

# Grapevine

## CENTRAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER 2024

### MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT KETTI DAVIS

Dear Central Unified Community,

As we bid farewell to the 2023-24 school year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible achievements of our students, staff, and community. We continue to strive for achievement in all areas of academics and have stayed focused on offering the support needed for students during school, after school, and during the summer session. This year, we added winter and spring school to support the needs of hundreds of our students, as well as expanded our after-school programs at every school.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on their graduation! Your hard work, perseverance, and the bonds you've formed are truly commendable. It was a privilege to witness the inaugural graduation of Justin Garza High School, marking a special milestone for our district. Each ceremony was special and unique!

Students often share that they are most engaged when participating on a team or with a club. Congratulations to all our academic, art, and athletic teams! Whether competing on the field, expressing creativity through art, or showcasing academic excellence, they have demonstrated exceptional character and brought home numerous awards. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments! Check out this year's school and district social media pages to see many of them!

None of this success would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and guardians who have actively participated in shaping the future of Central Unified through training sessions, events, and community meetings. Your engagement is vital in shaping the future of Central Unified.

As we embark on summer break, I encourage our students to continue investing in their learning and well-being. Reading regularly and engaging in physical activities will help maintain academic sharpness and overall wellness. We've reopened the Central East High School pool, along with some athletic courts and fields, to the community this summer. Take advantage of these facilities to stay active and explore new interests. Additionally, don't forget to check out our website, [centralunified.org](http://centralunified.org), to find out which library is open to get a great book to read.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer ahead!



### FOUNDATION FOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS

The Foundation for Central Schools Scholarship Program is a labor of love, born from the heartbreaking loss of a young girl named Janessa Ramirez. In 2015, we established our first scholarship program to honor Janessa's memory and keep her spirit alive in our community. In the past four years alone, the program has grown exponentially, thanks to the overwhelming support of our community. From \$15,000 its first year to an impressive \$48,000 during the 2023-2024 school year. That's a testament to the incredible generosity of our community, who have rallied around our mission to invest in the future of our Central Unified youth. Our program now includes four annual scholarship programs that range in awards from \$1,961 - \$2,500. To date, we've provided \$200,727 in awards to 87 deserving graduating seniors.

But we're not stopping there. In the coming year, we're excited to expand our scholarship program even further. We'll be introducing an alumni scholarship to support the continued growth and success of our past recipients, and a special scholarship just for Central Unified employees. This will allow our dedicated staff to further their education and advance their careers, benefiting our entire school community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating 20 years of the Foundation's service to the Central Unified community at the 2024 State of the District event in the fall. Together, we can continue to empower Central Unified Youth and uplift our entire community.

#### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION?

Visit [CentralFoundation.org](http://CentralFoundation.org) for more information.

Together, we can empower Central Unified Youth and uplift our entire community.



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#### ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

ਸਾਡੇ ਡਿਜੀਟਲ ਐਡੀਸ਼ਨ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਐਕਸੈਸ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੈੱਲ ਫੋਨ ਕੈਮਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਕੋਡ ਨੂੰ ਸਕੈਨ ਕਰੋ

## FACILITIES PLANNING UPDATES

The Facilities Planning Department at Central Unified School District utilizes many sources of funding to complete various projects. This department oversees the Facilities Master Plan, demographics, project planning, construction management and oversight, Facility Use Requests, student projections, site utilizations, and the State Facilities Program. Thank you to our community for supporting Measure D and making several of our projects possible.

### Growth projects:

New Elementary School, Shields & Brawley:

- Anticipated opening Fall 2025

Justin Garza High School Aquatics Complex:

- Anticipated completion Spring 2024

Justin Garza High School Athletics Complex, Inc. 1:

- Anticipated completion Spring 2024

Justin Garza High School Athletics Complex, Inc. 2:

- Construction: Tentative Late June 2024

Justin Garza High School Visual And Performing Arts Center:

- Construction: Tentative Winter 2025



Fresno City College

# GET AHEAD THIS SUMMER!

**4 SESSIONS AVAILABLE:**

**4-week & 10-week sessions begin May 20**

**8-week session begins June 3**

**6-week session begins June 17**



## Register today!

State Center Community College District

# 2024 SUMMER PROGRAMS

## K-4 & 5-7 Literacy Camps

JUNE 17TH - JULY 12TH

Literacy Camp is available for students currently enrolled in Kindergarten through 7th grade. The goal of Literacy Camp is to show our students how to love reading/writing and be curious about their community. This year students will work with words, expand their writing capabilities, and be given the time and support to read and explore ways they can have an active role in their community. New this year, students will be pre-enrolled in our Summer Experience. The Extended Learning opportunity provides an exciting extension to the day where students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun enrichment activities.

