

## Public input helps guide update to school attendance study

Final proposed boundary map coming March 29

CUSD Today

Clovis Unified School District is in the process of reviewing all of its school attendance boundaries, and a final attendance map proposal is planned for release later this month. That map will be considered for action by the CUSD Governing Board in April. If updates are approved, the changes to attendance boundaries would take effect in the 2025-26 school year.

Currently, three proposed scenarios have been created, with schools continuing to hold parent meetings this month to provide more information and gather input. An online comment form is also available through April 12 for the public to share feedback.

Initially two maps – named Scenario 1 and Scenario A – were developed after a months-long study by a 50-member Steering Committee that evaluated enrollment trends, current school capacities, future growth and the opening of new schools. Following community meetings in January and early February in all school areas, a third proposed map – Scenario Silver – was created and released Feb. 23 that reflects adjustments where feasible based on the public's input.

No decision has been reached and all three scenarios remain under consideration. The final recommended map proposal will be emailed to families and posted online March 29.

Families can find online specific information about how a school might be impacted, including detailed maps of neighborhoods that may be di-

► Please see *Boundaries*, Page 8

### Learn more

- Online comment form, map scenarios, more available at [cUSD.com](http://cUSD.com)
- See "Board Briefs" on Page 6 to learn more about a summary report given to the CUSD Governing Board.



Kenny Gilman/Special to CUSD Today

Third-grade students at Miramonte, Jefferson and Pinedale elementary schools have all been reading the same book in preparation of an online visit by the book's author and illustrator recently.

## HOMERUN HIT

### Author, illustrator 'visit' with third-graders at Jefferson, Miramonte and Pinedale thanks to baseball star

CUSD Today

Third graders at three Clovis Unified Schools each received their own copy of the same, fun chapter book about hairstyles, and they got to meet the author all thanks to the generosity of Major League Baseball star and Valley native Aaron Judge.

More than 200 copies of "JD and the Family Business" were donated to Jefferson, Miramonte and Pinedale elementary schools by the Aaron Judge All RISE Foundation that focus is to inspire children to become responsible citizens and reach for unlimited possibilities.

The Clovis Unified students have been spending time in class reading the book written by J. Dillard and illustrated by Akeem Roberts and discussing each chapter in preparation of the online talk with both Dillard and Roberts. The Zoom call in February was hosted by Patty Judge, Aaron Judge's mom.



The third graders listened to how Dillard developed his story based upon his own real-life experience as a kid who was teased in school because of an embarrassingly "bad" haircut by his mom.

He vowed not to let that happen again. "I snuck Mom's scissors and began to cut my own hair," he confessed. Turned out, he was pretty good at it, and grew up to become a master barber.

Akeem, similarly, shared with students how he had an

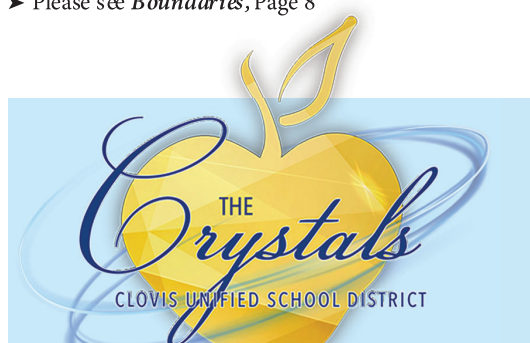
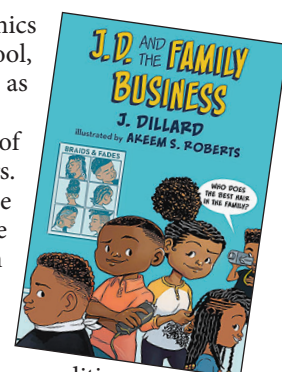
interest in drawing and making comics when he was in elementary school, which ultimately led to his career as an illustrator.

"It was daunting," said Akeem of developing his illustrating endeavors. But he did what he encouraged the students to do when they might be trying to do a difficult task or learn something new. "Break it down and take the first step," he said.

Kids had lots of questions for the duo about their creative process, editing and the hardest part to writing a book.

"These have all been great questions," Patty Judge said, ending the presentation. "We want to encourage each of you children to be the best you can be in whatever you want to do. Strive for the stars!"

Homerun star and outfielder Aaron Judge was born in the Valley, played baseball for Fresno State and now plays for the New York Yankees.



# 28

Employees Honored With a Crystal Award!  
See Page 9

## Tim Simons Field

### Legendary coach becomes namesake of turf at Lamonica Stadium

Longtime and legendary Clovis Unified football coach Tim Simons learned at a recent CUSD Governing Board meeting that the field at Lamonica Stadium will be officially named the Tim Simons Field.

Simons coached at Clovis High from the 1970s to 2000 and led the Cougars to several championship titles. He went on to help establish the football program at Clovis North High when the school opened in 2007, and he led the Broncos to its first Valley title ever. Simons remains as the Broncos' freshman coach and advisor to the varsity team today.

Numerous retired colleagues and administrators surprised the beloved coach by attending the meeting to celebrate him and his storied career.

"This is quite a shock," said Simons who was at the meeting for the current Clovis North varsity football team's recognition by the board as this year's Valley champions.

"I can remember the first game we played at [the then new] Lamonica Stadium ... and we won!" he said. "This is such an honor."

