

Grapevine

CENTRAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2023

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT KETTI DAVIS

Greetings Central Unified community! This first semester has flown by but has been incredibly productive for our students and staff. We witnessed students engage in many activities that inspired and motivated them, such as robotics, Unified Sports, athletic competitions, theater productions, and band and choir competitions, to name a few. We stood alongside schools, programs, and staff as they were recognized for their remarkable efforts. Some of these fall recognitions include Model Positive Behavior Schools, Special Olympic Champions, Energy Star schools, and America's Healthiest Schools.

We continue to focus on raising academic achievement in Central Unified. Teachers are working collaboratively to share instructional practices that work best so that we can help our students read at higher levels, gain English proficiency, increase math and literacy performance, and graduate on time. We are testing out new strategies in math instruction and addressing assessment and grading practices to reduce failure rates for students transitioning from middle to high school. As students experience success in these trials, we will be able to spread these new practices across the district for all to benefit.

Our facilities are also receiving attention in many areas. This work began with enhancing the outdoor spaces of our schools. Now our maintenance and operations team are turning their attention to indoor spaces. Currently, we have projects happening at every school to ensure our physical spaces are inviting, healthy, and safe for student learning.

A committee of students, parents, community members, and staff has been working to study ways of balancing enrollment at our three traditional high schools: Central High School, Central East High School, and Justin Garza High School. Information gathered through an online survey and at town hall meetings will help the committee prepare recommendations for our Board of Trustees. We look forward to the outcomes of this work. I encourage families to continue sharing with us their thoughts and ideas about what is best for their children. This upcoming semester, our community will have opportunities to continue these discussions.

I am optimistic about what is still to come this school year. Our partnership in supporting students' needs is critical to our success. I encourage you to connect with your child's teacher, your school's principal, and get to know the office team, which includes knowledgeable secretaries, health staff, counseling staff, and bilingual family outreach liaisons. Our teams are ready to work alongside you to make sure our students' needs are met and they have the necessary supports to achieve. Many thanks for a great start to this school year. Be safe over the holiday season. We will be ready for you in 2024!



NEXTlevel
CONTINUOUS PROGRESS = SUCCESS

FOUNDATION FOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Last school year, the Foundation for Central Schools formed a partnership with the Kaiser Permanente Benefits Program and the Central California Food Bank, and Feeding America-Morgan Stanley Child & Family Choice Grant to launch the Central Schools Well-Being Project. The focus is to provide food, health, and housing resources to the Central community. As a grantee, the Foundation has been able to purchase necessary equipment to transform a temperature controlled c-train at Teague Elementary into a food pantry that mimics the grocery store experience. A beautiful mural adorns the inside, which is stocked with kid-friendly meals and groceries that reflect the diverse cultures of our community. Community members can access the pantry every 3rd Wednesday and 4th Friday of the month, after school, excluding holidays. To date this project has directly served 13,000 Central community members. The Foundation for Central Schools has been serving the Central Unified community since 2004.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WELL-BEING PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

Visit CentralFoundation.org for more information.

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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

EECU FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



OUR FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES THEY NEED TO BUILD A HEALTHY FINANCIAL FUTURE.

We offer workshops on a variety of financial topics where students learn the basic principles of personal finance and gain an understanding of how the choices they make about their education today will have a direct impact on their financial future and their desired lifestyle.

We strive to make our financial education programs experiential, engaging, and fun while teaching students and adults how to budget and save wisely.

Our program is available for students of all ages and we will also work with you to design a workshop tailored to the needs of your students. Workshops are available in English and Spanish and we also have programs for parents and adults.



1-800-538-3328 | myEECU.org

WISE UP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ABOUT OUR AWARD-WINNING WISE UP PROGRAM

Our program teaches students the importance of making healthy financial choices and gives them a valuable perspective on the realities of being financially independent by participating in real-life scenarios.

Students choose a **career**, set up a **budget**, and **calculate gross-to-net income** to determine if their expenses will be met.