### Summer Experience Enrollment

Students will be pre-enrolled in our Summer Experience, which includes the Literacy Camp program and the Extended Learning Opportunity. Please note that enrollment will not be available upon parent request due to limited space. The Extended Learning Opportunity extends the fun until 5 pm with a range of exciting enrichment activities facilitated by our exceptional staff.

## 8th Grade Summer Bridge

JUNE 14TH - JULY 18TH

Prepare for high school success with our 8th Grade Summer Bridge program! This initiative offers academic support in literacy and math while providing a sneak peek into the high school experience. Students will gain valuable insights into A-G completion, academic planning, college visits, and more. Get ready to start your high school journey on the right foot!

## Kinder Camp

JUNE 17TH - JULY 11TH

Is your child gearing up for kindergarten? Our Kinder Camp is here to help! Designed for children without prior early education experiences, this program eases the transition into kindergarten routines and environments. Applications are available during Kindergarten Registration at each elementary school.

## High School Summer School (Credit Recovery)

JUNE 14TH - JULY 18TH

Need to make up credits or fulfill A-G requirements? Our High School Summer School (Credit Recovery) program has you covered! Join us for traditional classroom sessions focused on helping you achieve academic success.

## High School Summer School (Original Credit)

JUNE 14TH - JULY 18TH

Ready to earn original credits? High school students in grades 8 through 10 can enroll in a variety of courses, including World Cultures, Health, Spanish, and History. Classes will be held in person with a transition to virtual format in July. Contact your Vice Principal (Middle School) or Academic Counselor (High School) to enroll.

## SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM

This program is free to all children 1-18 years old. Meals are served in the cafeteria Monday-Friday. Breakfast is served 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM and lunch 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. All locations will be closed June 19 & July 4 - 5.

### Central East High School

3535 N. Cornelia Ave

June 17 – July 18, 2024

### Biola Elementary School

4885 N. Biola

June 17 – July 18 2024

### Teague Elementary

4725 N. Polk Ave.

June 17– July 18, 2024

### Roosevelt Elementary

2600 N. Garfield

June 17 – July 18, 2024

### River Bluff Elementary

6150 W. Palo Alto

June 17 – July 19, 2024

(closed July 1-5)

### Central Learning Adult School (C.L.A.S.S.)

2698 N. Brawley

June 17 - July 19, 2024

Program regulations require that children must be present to receive a free meal. Summer meals are to be eaten by children only and may not be taken from the assigned eating area. Small children must be accompanied by an adult as we do not provide cafeteria supervision.

## SUMMER SCHOOL LIBRARY HOURS

### Central East High School

**Hours:** 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**Days:** Monday-Friday

**Open:** June 17-July 18

**Closed:** June 19, July 3-5

### River Bluff Elementary School

**Hours:** 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Days:** Monday-Friday

**Open:** June 17-July 19

**Closed:** June 19, July 1-5

### Rio Vista Middle School

**Hours:** 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Days:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Open:** June 17-July 19

**Closed:** June 19, July 1-5

### Roosevelt Elementary School

**Hours:** 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Days:** Monday-Friday

**Open:** June 17-July 18

**Closed:** June 19, July 3-5

### Biola Pershing Elementary School Library

**Hours:** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Days:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

**Open:** All summer

**Closed:** Holidays



## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

**Dance:** Forty students from Dazantes De Tlaloc performed on the star-studded stage of Universal City Walk, showcasing five different styles of dance. Additionally, twenty Advanced Modern students participated in workshops led by professional dancers at Disneyland.

**Music:** The Central East Choir successfully hosted its inaugural CMEA Choir Festival. Meanwhile, El Capitan Band collaborated on a joint concert with the Central Valley Winds Ensemble. Notably, Glacier Point Choir and Rio Vista Band clinched 1st Place at the Music in the Parks Festivals. Moreover, the Justin Garza HS Band delivered a stellar performance at the All-State Festival in Cerritos.

**Theatre:** The El Capitan Theatre delighted audiences with its heartwarming production of The Sisters Grimm. Meanwhile, Glacier Point's Husky Theatre Pack captivated audiences with their stunning rendition of Into the Woods. Finally, Justin Garza HS Encore Theatre wowed audiences with their rendition of the hit musical, Chicago.



## HONOR CENTRAL ALUMNI TODAY!

The Central Unified Board of Trustees is looking to honor Central alumni at Board meetings. Community members and employees are encouraged to nominate candidates living or deceased, who received a diploma or certificate of completion. Central Unified graduates serve as role models through their considerable accomplishments and contribution to the advancement of the district's goals. Scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera to review the criteria and make a nomination. We look forward to celebrating our alumni.



