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CUSD Today

August 2024

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT Volume 27, No. 1

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WELCOME TO CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

All set for a terrific year!

MORE than 43,000 students are headed back to school in just a few days, and whether it is your student's first or 13th year in Clovis Unified, we want it to be a great one!

Just as our families have been carefully preparing for the start of a new school year, so has our educational team.

In Clovis Unified, our students come first, as they should, and ensuring this is the team of talented and caring individuals who have chosen to work in our district, our dedicated educational team.

Be assured, this group has been hard at work planning every detail of the upcoming school year, making sure that every supply is stocked, every school is clean and well-maintained, and the first days are planned, all so the stage is set

for our students' best possible experience from day one.

This issue of *CUSD Today* is packed with information to help you prepare for the new school year, as is our August edition of *2 Minutes Today* that will arrive soon in your inbox and our launch of a new consolidated communication platform called ParentSquare (See article page 3).

These are just a few of the ways that we seek to keep you empowered with information that benefits your family. The same is true for the communication you get from your child's school. Thank you for your partnership as we strive to develop our students in Mind, Body and Spirit.

Welcome to the new school year!

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Clovis Unified Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. stands by the original Jefferson Elementary bell that will be rung Aug. 19 to begin the new 2024-25 school year in CUSD.

2024-25

QUICK FACTS TO KNOW

- 1 Clovis Unified School District schools begin Monday, Aug. 19.
- 2 Check out your school's website to find out about club signups, co-curricular activities, fall sports, teachers, class supply lists and more.
- 3 Review Clovis Unified's dress code before doing back-to-school shopping at cusd.com/dresscode.
- 4 Bus schedules are available at cusd.com/ViewSchoolBusSchedules.aspx.
- 5 Know your school's start and ending times, found on your school's website. Look for "Bell Schedule" in the About menu.



- 6 School breakfast and lunch meals are free. Check out menus at cusd.nutrislice.com or on Clovis Unified's mobile app.
- 7 Seven CUSD schools will have new principals: Casey Olson, Clovis Community Day; Karen Majchen, Mickey Cox Elementary; Aman Athwal, Valley Oak Elementary; Ann Castro, Weldon Elementary; Julie Duwe, Kastner Intermediate; and Jason James, Clovis West High.
- 8 Attend Back-to-School night to meet your child's teacher(s) and find out about coursework and expectations. (Some schools hold this event before school begins!) Dates and times are on school websites.
- 9 Parents can find information about their child's current academic standings on assignments, homework and attendance by logging into Parent Connect. Find the link on cusd.com or the CUSD app.
- 10 Download CUSD's app to keep informed. You can also get a head start and download ParentSquare's app, which the district will begin using later this fall. (See Page 3)



Find out more: cusd.com/2024-25SchoolYear

Clovis Unified board poses much-needed facility bond to voters

November ballot measure would fund modernization, safety, construction

At its July 17 meeting, the Clovis Unified Governing Board voted to place a \$400 million facility bond on the November ballot for voters to decide whether to fund school facility needs in the district.

The vote comes following a recommendation in June by the Citizens Committee to Study Capital Facility Needs, a 40-member group of volunteers that met for six months to inventory and research the district's facility needs.

The committee identified critical needs of several existing schools for repairs, modernization, safety and technology improvements; and construction of additional schools necessitated because of continued enrollment growth and current overcrowding. Fully funded, those projects were expected to cost around \$550 million, however the committee prioritized the list to bring the number down to \$400 million so that the current tax rate would not change if the bond is approved.

Clovis Unified's tax rate has been \$155 per \$100,000 of assessed value for the past 12 years. That's the lowest the rate has been in the history of the district. Property owners in Clovis Unified's boundaries pay less than their counterparts in Fresno, Central and Sanger unified school districts, whose tax rates are currently \$213, \$215 and \$203 per \$100,000 of assessed value, respectively.

If approved, the bond extends the existing tax rate and provides funding for:

- Updates and modernization of older schools (several Clovis Unified schools are 40 to 80 years old and have needed repairs and modernizations)
- Completion of the final phases of Clovis South High School (the planned budget of which was significantly impacted by steep escalation of construction costs and labor following the pandemic)
- Improvements to school safety and energy efficiency features on every Clovis Unified campus (the district has 53 school sites and funds would be used for features like improved safety of classroom windows and new security cameras)

While a state bond for facilities will be also on the ballot for voters to consider in November, if approved, those funds would only be accessible to a district should they have matching dollars from their community for facility projects. In order for Clovis Unified to tap into any of the potential state funding, the local Clovis Unified bond would need to pass to make the required matching dollars available.

