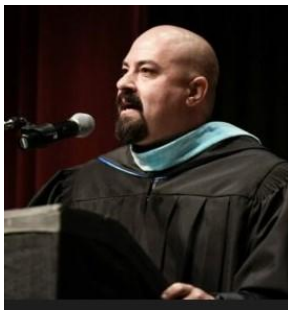




## FARBER EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS LEARNING UPDATE AUGUST 2024

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

### PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



It has been an extremely busy and exciting summer in preparation for the grand opening of the Farber Educational Campus. First, I'd like to thank all of the staff that worked all summer getting both the facility and details ready. Special thanks to **Dawn Gardner, Tim Graveline, Jonathan Hinojosa, Michael Niehoff, James Obermire, Trina Ocegueda, Pete Pulos** and **Jared Tijerina**.

In addition to getting the facility and all of the programs ready, we have hosted almost daily tours of the campus. These have included district staff, local government leaders, business leaders and interested community members. Most recently, **Francine & Murray Farber** made their first visit to the new campus and were also joined by the **Fresno Bee**. The excitement and engagement demonstrated by all of the visitors affirms my enthusiasm as well. Visitors have complimented the unique beauty of the campus and have been excited to learn about all of the program opportunities. They love our brand of Diploma + as a vehicle to challenge our students to raise the bar beyond getting a high school diploma. All of the staff on campus need to be part of challenging our students to extend themselves. Let's keep the excitement going and make this a special place for everyone and hope to see you in the afternoon on Friday, August 30th for the Community Block Party.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT / PBL / CTE



We are inviting all teachers and staff to get connected to **SHIFT**. Learn more about SHIFT [here](#). There are many ways for all of us to connect to *Sustainability, Humanity, Innovation, Food and Technology*. For example, our real world problems and challenges we address in projects can almost

certainly connect in some way. But in addition to projects, these could be good research topics, writing projects, presentation topics and more. Or maybe it's about using it for service work with a club. Maybe you can start a new event or activity that incorporates the themes and mission here.



We are having a cohort of 15 teachers (2 spots remain) working with the [Civic Education Center](#) throughout this school year on Civic Engagement Projects. These teachers are the following:

**Elva Carlos, Peter Fortuna, Meliza Gonzalez and Robert Vega** from **Farber Credit Attainment**.

**Adriana Alcocer, David D'Morias, Jennifer Gross and Sky Sweet** from **Farber Independent Study**.

**Jackie DeLaCruz, Jessica Jamero, Cyndi Mello, Alyse Ornelas and Mercedes Rodriguez** from **Farber Online**.

These teachers will collaborate all year with the Civic Education Center on significant projects designed to elicit some student voice focused on addressing local issues and needs. Students will work with community partners, experts and ultimately decision-makers. We look forward to seeing some of the amazing student work and teacher collaboration. Again, you can always engage in civic engagement projects and work without being part of this group and the Civic Education Center.



The Farber Educational Campus will host our **Farbers Market** - a monthly Full Choice Food Pantry in partnership with the Central California Food Bank. It will be the 3rd Wednesday of the Month from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. This will be coordinated by Executive Director Michael Niehoff, Campus Culture Director Elva Carlos and Logistics Instructor Jonathan Hinojosa. A Full Choice pantry offers community members the opportunity to choose items they need from a variety of offerings. In addition to non-perishable food items, The Farbers Market will also feature fresh fruits and veggies along with dairy products. We are excited to have our Leadership and Logistics students involved in this effort and welcome the entire Farber staff to support this effort.



Having started at Cambridge High School under the direction of **Campus Culture Director Elva Carlos**, the Farber Educational Campus will have an expanded **Farber Closet** as a means to support all students in order to acquire professional dress for the world of work and professional situations. Ms. Carlos and her students will be getting out more information about how we can support the program through our donations and volunteering.



The Farber Educational Campus will have both **Women's Alliance** and **Men's Alliance Programs**. Women's Alliance will be led by **Adriana Alcocer from Farber Independent Study** and **Meliza Gonzalez from Farber Credit Attainment**. The Men's Alliance Programs will be led by **Shaun Brown from Farber Independent Study** and **Robert Vega from Farber Credit Attainment**. Remember that Robert Vega was named **Teacher of the Year** from **Region 3** of the **California Continuation Education Association**. Mr. Vega was chosen for his instrumental work with the **Men's Alliance**. Additionally, the program was named an **Exemplary Program** from **CCEA**.