## ADVANCING EQUITY IN CENTRAL UNIFIED

We're proud to report significant progress in advancing equity within our educational community. Drawing from "Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain," we've engaged our site leaders in deepening their understanding of culturally responsive practices. By providing them with the necessary tools and information, we aim to create inclusive environments where all students feel respected and supported in their learning journey.

In addition, strategic partnerships, including collaboration with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, have been forged to further our equity efforts. Initiatives such as the Teachers of Color Pipeline offer students insights into careers in education, while empowering staff to create culturally affirming spaces. Furthermore, we're investing in the professional development of our leaders, with three individuals currently undergoing a rigorous 10-day culturally proficient certification course. This initiative aims to enhance leadership capabilities and foster a more culturally proficient and equitable community within our District, ultimately enriching the educational experience for all students.

## BIOLA-PERSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Biola-Pershing Elementary is thriving with a collective effort from students, staff, and the community to ensure every student's personal, academic, and emotional success.

Professional development for teachers is at an all-time high, with four educators engaged in a two-year LETRS training program to enhance reading instruction for early elementary students. Kindergarten and pre-school teachers are also participating in P3CC-Counting Collections training for early childhood math skills. Additionally, teachers in grades 1, 2, 4, and 5 have received extensive professional development in math instruction, reflecting Biola's commitment to continuous learning among its educators.

Extracurricular activities have seen increased student participation, including events such as the Spelling Bee, Young Author's Fair, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, athletics, and music programs. Despite these added activities, Biola maintains high expectations for student learning. This spring, the school held its first all-school Passport Day, educating the entire student body on behavior expectations as part of ongoing improvements to the PBIS program.

Community connection is thriving through initiatives such as adult ESL classes, Success Together Workshops, and the upcoming Multi-Cultural Fair. The Biola Wellness Center is also making progress, with construction set to begin this summer!



## CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Central Elementary School, we're thrilled to witness the collaboration among parents, community organizations, and our dedicated Principal, Mrs. Wendy Slack. We firmly believe that by working together, we can cultivate success for both our students and families.

On Kid's Day, March 12, 2024, our students, parents, and staff sold newspapers to benefit Valley Children's Hospital. Additionally, Central La Familia Advocacy conducts monthly visits to provide education and support on topics such as immigration, parenting, health, and wellness. In April, we partnered with The Jakara Movement, who will bring new resources to our Punjabi community. Furthermore, we're launching

multilingual parent computer classes to ensure we meet the diverse needs of our families.

Our students have also been active and successful in various endeavors, including the Central Engineering and Science Fair, where four students earned placements. We also had significant participation in the Young Author's Faire, Fresno State Peach Blossom, and Sounds of Success Choir performances by our 5th and 6th grade choir.

Exciting things are happening at Central Elementary School, and we're proud to make a difference every day!



## HANH PHAN TILLEY ELEMENTARY

At Hanh Phan Tilley, collaboration and engagement drive both adult and student learning. Teachers continue to work collaboratively to craft unit plans that not only align with Common Core State Standards but also cater to the needs of each student, ensuring rigor and comprehensive learning experiences.

Throughout March, our Physical Education teachers partnered with the American Heart Association to instill heart-healthy habits in students. Activities like jump roping, a fun cardiovascular exercise, were integrated into P.E. classes for Transitional Kindergarten to sixth grade students.

Clubs have been a big hit post-Covid, with three

new additions this year: Odyssey of the Mind, Robotics, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We look forward to these clubs and many more being on campus in the years to come.

Our Panthers excel both academically and athletically. From representing Central Unified in the County Spelling Bee to winning the District Championship in Boys Basketball, our students consistently demonstrate excellence. As we approach the end of the school year, we eagerly anticipate the participation of our track athletes at the Area IV Track meet in April and the debut of our Robotics team.

Wrapping up the third quarter, our 2nd Annual Open House parade on March 21, 2024, provided an opportunity for students and staff to celebrate each other's achievements. As we enter the final quarter, we are proud of our Panthers' dedication and growth and look forward to continued success.



## HARVEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harvest Elementary students are actively engaging in a variety of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Over 50 students showcased their talents in the Spring Theater Production of Willy Wonka Kids! This was directed by 5th grade teacher Melissa Ham and 6th grade teacher Natalie Christiansen. Harvest's 4th, 5th, and 6th graders delivered two captivating performances to packed audiences, demonstrating their talent and creativity.

Harvest student-athletes excelled during wrestling and track seasons, under the guidance of coach Marcus Ponce who led the team to an undefeated season. Resulting in two Harvest Hawks winning district championships for their grade levels. Similarly, our track team, led by coaches Roberta Riley and Daisy Trujillo,

demonstrated outstanding performance with over 40 students who excelled throughout the season.