The announcement of Tim Simons Field on Clovis Unified's social media channels had a viral reach exceeding 50,000, with



“He is the blueprint for teacher, coach, character and leader.”

former players, coaches, families and fans offering hundreds of comments.

"Well deserved and privileged to have him coach our son!"

"My respect for this man. I had an opportunity to coach against Coach Simons one time, and that was enough for me to recognize the legend that he is."

"One of the best I was ever lucky enough to be around, from my playing days at Fresno State to the coach-

ing profession!"

"He is the blueprint for teacher, coach, character and leader."

"I can't imagine anyone who cared more about his players."

Plans are underway to create a sign bearing the new name that will be unveiled at an event later this year.

Please join us as we recognize the

2024

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**Wednesday, April 10**

6:00 p.m. Registration  
6:30 p.m. Dinner  
Admission: \$50 per ticket

**Clovis Veterans Memorial District**

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# ► Announcements



## Calling all artists

Want to design the cover of the next Clovis Unified Budget Book? The 16th Annual Budget Book Art Contest is underway. All Clovis Unified TK-12th grade students and CART students are welcome to submit artwork for the contest. Five finalists will receive a gift card and have their artwork featured in the Clovis Unified 2024-25 Budget Book. Submissions are due by 5 p.m. March 21. Visit your school office for an entry form. To see last year's winning artwork: [cusd.com/BusinessServices](http://cusd.com/BusinessServices).

## 2024-25 new student registration

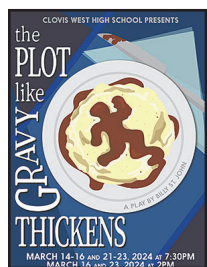
Registration is underway for transitional kindergarten through 12th grade students who will be brand new to Clovis Unified in the 2024-25 school year.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024. To be eligible for transitional kindergarten, a child must turn 5 between Sept. 2, 2024, and June 2, 2025.

Parents should first complete an online pre-registration form, and then can visit the elementary or secondary school to finalize registration. In addition to the form, information about required documents and other details can be found at [cusd.com/NewStudentRegistration](http://cusd.com/NewStudentRegistration).

Clovis Unified also provides high-quality preschool programs at 28 school sites, many of which offer morning and afternoon programs. Enrollment for the 2024-25 year for preschool opens online at 10 a.m. April 3. To enroll or learn more, visit [cusd.com/Preschool](http://cusd.com/Preschool).

## 'The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens' by CW

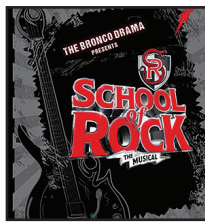


Get ready as Clovis West High's drama students perform the hilarious murder mystery "The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens." The story follows a playwright named Walter as he creates the perfect murder mystery on stage and discusses it with the audience.

The fun begins at 7:30 p.m. March 14-16 and 21-23, and a matinee at 2 p.m. March 16 and 23, at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: [cusd.com/events](http://cusd.com/events).

## 'School of Rock' shows in April

In April, Clovis North's Bronco Drama will present "School of Rock," a musical tale about Dewey, a failed wannabe rockstar



who makes it his mission to teach his clueless, straight-laced students all about rock and roll. Much to Dewey's surprise, he realizes they are a talented bunch, and he talks them into forming a rock band for an upcoming competition.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. April 18-20 and 25-27; and a matinee at 2 p.m. April 20 and 27 at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. For information and tickets: [cusd.com/events](http://cusd.com/events).

## Spring Break

Clovis Unified schools will be closed for Spring Break March 25 through April 1. Business offices on the district administrative campus will remain open.

Clovis Unified Child Development will hold a Spring Break full-day childcare program for elementary students from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 25-29 at Jefferson and Fugman elementary schools. Transportation to and from home school sites is available. Registration is open on a first come, first serve availability. Details: 327-9160 or [cusd.com/ExpandedLearning](http://cusd.com/ExpandedLearning).

## Parent Academy workshops

Clovis Unified Supplemental Service's Parent Academy hosts free, monthly Parent Night workshops for parents to learn about the many district resources and programs available to help their child. Remaining meetings include:

- **March 19** – "Family Safety Night" (held at Weldon Elementary, 150 DeWitt Ave., Clovis)
- **April 11** – "Building Readers at Home" (held at the district Professional Learning Center, 326 N. Clovis Ave., Clovis)

Free dinner and childcare are offered at 5:30 p.m., and the workshop begins at 6 p.m. Learn more: [cusd.com/ParentAcademy](http://cusd.com/ParentAcademy).

## College financial workshops

Parents can attend the remaining workshops on college finance applications that are being offered by Clovis Unified academic counseling staff. The workshops assist seniors who plan to attend college next fall and helps students and their parents complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. FAFSA should be completed by all students planning to attend a community college for either a career certificate or transfer degree and by all students planning to attend a four-year university. The application determines eligibility of financial aid and it is also used for college scholarship information that can include need-based, academic merit and athletic scholarships.

Remaining, free workshops hosted by school counseling offices will be at Buchanan High, March 20; Clovis East High, March 19; Clovis High, March 13; and Clovis West High, March 18. Links, information and workshop dates/times are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers' websites. The FAFSA online application can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

## Wellness supports

The recent Clovis Unified Health and Wellness Resource Night was a success, equipping families with information and resources they can use to support their students' mental health. Clovis Unified has many health and wellness resources to

offer, from self-care tips and calming games to school-based interventions and community resources. For more information talk with your school or visit [cusd.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject](http://cusd.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject).

