December 2024

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

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Community says yes to Measure A

■ Bond projects to begin immediately

Voters have approved Clovis Unified School District's Measure A facility bond that was on the November ballot. As of presstime, the passage of Measure A was statistically secure with a 57.36% approval and a small number of votes still to be counted (55% is required).

Folmer
discusses
impact
of bond.
See Page 5.

This exciting
news means that
our community
understands the
needs of our campuses and has once
again partnered
with us to complete the Clovis



"This exciting our community understands the needs of our campuses and has once again partnered with us to complete the Clovis South High School campus, identified modernization projects, and planned safety measures at every school," said Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

The \$400 million measure will extend the current property tax length but does not raise the \$155 per \$100,000 assessed value property rate from the level it has been at since 2012 – the lowest ever in district history.

Work will begin immediately on the identified projects that in addition to the final phase of Clovis South, includes window safety and security camera upgrades at all schools; audio/visual and LED lighting upgrades at all schools; a major modernization of 67-year-old Nelson Elementary; multipurpose room modernizations at several older schools; roof replacements at multiple schools; flooring replacements in the MPR and other areas at several schools; and more.

Passage of the local facility bond ensures funds are controlled locally and cannot be taken by the state. A Citizens Oversight Committee, comprised of independent community members, will monitor the district's use of bond dollars, conduct a yearly audit and provide an annual report to the community.

To learn more and to see the full project list: cusd.com.

Perfect HARMONY







More than 1,000 student performers from all 10 Clovis Unified marching bands and color guards took to the field together at Veterans Memorial *Stadium at the 18th Annual* CUSD Band Night. Musicians from the five high school and five intermediate school bands performed the National Anthem in unison to kick off the event. Then, each group took turns performing their competition routines as parents, friends and other band members *enjoyed the show.* Photos by Kenny Gilman





Technology team wins Golden Bell Award

The Clovis Unified Informational Technology Department receives a coveted Golden Bell Award this month for its "Technology Bootcamp." The voluntary training program offered to district employees over summer break provides a chance for staff to increase their technology skills or learn a new



program to use in the classroom or office. Several classes are hosted over multiple

Colden Bell

days.
"Winning this award is validation of the hard work and expertise of our

Technology Bootcamp instructors that we have had since 2007," said Chris Edmondson, director of Educational Technology. "We will continue to offer fun and engaging classes to all employees to help advance their technical skills. It is a testament to Clovis Unified for having employees that are interested in staying current with their technical/teaching skills."

The Golden Bell is awarded by the California School Boards Association to recognize outstanding educational programs in a variety of categories, from student outcomes to professional development.

Edmondson and his team will be receiving the award at a special ceremony in December.



\$200K AWARDED IN GRANTS

The Foundation for Clovis Schools awarded 40 classroom and wellness grants for the 2024-25 school year, like this one pictured at Oraze Elementary. The grant supports a kind-

ness initiative educating kids that words matter, and as part of the weekly Wednes-

day lessons, all students were given a Words Matter tshirt to wear. Learn about all the grants, **Page 2**.

Athletic greats added into Hall of Fame

The first-ever Clovis Unified coach to win a Valley championship in the 1970s was part of the Hall of FAME Hall of Fame. See who else was inducted and learn more

about the district's powerful legacy of perseverance and excellence! Page 7.





Foundation for Clovis Schools awards \$206k in grants

Thousands of students across Clovis Unified School District - from preschoolers to high school seniors - are engaging in educational and emotional wellness programs this school year because of grants from the Foundation

Clovis FOR CLOVIS SCHOOLS Schools that this year are funding over \$206,000 in

classroom, school and social emotional wellness

Just over \$122,000 has been awarded to projects supporting classroom and school efforts related to literacy, culinary education enhancement, science and technological advancement programs, increasing inclusive opportunities and much more. Over \$84,000 is being used for district social emotional wellness efforts, funded with support from generous community partners like Community Medical Centers and Kaiser Permanente.

The Foundation, a nonprofit group that raises money to support Clovis Unified students and educators, annually invites proposals for projects that enhance and support learning in innovative and creative ways.

"It might be hard to believe, but Clovis Unified is actually the lowest funded district in the area," said Foundation Chairperson Mike Fennacy. "That is why the Foundation for Clovis Schools exists: to help close that funding gap. Providing resources to students and educators through these grants to help them excel is just one of the ways we do that.

For the current 2024-25 school year, the Foundation has awarded 40 grants – 24 classroom grants for rigorous academic projects and interventions, and 16 grants to support students' social and emotional wellness.