Read Across America was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of 2nd grade teacher Marina Garr, who organized engaging activities and arranged for guest readers to visit classrooms and share their favorite children's books.

Our first-grade teachers embarked on virtual journeys around the world with their students. Throughout March, students explored Mexico, and enjoyed dressing in traditional Mexican attire to enhance their cultural immersion.

Furthermore, the Harvest community is excited that 5th grade teacher Kastie Woo and Home School Liaison Kulwant Kaur led multiple boys and girls in our Punjabi Dance Club. Additionally, 4th grade teacher Lorien Jimenez is launching a percussion club after school.



## HERNDON-BARSTOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lobo Point, Herndon-Barstow's extended learning program, organized an unforgettable trip to Disneyland in March for over 60 enthusiastic 4th-6th grade students. This unique experience allowed students to explore the principles of physics while enjoying the thrill of roller coasters. Additionally, they had the exciting opportunity to unleash their creativity by building their own roller coasters.

In a historic milestone for Herndon-Barstow, 6th graders Wesley Berquist and Ian Xiong proudly represented the school's Chess Club at the Central Valley Scholastic Chess Association's March tournament held at West Fresno Elementary. This marked the first-ever representation of Central Unified at CVSCA tournaments.

In an effort to build a strong sense of community and support for all families, Herndon-Barstow staff initiated a warm welcome for new students and families by rolling out the red carpet. HB administration and staff personally met with all new Lobos, offering school tours, facilitating connections to Parent Square and Parent Portal, and providing Lobo swag to kick start their experience in a positive way.

Herndon-Barstow recently organized an ELPAC Saturday study session, attracting over 70

English Learners and six teachers. This interactive workshop not only prepared students for the ELPAC exam but also provided a fun and engaging platform to practice English skills.

Celebrating a huge academic achievement, Herndon-Barstow's 3rd through 6th graders were honored at the mid-year academic assembly for their outstanding iReady growth. Dozens of students in each grade level were recognized for achieving their iReady stretch growth in reading and math between fall and winter. The collective efforts of HB students resulted in an impressive 19% growth in iReady Reading and a remarkable 17% growth in iReady Math during this period.



## HOUGHTON-KEARNEY K-8 SCHOOL

Houghton-Kearney proudly sent five students to represent the school at the Fresno County History Day. Their performance project earned them a gold medal, which led to a spot in the State History Day competition held in Sacramento. Additionally, our students took 3rd place and honorable mention recognition at the district Science Fair this year.

Our HK families participated in four sessions with Success Together throughout the year. Among these sessions, families particularly enjoyed the science sessions, one of which involved learning about chemical reactions and building an erupting volcano.

At Houghton-Kearney, students are "Wild About Reading!" Parker kicked off our Wild About Reading challenge, getting students excited

about literacy. They happily took on the challenge of reading ten books in five weeks, with the incentive of attending a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game.



## LIDDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Liddell, our extra-curricular offerings are growing, providing students with diverse opportunities for engagement and wellness. From our Yoga and Wellness Club to Robotics and Leadership, students are finding avenues to explore their interests.

Read Across America Week was a blast, featuring school-wide scavenger hunts, themed dress-up days, and engaging reading competitions. Athletes as Readers and Leaders visited classrooms, and the winning class even got to silly string Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Gunstream!

Our Liddell Lion Academy now offers grade-level based field trips, enriching students' understanding of animals and their habitats. Recent excursions included visits from the zoo mobile, trips to the Cat Haven, and an adventure to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Our students and teams have earned recognition in various areas, from Peach Blossom to Athletics, showcasing their dedication and achievements.

Sixth graders recently explored local government and civic duties on a special field trip, meeting with Fresno City Council Member Mike Karbassi and United States Circuit Judge Ana de Alba.

We continue to foster positive behavior and character, with rewards such as bounce houses and water days for students who uphold our Lion Laws. We also promote a sense of belonging through student recognition and fun activities.

As we prepare for SBAC State Testing, students and teachers are honing their skills. We've organized a fun SBAC rally and offer prizes to keep students motivated. We're confident our Lions will excel academically.



## MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Madison's 23-24 school year theme, "Around the World in 180 Days," took students on a global journey which included the following continents: South America, Australia, Africa, Europe, and the continent of Antarctica, with Asia concluding our school year adventure. Students engaged in Flag Bingo activities and learned about the languages, animals, and geography of each land.

During Madison's school play, "Aristocats," TK and Kindergarten students presented the audience with a vibrant Folklorico Dance performance, setting the stage for an evening filled with Visual and Performing Arts enjoyment for all in attendance.