## CUSD Folklórico Festival in April

Swirls of colorful skirts and the sounds of tapping shoes will fill the stage during Clovis Unified's Folklórico Festival to be held in April. Several CUSD student dance groups – including, so far, teams from Kastner and Reyburn intermediate schools and Buchanan, Clovis and Clovis West high schools – will perform in celebration of the district's rich and vibrant presence of Mexican culture through folk dance. The public is invited to attend the event that will be the evening of April 13 at the CUSD Performing Arts Center, located on the Clovis North Educational Center campus. A donation of \$5 is requested, with proceeds benefiting the dance groups. For time and details: [cusd.com/events](http://cusd.com/events).

## Free tutoring help day or night

Is your child stuck on a math homework problem? Getting confused about adverbs and adjectives, and there's a quiz the next day? No worries! One-on-one tutoring help is just a click away 24-hours a day, 7-days a week for Clovis Unified students at all grade levels. The district makes available free access to tutor.com, a service of The Princeton Review, to provide students with online tutoring anytime without charge to families. To access the on-demand service, students can log into their Clever account and select the tutor.com app.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Clovis Unified School District offers a variety of special education services and programs to serve children with communicative, physical, learning, emotional and other special needs. To learn more about special education services and the special education referral process, contact the Clovis Unified School District Special Education Department at 327-9400.

## Exceptional Person Awards

CUSD Special Education Department's "Exceptional Persons Awards" will be held April 24. The award celebrates those district employees and volunteers who are exceptional at helping students with special needs. A judging team has determined the recipients after reviewing numerous nominations submitted by staff and the community. Details: CUSD Family Resource Center, 327-8455.

## Advisory committee meeting

The Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will hold its final meeting of the school year May 15 on "Annual Service Plan Review, SPED Budget and Student Voices." The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education Local Plan Area. Its goal is to raise community awareness about the needs of students and their families regarding Special Education programs and to provide information, workshops and resources to families to help ensure that quality programs educate the student with exceptional needs in mind, body and spirit.

The meeting will be at noon at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis, and a complimentary lunch is provided. CAC meetings are open to the public. For more information or to request an interpreter, call 327-8455 or email [familyresourcecenter@cusd.com](mailto:familyresourcecenter@cusd.com).

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## Education is the art of igniting a fire in kids

By Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**D**ID you know that great educators ignite passion, some would say a fire? Yes, there is a lot of science that goes into the education of our students, but a critical and sometimes overlooked element of educating is the art of igniting in our students a desire to learn and the ensuing fire of excitement and self-confidence when they discover what they CAN achieve.



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

To illustrate my point, I would like to share a story with you about Naksh. Naksh is a fifth-grade student I met during a recent visit to Pinedale Elementary, and he was on fire about what he had learned while participating in the science fair (where he received a Special Recognition Award).

His eyes were bright with excitement, and he was practically jumping with enthusiasm as he earnestly explained the intricacies of his project and how he had built a vacuum using, among other household items, the barrel of an ink pen, a plastic bottle and a battery.

I learned that it was not just any battery, Naksh explained with seriousness, but a 12-volt battery that would provide the necessary power to create a vacuum strong enough to pick up small pebbles. At the time of his illustration to me, Naksh had to use a 9-volt battery and he was quick to explain in scientific terms why that

was not ideal for his demonstration because it diminished the power of his vacuum.

Not only was I impressed that he knew his experiment would work best with a more powerful battery, but also that Naksh had experienced a challenge (a less powerful vacuum than he was at-

tempting to create) and had persevered to find a solution. That resiliency is another valuable life-long skill that our educators help our students learn.

In this energetic exchange with Naksh, I was reminded what happens when a student connects classroom learning with the prac-

tical world around us, and why I know with certainty that one of our best tools to build students' confidence and self-esteem is academic success. Naksh knew what he was talking about, was eager to share that knowledge with an adult visitor to his classroom and could not wait to learn more. My inter-

action with Naksh was an expression of the "fire" that had been lit inside him by the experience of discovery and learning; and he wanted more. Once ignited, this fire seeks out new ways to learn and grow which usually leads our students, like Naksh, to develop into even more inquisitive and curious learners for the rest of their lives.

Naksh impressed me, and then I met his science fair coordinator, Veronica Vela, and saw the source of the flame. As soon as Ms. Vela learned I had talked to Naksh about his project, she lit up, too. "Did you see how he used a sock as a filter?!" she exclaimed as she pointed out other small details of the project. She was as excited as Naksh was, and her enthusiasm and energy about the science, technology, engineering and math (or STEM) skills it demonstrated were contagious. What she saw as exciting, she conveys to her students, opening their eyes to why the acquisition of learning really is a thrill not a chore.

My interactions with Ms. Vela and Naksh were brief but they were a great reminder of what our educational team is doing every single day for kids.

Our amazing Clovis Unified educators create light bulb moments daily across this district for our students.

Our educational team helps our students to persevere through difficulties, they model and foster resiliency, and lay the foundation for layers upon layers of academic growth that happens from the time our students walk through the doors of transitional kindergarten to the time they cross one of our graduation stages. I am proud and grateful for our educational team who ignite fires for learning, which will continue to burn and inspire our students into the future.

### LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Joey Elswick/CUSD Today

More than 500 students recently attended Clovis Unified's Middle School African American Student Success Conference. The group African Drumming Interactive set the tempo to start the energetic day by getting students and staff on their feet (and some, pictured above, on stage!) to learn traditional African dances.

**"A good laugh makes us better friends with ourselves and everybody around us."**

DR. ORISON SWETT MARDEN, 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN AUTHOR

## Students see impact of Martin Luther King's efforts

**Editor's Note:** Several Clovis Unified students were recognized at an awards ceremony for their winning artwork, essays and speeches that reflect upon the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for Civil Rights and his continuing legacy.

Sponsored by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the annual MLK contest invites students from kindergarten through 12th grade to participate. This year's prompt asked students to reflect upon a historical event that improved lives or to imagine a scene that reflects a future of inclusivity.

Below are excerpts from the winning essays for the categories of Elementary, Middle and High School, all written by Clovis Unified students. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the top three of each contest category!

**Blake McLaskey**  
Fort Washington Elementary

### Ruby Bridges: How a Six-Year-Old Changed the World

"Racism is a grown-up disease, and we should stop using our kids to spread it." This quote by Ruby Bridges explains how kids aren't born racist. They learn it from their parents or other adults. She experienced this firsthand when she was 6 years old when she attended an all-white elementary school in New Orleans as the first black student to attend the school. Because of her, black children began attending white schools. This civil rights victory led to African Americans receiving a better education and a better life.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court determined in Brown v Board of Education that all people, regardless of color, could attend the same school. This was called desegregation. However, Louisiana and many more states in the South were not following that federal law until 1960 when New Orleans agreed to let African American children take a test to get into all-white schools. Ruby Bridges was one out of six children in New Orleans to pass the test and qualify to attend Franz Elementary, but Ruby was the only student who agreed to go to Franz. Although her parents were nervous, especially her dad, they still decided to let her attend. Her mom convinced her dad that it would be good for Ruby's education, but just as important, it would help all African Americans.

... We need to stick up for African Americans when people are being racist. We can tell them to stop the name-calling or mean racial slurs. If a 6-year-old girl like Ruby

Bridges can make a huge difference in our world, we can, too.

**Natasha Drigpal**  
Kastner Intermediate

### The Medical Civil Rights Movement

Inspiration to move forward each day comes from the desire to see improvement in the world and life around us. The individual and the social world continue to create, hustle, and burst into new endeavors.

In 1964, [Martin Luther King Jr.] directed our nation's attention to public laws and its discrimination against individuals based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. In the upcoming year of 1965, he helped pass the fair voting rights act with the support of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Today and back then, healthcare was and is one of the fastest growing demands in the United States. Having equal access, affordable pay, and prescription plans in place for citizens is hard to access and even though it wasn't recognized by many people as a civil rights movement, we are still trying to make healthcare more accessible today.

The people involved in the medical civil rights movement have been working hard to get equal access to healthcare to everyone, and they have made much progress and had many victories since they started. One of the movement's victories was creating a group in 1964 called the Medical Committee for Human Rights. ... They started in Mississippi as a support group for civil rights workers and now they are continuing to fight for healthcare and have been a model for organizations that have also succeeded in fighting for equality in healthcare.

Another one of the movement's victories was creating the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. "In four months, they transformed the nation's hospitals from our most racially and economically segregated institutes to our most integrated ... In four years, they changed patterns of use of health services that had persisted for half a century. The fundamental moral imperative - that those needing medical care will receive it," states David Barton Smith in an article called "1965, The Year that Brought Civil Rights to the Nation's Hospitals."

... The medical civil rights act has done a lot since they began to help everyone access healthcare and they will continue doing this in the future until everyone has equal access to something that we all need.

**Marian Pineda**  
Clovis North High

### Women and Civil Rights

"Women, they have minds, and they have souls, as well as just hearts. And they've got ambition, and they've got talent, as well as just beauty. I'm so sick of people saying that love is all a woman is fit for."

In the movie, "Little Women," Jo March beautifully expresses the pressure and discrimination she faces as a woman. Women, African Americans and Asian Americans are just a few of the groups that have been discriminated against in American history. Throughout time, discrimination slowly diminished, but it never really ended. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 had a substantial effect on American society; it empowered people and gave human rights to many groups, including women. However, women still face prejudice in daily life, which can be fought against with unified effort.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a significant civil rights victory that promotes equality in many ways. For instance, Title II of the act prohibits segregation and refusal from services on the ground of race, color, religion, or national origin. The section discourages discrimination by encouraging equality and banning separation by origin.

This aspect of the act focuses on giving people of different races, colors, religions, and origins the civil rights they deserve. Furthermore, not only does the bill address discrimination against origin, it was also a step towards gender equality. Title VII of the act prohibits unfair pay, terms, conditions, and privileges at work based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In addition to race, color, religion, and origin, the act also promotes equality for women and men.

This was a necessary step at the time, for women's suffrage had been in play, fighting for women's rights since the mid-19th century.

... Inequality between genders has dwindled since the beginning of time, but there is always room for improvement. Problems women face today, such as violence, the gender pay gap, and disrespect, can be combated with active governments and widespread education. Working towards the common goal of equality perpetuates the legacies of the greatest heroes in history for a brighter future for humanity.