Learn more about the bond, potential projects, tax history rates and impact of past bond funds at every school at: cusd.com.



Keeping It Small!

School area system creates interactive communities

Don't let our size fool you.

Clovis Unified is the 12th largest school district in the state of California, but through our unique school-area system, we are not too big for parents and the community to engage with us. Feel free to give us a call or send a message. We welcome your questions and input as we know, by working together, we can best achieve an environment that benefits all of our students.

Clovis Unified organizes the district's 53 schools into six comprehensive school areas and an educational service area, each of which has an overseeing area superintendent.

The educational service area includes our online, alternative and specialty schools. And the comprehensive areas each anchor around a high school and its feeder intermediate and elementary schools.

The area arrangement allows these smaller groups not only to strengthen connection and availability, but also to build belonging and area pride. We have Bear Nation (Buchanan Area), Cougar Country (Clovis Area), The Wolf Pack (Clovis East Area), The Stampede (Clovis North Area), Eagle Country (Clovis West Area) and brand new this year, The Thundering Herd (Clovis South Area)!

Making people a priority

Having an engaging, accessible relationship with our students' families and local citizens is among the core values upon which Clovis Unified was built.

It helps to know our history, and where this critical piece of Clovis Unified culture began. In 1960, families and leaders of six local elementary school districts



and Clovis Union High School voted to join into one unified district.

The move allowed these seven institutions to combine resources, ideas and talents that would benefit their children in ways they could not do on their own.

The Clovis Unified School District was born, and it took ongoing teamwork, dedication and communication with all the stakeholders to guide the district on its path toward success.

The small size lent itself for these dynamic relationships to occur easily between administrators, educators, families and community members.

Over time, the new district saw tremendous growth in academic accomplishments, development of strong co-curriculars and increasing graduation rates, and that was due much in part to the teamwork and trust built between educators, administrators and the community.

That kind of connection is not something we are willing to lose as our size continues to grow. While we now have 43,000-plus students compared to the 5,037 when the district first began – a nearly 750%

increase! – we are committed to providing that same interactive approach upon which we were founded. The district's area system allows us to do that, and we hope you'll find it helps you to keep in touch.

How to contact us

Parents and the community are invited to contact a child's classroom teacher, school administrator or school area superintendent. School websites list staff and administrator contact information. During back-to-school night, teachers will review with parents the best method to contact them – some prefer emails, others like phone calls or texts.

In general, teachers should be a parent's first place to go with a question, and if it isn't classroom related, the teacher can point you in the right direction for other resources.

Parents are always welcome to contact school staff as well, including the principal or the school's area superintendent as needed.

Working together side by side, we can make a powerful team for our students this year, and the many years to come!



BUCHANAN AREA

Area Superintendent: Kevin Kerney, 327-9370, kevinkerney@cusd.com

High School: Buchanan

Intermediate: Alta Sierra

Elementary: Century, Cole, Dry Creek, Garfield, Tarpey, Woods

CLOVIS AREA

Area Superintendent:

Scott Dille, Ed.D., 327-9360, scottdille@cusd.com

High School: Clovis

Intermediate: Clark

Elementary: Cedarwood, Clovis, Gettysburg, Jefferson, Mickey Cox, Red Bank, Sierra Vista, Weldon

CLOVIS EAST AREA

Area Superintendent:

Jennifer Thomas, Ed.D., 327-9365

jenniferthomas@cusd.com

High School: Clovis East

Intermediate: Reyburn

Elementary: Freedom, Miramonte, Ozae, Reagan

CLOVIS NORTH AREA

Area Superintendent:

Darin Tockey, 327-9355, darintockey@cusd.com

High School: Clovis North

Intermediate: Granite Ridge

Elementary: Bud Rank, Copper Hills, Fugman, Mountain View, Riverview

CLOVIS SOUTH AREA

Area Superintendent:

Stephanie Hanks, Ed.D., 327-9340

stephaniehanks@cusd.com

High & Intermediate Schools: Clovis South High School and Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate School (Opening Fall 2025 in the under-construction Terry P. Bradley Educational Center)

Elementary: Boris, Fancher Creek, Hirayama, Temperance-Kutner, Young

CLOVIS WEST AREA

Area Superintendent:

Kristen Belknap, Ed.D., 327-9375

kristenbelknap@cusd.com

High School: Clovis West

Intermediate: Kastner

Elementary: Fort Washington, Liberty, Lincoln, Maple Creek, Nelson, Pinedale, Valley Oak

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AREA

Area Superintendent:

Steve France, 327-9380, stevefrance@cusd.com

Specialty Schools: Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART); Clovis Adult Education; Clovis, Community Day Elementary; Clovis Community Day Secondary; Clovis Online; Enterprise High; Gateway High; Sierra Outdoor School

Joining the CUSD family

When the school bell rings on Aug. 19, Clovis Unified will open its 35th elementary school – Satoshi Hirayama Elementary at Fowler and McKinley avenues – and also the new Clovis South Area.

Under the leadership of Principal Laura Reynolds, Hirayama will open with TK-1 grade students in classrooms and 2-6 grade students in temporary portable buildings until final construction of the school is completed later this year. With "The Heat" as their mascot and red,

gold and white as their colors, these first students will not only watch their campus take shape, but also they will be the legacy builders, blazing the path and starting traditions for all future Hirayama students.

The school was named after the late Satoshi Hirayama, a longtime Clovis Unified teacher and leader, and a ground-breaking Japanese American who was interned as a child during World War II, played college and professional baseball

and served in the U.S. Army.

The Clovis South Area, the district's sixth comprehensive school area, also opens this year in the district's most southeastern border. It will be anchored by the future Clovis South High and Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate when those schools open in August 2025 in the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center. With the Longhorns as its mascot, the area's "Thundering Herd" currently includes its elementary feeder schools Hirayama, Boris, Fancher Creek, Temperance-Kutner and Young.



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Keeping You Informed

Communication a priority to keep families informed

If you are reading this edition of *CUSD Today*, thank you. This is one of many tools Clovis Unified will use to keep in touch. Communication is critical in our 43,000-plus student district, and we are committed to keeping you informed.

There are multiple ways Clovis Unified will share information, and we encourage our stakeholders of students, parents, staff and community to watch for these important messages.

Our district's most frequently updated platform is our website, cusd.com. It should be the first stop when looking for current news, district resources, school board agendas or program information. Time-sensitive district news will also be sent out through emails as needed; parents and guardians should make sure their contact information on file is accurate.

On a monthly basis, Clovis Unified mails *CUSD Today* to student families and employees. Our district newspaper – paid for with advertisements by community partners – showcases some of the bigger events and general news of the district while also highlighting many great activities going on in our 53 schools.

The district uses *Two Minutes Today*, a short video blog emailed monthly to parents, to provide information about current priority topics. (Look for this month's seg-



ENGAGE WITH US

How to find information or contact us for resources, support. *See Page 8.*

ment for back-to-school tips.)

The CUSD Parent Bulletin, a two-sheet newsletter, is produced when it becomes important to delve deeper into a trending topic to provide parents with information to consider for their child, such as emotional wellness, navigating social media or the dangers of vaping. These reports are directly emailed to parents and contain tips on how to talk with your child about these challenging issues.

Clovis Unified's social media platforms are filled with some of the daily happenings of our students, schools and staff. Followers on Facebook (Clovis Unified School District) and Instagram

(ClovisUSD) will learn of a variety of district good news, upcoming workshops, awards and events.

Additionally, each of our schools has its own newsletter and social media channels with useful information specific to that campus. Watch for information coming soon from your school site about ParentSquare, a multi-faceted communication platform that will be used for school to home communications. School websites also offer links to Clovis Unified's ParentConnect, Nutri-Slice and PeachJar that let parents and students easily find out about grades, schoolwork, lunch menus and more.

Many of these resources are available on Clovis Unified's mobile app, and those who do not yet have our app are encouraged to download it today.

We'll be in touch!

We've heard you!

New communication platform creates one stop for news and information

This school year, Clovis Unified schools will be launching ParentSquare, a single communication platform for emails, texts, signup sheets, calendars, permission slips and more. The platform is easy to navigate and allows parents to customize how and when they receive messages, and language settings.

For example, if a family has an elementary student and high school student, and both are involved in a club or sport, the parent can easily view upcoming classroom and co-curricular events for both children on the calendar feature at the same time or have options to see calendar items for just one child at a time or even for just one child's club, team or classroom.



Clovis Unified schools will transition their communication to ParentSquare beginning this fall. Parents can download the ParentSquare app now to get a head start.