Family Literacy Night featured a lesson of alliteration. Students participated in interactive activities while exploring literacy skills, accompanied by the reading of "Moon's Ramadan" as part of our journey to the continent of Asia. Through discussions, students gained insight into the celebrations of their peers. Students received a Ramadan lantern and a bag of dates, ending in a serene moment of guided meditation on Loving Kindness, illuminated by the glow of lanterns.



## MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The ELPAC Academy, which ran from February 5th to March 5th, provided support to 43 students ranging from Kindergarten to 6th grade. The primary focus was to increase each student's ELPAC score by one level, and the dedicated efforts of our teachers and students during this period were admirable.

Our Parent Engagement through Success Together program saw an increase in attendance from our families. On February 4th, 2024, we hosted an event titled "Building Reading Comprehension with Art."

Our Attendance Matters initiative is going strong, maintaining a steady attendance rate of 94.1%. In

recognition of outstanding attendance, our January Attendance Winners were rewarded with popcorn.

During the Read Across America week, our students participated by dressing up and had the pleasure of being read to by special guests, one being Trustee Kherfan who read to Ms. Breceda's class. We were excited to award nearly 100 books to deserving students as part of the "Read Across America" book giveaway.

Lastly, our students had the opportunity to participate in the Peach Blossom Festival at Fresno State, accompanied by one of our cherished former teachers, Ms. Bailey, who served as one of our chaperones and witnessed our students win several awards in the Peach Blossom competition.



## RIVER BLUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

River Bluff celebrated another successful Read Across the World event, honoring the different cultures in our school. Classes dove into literature from various countries, and learned about the different cultures. Students and staff dressed in traditional attire, paying homage to diverse cultures, while flags from around the globe were flown around our school.

In March, River Bluff had the honor of hosting the Central Unified Special Olympic Basketball event, celebrating inclusivity and diversity. This event provided a platform for Central's athletes to showcase their talents, welcoming elementary special education students from across the District.

Our 6th grader Megan Kinnunen won 1st place at the Central Unified Science Fair with her project "Smells Like Something's Burning," showcasing

her dedication to the field of science.

In November, inspirational speaker Coach Cordell presented our school with his message of positivity and kindness. His continued presence at River Bluff continues to serve students as a source of motivation, followed by his generous gift of Air Jordans to a fortunate student.

The Boys Basketball team took 1st place in the Division I Championship in December, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

River Bluff added a Sensory Room for students, providing a space that combines elements of sensory stimulation and engaging environment for individuals with all abilities.

Finally, our 6th graders went on an unforgettable journey to Wonder Valley for 6th grade camp, where they experienced new activities, including ziplining, archery, and learning about horses.



## ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Roosevelt Elementary launched its Science Olympiad team for 3rd-6th graders, attracting 30 eager students in its inaugural year. Through the Scientific Model, students engaged in inquiry-based learning, collaborating with partners while working on STEM challenges.

In a bid to cultivate leadership skills, our 6th graders participated in the PIVOT program, (Providing Individuals Valuable Opportunities Today), spanning 10 weeks and designed to address real-life scenarios and decision-making.

Excitingly, Roosevelt introduced two new clubs for students who consistently demonstrate positive behavior and earn Fun Friday privileges. The Art Club embarked on crafting campus art installations, drawing inspiration from renowned artist Jen Stark. Meanwhile, the Video Club dove into student-led video projects, slated for broadcast during morning announcements.



## SAROYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our students have had a fantastic time representing Saroyan at many events such as the Science Fair, History Day, Peach Blossom, and Young Author's Fair. Ms. Urrutia's class proudly represented Saroyan at the District's Peach Blossom event, where they were invited to showcase their original poem, "California Kids", during one of the School Board meetings.

Read Across America Week was a great success! Our Student Council played a huge role in organizing dress-up days, including Cultural Day, where students wore attire reflective of their diverse backgrounds. Additionally, they had the chance to share books that celebrate their cultures. Furthermore, Dr. Michelle Cantwell-Copher made a heartwarming surprise visit to Mrs. Dowding, a former colleague from the early days of her career, and read to her class, creating a memorable moment for all involved.

Saroyan students have been enjoying themselves, while participating in engaging activities during recent field trips! Our sixth

grade students embarked on an exciting adventure to Wonder Valley for the very first time as part of Sixth Grade Camp. They had a great time making rockets, interacting with horses, and going on several hikes. Meanwhile, our fifth grade students traveled to The Tech Interactive Science Museum in San Jose for a day of fun and science! Not to be outdone, our fourth grade students, who went on an educational journey back in time during Gold Rush Day, an on-site field trip experience where students rotated to different experiences including panning for gold, examining old artifacts, and shopping at a replica General Store.



## STEINBECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Steinbeck's student-athletes came out victorious, winning the football championship! Following their success, our cheerleaders secured a remarkable 2nd place title, while our pep team brought home the first place recognition overall!

Our Peer Mediation Club proudly brings together 40 dedicated students from grades 4 through 6. Equipped with training in positive communication and conflict resolution, these students play a pivotal role in restoring peace among their peers during recess.

As a component of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), our 5th grade students engaged in a roller coaster laboratory experience at San Jose Tech Museum before their inspiring college visit to San Jose State.

TROY (Truly Reviving Our Youth) mentors are part of the culture and climate at Steinbeck Elementary. Through social interactions,

structured sports activities, and mentoring sessions during recess, these mentors create positive relationships, resulting in a reduction in behavior infractions, enhanced character development, and improved self-efficacy among our students.

Steinbeck is thrilled to collaborate with Success Together to offer Parent and Family sessions this spring featuring presentations on topics of high interest, along with language translations and dinner.

Our 6th grade students had an unforgettable experience at Wonder Valley Camp, engaging in hands-on, standards-based learning, arts, and activities. Students went on adventures such as rock climbing, zip-lining, and heartwarming campfire gatherings, creating memories for a lifetime!



## TEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We're excited to announce the graduation of our first cohort of parents from the Parent Institute of Quality Education (PIQE) this spring. On March 19th, we celebrated the achievements of 14 parent graduates. The courses focused on early literacy, equipping parents to support their TK - 2nd grade students and navigate various school technologies. The sessions were conducted in both Spanish and English, with the Spanish course held face-to-face and the English course conducted live over Zoom. As we conclude this year's educational parent engagement nights, we look forward to providing more opportunities for our parents to engage our learning community.



## EL CAPITAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

El Capitan showcased "The Sister's Grimm," a compelling play that depicted the bond between sisters amidst the onset of a pandemic. Directed by Daniel Hernandez, the production captivated the audience with its poignant narrative.

In sports, El Capitan's competition cheer team secured third place at Cheer Nationals in Anaheim, showcasing their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

English Learners and AVID students embarked on enriching experiences outside the classroom, touring Sacramento State University and the state capitol. Additionally, English Learners and their parents attended Fresno State's Feria De Educacion, where parents received guidance on supporting their children's college paths, while students explored the opportunities available in higher education.

El Capitan hosted a college and career night, providing valuable information from various schools and programs to students and families. This event offered families the

chance to learn about available opportunities and seek guidance, while students gained insights into different programs and pathways.

The Expanded Learning Program introduced a range of new classes, offering students opportunities to engage in computer programming, boxing, nutrition, advertisement, and product development. ELP also participated in a "Food Truck Throwdown" at Open House, where they showcased a variety of recipes to the community, fostering engagement and connection.



## GLACIER POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Glacier Point 8th grade Boys' Basketball team had an exceptional season with a remarkable 8-2 record in the regular season. Their triumph continued as they took the Central Valley Athletic League (CVAL) championship, securing victories over El Capitan in the semi-finals and Sanger in the finals.

Devin Simmons, an 8th grader, was recognized for his musical talents, earning a spot in the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educators Association (FMCMEA) Honor Band. He also had the honor of representing Glacier Point at the California Music Educators Association (CASMEC) annual conference as part of the California All-State Jr High Concert Band in Sacramento.

Similarly, Andrea Dolores Dominguez showcased her musical talent by earning a spot in the California All-State Choir, where she

had the privilege of performing at the California Music Educators Association annual conference in Sacramento.

Marcos Lopez and Skye Wood demonstrated their vocal excellence by earning spots to perform with the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educators Association (FMCMEA) honor Choir.

Glacier Point hosted a family bonding event with the annual Father-Daughter Dance on February 8th, welcoming families from feeder schools. With the theme "A Red-Carpet Evening," moms, dads, and daughters danced the night away, creating unforgettable memories. The event witnessed the largest turnout ever, with nearly 1000 members of the GP Family coming together to celebrate.



## RIO VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

This spring has been overflowing with achievements at Rio Vista Middle School!

Our 7th grade Boys' Basketball team took the CVAL Championship this season, while we also celebrated inclusion through our Special Olympics Basketball event.

In the world of competitive cheer, Rio Vista took 4th place out of 12 teams at the USA Nationals held in Anaheim this February.

Our student, Cylas Lovett was selected for the prestigious position of Principal Trumpet in the 2024 FMCMEA Junior High Honor Band, achieving the top score in both Fresno and Madera counties.

Our winter Percussion Team placed 3rd place at the SJVCGRP, and our Concert Band earned a Unanimous Superior rating for the second consecutive year at the CMEA Central Band Festival, outperforming all schools in the valley.