STUDENTS ALSO LEARN HOW TO:

- 1 RECORD MONTHLY EXPENSE**
We teach students how to enter transactions in a checkbook register and maintain a budget. 
- 2 PURCHASE LIFE ESSENTIALS AND PAY MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD BILLS**
Students "purchase" a car, house, etc. and manage monthly expenses such as housing, utilities, entertainment, transportation, food, clothing, and childcare. 
- 3 EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**
Students spin the Wise Up Wheel and experience unexpected virtual events such as a traffic ticket, auto repair, device repair, weekend trips, or monetary gifts from relatives—some in the form of an expense and others in the form of income. 
- 4 EVALUATE THE OUTCOME**
Once students have purchased each life essential, they evaluate the remaining balance in their checkbook register, share best practices, brainstorm solutions for those who exceeded their budget, and discuss lifestyle choices. 

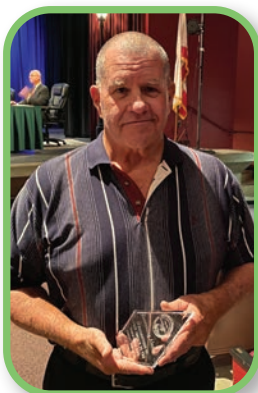
FinancialWellness@myeecu.org

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 2025-2026 school year
- Justin Garza High School Aquatics Complex: Anticipated completion Spring 2024
- Justin Garza High School Athletics Complex: Anticipated completion Spring 2024
- Justin Garza High School Visual And Performing Arts Center: Construction to commence Summer 2024



HONOR A 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.

Join The Central Unified Family!



Teacher | Management | Clerical | SpEd Aide | Yard Duty Aide
Library Media Technician | Food Services | Bus Driver | Athletics Coach
Custodial | Maintenance | Substitute Employees

APPLY TODAY! www.edjoin.org/Centralusd

ON TRACK:

Central High School, Justin Garza High School, El Capitan and Rio Vista Middle Schools have begun their second year of collaboration in On Track, which focuses on a successful transition from 8th to 9th grade. This work identifies steps associated with instructional/grading practices that impact students D and F rates, and the impact those practices have on A-G course completion/graduation rates. These include student identification, providing additional forms of regular feedback, fostering conversations around grading practices, and conducting empathy interviews to collect feedback from students on barriers to their learning to help staff provide intervention opportunities.

PREK-3RD COHERENCE COLLABORATION:

Central Unified's PreK-3rd Coherence Collaboration (P3CC) is a teacher and administrative team focused on creating coherence in math instruction across classrooms from preschool through third grade and beyond. The Central team, which is rooted at Madison Elementary, has grown this year to include Biola Elementary and Central Elementary. Work continues to implement engaging math experiences, including word problem solving driven by student thinking, as well as students counting collections of items. Teachers say student engagement and academic gains look promising. The collaborative team is excited to continue spreading its successes with an increasingly growing number of Central Unified teachers and classrooms.

UNIVERSAL TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN:

Universal Transitional Kindergarten is in year two of full implementation. By August 2025, all 4-year-olds will be eligible for transitional kindergarten (TK). Transitional kindergarten offers an extra year of education, allowing children more time to build a solid foundation in pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills. To support the implementation, new classrooms are being furnished with developmentally appropriate furniture and materials.

AG: BIG WINS AT THE FRESNO FAIR!

Central Ag students had a marvelous showing at the 2023 Big Fresno Fair. Congratulations to all students who participated. Your hard work and efforts paid off.

GOATS

- 1st Place, Dairy Goat Market: Jason Barbato Green
- Class Winners, Boer Market Goats: Ella Hull, Brooke Melkonian, Steven Vang
- 1st Place, Mature Doe: Emma Cruz
- FFA Reserve Champion, Dairy Replacement Doe: Ariannah Cantu

RABBITS

- Best of Breed Holland Lop: Josiah Salazar
- Best Opposite of Breed Mini Rex: Tyler Diaz
- Best Opposite of Breed Lionhead: Angie Sanchez