Classroom and School Grants

Buchanan High

- **■** Empower Words: Enhancing Writing Skills with No Red Ink Premium: Provides an innovative educational platform designed to improve students' writing skills through engaging, personalized lessons.
- Mastering the Genetic Code: Equipment to practice DNA replication, protein synthesis and the manipulation of nucleotides to create mutations to help meet the NGSS Life Science standard for "Inheritance and Variation of
- Operation T.R.E.E.: Increases participation of students in robotics programs by providing an outreach robot designed and constructed by high school robotics students, and XRP robots that allow young minds to have the opportunity to write and test code.
- Wireless Motion Detectors: Provides direct acquisition of experimental data with wireless detectors that connect to any mobile device by measuring the displacement, velocity, and acceleration of objects moving rotationally and translationally which allow more accurate

determinations of mechanical energy transformations for physics students.

■"Tracking" the Future of User Experience: Tobii Eye Tracker 5 hardware and software that revolutionizes methodology testing for high school students through comprehensive user testing and eye tracking data to improve and enhance user experiences.

Century Elementary

■ Communication Board to Support Social Skills, Communication, and Inclusion: Provides inclusive opportunities for limited verbal communicators and English learners through a communication board on a sheltered wall on the 1st-6th grade playground and a portable A-frame board for areas such as the main office or bus stop.

Clovis Community Day School and Gateway High

■ Empowering At-Risk Students Through Culinary Arts and CTE: Modern culinary equipment to foster hands-on learning, career and technical education (CTE), business skills, and community engagement for at-risk students while supporting food insecurity initiatives, cross-curricular studies and sustainability efforts.

Clovis East High

- Clovis East High School Choir Program New York Performance: Provides students the opportunity to sing outside of California in a prestigious performance hall, Lincoln Center, with world-renowned choral composer and conductor Eric Whitacre.
- Nystrom Complete U.S. History Set of Maps: Materials to assist AP students in gaining a deeper understanding of US His-

Clovis East High and **Reyburn Intermediate**

■ Stream Table for REC Science: Provides materials to help students in 7th grade and 10-12th grade explore earth science concepts and deepen understanding.

Clovis Elementary

■ Guided Hands: Facilitates independent writing for academic and fine motor as well as gross motor skills through assistive technology to support severely disabled students from preschool to high school.

Clovis High

■ Enhancing Hands-On Learning in High School Anatomy and Physiology: High-quality anatomy models enable students to engage in hands-on learning and gain a deeper understanding of human body sys-

Freedom Elementary

■ Expanding Literacy for 5th & 6th Grade: Expands student literacy through relatable and rigorous novel studies that align with essential standards.

Fugman Elementary

■ Fugman Community Garden: Resources to complement classroom academic studies by promoting awareness of the benefits of nature conservation and outdoor recreation, and encouraging practices such as recycling, organic cultivation, sustainable horticulture and self-sufficiency.

Gateway High

- \blacksquare Dumbbell Set for New Weight Room: Enhances the physical education learning environment and increases intrinsic motivation for positive student behavior.
- **■** Gateway Young Women's Conference: Resources to empower, educate and inspire young women through leadership training, interactive workshops, mentorship and career exploration opportunities, and a supportive community.

Hirayama Elementary

- Hirayama STEM Station: Dedicated STEM station will help students improve fine motor skills, social emotional skills and creativity through brain building activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Jefferson Elementary
- Printing for a Purpose: Fosters a deeper understanding of mathematics through handson, experiential learning opportunities that foster critical thinking, problem-solving and

Kastner Intermediate

- LEGO Spike Prime Robots: Engages students in hands-on investigation of STEAM concepts while contributing to literacy, math and social-emotional development.
- Page Turners & Mind Expanders: A Grant Project for Critical Thinkers and **Empathetic Readers:** Provides new class sets of novels for 7th and 8th grade Academic Block classes to enhance literacy, critical thinking, and empathy among junior-high aged students.

Lincoln Elementary

■ Readiness for Reading: Materials to increase literacy of TK-2 students to 90% on grade level in reading through lending library with multicultural and diverse decodable readers.

Reyburn Intermediate

■ Lights, Camera, Action - Take 2: Equipment to enable video production students to create professional level projects by mastering sound, lighting, and presentation.