For a full list of contest winners, see [www.mlk.fcoe.org/contest-winners](http://www.mlk.fcoe.org/contest-winners).

### — ABOUT US —

CUSD Today, Clovis Unified's good news publication, is sent directly to the homes of all CUSD parents and staff, as well as district supporters. In an effort to unify the CUSD community, the newspaper highlights the achievements of Clovis Unified students and staff; profiles new and updated Governing Board policies; and shares general news and information happening within the district.

Circulation: 34,000.

**Funding:** All costs associated with producing, printing and mailing CUSD Today are entirely funded by our advertisers. To show your appreciation of their support, we ask you to consider patronizing these businesses and services as the need arises.

**Story submissions:** Please submit all ideas to the Site Coordinator at your school. Please contact your school to find out who your Site Coordinator is. Editorial deadlines are two weeks before the publication date. We do our best to include as many submissions in each issue as our editorial space will allow.

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### ▶ BOARD BRIEFS

Feb. 21

The Clovis Unified Governing Board received a report on public input regarding the current school attendance boundary study. The feedback was collected at a series of meetings and through online comments. Close to 600 people attended six community meetings held from Jan. 30 to Feb. 7; livestreams of those meetings have been viewed 1,575 times; and more than 465 online form comments have been received. More information is available at [cusd.com](http://cusd.com).

**In other action, the board:**

■ Held a public hearing to allow for comment on the collective bargaining proposals between Clovis Unified and ACE Psychologists and Mental Health Support Providers before the start of negotiations

■ Adopted the Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center Additional Infrastructure Project, and then approved the project to allow for construction.

Feb. 7

The Governing Board also

recognized eight Clovis Unified fall sports athletic teams for their CIF, Valley or State titles. They included Clovis High boys water polo; Buchanan High girls volleyball, girls cross country, boys water polo; Clovis East High boys cross country; Clovis West High gymnastics, girls golf; and Clovis North High football.

The board announced the appointment of current Kastner Intermediate learning director Ann Castro as principal of Weldon Elementary, effective July 1. Current Weldon Principal Ray Lozano will be retiring after 24 years leading the Old Town Clovis school.

The board received an update on the Governor's January budget proposal and its impact on Clovis Unified's preliminary budget for the 2024-25 school year. With the COLA proposed to be only .76% and otherwise flat funding for existing programs and services, the district is preparing a budget that plans for the fact that revenue will be insufficient to cover year-over-year changes in existing expenses.

Full minutes, videos and agendas are online at [cusd.com](http://cusd.com).

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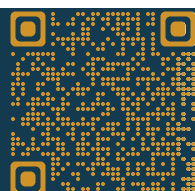
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### Flying discs at Clark

Special Education Functional Life Skills intermediate students from around the district gathered at Clark Intermediate for the annual Van Ravenhorst Disc Golf Classic. Sixteen teams totaling nearly 100 students in Special Day classes from Clark, Kastner, Alta Sierra and Granite Ridge intermediate schools participated. Teams played through a nine-hole disc golf course, followed by a luncheon and awards ceremony. The Clark Intermediate team, "Team Prime," took first place, followed by Granite Ridge Intermediate's "The GR Giants" in second place and Clark Intermediate's "Blue and Gold" in third place.

"It was a day filled with disc golf, building social skills and fun!" said Benjamin Canzano, an adapted P.E. specialist.

### T'wolves help Mustangs

Miramonte Elementary student peer mediators visited Clovis East High peer counselors for a day of training. Students split into groups to discuss topics like bullying, leadership and conflict resolution, and they learned how to address these topics on their own campus.

"I loved hearing about what they get to do and this made me want to continue Peer Counseling later in high school," said Alison, one of the Miramonte Elementary peer mediators.

Many of the Clovis East High students who led the session are former Mustangs, who are still participating in peer counseling and now get to train the next generation of students who want to help their peers.

"Learning these crucial, conflict resolution skills has a lasting effect on our students and overall campus," said Trisha Sisk, a Miramonte Elementary advisor.

### Cow visits Tigers

The Century Elementary Tigers had special guests to their campus recently: a cow named Valentine and her handler and Mobile Dairy Classroom instructor Mishael McDougal. Students learned all about dairy cows and the journey milk takes from the farm to the carton. They loved having Valentine on campus, said Principal Brion Warren, and they asked plenty of questions to learn more about the agricultural world.

### Unity Week at Clark

The Clark Intermediate Chieftains celebrated the cultures of the world recently during their Unity Week. Students and



### National Emmy for Buchanan High

Congratulations to Buchanan High alumnus Taylor Brunzell on winning a National Student Production Award, better known as an Emmy! Last school year, as a Buchanan senior, Taylor created a video essay in Daniel Pearce's videography class. It was about the campus' Coffee Cave that's operated by students in special education classes. After earning a Western Regional Emmy, his video was submitted to the national level to compete against talented and creative high school students around the country.

"Winning this award means a great deal to me, in the sense that it is a stepping stone to the future career path I want to take in the film industry," said Taylor. When asked about his advice for younger students looking to follow a similar path, he said, "Don't place caps on your ideas based on what you think is possible. You don't get where you want to be by playing it safe - you get there with risk and dedication."