These programs will have lots to share this year, but one of the earliest opportunities comes from one of our partners. The [San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust](#) have selected Farber to be the first campus in FUSD to participate in a new program called [Youth Parkway Ambassadors](#). YPA is a 3-month, 60-hour program in which high school students learn about the San Joaquin River and its role in our community, share memorable outdoor experiences with new friends, access and explore multiple Parkway properties, and gain experience planning events, creating outreach materials, and leading outdoor activities at free public open house events. YPA participants will receive outdoor and naturalist skills training at sites along the San Joaquin River Parkway, potentially including (but not limited to):

- *Boating (kayaking, canoeing) and Water Safety*
- *Plant Identification*
- *Wildlife Track/Scat Identification*
- *Leading Outdoor Activities for Youth and Adults*
- *Team Building Facilitation*

A new component for these cohorts is an overnight camping trip at **Millerton Lake** (2- day, 1-night). All camping gear and food will be provided. Some skills that participants will learn on the camping trip include:

- *Setting up and taking down a tent*
- *How to use a camp stove*
- *Know what to pack when camping*
- *Learn new hiking trails at Millerton Lake*

The Cohort of students will then plan and implement two free public open house days at properties of their choosing, during which they will practice the skills they have learned by teaching them to others. During the planning process, they will be able to practice skills in the following:

- *Leading effective discussions*
- *Event planning and Time management*
- *Graphic/marketing materials design*
- *Community outreach and engagement*
- *Problem solving*

Participants will also receive complimentary camping and outdoor clothing and gear, as well as **Season Park Passes for Millerton Lake State Park**. 10-12 students from the **Women's & Men's Alliance Programs** will be selected to be the first Farber and FUSD Cohort. Students will learn valuable skills through unique experiences while also being introduced to career paths in natural resources and outdoor recreation. Special thanks to **Molly Schnur-Salimbene** and her team at the [San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust](#) for providing students at Farber this unique opportunity.



The Farber Educational Campus would once again like to thank our partner **Daniel Wilson** from [Current Culture H2O](#). Daniel is working with **Science Teacher Jadrian Ejercito** on establishing the first complete

Hydroponics Lab at Farber. Daniel and Current Culture H2O are donating all of this initial equipment, as well as advising Mr. Ejercito and the program. Hydroponics Farming and Gardening is instrumental in the future of sustainable agriculture and the market for hydroponic products is growing at 26% per year. The plan is to invite other science teachers to get involved.



Since school has ended, **Jonathan Hinojosa** has been working on a multitude of things in preparation for the upcoming school year. He has been on campus daily getting his facility and program ready. Here is a summary of some of those activities:

- Hosted Inaugural Advisory Meeting with Farber and FUSD Staff along with several key industry partners from **Amazon, Central California Food Bank, The Gap, Pape, Total Industries** and others.
- Worked with vendors to acquire equipment for classroom
- Continued discussions with industry partners about the program
- Assembled Classroom Furniture, Storage and Equipment
- Cleaned and prepped warehouse for rack installation
- Setup and staging receiving and shipping departments
- Set up classroom and program technology

- Collaborated with other CTE instructors at Farber
- Designed Curriculum with CTE and Farber Support Staff
- School and Community Project Design and Planning
- General Classroom Set Up
- Received and shipped supplies and curriculum coming in from the warehouse
- Assisting Farber with general site and facility needs

Additionally, Jonathan has been working with staff on supporting both the **Farbers Market** and **Farber Closet**. He has also been checking to make sure his facility and equipment are meeting all OSHA Safety Standards. This has included getting the addition of an Eye Wash Station and Shower Station. Jonathan has already been a successful advocate for his program and students and he is just getting started. Stay tuned for much more.



**Cyber Security Instructor Peter Fortuna** has had a busy summer in both preparing his program for the beginning of the school year and advancing himself in a variety of ways.

In terms of professional learning, Peter immersed himself into [Cyber.org](https://www.cyber.org) where he used video training and online sessions including, but not limited to ***Intro to Cyber.org, Implementing Cybersecurity, Analysis and Investigation, Lessons and Advanced Labs and the Deep Dive into Cybersecurity***. On [Minecraft](https://www.minecraft.net), Peter learned how to build and make cybersecurity devices like locks, gates and traps. On [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), he studied videos for relevant current events, good stories, jobs and training.