Tarpey Elementary

■ Implementing iPads in Kindergarten: Provides technology to more conveniently facilitate access to district reading programs

such as iReady, Benchmark and Lexia. Valley Oak Elementary

■ Exploring Light Tables and Manipulatives in a Transition Kindergarten Classroom: Resources to enrich the learning envi-

ronment for young learners by integrating light tables and manipulatives, fostering creativity, sensory exploration and cognitive development.

Social Emotional Wellness Grants

Buchanan High/

Alta Sierra Intermediate

■ The Calming Cave: Provides students with a safe space to de-escalate and learn ways to cope with their emotions through utilizing evidence-based curriculum and tools.

Bud Rank Elementary

■ Big Ravens Helping Little Ravens-**Peer Mentor Program:** Resources for a peermentoring program to support 1st and 2nd grade students with improving recess behavior, social skills, and other important executive function skills needed to meet school-wide expectations in a positive way.

Clovis East High

- Wolfpack Filling Stations: Promotes health and well-being of students by providing access to clean and convenient water sources to support hydration during physical activity. Clovis High
- Collaboration Class Portable Sound **System:** Provides a mode of expression and communication using a portable sound system for a Collaborative Mentoring class, which pairs special needs students with general edu-
- Breathe for Change: Certification training to allow additional instruction for teachers and students around movement and mindfulness designed to reduce behavior problems, stress, and increase emotional intelligence and physical health.

Clovis North High and **Granite Ridge Intermediate**

■ An Inclusive Party for All: Silent disco headphones provide an opportunity for all students to enjoy and participate at school dance without the anxiety of loud music.

District-Wide/Special Education

- Building on the Legacy: Adapted PE/Sport Clinics for Elementary Special Education Programs: Resources to help connect the general education student body with the special needs population through a specialized physical education curriculum.
- Preschool Dramatic Play Prop Box Library: Implements a dramatic play prop box resource library for 13 special day class preschool programs district-wide to foster imaginative play, promote social and emotional development, and support language and cognitive skills.

Gateway High

■ Gateway Bike Project: Provide opportunities for at risk students to apply classroom

➤ Please see Foundation, Page 9





ACROSS FROM RIVER PARK

December 2024 CUSD Today Page 3

Editor's note: "Around the District" is a regular feature of CUSD Today that highlights positive activities and accomplishments of students and schools throughout the district.

International award for CHS dancer

Congratulations to Clovis High junior Hayden Olson, who recently took first place in the Ultimate Victory Dance Championships in London, an international dance competition. In addition to the win in her age category, she was also the highest scoring performer out of the entire competition. Judges recognized her for the kindness she showed her fellow dancers backstage.



Hayden also dances for Clovis High

on the Super Pep Team.



Making friends at Clark

To work on team building and grow their class culture, Clark Intermediate drama students spent a day making friendship bracelets for each other. After randomly choosing a partner, they interviewed each other to learn some of their favorites: colors, foods, pets, hobbies and more. Then, the students worked on the bracelets in secret and presented them to their partners at the end of class.

"I told my kids that when they are making these bracelets for their partner, it proves to their partner that they are seen, they are important, they matter, they belong here, they are a part of our class team and we are here to support each other," said teacher Robin Hillman.

The students have been wearing their bracelets ever since, and are even using them to learn more about each other and build new relationships based on common interests.

Painting for a cause

Clovis East High Art and Design Club members shared their talents by face-painting at Valley Children Hospital's annual Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) "Graduate Picnic." They painted a variety of colorful designs on childrens' faces, from flowers and stars to superhero masks.

The high school artists enjoyed spending time with the kids, making them happy and sharing their artistic talent for a good cause. "I was a little anxious because I have never done face painting, but once I got into the swing of things it got easier," said senior Nicholas Tafoya.

Colorful lessons



The Miramonte Elementary blacktop became a canvas for beautiful art and culture. The Mustangs experienced Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, with music, mandala coloring and Rangoli sand art thanks to Vaneet Bajwa, a paraprofessional IA at the school. Bajwa coordinated the event to explain the holiday and even brought traditional clothing for the staff to wear.

"Every class had the opportunity to come through and learn about this important cultural celebration," said Prin-



Red Ribbon Week celebrations in CI

Clovis Unified schools took part in saying no to drugs during the National Red Ribbon Week. All week long, schools had themed dress-up days, important lessons about healthy habits, resource-sharing from local organi-

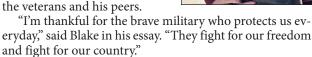
Hirayama Elementary held its first "Say NO to Drugs" assembly featuring members of local law enforcement. The Fresno Police Department brought its K-9, Horse Patrol and Motors Units for the students to see how their teamwork helps them achieve their tasks to protect and serve the community. The Fresno Sheriff's Department also brought out a helicopter and drones to show students the advanced technology they use for community safety.