Teachers can send class messages with any accompanying links, including permission slips or sign ups that will automatically populate on a child's calendar once approved. Parents will be able to directly respond to the teacher from ParentSquare's communication portal. Families will even be able to choose their preferred language and view any messages in that translation; they may also reply in that language and the message will be translated for the teacher.

"We've heard from parents time and again that it's a challenge to keep up with all the different apps and messaging platforms used across the district, and at times it can be overwhelming," said Chief Communications Officer Kelly Avants.

"They have had to download multiple apps, sort through emails and texts, and keep up with which particular platform one school, coach or club advisor is using so they can stay informed about their child's activities. ParentSquare is our solution. It is a robust system that combines these multiple communication methods into one place for families."

The platform was successfully piloted with Clovis Unified summer school programs in June and July, and users gave it the green light for full implementation in the coming year. ParentSquare will launch this fall, with full implementation expected during the second semester of the school year.

Instructions will be shared from the District and school sites about how parents can activate their ParentSquare account and create essentially a "town square" customized with the information and details relevant for their family. Look for more information and details in your email, school website or other school-to-home communications in the coming weeks, or learn more at <https://parentsquare.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/203414049-Getting-Started>

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Brad Sumrell, MD
324-6202

Amy E. Evans, MD
324-6203

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Amitasha Mann, MD
Robert Guzoujian, MD
324-6205

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Marguerite Smith, MD
324-6207

Judy Miramontes, MD
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Course Information:
0 Units / Section #80584;
Online, Synchronous course
8 Weeks – Thursdays 9:00-10:15 a.m.,
September 19th through November 7th

Instructor – Heather Boynton
heather.boynton@cloviscollege.edu

Register for this 9-week course!

Intro to Teaching
(EDUC-10) • Fall 2024

Course Description: This course introduces students to the concepts and issues related to teaching diverse learners in contemporary schools, kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12). Topics include teaching as a profession and career, historical and philosophical foundations of the American education system, contemporary educational issues, California's content standards and frameworks, and teacher performance standards.

Course Information:
3 Units / Section #80885; Online, Synchronous course
9 Weeks – Wednesdays 6:00-7:50 p.m.,
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These two classes start October 14:

Child, Family and Community (ECE 4)

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STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Partner with us to make it a great year!

By Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

N Clovis Unified we have a saying, "Education is a partnership between the schools and the community." That sentence is a constant reminder to our team that our job is to serve our community by serving its students. As we begin our district's 64th school year, I invite you to be an active partner with us in this commitment.



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

What does that look like? For us, it looks like a continued priority on the academic achievement of our students, because we believe that when a child finds success in learning, it breeds confidence and positivity in how they view themselves as a learner.

Your partnership in this work might take the shape of staying attuned to how your child is doing in class, making completion of schoolwork a priority, communicating any concerns or needs with your child's school, and emphasizing at home the importance of doing their best at school.

You also see our commitment in the care we invest in your child's educational experience. Included in this is our work to deliver a first-class education in facilities that encourage pride of ownership in our students and our community. It is also seen in the lengths we go to provide our students with access to a wide range of co-curricular opportunities. We strive to create a variety of connection points to school, to help students form friendships and to learn important life lessons.

As a partner in this work, our community also makes use of our schools, supports student programs through attendance at events (or cheering on their success), and in the past has supported facility bond measures that provide otherwise unavailable resources to invest in keeping our schools high quality, safe and in good repair. To that end, our Governing Board voted on July 17 to place a \$400 million bond measure which has been placed on the November ballot (see related article Page 1) to address identified facility needs within the district.

Our partnership is also seen in a commitment to be transparent about our schools and the business of education. In return, our community can demonstrate its partnership by engaging with us and staying informed about our schools. Some topics you will receive information on this coming year are our continued focus on student achievement as we work to demonstrate growth in student scores, managing a volatile state budget, and our effort in continuing to keep our schools well-maintained and keep pace with growing enrollment.

Each of these topics is critically important, and we are committed to addressing these needs and keeping you well-informed in the coming year.

In line with our commitment to partnership with each of you, we want to encourage you to reach out at any time to your school. We have multiple resources to support you and your family on this year's learning journey, and I encourage you to stay engaged with us along the way.

Beyond all else, we are excited to welcome you and your students to this new school year. Great education happens through teamwork and trust, and we know that trust must be earned. This knowledge forges our commitment to you and to our students to deliver on our promises, to be consistent in our high standards, and to demonstrate through our actions that we care.