In terms of professional reading, Peter knocked off **Principals of Cyber Security by Linda K. Lavender**, **Kali Linux Hacking by Ethem Mining** and **Developing the Leader Within by John Maxwell**. Peter also work on various projects and lesson designs including but not limited to the following:

***Seniors Helping Seniors***

***My Future Me; Career, Family, and Location***

***Possibly Partnership with Elementary School***

***Building a PC game simulation***

***Buying personalize PC online***

***Minecraft Cybersecurity certifications***

***Ethics Cybersecurity, Social Media and Technology***

***Current Events and History of Hacking***

***Social Engineering***

***Hackers: Tools, Methods, Goals***

Finally, Peter also pursued a variety of personal growth as evidenced by the following:

- 1. Finalized 501c3 for Captain Max Fortuna; Fallen FireFighter Jan 31, 2022**
- 2. Planning visits to local firehouses**
- 3. Planning 5k run for 2025**
- 4. Various Fallen FireFighter Foundation online sessions in support of families who lost a loved one in the fire service**
- 5. Site Lead for A4 (African American Academic Acceleration**
- 6. Finalized 501c3 for Captain Max Fortuna; Fallen FireFighter Jan 31, 2022**
- 7. Reached Guitar Level 3 in Yousician**
- 8. Beat son in Fortnite 3x in a row; a 1st**

Great work Peter and it sounds like you're ready for a great year at Farber.



During this summer, Instructor **Jeff Cook** has had the pleasure of securing several work-based projects. He made contact with **Christina Musson** from **KMJ radio**, who will be dropping in classes to talk about her career as both a



television reporter and as a radio host. **Director of Operations Manager Ray Settle** will also be contributing to the program's work-based learning. Ray works at **Maximus Media**, which is a one-stop shop for video production and audio recording. **Mr. Jacobs, News Director at KMPH**, will also be coming by to speak to the class. He has several years of experience as an executive news producer and a few years as a news director. **Tom Mcline** will also be talking to the class about what it is like to be a stills photographer. He owns a local studio near RiverPark



These industry leaders will be sharing their expertise with the students while, as a class, students will explore the many careers one can take in multimedia/video production. In order to not have guests have to spend an entire day or days, Mr. Cook is going to have his students document the guest speakers for all the classes to enjoy. This will give the students hands-on experience, and they can share the edited video (which will be completed by other students) with the online class as well as the other in-person class.

For the back-to-school night, Mr. Cook intends to teach his students about making commercials. They will play the commercials in the classroom while others come in and out during the program.



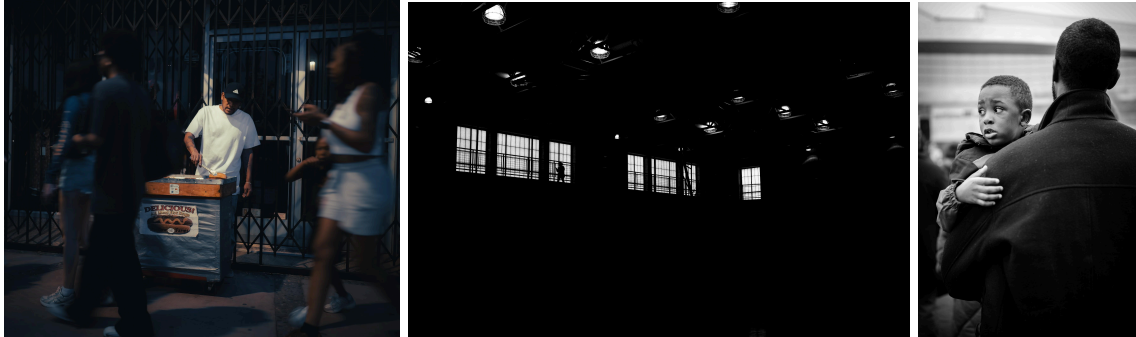
During the summer, Mr. Cook has also been working hard to create ways for our students to learn better. He has been able to find videos that help explain ideas as well as new ways for him to show and share those ideas in class.

He is prepared to take the students out once a week to do photo walks. While on the walks, students will be taking photos of ideas of what they have learned in class. This includes, but





is not limited to things such as composition, leading lines, symmetry and other elements.



**(Special Note:** all of the above photos in the Multimedia & Video Production section are photos taken by instructor Jeff Cook. They are now currently displayed in his classroom - Room 210)

## **OTHER LEARNING NEWS**



**Tim Graveline and Jared Tijerina** have been hard at work this summer getting the library ready for the start of the new school year on a brand new campus. They have been busy cleaning and organizing the space while also getting newly arrived books and supplies ready. The library has furniture for staff and students to come and hang out, read, and do research. There are also two copy machines for students to use for school purposes.