Furthermore, we reinforced our new campus Behavior Expectations - RISE UP (respect, integrity, self-motivation, and excellence) through classroom lessons, incentives, prizes, and our RISE Up 80s Rally. We had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker Keith Hawkins, an internationally acclaimed speaker who instilled positivity in our students, encouraged them to conquer their fears, and reminded them that their struggles do not define them.



## CENTRAL EAST HIGH SCHOOL

At Central East High School, 11 teachers engaged in Zaretta Hammond's Master Class for Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, aiming to deepen our understanding of culturally responsive teaching. This initiative also serves to provide demonstration classrooms for CEHS staff.

Grizzly Culture Week, held from April 23rd to 26th, 2024, celebrated the rich cultural diversity of CEHS. The week culminated in a vibrant cultural parade and fashion show during lunch on April 26th, showcasing the diverse backgrounds and traditions within our school community.

Our girls' basketball team demonstrated remarkable prowess by reaching the quarterfinals in the division three State Championship bracket, representing CEHS with skill and determination.

An impressive 82% of CEHS students and 88% of teachers and staff completed the Spring

2024 Panorama School Climate survey, demonstrating a strong commitment to understanding and improving our school climate.

Throughout the year, CEHS staff members were recognized on the school's social media pages through Grizzly Staff Highlight posts, acknowledging their contributions and dedication to our school community.

March 18th to 22nd marked the celebration of the annual CG spring tradition, Chicken Week, with festivities including the crowning of Ms. Beccera and Mr. Hamilton as Chicken Queen and King, respectively. This tradition continues with lots of fun among students and staff.



## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Central High School is expanding its Dual Enrollment program, projecting 26 classes for the 24-25 school year. As an Early College School, CHS offers college courses leading up to an Associate's Degree from Fresno City College.

Efforts in re-teaching and re-learning standards have led to an almost 30% reduction in Ds and Fs and higher GPAs over the last two years. Allowing full credit on the second assessment has motivated students, resulting in a greater percentage passing classes and meeting A-G requirements.

CHS Career Technical Education pathways, including Agriculture, Criminology, Education, and Health Careers, provide students with job-ready skills and credentials for their future steps in jobs or further education.

The Academic Decathlon Team excelled at the 2024 Fresno County Academic Decathlon, earning 19 medals among five competitors: Aldofo Lopez (7), Jugraj Nijjar (4), Benito Ventura (4), Ashley Sanchez (3), and David Ventura (1).

In the Greater Fresno County Battle of the Books, the CHS Team led by Ramona Cheek and Meghyn Torabi secured first place on March 6, 2024. Team members included Eshar Dhillon, Kirpa Dhillon, Simryth Dhillon, Isabella Garza, Alexis Kelly, and Samantha Perez.



## JUSTIN GARZA HIGH SCHOOL

Justin Garza High School achieved remarkable success across various sports and academic endeavors during the 2023-2024 school year.

In a historic first, the boys' soccer team took the D4 Central Section Valley Championship, securing a spot in the CIF state NorCal Regional Playoffs. Similarly, the girls' soccer team made school history by reaching the D3 Valley Championship finals, finishing as Division 3 Central Section runner-up. The girls' wrestling team also made a mark by earning the D2 CIF Central Sectional Valley Championship, with individual champions Sage Reyes, Olivia Ruacho, and Noelia Sedano.

Continuing the streak of triumphs, the Cheer program competed and was awarded the Valley Championship and defended their title as repeat D1 VALLEY CHAMPIONS! Furthermore, they claimed the state division 1 championship, showcasing their over the top talent and bright future.

In academics, JGHS excelled at the Fresno Regional Science Olympiad, achieving victories such as the highest exam score in the Wind

Power event among participating high schools.

The dedication and hard work of JGHS students were key in the reclassification of 26 English Language Learners during the 2023-2024 school year, with another two students in progress. Additionally, the Fall 2023 JGHS awards celebrated 748 students who earned above a 3.5 GPA, reflecting the high standards set by our Guardians in academics.

Overall, Justin Garza High School's achievements in sports and academics are a testament to the commitment and excellence of its students.



## CENTRAL LEARNING ADULT/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL SITE (C.L.A.S.S.)

Our Academic Counselor recently held individual meetings with senior students and their parents to discuss their academic progress and graduation requirements, ensuring personalized plans for success by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

To support Independent Study students, we introduced "Saturday Live!", offering extra instructional support on Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm, providing a conducive environment for study and module completion with teacher guidance.

Central Adult School is reinstating its Nurse Assistant Training Program (N.A.T.P.) in Summer 2024 and the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, offering a sought-after career pathway in healthcare.