Thank you for being a part of our team, and for giving us a chance to earn your trust and confidence this year!

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

JOHN F. KENNEDY,
35TH U.S. PRESIDENT

This school year's kindergartners – like this boy attending the brand new Hirayama Elementary School – will graduate with their high school diploma in the spring of 2037!

Photo special to CUSD Today

Prepare now for success — ways to help your child get ready

CUSD Today

With our 53 school campuses opening in just a few weeks, there are steps parents and students can take now to get ready for a great school year. The following tips are offered by Clovis Unified teachers, staff and administrators that will help children get ready!

Before school starts

- Speak positively about school beginning soon and ask what your child is looking forward to this year. Let them know their school is preparing for them and has great plans for learning new things, time with friends and exciting school activities.

- Does your child want to play sports or participate in co-curricular activities? Find out about offerings and signups on the school website, and have fun helping your child prepare and begin to practice.

- Ease students back into a regular school schedule. The week before school starts, have students go to bed and wake up earlier a little more each day, moving them closer to what the school bedtime/wake-up routine will be.

- Grab a good book. If students have not been reading this summer, there is still time to warm up those skills. Have bedtime reading with younger students.

- Visit your school to help your student become familiar with where things are. Be sure to find your child's classroom(s). Note where the restroom, library, cafeteria and nurse's office are located.

- Identify your child's drop-off and pick-up place on the school site. If a child is in the afterschool Expanded Learning Club or taking a bus home, be sure your child knows where to go.

- If your child will be walking to school, practice the route together. Consider arranging for your child to walk to school with a friend or child in the neighborhood.

- Visit the school website now for information including school start and end times, Back-to-School Night dates and daily menus. There is also a full listing of teachers and

administrative staff, including contact information.

- Prepare a homework station in your home. A quiet place with good lighting and a desk or table works great. Kids can help get it ready with a few supplies and make their own decorations, like a drawing of their school mascot.

- Go back-to-school shopping if needed. Keep in mind Clovis Unified's dress code if purchasing clothes. On many teachers' websites (found through the school website), class supply lists are available. Other items to consider are a backpack, water bottle or athletic shoes.

- Have your child plan out what he or she will wear for the first day of school.

- Talk about what that first day may be like and ask your child how he or she feels about it. Offer reassurance, enthusiasm and support. Let them know it's OK to be nervous and that lots of other students feel the very same way.

- Encourage your child to enter the new school year with a mindset of meeting new people and having new experiences. Talk about getting involved at school and joining at least one activity such as a club, academic or sports team, or the performing arts.

- Fuel the body well. Take a shopping trip with your child now to help choose foods that are nutritious and that they will enjoy bringing to school.

- Pre-make a few dinners that can be frozen. Having meals ready the first week can help the whole family keep things running smoothly.

After school starts

- Make sure your child eats breakfast to have energy for the day. Have students bring a water bottle to keep hydrated (campuses have water stations to fill them up). Check out the school's free lunch menu or pack a lunch your child enjoys. Send a few healthy snacks.

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep. Doctors recommend children up to the fifth grade get as much as 10 to 11 hours of sleep each night.

- Establish regular weekday routines for



school, homework, playtime, mealtime and bedtime.

- Have your child go to bed organized with backpack, P.E., or co-curricular clothes and equipment ready for the next day.

- Drive safe. Stop when school bus red lights are flashing, indicating students are boarding or exiting, and pay attention to crossing guards and school speed limits.

- Keep informed through the school's website. Review all materials the school sends home.

- If the first couple of days are a little difficult: remain positive and calm. Let your child know you care and are there to support him or her.

- Check in with your child after school. Review homework. Follow your student's progress on Parent Connect. If a child begins to struggle in a subject, contact the teacher.

- Help your child learn how to keep organized by creating check lists or using a daily planner. Students should note their homework assignments, upcoming deadlines, practice schedules, club meeting times, when permission slips are due and any other important dates.

- Plan down time for your child. Kids do better with some time to play or relax. Encourage them to go outside, listen to

music, ride a bike or play a game.

- Attend Back-to-School Night and meet your child's teacher. This informative night provides parents with an understanding about the structure and expectations.

- Consider volunteering in your child's class, library or parent club.

- Students, don't procrastinate. Plan your week ahead and don't leave things until the last minute. Pack your backpack the night before.