The library will be open at lunchtime and they intend to play movies, music, and tv shows during that time for students and staff. All are welcome. They will be putting textbooks and checking them out to teachers to use in their classroom in the coming weeks. Teachers, please realize that these are checked out to you. If you want a student to check out one to take home, please send them to the library so you can keep your set intact.

After things settle down, probably starting in September, they will be available to host classes for research lessons or they can come to you to support your lesson. Please communicate and coordinate with Mr. Graveline regarding classes coming to the library or him supporting teachers in their classrooms. If you are interested in using the library classroom, please work with Mr. Salazar.

In the more distant future, they will be bringing in more technology into the library. This will include things like a 3D printer makerspace and a way for students, clubs, etc. to access them. They want the library space to feel welcoming to all. Additionally, they will also have Legos for students to use to help them have some tactile time, but also it can be calming. Therefore, students who need to step out and do something to distract them from what they're going through are welcome to come build, calm down and go back to class.

Also, the library team has provided each classroom that hosts students on-site with some headphones. When everyone is back in August, they will have Wacom tablets for all teachers who would like one.

Finally, the library team would like to make it clear that the library, its books and resources are for all staff and students. If you would like them to purchase a book, please let them know. We do have Microsoft forms, but they also love in person requests. If you want something to read in digital format, they can get that in about 24 hours, but physical copies will take some time.



## **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**



**15 teachers** from each of the three programs participated in a two-day training focused on problem and project-based learning. Facilitated by **Michael Niehoff**, teachers learned about the pedagogy, experienced high quality Exemplars and began to design a new project. Teacher worked for two days on designing a project they intend to implement this school year. There were primary and secondary teachers representing a diverse set of

subject matter and students. Some examples of the driving questions were the following:

*What lessons can we learn from history on how to support today's veterans?*

*How can we determine the effectiveness of a revolution?*

*Are we ready for a natural disaster?*

*How can we create an ideal ecosystem for organisms in a failing ecosystem?*

*How can we slow down the emigration from Latin American countries?*

*How can we increase voter turnout for elections in Fresno County?*

*What is the impact of misinformation from the media in our society?*

*How can we make our class a kinder place for everyone?*

*How can we come to understand extreme weather in order to preserve human life?*



**Farber Credit Attainment Teacher Lily Mukai** got certifications for [Google AI Essentials](#) and [Generative AI For Educators](#). Additionally, she is working on the [Data Analytics Certification](#) as well. Great Job Lily for being out in the forefront of AI and DIY Professional Learning.

**Farber Online Teacher Pauline Cagle** attended the [Next Gen Personal Finance FinCamp](#) in Long Beach. She has been completing the [NGPF Professional Development Courses](#) over the last couple of months. Pauline said she's excited to take her learning and apply to her instruction. Units in NGPF included

***Banking, Behavioral Economics, Budgeting, Career, Consumer Skills, Insurance, Investing, Paying for College, Taxes, Types of Credit and Managing Credit.*** There are also mini units

with even more specific focus topics.



**Farber Independent Study Science Teacher**

**David D'Morias** focused on reading this summer. David said he's always a sponge for learning anything new and education-related. After bringing home a new baby this past semester, David jumped into some nonfiction reading and then some. Here are the titles:

- *Five Paths of Student Engagement* (Shirley & Hargreaves)
- *Give and Take* (Grant)
- *The Mamba Mentality: How I Play* (Bryant)
- *Eleven Rings* (Jackson)
- *Sacred Hoops* (Jackson)
- *The Last Season: A Team in Search of Its Soul* (Jackson)
- *Coach Wooden and Me* (Abdul-Jabbar)
- *Raising Human Beings: Creating a Collaborative Partnership with Your Child* (Greene)
- *The Whole-Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind* (Siegel & Bryson)
- *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* (Putnam)
- *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma* (Van Der Kolk)

David has also been doing lots of planning for his chemistry classes for this school year. He has been working a lot around the classroom and lab room getting everything setup. His goal is to design science experiments in Chemistry that connect or can be applied to his students' everyday lives. Some of the classic experiments he has planned are:

- *Elephant Toothpaste*
- *Egg Drops*
- *Smore Lab*
- *Chocolate Lab*
- *Titration Lab*
- *Density Lab*
- *States of Matter Lab*

David has been working with his **Independent Study Science Partner Jennifer Gross**. They have brainstormed and planned units together to best meet their students interests and needs.