To watch the award-winning video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Js49SpCLWSIBIHkK6o9jSsCPfZf-HBsFC/view?usp=sharing>.

teachers around campus participated in a Door Decorating Contest, designing artwork including cultural photos, traditions and other fun facts about global countries. Students also created a Unity Quilt, each decorating a square to represent their unique "gifts to the world." In Academic Block classes, cultural lessons were added to the curriculum for the week. Students also received a visit from Clovis High Cougars in the Folklorico and Indian Culture clubs who performed. Activities completed during Unity Week are still on display around campus to remind students that they celebrate unity year-round.

### Bronco is 'Superstar'

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Michele Copher, Ed.D., and the FCSS Board of Trustees recently honored Surabhi Khanna from Clovis North High as their January Student Superstar. Surabhi was being recognized for her efforts to create campus resources around cultural proficiency and other service work she has done. The FCSS Superstar award honors students who are giving back to their school and community.



### Music honors black composers

Kicking off Black History Month, the Century Elementary Choir and Reyburn Intermediate Chamber Choir joined a chorus of more than 600 singers at the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' Unity Fresno Festival and Concert held earlier this month.

In celebration of February as Black History Month, the county event honored the contributions of famous African American musical composers. Choirs from around Fresno County performed two songs during the festival and received feedback from judges, including renowned choral music composer and educator Dr. Rollo Dilworth.

Select groups, including the two Clovis Unified choirs, were invited back for their own "encore" performance during an evening concert. They also performed in the mass choir under Dr. Dilworth's direction to premier his new piece, "Peace Like A River."

"We received so many incredible comments from the adjudicators just raving about how 'polite, well-behaved, and attentive' our students were," said Century Elementary's choir director Kaylene Clark. "To say I am proud is an understatement."

### T'shirt by T'wolf

Congratulations to Clovis East High senior Vincent Mejia who designed the winning T-shirt graphic to celebrate the Mental Health Pro Youth Advocacy work being done in Fresno County as part of the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission and Pro Youth organization. Vincent received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools for his win.

### One in 100!

Clovis East High senior and AFJROTC student Emaly Nieves has been selected as one of 100 worldwide recipients to receive the J-100 scholarship. This scholarship focuses on character, leadership and citizenship, and it will provide Emaly with 100% paid tuition at any 4-year university.

### Fire safety training

Jefferson Elementary had a special visitor recently when Clovis Fire Department's Captain Joe Christl talked to students about fire safety. The Bluejays have an annual Firefighters on Safety Education presentation to make sure students learn important fire safety information. Some students even assisted with the training this year, to help Captain Christl demonstrate how a firefighter would rescue someone in the event of a fire.

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# Boundaries:

FROM PAGE ONE:

rected to a different school and an address checker about what school a child would attend. The full timeline, reports, FAQ, comment form and further details about the boundary study are also available. Learn more at [cusd.com](http://cusd.com).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are attendance boundaries being reviewed?

While the driving force behind the boundary review is the addition of the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center in the Fall of 2025, this review is also meant to ensure enrollment across existing facilities is balanced. This provides guidance to make sure the district efficiently uses existing facility space – avoiding overcrowded conditions at schools and filling schools where room is available – and only builds new schools when absolutely necessary.

(The Bradley Center will be the hub of Clovis Unified's newest school area. Under construction at Highland and Clinton avenues, it will house the new Clovis South High School and a yet-to-be-named intermediate school. It is needed to ease continuing overcrowding at nearby Reagan Educational Center.)

### Why aren't the changes limited to the schools that will populate the new Clovis South Area?

Initial findings following a months-long study show that schools in the Clovis East Area and some in the Clovis Area are currently overcrowded, and likely some of those students will become part of the new Clovis South Area.

On the opposite side of the district, data shows that most schools in the Clovis West Area have seats available, while several schools in the nearby Clovis North Area and Buchanan Area are at or above capacity.

### What is the district's criteria for creating new attendance boundaries?

Five guiding principles are followed whenever possible as an important framework to weigh considerations for student-centered decision making when developing new attendance areas.

- Maximize facility space while moving as few students as possible,
- Value neighborhood schools and keep neighborhoods together,
- Reduce operational expenses,
- Create boundaries that will last for 5-10 years whenever possible, and
- Balance enrollment across high school

areas.

### If my child will be directed to a new school, is there a way they can remain at their current school/what about students on existing transfers?

After allocating staff to schools using the new attendance areas, existing transfer options will be offered based on available space. Those already attending school on a transfer may need to reapply if their current school is impacted by changes in its attendance boundary or secondary school system. Specific questions about existing or future transfers should contact the Student Services Office at 559-327-9200. Questions about how transfers impact CIF athletic eligibility should be directed to your high school athletic director.

### What if my older child will be in high school at the time of a boundary change and I don't want his/her siblings to attend a different school?

Dependent on the age of your oldest child at the time of the August 2025 school year, you may be able to access an open enrollment transfer.

In an effort to keep families together in the event of a boundary change that would otherwise cause a family to have students attend two different secondary schools, our Governing Board created a sibling transfer option. That option is in effect if your oldest child is entering 10th grade in the 2025-26 school year and your younger children would be entering grade 7 while an older sibling is still enrolled in high school. The policy is available online at [cusd.com](http://cusd.com).

### How can comments be shared, and has a decision already been made?

No decision has yet been made on new attendance boundaries and comments are a valuable part of the review process. Feedback can be given at school parent/SART meetings or provided using the online comment form at [cusd.com](http://cusd.com). This input is used to develop a final map proposal that will be released March 29.