- Students, take P.E. class seriously. Set fitness goals and try to improve daily.

- Students, put your phones away and spend part of your free-time unplugged. Talk with friends, get outside or join in a family activity.

- Secondary students, always communicate with your teacher about upcoming co-curricular events that will take you out of class. Find out how to make up the missed work and instruction.

- Secondary students, remember your learning director and counselor are there to help you succeed. If you have a problem – academic, social or emotional – talk with them as there is support available to assist you.

Everyone, count on having a great school year!

— 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. We greatly appreciate their support! Advertisements in *CUSD Today* are not an endorsement of the business or service by the district.

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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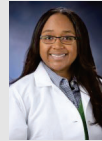
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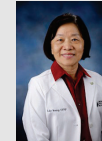
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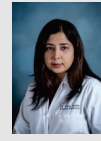
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► Announcements

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.

Workshops are held at the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 326 N. Clovis Ave., in Clovis, with free dinner and childcare at 5:30 p.m., and the workshop at 6 p.m. (unless otherwise noted below.) Upcoming topics include:

■ **Aug. 8** – "Welcome to Clovis Unified!" An open-house informational fair with several district departments represented – including Technology, Nursing, Transitions, Wellness and more – sharing how they can support students. Clovis High North Gym. Food provided; no childcare.

■ **Sept. 12** – "Stop the Bleed" In partnership with Safe Kids CA, learn about first aid and life-saving skills. Dry Creek Elementary MPR.

■ **Oct. 3** – "Behavior Supports for Kids" Learn about student behavior, tools and strategies that schools use and how parents can support positive behaviors at home.

■ **Nov. 7** – "Mr. Peace – Leadership: From Passion 2 Purpose!" Building good character in our kids and community.

■ **Jan. 9** – "Newcomer Family Night" Resources for newcomer and immigrant families, open house format. Weldon Elementary. Food provided; no childcare.

■ **Feb. 6** – "Navigating Modern Parenthood" Strategies for the challenges of responsibilities and homework; screen time and social media; and peer pressure.

■ **March 6** – "Enhancing Family Communication" Learn about strengthening bonds; active listening; and conflict resolution.

■ **April 10** – "Family Literacy Night" Learn about one author's journey to becoming a writer and how parents can support reading at home.

Topics were selected based on parent feedback and requests. To register for a Parent Night or to find out more about the Parent Academy, visit: cusd.com/ParentAcademy.

New students, employment-based enrollment open for 2024-25

Registration remains open for the 2024-25 school year for students who are new to the district. Additionally, employment-based enrollment is available for students whose parent or guardian works within the Clovis Unified boundaries but does not live within the boundaries. Instructions and online pre-registration forms for enrollment from preschool to 12th grade are available at cusd.com/enrollment.

Immunizations, physicals available at SV Center

Clovis Unified's Sierra Vista Children's Health Center is open Mondays through Thursdays for immunizations, well-child exams, minor illnesses and sports physicals. The services are available to children up to 18 years of age and are free of charge to income-eligible families. Patients who have Medi-Cal are also eligible for these services as well as those who do not have health insurance coverage. Sports Physicals are \$30, cash only. The center is located on the Sierra Vista Elementary School campus at 510 Barstow Ave., Clovis. Appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling 327-7976.

Key dates for new school year!

Clovis Unified's 2024-25 Student Calendar is available online and indicates holidays, grading periods and end of quarters/semesters for the new school year. Here are a few key dates to note:

- Aug. 19, First Day of School
- Nov. 25 to 29, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 23 to Jan. 6, Winter Break
- April 14 to 21, Spring Break
- June 6, Last Day of School

For the complete calendar, see cusd.com/calendars.aspx.



Theater season pass

Do you enjoy attending Clovis Unified student plays at the Dan Pessano Theater? How about tapping your toes along to the high school musicals at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre?

This year, Clovis Unified's Visual and Performing Arts Department is offering season passes for the 2024-25 theater season. Available are the play pass for all five high schools' plays; the musical pass for all five high schools' musicals; or the combination pass that includes both for a total of 10 plays and musicals – all at a discounted price.

Some of the student productions planned for the year include "Guys and Dolls," "Dracula," "A Voice in the Dark: A Salem Story" and "Romeo and Juliet."

Learn more or purchase a pass at: <https://tinyurl.com/CUSDTheaterSeasonTickets>.

Here we grow!

