Per. 4 (Team B) - All I Want for Christmas



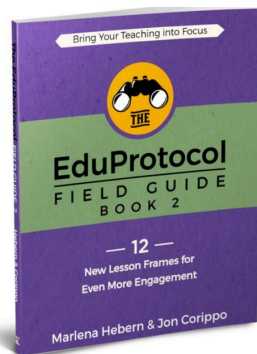
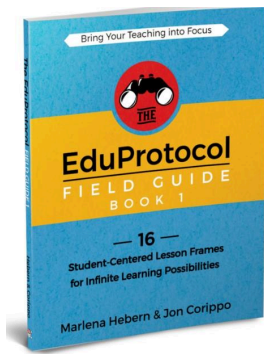
## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Math teachers from both Cambridge and JE Young recently embarked on some professional learning with facilitator **Ed Campos** around the concept of **Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics**. This provides the what, why and how of each of the **14 Mathematical Practices** and organizes these into four toolkits that can be implemented in order and built on throughout the year. Math Teachers will continue this work on Monday, March 4th at the next Buyback day. **JE Young Math Teacher Kongmia Her** said so far that what interested

him the most was how they were learning to use the whiteboards in some new and dynamic ways. "I enjoyed the creativity of how the lessons can become," said Her. "I would really like to try to have a similar classroom set up as it will be useful for some, if not many, of the lessons I want to do."





Also, recently in January, teachers from Cambridge and JE Young worked with facilitator **Jon Corippo** and the concept of Eduprotocols. Teachers learned some new ways to use technology for engagement, collaboration, feedback and checking for understanding.

**JE Young Teacher Gina Vertson** said that Jon Corippo was one of the most motivational facilitators she had experienced in a very long time.

"Jon made me want to implement Eduprotocols into my classroom as soon as I got back to school," said Vertson.

**Cambridge Social Studies Teacher Rober Vega** also said that Jon Corippo was a phenomenal presenter who was both motivational and inspirational.

"He gave us very practical information, and he mentioned that he has been to over 700 schools in the last 3 years. That really stood out to me," said Vega. "Jon mentioned a 6 episode Podcast which I plan on listening to entitled *Sold a Story*. He also referenced two books - *Image Grammar* by Henry Noden and *The End of Average* by Todd Rose - that I plan on reading."

Also, a special shout out to **Cambridge Teachers Christopher Valle and Ryan Williams** who have been enrolled this semester in a project-based professional learning course at the **University of San Diego**. The course was entitled Read, Empower, Act, Discover Part II/Educational Technology - Hacking Project-Based Learning: 10 Easy Steps to PBL and Inquiry In the Classroom (Hack Learning Series). The course examines how project-based learning can be used to increase student engagement and achievement. Participants will learn to use the essential design elements of PBL to create an engaging, fully integrated unit to help students achieve desired learning outcomes and promote student learning. Here is a reflection from **Ryan Williams** on the course and the accompanying book:

“As for the Civic Engagement/PBL projects/subjects, I am going to survey what are the students’ strengths and interests. I figure, if students work on their strengths and what interests them, their projects will be better. As for the book we are using this year, Civic Engagement, I will provide more examples from outside the book to help supplement the curriculum. Focusing more on High Impact Learning as opposed to acting like they are working for many hours. Their projects are going to take some time and effort to complete. The process it will take will not only stretch students’ minds but also allow them to rise to the occasion.

Teaching students how to collaborate isn’t easy. Students don’t always have a positive experience in groups. So this year, I will do a pre-assessment about their last experience. We will discuss all the negative killers of group work and how to navigate through them. I will give more concrete examples of what real collaboration looks like and how to do it. I will also show students how to identify what collaboration looks like. This will help students when it comes to assessing themselves and others.”

## **NEW COURSES**

In addition to the new courses in Logistics and Social Entrepreneurship, there are teachers that have been working with the district on some new electives. JE Young teachers **Gina Vertson** and **Kongmia Her** have been working on a back-to-back course combo for **Life Skills** and **Personal Finance**.

For Life Skills, Gina Vertson said the course will have six units. They are **Health Wellness including Yoga classes, Life Skills, Consumer Skills, Insurance, Careers with guest speakers and Budgeting**.

For Personal Finance, Kongmia Her said it will be broken down into 5 units. They are **Behavior Economics, Banking, Understanding Credit, Investing and Taxes**. There are projects and games that are already embedded in **Next Gen Personal Finance**. One activity, called *The Bean Game*, is where students will be playing a game of how your values will affect one’s money management skills. Another class project will be a mock investment game during the unit on Investing. In this project, through **How the Market Works**, students will be given a set amount of mocked money, and they must invest it in the market. Plans also include reaching out to the community to bring in speakers (i.e, Banking) to discuss real-life situations and issues with the students as well as answer questions to expand their knowledge.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our community partners are essential to our core values. In order to do problem and project-based learning well, as well as Career Technical Education, Career Development and Civic Engagement, partners are vital. We are fortunate enough to have 40 non-profit organizations that have committed to work with Farber students and staff. Thank you to our non-profit partners that have already bought into the Farber vision. They are:





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