The Governing Board will make its decision whether to take action on the recommendation in April.

**For address check, comment form, and updates: Visit [CUSD.COM](http://CUSD.COM)**

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# Employees inspire with dedication, care

*Editor's note: Clovis Unified honored 28 employees for their exceptional work conducted in the 2022-23 school year with a Crystal Award, the district's highest employee honor at a gala event Feb. 28. These educators – ranging from teachers and administrators to librarians and athletic directors – were nominated by their peers or supervisor in the fall and found deserving by employee judging panels to merit the top recognition. Honorees were surprised with the news before Winter Break.*

*In this issue of CUSD Today, we continue a series in alphabetical order that showcases our honorees and the series will continue through upcoming editions.*

By Carol Lawson-Swezey  
Special to CUSD Today



## Tanisha Laret Boris Elementary



Whether it's giving new families a personal tour, attending boundary meetings to share her own experience, or volunteering for evening multicultural events, Boris Elementary Student Activities Specialist Tanisha Laret has a far-reaching commitment. Laret was vital in establishing Boris' PTC in 2016. Although her children no longer attend Boris, she remains a member and officer today.

She was hired at Boris in 2017 as a special education instructional assistant, and in 2020, took on the challenges of pandemic education as registrar, handling social distancing, Covid leave days and standard school and district protocols. She also managed a huge increase in student population from 544 in 2020 to 741 last year.

She is known for her sweet treats, her lovely voice and motherly ways to many. In a nomination letter, one family describes how she helped them through a tragedy. Said the mother, "At the time, my two girls were scared and had no idea what was going on. Tanisha made sure their second- and sixth-grade years started off without a hitch with support and hugs."

## Jenny Mammen Gateway High



Jenny Mammen, Gateway High's teacher librarian, works tirelessly for students.

In her own time, she trained for Gateway's Positive Behavior Intervention Support team, and implemented an improved, easily accessible and teacher-friendly staff referral system. She encourages students to use their PBIS points for rewards at the student store.

Mammen assists in state testing for students requiring makeup exams, ensuring a 90% completion rate for Gateway students.

Mammen develops and facilitates digital literacy and citizenship lessons for instructional staff, which are delivered to students throughout the school year. She serves on the School Site Council. She works with the Clovis Support and Intervention

program for at-risk Gateway students struggling with drugs, peer pressure, suicide ideation and anger. She is one of three teachers on campus trained as a LGBTQ support person and attends Gay Straight Alliance meetings twice a month.

Mammen will do what is needed to support students, including assisting home hospital students at Enterprise School or ironing student graduation gowns before the ceremony.

She is seen as a source of support and serenity for many students. Her nominator said it best: "Jenny's life is measured by the gifts of time, dedication, belief in possibility and inspiration that students and staff receive from her."

## Jill Moorhead Oraze Elementary



Library Technician Jill Moorhead has created a "champion" culture at Oraze Elementary.

In 2011, when the campus opened, she was selected to build, oversee and sustain more than 18,000 books on a limited budget. Her passion for enhancing literacy has helped build students' love for reading and increased ELA achievements. Moorhead's efforts are instrumental in Oraze earning the CLASSI Award.

Last year, Moorhead collaborated with the CUSD Technology Department and district support specialist to maintain more than 1,000 computers, load hundreds of applications onto the iPad collection,

and make sure Oraze's classrooms had a working projector, document camera, Screenbeam and computer carts.

Moorhead runs a "shelf-elf" program to create a safe, reassuring haven for students at the library that is open before and after school and during lunch. She started "Boards at Break," where students can spend lunch breaks playing board games, and it's also an opportunity for English learner students to practice conversation skills.

Moorhead serves as Athletic Director, coach and events coordinator. She oversees the school's coaches, sports programs, athletic schedules and maintains all equipment. She also runs a stand-out softball program. She's created campus events like Rodeo Week and Olympic Day.

## Matthew Moss Bud Rank Elementary/Facilities



Known around campus for his magical prowess to get things done, Bud Rank Elementary Plant Manager Matthew Moss juggles multiple duties without missing a beat.

He can simultaneously handle home games, sports, rallies and hundreds of unexpected small and large emergencies of a school site. He works with the neighborhood home owners association and City of Clovis to maintain sidewalks and flower beds surrounding the campus. Moss' attention to detail has led every Parent SART survey to earn a 99% approval rating for the care of building and grounds every year he has been the school's plant manager.

Focusing on safety and integrity, Moss addresses issues promptly and efficiently. His philosophy is that school should look like a place you want to take your children.

He also works his magic by creating a supportive environment for students. Each year Moss starts the kindergarten's educational journey with a red-carpet event for the new Ravens. Seeking more student involvement, he became a beloved coach in basketball, football and now volleyball. He points out the positive aspects of each athlete, encouraging growth in the sport and in the student as a person.

## Erynn Nelson Fancher Creek Elementary



Erynn Nelson's job description of instructional assistant at Fancher Creek Elementary doesn't begin to encompass her many roles as seamstress, organizer, problem solver and mentor.

She supervises reading intervention groups for first- through sixth-graders, and learned AVID focused note taking and coordinating strategies with mainstream teaching staff. Last year, she began providing SEL intervention to select students.