SWINE

- 11 Class Winners: Gracie Mehling, Carli Pittman, Zayla Clugston, Hailey Navarette, Raegan Porter, Jill D'Ambrosio, Aubrianna Galaviz, Joslynn Leavitt, Aiden Alles, Noah Valdez, and Kyle Federoff
- Champion Duroc: Raegan Porter
- Champion Hampshire/Grand Champion FFA/Supreme Champion: Joslynn Leavitt
- Reserve Champion Hampshire: Zayla Clugston
- Reserve Champion Yorkshire: Aiden Alles
- Champion Light Cross: Noah Valdez
- Reserve Champion Dark Cross: Carli Pittman
- Champion AOB: Zayla Clugston
- Champion Bred and Owned: Giselle Galaviz
- Champion Valley Bred and Fed: Giselle Galaviz
- 1st Place Chapter Group: Central-Fresno FFA

SHEEP

- 9 Class Winners: Mason Espinola, Macie Richardson, Kaylie Ramos x2, Javier Manzano, Natalie Rojas Olivares, Mia Rosas, Addison Martinez, and Noah Zabal
- Champion Dorset: Mason Espinola
- Reserve Champion Dorset: Alex Phillips
- Champion Suffolk: Macie Richardson
- Reserve Champion Suffolk: Noah Zabal
- Reserve Champion AOB: Kaylie Ramos
- Reserve Champion Valley Bred and Fed: Kaylie Ramos



BEEF

- Reserve Champion British Breed: Adriana Santos Gil
- Champion Fresno County Bred and Fed: Adriana Santos Gil
- 1st in Class: Trinitie Sanchez
- Reserve Champion Fresno County Bred and Fed: Faith Simpson
- 1st Novice Showmanship: Faith Simpson

AG MECHANICS/WELDING

- 1st Place: Logan Wood, Decorative Log & Hatchet

FLORAL

- Best in Show Wall Mount Arrangement: Zayla Clugston

FRUITS & NUTS

- 1st Place & Best in Show Walnuts: Gracie Mehling
- 1st Place Plums: Aaron Ramirez
- 1st Place & Best in Show Citrus Medica Var. Sarcodactylis, 1st Place Almonds, 1st Place Raisins: Raegan Porter
- 1st Place Plums, 1st Place Almonds, 1st Place Raisins: Morgan Parker
- 1st Place Almonds: Trinitie Sanchez

ALL AROUND AG AWARD TOOLBOX WINNERS

- Zayla Clugston, Helena Contreras, Emma Cruz, Isabella Garza, Joslynn Leavitt, Raegan Porter, Donovan Rivas, and Noah Valdez

BIOLA-PERSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Biola-Pershing Elementary School continues to celebrate Biola's BEST! The BEST student, the BEST staff, and the BEST community! We closed the 2022-2023 school year with the 2-time Division 2 Softball Championship team, and opened the 2023-2024 school year with two recognitions: the PBIS Gold award and America's Healthiest School for our SEL programs!

This school year we will continue focusing on building the capacity of our families through monthly Success Together classes, ESL classes, Parent Coffee hours and many community events. Our academic focus continues to be improving student learning in ELA/Math and supporting our English Language Learners on their path to reclassification. We are looking forward to 2024 as we anticipate the

completion of the Biola Wellness Center which will provide us an opportunity to increase services and support for our students and community!



CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Central Elementary is "Leveling Up!" academics, citizenship, and athletics. We started the school year off with a rally that featured a teacher dance off, which was emceed by video game icons Mario (Wendy Slack, Principal) and Luigi (Matthew Gorans, Vice Principal). Our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams were the district and Division Champions. Our football and volleyball teams were League Champions. They showed dedication and great sportsmanship throughout the season.

We are looking forward to the next level in our academics. Each student has set goals for themselves with their teachers, who will be monitoring and pushing them to meet and exceed those goals. We are proud of our Pioneers and their accomplishments.



HANH PHAN TILLEY ELEMENTARY

Hanh Phan Tilley (HPT) students and staff began the 2023-2024 school year celebrating a significant and well-deserved honor. Our Panther community was recognized for their exemplary and successful Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at the Platinum level by the California PBIS Coalition. Our PBIS team has been working hard to maintain a positive school atmosphere where students are routinely recognized for positive decisions and actions. Students look forward to the monthly incentives where they are celebrated. Recently, students who met their goals were engaged in a "Minute to Win It" rally.