Expanding on our successful partnership, Central Adult School will launch three additional cohorts of the Digital Literacy Program in April 2024, providing certifications in technology and cybersecurity at no cost to enrolled students.

Our Adult Transition Program, "Connections", continues to develop partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits like Fresno State and Chili's Restaurant, offering valuable work experience and instruction as our students transition into young adulthood.



## CENTRAL ONLINE HOME SCHOOL

Central Online Home School expands its enrichment activities with the introduction of pickleball this spring, offering students recreational opportunities. Elementary students engage in Virtual Family Literacy Nights monthly, enhancing family involvement through shared reading and interactive events.

The STEM program captivates young learners with activities such as creating family board games and mini greenhouses. COHS celebrates a notable 94% course completion rate in the Edgenuity program for K-5 students during the Fall semester.

Dedicated to diversity and cultural awareness, COHS honors Black History Month with author readings and daily social media highlights of prominent figures. Initiatives like Read Across America and themed dress-up days promote literacy and school spirit.

Maintaining a high course completion rate, COHS hosts monthly Career Speaker Series sessions to guide students in career

exploration. Professionals from diverse fields offer insights, empowering students to make informed career decisions.

As COHS prepares for graduation, its commitment to achieving a 100% graduation rate remains steadfast. Success stories abound, with students pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or starting businesses, showcasing COHS's dedication to lifelong student success.



## PATHWAY COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL & PERSHING CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL

Pershing Continuation High School has been honored as a Model Continuation High School by the California Department of Education, while Pathway Community Day School joins the ranks as one of the inaugural eight Model Community Day Schools.

Students from Pershing Continuation High School collaborated with members of the Fresno Elks Lodge for the 2024 Veterans Interview Project, showcasing their interviewing skills and preserving local veterans' stories in an archive at the Legion of Valor Museum in downtown Fresno.

Despite a close match, the Pershing co-ed basketball team secured second place in the Gateway Co-ed Basketball Tournament

2024, displaying determination and sportsmanship on the court.

Furthermore, seven students had the opportunity to attend the FFA State Leadership Conference in Sacramento, where they connected with FFA members statewide and gained valuable insights into the organization.

As we look forward to graduation on June 12th, we celebrate the hard work and achievements of all our students.





Central Unified School District  
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## 2023-2024 ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

### CENTRAL EAST/CENTRAL HIGH ATHLETICS 24

- Central Varsity Competition Cheer: CIF Northern Regional Championship
- ESPN Honor Roll School Recognition: Central East High School Received National Recognition from Special Olympics North America as an ESPN Honor Roll School
- Central East Wrestling: Two members of the team secured top 5 positions in their respective weight classes during the 2023-2024 CIF State Wrestling Tournament



### JUSTIN GARZA ATHLETICS 24

- JGHS Boys Soccer: Crowned D4 Central Section Valley Champions and were awarded a spot in the CIF state NorCal Regional Playoffs
- JGHS Girls Soccer: Advanced to the D3 Valley Championships. This was the first time in school history that our girls made it to the section finals.
- JGHS Girls Wrestling: earned a D2 CIF Central Section Valley Championship for their season! Additionally three students were crowned D2 CIF Central Section Champions in their respective weight classes.
- JGHS Cheer: Awarded a Valley Championship and brought home a second CIF Central section Div 1 Championship title.



### NCAA Signees

- Arissah Garza - Softball - Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
- Aiyana Finley - Soccer - California State University, Chico
- Braylen Hall - Football - Western Colorado University
- Brooklyn Epperley - Track and Field - Cal Poly
- Haylie Haupt - Soccer - Midway University
- Jayden Ramos - Softball - University of Arkansas
- Kamana Powell - Softball - University of Northern Colorado
- Madison Guzman - Softball - Simpson University
- Thomas Gonzales - Waterpolo - University of La Verne
- Adrianna DeLaRosa - Concordia University, Chicago
- Jayden Brantley - Sonoma State
- Kaitlin Loudermilk - California Baptist University
- Lauryn Harris - Vanguard University



### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

**Ketti Davis** - Superintendent  
**Tami Boatright, Ed.D.** - Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
**Amer Iqbal** - Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Officer  
**Jack Kelejian** - Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
**Marilyn Lopez, Ed.D.** - Assistant Superintendent, Student & Family Services

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Joshua Sellers** - Area 1  
**Yesenia Z. Carrillo** - Area 2  
**Phillip Cervantes** - Area 3  
**Nabil Kherfan** - Area 4  
**Richard A. Solis** - Area 5  
**Jeremy Mehling** - Area 6  
**Naindeep Singh Chann** - Area 7

### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

**Maria Cortez** - Communications and Public Relations Officer  
**Olegario Tapia Solis** - Digital Communications and Social Media Clerk

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