Nelson understands that differentiating instruction is key to help students learn and succeed at their level. Student progress in her groups showed substantial growth on both iReady Reading Diagnostics and state assessments.

With a gift to see a need and develop solutions, she organized a back-to-school supply drive for

Fancher Creek teachers through her church and Eagle Scouts. Not only were the supplies delivered the week before school, but she also had volunteers who helped get classrooms ready. She sewed customized blackout curtains for classrooms and made removable shelves for rolling class storage units.

Nelson is often seen sitting on the floor at a student's eye level so that she can provide encouragement. She mentors through Fancher's Check-in/check-out behavioral support strategy. She'll do what is needed for her students, even repairing a hole in a student's only sweatshirt or bringing snacks for hungry learners. Nominators say Nelson's care for children comes from her "heart the size of Texas."

## Carlie Negrete Pinedale Elementary



Pinedale Elementary first-grade teacher Carlie Negrete is affectionately nicknamed "Mayor of Pinedale."

Negrete creates a culture of caring in her classroom where students feel safe to take risks. Her passion extends throughout the entire campus. She knows every student's name and has high expectations for all.

She volunteers in the Behavior Lab and initiated "Saturday Sports at Pinedale" to engage kids in sports, activities and a free lunch. The program has grown to include "Teens that Care" where high school students organize and mentor students.

Negrete gives students and staff handwritten notes and shout-outs during school announcements. She works with parents to learn each child's story and asks parents to send a note if their child is having a rough time that says "Handle with Care."

After the unexpected passing of a Pinedale student named Lily, Negrete honored her with "Kindness Week" and "Lily's Garden." Students planted lily and daffodil bulbs and painted rocks with inspirational messages. This year, to commemorate what would have been Lily's sixth grade year, a buddy bench inscribed with "Live like Lily" will be installed.

Negrete inspires her students often with the chant "Pat yourself on the back man! I'm good, smart and strong!"

And because of her, they believe it.

## Dianne Oller Cole Elementary



Cole Elementary kindergarten teacher Dianne Oller bases decisions on what is best for all students, not just those in her own class. Last year she found herself in a unique situation when two of her kindergarten colleagues had overlapping maternity leave. To ensure their students received quality instruction and ample care, Oller chose to mentor the long-term substitute teachers – creating a comprehensive pacing guide including SSST, planning weekly lesson plans, and making time for mentorship by opening her doors for observation and making herself available before and after school.

Oller's continuous updates on classroom developments were instrumental in maintaining a seamless learning environment. And to ensure the kindergarten experienced all the goodness of the grade level, Oller even planned the annual field trips in addition to the winter and end-of-year programs.

Additionally, Oller used her own experience as a cancer survivor to provide comfort and support to one of the substitutes who was undergoing a similar experience, and continuously checked on the teammates daily, creating a sense of safety and belonging. Her "care chip" and intentional leadership successfully developed a collaborative culture.

## Sandy Paez Temperance-Kutner Elementary



Instructional Assistant Sandy Paez is known as the "sunshine at TK." She's the first to greet parents and students in the school office and juggles needs, Spanish translation and resources.

She often stays late, when parents are available, to act as a translator. She is known as the first to jump in and offer help, with no strings attached, to assist with a radio or phone call, a line of tardy students, or wherever she's needed.

Paez does all the shopping for Cathy's Closet, which provides clothing and accessories to students as needed. She's been known to buy items like new shoes, out of her own pocket. She will bring snacks and pack lunches for students without resources and deliver them privately without embarrassment.

One student, experiencing food scarcity, was stealing from other student backpacks. Paez encouraged him to visit her daily at the office for snacks and support, and he is now thriving.

Her nominator said Paez never wants recognition for her unwavering, quiet kindness and generosity. "Sometimes the ones who say the least, do the most," her colleague said.

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# REGISTRATION IS ALMOST HERE!

There's still time to qualify for priority registration, which allows seniors from CUSD to register for Summer/Fall 2024 classes before other students. Complete the steps below before April 15th.

**Schedule opens for viewing March 13.**

Scan the QR code to view the Class Schedule



- 1.** Apply online at [www.cloviscollege.edu/apply](http://www.cloviscollege.edu/apply)
- 2.** Complete your online orientation at [www.scccd.edu/orientation](http://www.scccd.edu/orientation)
- 3.** Sign up to meet with a counselor on Zoom at [www.scccd.edu/rtgmakeup](http://www.scccd.edu/rtgmakeup)

Need help? Visit [www.cloviscollege.edu/outreach](http://www.cloviscollege.edu/outreach) or call the Welcome Center at (559) 325-5421

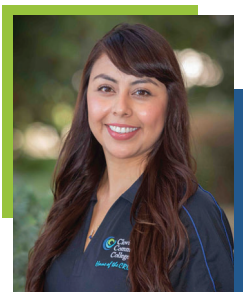
## Clovis Community College Outreach Specialists



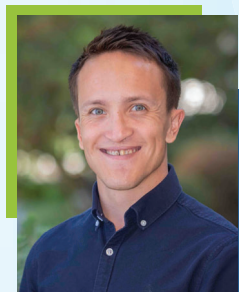
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Check out our "How To" videos on YouTube - **Clovis Community College: Welcome Center**



## Creating Opportunities... One Student at a Time

Clovis Community College is the college of choice for academic excellence, innovation, and student achievement.

Clovis Community College is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