HPT takes great pride in supporting students, their family members, and the community. This year, HPT has kicked off multiple Parent Classes and Family Nights to encourage side-by-side learning. Each month parents, guardians, and students are invited to free parent and family classes either in the morning or in the evening. We have seen an amazing number of parents, guardians, and families attending these classes, learning together, and having fun.



HARVEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Harvest Hawks are energized and excited about the 2023-2024 school year and we have reasons to celebrate! Thanks to the work of our fabulous teachers and vice principals, we have more than doubled the number of students being reclassified as fluent English learners from last year. We are committed to creating an inclusive culture at Harvest, where each student is valued and celebrated. We know that when students feel included, safe, respected, and happy at school, they are more likely to attend regularly, be more engaged, and show greater academic success.

Harvest teachers and staff have stepped up to offer an array of activities designed to teach, celebrate, and respect the various cultures that make our school community vibrant. In addition to the traditional extra-curricular and co-curricular activities offered in elementary schools, Harvest is offering Folklorico and Indian Dance Clubs. We also partnered with Central High to have their dancers perform during Hispanic Heritage Month. We are proud of our students and the work they are doing. When you enter the Harvest building, you will be greeted with our Community Board, which features student work, articles, and displays celebrating the various holidays and observances of our families.



HERNDON-BARSTOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Herndon-Barstow Elementary is off to a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. We are very proud to have been named a 2023 PBIS Platinum School, but our work in promoting positive behavior is just beginning. In October we welcomed Mr. Peace, who spread his message of kindness and love to all our students. His impact can still be felt across campus as students have been using kind words to boost each other up.

We are also in our first year of implementing Live School. This program allows adults all over campus to recognize students for positive behavior. Students earn points and can cash them in at our Lobo store to purchase items such as popsicles, Lobo pop sockets, and even Lobo Pride T-shirts. Our students are also part of different wolf packs, each composed of TK-6th

grade students. The packs work together to earn points, creating bonding amongst different aged students, and earning extra recess. We are working hard at Herndon-Barstow to promote positive behavior while connecting and engaging all students.



HOUGHTON-KEARNEY K-8 SCHOOL

Houghton-Kearney started the year by celebrating state assessment achievements. Proficiency in ELA and Math surpassed scores from before the pandemic. We were also recognized as one of America's Healthiest Schools, and honored as silver award recipients by the California PBIS Coalition. Excitement is building to continue this positive work in both academics, wellness, and positive behavior.

We had our first Tiger PRIDE party of the year, where students were able to show off their creativity and artistic abilities by painting and decorating pumpkins. Students earned this reward by demonstrating achievement in academics as well as positive attitude and behavior.

Houghton-Kearney hosted its first parent engagement event of the year through a partnership with Success Together. The topic of the evening was "How to help your kids with their homework (even when you're stuck, too!)". With the help of our family outreach liaison, we had a large turnout, filling up an entire classroom! The class was offered in both English and Spanish, allowing parents to take advantage of this great learning opportunity. Parents left with some helpful tips on how to support their child's learning. We are looking forward to the next family engagement opportunities.



LIDDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Liddell Elementary we're hitting the ground running for our best year yet, setting ambitious goals for student performance in F&P, iReady, and SBAC growth. We continue our commitment to implementing and supporting Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) every single day. We earned Platinum award status for the 2022-2023 school year. Our first quarter PBIS celebration honored students who follow our Lion Laws with a fun movie day in the cafeteria.

We love our community events! Our Grandparent's Ice Cream Social was a huge success, with LOTS of ice cream scooped by our local Girl Scout Troop! Our Liddell Harvest Carnival featured local vendors and engaging activities for

all ages. Thank you to our dedicated Liddell PFC for their unwavering support! In sports, our Football and Girls Volleyball teams secured District Division I Championship titles. Additionally, our Competition Cheer team triumphed with a first-place win at the Cheerpros Central Cal Championship. Outside of athletics, our school offers diverse activities including robotics, chess, Science Olympiad, and a Yoga Club. It's truly a fantastic year to be a part of the Liddell Lion community!



MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Madison, staff is dedicated to the success of our students by focusing on social-emotional support in addition to academic and behavioral support. Miss Jaime, our school psychologist, plays a critical role and employs her expertise to assess and address individual student needs. Madison's intervention counselor, Mr. Phongsavath (Mr. P.) offers invaluable support to students while providing a supportive environment where students can express themselves. Additionally, our Thinkery teacher, Mrs. Perez, plays an essential role in employing specialized strategies to help students regulate their emotions and behaviors by creating an encouraging and inclusive learning environment.

In addition to the individual efforts, the entire staff at Madison participated in the final training module by All4Youth designed to better assist students who have or are experiencing difficulties that affect them at school and home. This staff training is designed to help foster a culture of empathy and support within the school community. The shared efforts with all the education partners exemplify Madison's unwavering dedication to nurturing the whole child.



MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One of McKinley Elementary's goals for the 2023-2024 school year is to increase parent participation and celebrate the different cultures we have at our school site. We believe it is essential to acknowledge our students' heritage. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we added banners throughout our campus to celebrate this month of recognition and learning. Our community Trunk or Treat event was a huge success. Our teachers, after-school program, PTA, and parents took time to decorate their vehicles and hand out candy. It was great to see many families and students participate and enjoy the festivities. We will continue providing different avenues for family participation in school events and ways to celebrate the diverse cultures that make up our great McKinley community.



RIVER BLUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At River Bluff, we believe the power of kindness and empathy is far reaching. It impacts every aspect of our lives, including academics and every category of interpersonal relationships. This belief has inspired us to choose "Kindness Matters" as our theme for the year.

In honor of "International Dot Day" and the wonderful book it celebrates, our students collaborated to craft a "Kindness Tree" made of dots! Each dot created by our students was an artistic expression of courage, empathy, and the power of kindness. Our "Cup of Kindness" wall is full of student ideas and

examples of kind deeds for everyone to see. Student ideas are shared daily on our morning announcements and displayed on our wall. As this school year progresses, various challenges and goals have been met with success. Our students are recognizing that acts of kindness are like throwing a pebble into a pond, with positive ripples that spread far and wide. Our students are learning through experience that when you're kind to someone, that someone is more likely to be kind to others.



ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Roosevelt Elementary opened the 2023-2024 school year with great excitement and with staff being named the 2023-2024 District Spirit Award Winners. Our staff is focused on student achievement and is working closely with our reading lab to increase guided reading. Our reading lab has been celebrating growth and generating more interest in reading. We are excited to start a Science Olympiad team this school year. By establishing a Science Olympiad program our students will have the opportunity to enhance their educational experiences.

Roosevelt was one of 13 schools recognized as a Gold Model PBIS School. This year we continue to celebrate our student's behavioral and social-emotional successes. Our school psychologist and intervention counselor are running peer groups and are assisting educators with social skills lessons. The Roosevelt PBIS Team and Administration are working to maintain a positive school culture by routinely recognizing our students who follow our 3 B's by earning weekly rewards and also monthly character count rallies.



SAROYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Saroyan Elementary School started the school year with Student Council elections in September. Students campaigned using posters, stickers, flyers and then delivered impressive speeches to the student body. Our newly elected Student Council members collaborated with administration by setting goals to increase school-wide spirit and to increase their community service efforts. Together with their advisor, Ms. Milan, students painted signs and banners for our home sports games and are working to promote student involvement in upcoming events such as Peach Blossom Festival, Science Fair, and the Holiday Joy Food Drive!

They also assisted our PFC in hosting our annual Holiday Family Dance!

Saroyan participated in many activities during Red Ribbon Week designed to promote a healthy, drug-free life and anti-bullying. Teachers prepared lessons and activities in the classroom, students and staff dressed up for Spirit Days, students signed the Red Ribbon Pledge, and we held a school-wide door decorating contest! Saroyan will continue spreading the important message of kindness to promote healthy and positive relationships.



STEINBECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Steinbeck is thrilled to have been recognized for achieving Platinum status for schoolwide efforts in PBIS implementation! Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) is a schoolwide systems approach for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. From teachers greeting students at the door, to morning meetings focused on social emotional health, to reinforcing and praising the FINS way (Focused, Independent, Nice and Safe), students and staff are committed to sustaining a positive, equitable and safe learning environment where everyone thrives.

Steinbeck is proud to be the first Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elementary school in Central Unified! AVID is a schoolwide program designed to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career

readiness and success in a global society. At the heart of the system are proven methodologies based on WICOR: Writing to learn; emphasis on Inquiry; Collaborative approach; Organizational skills, and critical Reading. Additional efforts this year aligned with AVID include providing materials to support organization (folders, agendas, pencil pouches), scheduled Career Days, College Wear Wednesdays and grade level field trips that include college visits to Fresno City College, Fresno Pacific University, Fresno State and San Jose State. Students are provided leadership opportunities such as Student Council, PBIS Committee, Peer Mediation and Teachers of Color Pipeline. School wide AVID reflects systemic changes in attitude, instruction, and culture of our school, ensuring college and career readiness for all students.



TEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Great things are happening with our Teague students! Student athlete, Alivia Arcia, was selected as Central Unified's Scholar Athlete and Champion Athlete for the entire district. Teague athletes are winners both on and off the field. Thanks to the continued support of our parents and educators, student athletes can be their best.

This fall we hosted Success Together which featured a free course for parents called Family Reading Adventures: The Big Orange Spot. This class is geared towards empowering parents with strategies to support their students. In early December, families attended the Family

Science Lab: The 3 Little Pigs Engineering Challenge. This event was designed for families to engage together in a fun STEM activity. In the spring, we will host PIQE. PIQE will provide an 8 week course on Academic Foundations which will provide parents with support as they support their students. These classes will take place January 30th-March 19th at Teague. Every year we aim to improve our connections with our community because we know that Continued Progress = SUCCESS.



EL CAPITAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

El Capitan Middle School kicked off the 2023-2024 school year by connecting students and families to events, clubs, and activities. Our Marching Band (51 members) and Color Guard (16 Members) have successfully competed in several events. They took second place in the Fowler Junior High Review and the Caruthers Review.

A group of our Spanish-speaking students and parents were invited to participate in Fresno State's Feria De Educacion. This event empowers Spanish-speaking parents and students to learn about higher education. Parents were surprised at how many career paths and resources are available to support students. One of our parents even won a

tablet. This event was successful with the support of El Capitan's academic counselor, Isabel Frutis, and the bilingual family outreach liaison, Lorena Manriquez De Aguilera.



GLACIER POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Glacier Point Middle School is honored to be recognized for our achievements in both PBIS and Healthy Schools. We received the Silver Award for our PBIS Work and were recognized as one of America's Healthiest Schools for our work on staff well-being. Additionally, we are excited about the support our academic counselors are providing students. This school year, we have grown our academic support by introducing lunchtime tutoring and expanding our Husky Homework Hub to include drop-in support time at lunch and after school. Seeing students take ownership of their learning has been phenomenal.

Finally, we partnered with Carnegie Mellon University and PLUS Tutoring to provide personalized math instruction to our students. Students connect virtually with tutors on Mondays to get real-time help and support as they work to learn new skills. Glacier Point piloted the program last year and saw some encouraging results. We are excited to see even more growth in our students' mathematical understanding this year. We are proud of all the work we have done and we look forward to continued progress and growth.



RIO VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rio Vista Middle School kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with a new principal, Kinzie Fink, and an amazing team of Titans ready to achieve great things! We have welcomed hundreds of students and parents to our campus for Orientation and Back to School Night, Parent Engagement Nights, Recognition Ceremonies, and student conferences. We are focused on creating a culturally affirming and inclusive campus. In October we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a school wide collaborative ofrenda, performances, and other displays. That same month we also welcomed over 700 students and family members from Fresno County to celebrate inclusivity in our Special Olympics Soccer Games.