The California Department of Education updated school district enrollment figures recently for the 2023-24 school year. Clovis Unified School District jumped two spots and is now listed as the 12th largest public school district in California with an enrollment of 43,291 students. Previously, CUSD ranked at No. 14. The upward trend in enrollment is anticipated to continue. The district's recent boundary study identified multiple expected housing developments (bringing in new families) planned for communities within Clovis Unified's 198-square mile boundaries in the next years.

Top financial rating for CUSD

Clovis Unified recently received a credit rating of AA/Stable as affirmed by Standard & Poor, making CUSD

having the best credit ranking from among California's 20 largest public school districts.

"That means we are going to get a better rate of interest for bonds that we sell, and our community and district will benefit as a result of having a better interest rate," said CUSD Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services Michael Johnston. The top financial rating reflects Clovis Unified's priority to be good stewards of local and state funds while maximizing their impact for our students.

Follow us, get the app!

In addition to downloading the Clovis Unified app, parents can follow CUSD's social media to read about current news, resources and events. Find us on Instagram ([clovisusd](https://www.instagram.com/clovisusd)) and Facebook (Clovis Unified School District). This fall, the district will transition to ParentSquare (See Page 3); parents can get ahead and download the ParentSquare app now.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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. These services and programs are available to all qualified children in public schools and, to a limited degree, children in private schools.

Special education services are provided only to children who have been found eligible through a process of testing and other assessments and when it is determined that their needs cannot be met using the resources of the general education program. Parents, teachers or other concerned individuals can refer a child for assessment and determination of eligibility.

To learn more about special education services and the special education referral process, contact Clovis Unified School District Special Education Department at 327-9400.

Open House, Sept. 12

The CUSD Special Education Department will host "Meet & Greet with Your Program Specialist" during an open-house style event from 1-2 p.m. Sept. 12 at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. Program specialists from each area will be on hand to greet families of students with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). Details: 327-8455.

Workshops planned

Clovis Unified's Special Education team holds informative workshops to provide families with information about its various programs. Upcoming are:

■ **Sept. 24** – "Special Education 101" Webinar from 6:30-8 p.m. Learn about an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), its components, how to prepare for an IEP meeting and how to partner with the IEP team. Register: [www.tinyurl.com/FRC9/24/24](https://tinyurl.com/FRC9/24/24).

■ **Oct. 15** – "Special Education – Going Deeper" In person from 6:30-8 p.m. at CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. Learn about advocating effectively and transition planning. Register: [www.tinyurl.com/FRC10/15/24](https://tinyurl.com/FRC10/15/24).

For more information or to request an interpreter for a meeting, call 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.



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Campus Catering Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) NO Cost Meals to ALL Students SY 2024-2025


Clovis Unified School District Campus Catering today announces that enrolled students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at all Clovis Unified School District schools under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast Programs Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2024– 2025 school year. Meal program applications will not be collected for the school year. To view the school menus, please visit <https://www.cusd.com/MealMenus.aspx>.


In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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CW principal named, Longhorn logo revealed

By Kelly Avants
CUSD Chief Communications Officer

► BOARD BRIEFS

July 17

Welcome to The Ranch! At the July 17 meeting, the Clovis Unified Governing Board celebrated the reveal of the official design for Clovis South High School and Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate School's Longhorn mascot, letter branding and logo in the schools' colors of navy, burnt orange, gray and white. Part of the future Terry P. Bradley Educational Center opening in August 2025, the secondary schools will ease overcrowding at nearby Reagan Educational Center and accom-



modate projected enrollment growth.

Joining in the festivities were Terry Bradley, Ed.D., a retired, longtime Clovis Unified administrator and superintendent; the family of late Phillip Sanchez, who was a Clovis Unified gradu-



Photo special to CUSD Today.

More than 40-members of new intermediate school namesake Phillip V. Sanchez attended the July 17 board meeting for the mascot design reveal.

ate, Governing Board trustee and successful Hispanic American who was a U.S. Ambassador; Clovis South Area Superintendent Stephanie Hanks, Ed.D.; and TBEC Principal Sonia Trossian, Ed.D.

Later in the meeting, the Governing Board accepted the Successor Agreement Contract with the CSEA Chapter 250 that was approved by CSEA members in their ratification vote in June. Following that, the board approved a retroactive salary schedule increase for CSEA-represented employees who had not yet received the 5.5% salary schedule increases approved for most other employees in June of 2023.

In other action, the board:

■ Appointed Matt Loggins to the position of deputy principal at Clovis West High.