## CLIMATE & CULTURE



On Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, five Farber leadership students attended the **CADA Leadership Camp at UC Santa Barbara** along with other Fresno Unified high school leadership students. The camp program ran for four days. The students were organized into councils and the curriculum focused on various leadership topics that created a strong foundation for the student leaders

as they return to our campus in the fall. Each council was responsible for a project that was produced during camp giving students a collaborative, hands-on experience. Students also heard from three keynote speakers and participated in and gained ideas from rally sessions, interest session workshops, and a chance to gain ideas from other leadership students throughout California.

The students who attended were **Aaliyah Xiong, Athena Vallejo Fernandez, Elliot Thao, Jesus Maldonado Martinez** and **Yoselin Resendiz**. From the sessions they attended and the work from their individual councils, students developed goals and started to plan for this upcoming school year. The two main goals our leadership students really want to focus on are to showcase the opportunities and programs Farber Education Campus will offer to all students as well as transform the negative stigma alternative education often receives.



The Farber leadership students are looking forward to making the campus a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students to connect to. **Elva Carlos** and her teams are very proud of the work and effort our students put into the camp and can't wait for them to demonstrate what they learned onto our Farber campus.

## **COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS**



A recent meeting with **Angelica Espinosa**, the **Principal of Winchell Elementary**, spawned many potential collaborations and ideas. Winchell is the nearest elementary school to the Farber Educational Campus and a major link to the families in our neighborhood. We discussed many ideas including our **Monthly Full Choice Food Pantry** and the partnership with the **Central California Food Bank**. But we also brainstormed how many of our Farber students and programs could partner with Winchell. Ideas included, but were not limited to the following:

- **Neighborhood Communications Liaison** for Monthly Full Choice Food Pantry.
- **Cyber Security Students** working with their students about internet safety, cyber threats and cyber bullying.
- **Multimedia & Video Production** Students working with their staff and students on video project needs.
- Potential mentoring and student support opportunities from our **Women's Alliance, Men's Alliance, Leadership, PE Program** and more.
- Winchell Elementary to serve as the communication vehicle to our local neighborhood and families.

This was just the beginning. The possibilities are truly endless. We all should know a couple of things: (1) High School Students working with Elementary Students is **extremely beneficial to the learning and character of both groups** and (2) **Teaching is the Highest Form of Learning** so we need to make all of our Students Teachers when possible.

Remember that we have our published [Farber Non Profit Partner Directory](#) to help us with projects, civic engagement, service learning opportunities and more.

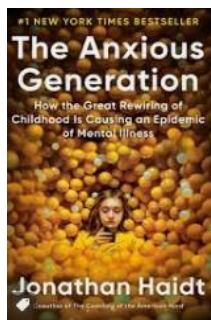
## PERSONAL SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

**Farber Online Teacher Jessica Jamero** said she completely turned her professional brain off for the summer and focused on growing her kids. This summer, she and her family worked on learning to cook more for themselves. In addition to their toast and cereal, as well as cold Sammies they already knew how to fix themselves, her kids learned to make their own chocolate chip pancakes, bacon/egg/cheese sandwiches for breakfast and Ramen for lunch.

**Farber Online Teacher Cyndi Mello** celebrated her **50th birthday** in a little town called Edna near San Luis Obispo with a close group of friends and family. Sadly, she also said goodbye to her **exchange student Lotte**. She also golfed the beautiful Morro Bay golf course, went a family wedding at the Presidio, and attended a family reunion at Lake Lopez.



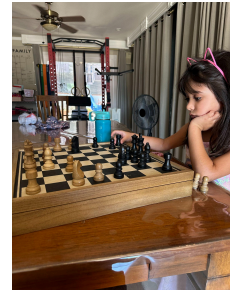
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Most recently, she has been listening to [The Anxious Generation](#) on [Audible](#), a Kelly Gallagher recommendation. In [The Anxious Generation](#), author **Jonathan Haidt** shows how smartphones, social media, and helicopter parenting have led to a decline in young people's mental health and offers actionable solutions to help both our kids and ourselves become mature, emotionally stable adults.

## **Farber Independent Study Science Teacher David D'Morias**

was busy this summer with his family and their first experience as parents with a child having a real summer break after she finished Kindergarten this last year. They got connected to some very unique and useful summer camp experiences around town. He and his wife were also able to volunteer at some of these camps. These included:



- *River Camp*
- *Zoo Camp*
- *Engineering Camp at Fresno State*
- *Music & Theater Camp*
- *Aquarium Camp*
- *Golf Camp*
- *Swim Camp*



Additionally, David found some blueprints online and built a bunk bed for his daughters since they are dying to share a room(just wait until that teenage years come around...). He said it took him all summer but the final product was well worth it.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the content of the August Learning Update. We hope to hear more from everyone as the school year gets underway.