We are excited to see a huge increase in participation in clubs, activities, and electives this year. Our band alone has nearly doubled from 51 to 94 students. This year, Girls Volleyball, Tennis, Girls Golf, and Water Polo all made it to the playoffs, with several teams making it to the championship game. Christian Hoover set a school record and took 2nd in CVAL for Cross Country. As educators who put students first, we have collectively committed to improving our collaborative Professional Learning Community process to ensure that all students have the interventions and supports they need to achieve at high levels.



CENTRAL EAST HIGH SCHOOL

This school year, Principal Edmunds, along with a dedicated team of educators and staff, is leading the charge to elevate Central East High School (CEHS) to new heights. With a clear vision and determination, the school is focusing on key areas to ensure a bright future for its students and staff.

With heartfelt gestures like greeting students at the door and one-on-one teacher-student meetings to build connections, CEHS is creating an atmosphere where every student feels valued and supported. Principal Edmunds is setting an example by personally getting to know each staff member, further strengthening the bond between educators and administrators. In the

spirit of celebrating diversity and inclusion, a Grizzly culture mural is taking shape on the amphitheater stage, symbolizing the school's commitment to unity. Additionally, CEHS has earned national recognition as a Unified Champion School, proudly displaying the National Banner from the Special Olympics. The school is also proactively partnering with organizations like FCCS Teacher of Color Pipeline to encourage more students of color to enter the teaching profession. Moreover, a mentorship program, led by CHS Alumni Dr. Robert Mitchell, provides guidance and support to African American boys, equipping them with tools for success.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Central High School (CHS) currently offers 19 dual enrollment classes. Parents of recent graduates speak highly of the program and say they are already seeing savings in tuition! We plan to increase our offerings to 25 classes in the next school year. Our Career Technical Education programs continue to win big. The Ag pathway recently had over 70 students participate in the Big Fresno Fair with more than 120 awards, including CHS bred "Supreme Champion Market Hog". The Criminology pathway earned a national accreditation. The Education pathway started its ROP capstone course, which will send CHS students to our elementary schools for their community classroom placements. Our Health Careers pathway continues to produce a near

100% pass rate for the California Certified Nursing Assistant Exam!

When it comes to academics, staff are ensuring students learn the standards by re-teaching and re-assessing when they fail an assessment. Social Science teacher Trish Asci stated, "Students that have not demonstrated proficiency on assessment tasks, have not learned the material completely. Providing additional support through review of the material, feedback on assessments, followed by a second opportunity to demonstrate proficiency helps teachers address learning gaps". Increased learning, less failure, and higher GPAs is the result of this work.



JUSTIN GARZA HIGH SCHOOL

The Justin Garza High School Marching Guardians began the 2023-2024 school year with a stellar start to the band competition season. They have placed 1st in all of their competitions and have won four out of five caption awards. They are a dedicated group of individuals on our campus and combined they are a force to be reckoned with. We look forward to seeing and cheering on our Marching Guards at the All-State Concert Band Festival in April 2024. Only five high schools were selected statewide and our Guardians earned a spot!

Our 3rd Annual Fright Night was frightfully fun! Thank you to our boosters, clubs, community PTA/PFCs, vendors, and donors for helping make this event spooktacular. We also want to thank the Foundation for Central Schools, After School Program Mr. Mercado, Fresno PD, Sgt. Alvarado,

California Highway Patrol, and Community Outreach Officer Rodriguez, Sgt. Zapata and the Marines, and our AMAZING JGHS Admin team. Lastly, we'd like to give a heartfelt thanks to our student Leadership team who have been planning this event since May. Your hard work, dedication, and long hours brought so much joy. We are incredibly proud of you!



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

At the start of the school year, every student and their parents were able to meet individually with our academic counselor to review their academic status and develop plans to meet graduation requirements and/or transfer back to their home school. Every senior student also met with our outreach coordinator to begin their college and career planning. Central Adult School is now offering a Digital Literacy program with two separate class cohorts that meet on Saturdays. This technology-based coursework earns students a Cyber Security Certificate, with potential to enroll in college for advanced technology career pathways.