■ Adopted Resolution No. 3997 ordering an election to authorize the issuance of a \$400 million general obligation school bonds, establishing specification of the election order, and requesting consolidation with the Nov. 5, 2024, election. If approved, the measure would extend (but not increase) the existing tax rate. (See full story Page 1. Learn more about the proposed bond measure at www.cusd.com/2024bond).

■ Conducted a biennial review of board bylaws and exhibits pertaining to the Conflict of Interest Code.

■ Approved a new job description for a purchasing supervisor. This new job description is a cost neutral part of a restructuring of the Purchasing Department.

■ Adopted Resolution No. 3999 declaring the Board's intention to convey an easement to PG&E.

■ Conducted the annual review of Board Policies No. 5112.5 and No. 6145 regarding open/closed campus, leaving the campus; and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

June 26

At a special meeting of the Governing Board June 26, the board announced the appointment of current Deputy Principal Jason James to the position of Principal at Clovis West High effective July 1.

In other action, the board:

■ After a Closed Session discussion about the June 20 ruling by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) related to an ACE/CTA complaint against the District and Faculty Senate, reported a unanimous vote authorizing the district to proceed with its analysis of the ruling and, if appropriate to do so, seek reconsideration

before PERB or through an appellate review.

■ Took action to approve construction costs for Increment Four and Offsite Projects and Road Improvements of the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center and related provisions of the lease-leaseback agreement and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the schedule of sublease payments for Increment Four.

June 12

During the June 12 meeting, Citizens Committee to Study Capital Facility Needs Cook reported on the work of a citizens group who spent the past six months studying the state of the district's facilities and finances, future growth plans of the cities of Fresno and Clovis along with parts of Fresno County served by Clovis Unified, and enrollment projections.

According to Cook, members of the committee also commissioned a survey of the community and prioritized project lists before reporting back to the Governing Board their findings. The committee recommended that the board place a \$400 million facility bond on the ballot, which if passed would leave the current tax rate (which is lower than that of neighboring school districts) unchanged, while providing much-needed financial resources to keep the community's schools in good repair and build new schools to avoid overcrowding. The board discussed the report and the needs identified in the study before directing staff to bring an item to their July 17 meeting for consideration.

At the meeting, the board also heard a report on work around the district to increase cultural proficiency and ensure an inclusive and

supportive educational environment for all students. A copy of the report is available from the Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability Office or in the agenda materials of the June 12 meeting.

In other action, the board:

■ Announced the appointment of current Clovis High School Learning Director Karen Majchen to the position of Principal at Mickey Cox Elementary School effective July 1. Majchen takes the reins of the school from retiring Principal Cheryl Floth.

■ Congratulated recently appointed school leaders Principal Sean Osterberg of the Clovis Online School, Principal Casey Olson of Clovis Community Day School, Principal Julie Duwe of Kastner Intermediate School, and Principal Aman-deep Athwal of Valley Oak Elementary School.

■ Held a hearing to allow for public comment regarding adoption of a fee justification study to establish Level I School Facilities (Developer) Fees and a school facilities needs analysis to adjust Level II Facilities (Developer) Fees, later approving resolutions that set the Level I Fees at \$5.17 per square foot for existing residential development and \$.84 per square foot for commercial/industrial development (effective in 60 days); and Level II Fees of \$5.86 per square foot (effective July 1, 2024).

■ Approved the 2024-25 district budget, as submitted. The complete budget is available online at cusd.com.

■ The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Governing Board are Aug. 7 and 28 with open session at 6:30 p.m. in the Board room at 1680 David E. Cook Way. Complete minutes and agendas of meetings are available online at cusd.com.

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State of the District

Please join us at this year's State of the District Breakfast where Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D., will share about academic achievement, financial accountability and the future of our schools. Join thought leaders of our community for an opportunity to stay informed about your local schools.

Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024
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Doors open: 7 a.m. Program: 7:30-9 a.m.
Tickets; \$50/person or \$400/Table Purchase tickets by Sept. 25
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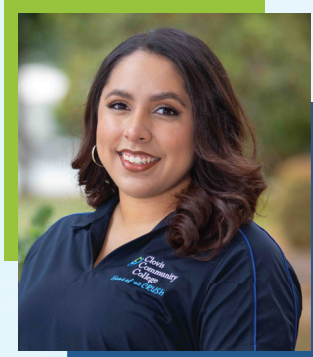
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