Our Adult Transition Program (Connections) has created "Community Based Instruction" work experience opportunities by

cultivating partnerships with local businesses and non-profit organizations such as The Fresno Chaffee Zoo, El Bajio Mexican Restaurant, The Mint Thrift Store, Chili's Restaurant, Round Table Pizza, and the student dining hall at Fresno State.



CENTRAL ONLINE HOME SCHOOL

Central Online Home School (COHS) student's are soaring to new heights. We are demonstrating growth in academic performance, our journey towards excellence, and our commitment to family involvement via a holistic approach to education. Some of the ways we are achieving this is through Virtual Early Literacy Nights and a diverse range of hybrid and in-person enrichment activities. COHS is not just on the rise; we are redefining what it means to provide a well-rounded and enriching education in the 21st century.

Our students are demonstrating a consistent upward trajectory in terms of academic performance. This growth can be attributed to the school's ability to adapt to the evolving landscape of online education by embracing technology. During Literacy Nights, families received valuable resources, including a copy of a read-aloud trade book and activity supplies. We are empowering parents to actively participate in their child's education and provide them with the tools

to do so effectively. COHS is taking a holistic approach to education by offering a diverse array of hybrid and in-person enrichment activities. These activities include Coding, Art, Beading, Lego, Ultimate Frisbee, and STEM opportunities.



PATHWAY COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL & PERSHING CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL

Both Pershing and Pathway are off to a great start this year! Pershing has a new Ag Teacher, Central High School graduate, Mr. Collin Parker. He has brought a lot of ideas and energy to the Pershing campus. Pershing FFA students took third with their landscape display at the Big Fresno Fair. Pershing FFA officers also participated in the Biola Raisin Day Parade! Pathway got some exciting news. Our junior high school teacher, Ms. Angie Cabrera, is a Finalist for Middle School Teacher of the Year from California League of Middle Schools. We're incredibly proud of her and are cheering her on from the sidelines.

Our most recent Back to School Night saw one of the biggest turnouts we've ever had! Our first group of students is going to the

Scout Island Leadership Academy and are excited about the high ropes course. We have a lot of fun educational activities and field trips planned for our amazing students this school year!



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS FALL VICTORIES

We are pleased to announce the following accomplishments of our Visual and Performing Arts bands, choirs, ensembles, and casts.

- The Justin Garza High School Marching Band was named the Western Band Association (WBA) 2A Central Regional Champions. The band has been undefeated since they opened in 2021.
- The Central East Grizzly Marching Band took second place in their division at the California Music Educators Association Band Review in October 2023. They also won Caption Awards (awards for marching band competitions) for best percussion, color guard and music in their division.
- The El Capitan Marching Band received second place at the Fowler Junior High Band Review in October 2023.
- The Justin Garza High School Choir received a Unanimous Superior at the Fresno State Choir Festival in October 2023. This was their first festival performance of the year and they earned the highest rating of all participants.
- The Central East Theatre presented their hilarious production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* in October 2023. The cast demonstrated great comedic timing in a play that did indeed go wrong in the best ways possible.



Register Now

Join us at Extreme Registration
Jan. 2 & 3, 2024 | 1PM-6PM | Library

**Spring semester starts
January 8, 2024**

 **Fresno City College**





Central Unified School District
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ATHLETICS: 1ST ANNUAL WINNING CIRCLE AWARDS



On October 25, 2023, the Central Unified Athletics Department celebrated student-athletes at the 1st Annual Winning Circle Awards. Students received awards based on the four keys of winning: Relationships, culture, communication, and systems. Student-athletes were recognized for their excellent academic standing, outstanding community service and dedication to their sport. Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals were also thanked and a few were honored, for their continued commitment to athletics. Thank you for your support and we look forward to the next Winning Circle Awards.



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Phillip Cervantes - Area 3
Nabil Kherfan - Area 4
Richard A. Solis - Area 5
Jeremy Mehling - Area 6
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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Gilbert Magallon - Communications and Public Relations Officer
Olegario Tapia Solis - Digital Communications and Social Media Clerk

Central Unified School District
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