The Timberwolves at Reagan Elementary had a redthemed rally. Several special guests joined the young T'wolves to talk about healthy habits and inspire students to work hard: Mike Guido from Guido's Martial Arts Academy, Clovis Police Department Officers Nick Mason and Henry Johns, Fresno State running back Ryan Warkentin and Timeout the Bulldog mascot. Timeout even had a dance-off with Timmy the Timberwolf, Reagan Elementary's

Weldon Elementary's Warriors took to the streets of Old Town Clovis for their annual Red Ribbon Week Parade. Clovis Unified Police Service's Chief Lee Mayberry served as the Grand Marshal, leading the parade down Pollasky Avenue. First-through sixth- grade students from Weldon Elementary carried banners with encouraging phrases about saying no to drugs and living a healthy drug-free life. Also joining the parade were cheerleaders from Sierra Vista Elementary atop the Clovis High fire truck, the Clovis High and Clark Intermediate marching bands and color guards, the Clovis Police Department, local veterans and more.

Honoring our veterans

Schools around the district honored veterans in their community in special ways on Veterans Day last month. For example, Reagan Elementary students invited their veteran parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to a special assembly and breakfast on campus, honoring more than 40 veterans from all branches of the military. Students surprised the special visitors by singing "Grand Old Flag" and "America the Beautiful." Fourth grader Blake Murad, who won the school's Veterans Day Essay Contest, also read his essay to



Gettysburg recognized for global reach

The generosity and care by a Gettysburg Elementary fifth/sixth-grade combo class last year was recognized by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools as a selection for the "Superintendent's Superstars." In the spring students in David Mattox's class raised more than \$2,000 to fund five surgeries in Ethiopia after an impactful lesson on global income inequality. They sold items they made as well as a generous donation of oranges at multiple school events. Three students from the class went to the Fresno County board meeting to receive the recognition on behalf of their entire former class.

Connecting at Woods

The Woods Elementary Wolverines got a taste of Mexican culture when the school's PTC hosted a Día de los Muertos themed Bingo, or "La Lotería," Night.

"Both La Lotería and *Día de los Muertos* are about bringing people together," said PTC President Holly



especially during festivals or holidays. Much like Día de los *Muertos*, it is a time for families to come together to honor their ancestors."

Clinard worked with community members to plan the night and share an explanation of the holiday with attendees. Students and their families played several rounds of La Lotería, a game like bingo using images and icons instead of letters and numbers. There were also coloring stations, snacks and a place to write remembrances on magnolia flower cards.

"At various intergenerational gatherings and holidays, games like La Lotería are often played, fostering connection and celebrating shared history," Clinard said.



Wildcats bike to school

Students and families from Valley Oak Elementary took part in the National Bike, Roll or Walk to School Day recently. They had a meeting place and had fun riding their bikes to school together. The school said the event encourages fitness, responsibility to the environment and community.

Unity at REC

Reagan Educational Center celebrated UNITY Week, an event dedicated to fostering cultural awareness and appreciation across campus. Organized by the Diversity Education Council (REC DEC), the week offered a range of activities that engaged the student body and showcased the diverse cultures within the Wolfpack community. Students reviewed the Wolfpack Pledge, enjoyed a cultural carnival, and participated in lunchtime activities highlighting cultural facts and trivia. A school assembly concluded the week with various cultural groups sharing their unique talents and creating unity and inclusivity





Students 'fair' well in contests

The awards are in! Clovis Unified students shone bright at Fresno County's recent Big Fresno Fair. While several district elementary schools took field trips and the Buchanan Birdbrains Robotics conducted demonstrations there, still others entered in the many competitions. Congratulations!

Art & Photography

- Frisha Davinagracia, Clovis East High Best in Show, 2D Design: Print Making Graphic
- Design, Collage
 Aliaa Hussein, Clovis North High Best in
- Show, Photography: Manipulated or Altered

 Angel Tapia, Clovis West High Best in
- Show, Ceramic: Pottery, Functional Pieces
 Abby Morales, Clovis High Best in Show,
- Painting: Oil or Acrylic Paint

 Hannah Lafferre, Clovis East High Best in Show Painting: Tempera Painting or Water-
- in Show, Painting: Tempera Painting or Watercolor ■ Madison Chaney, Buchanan High – Best in
- Show, Drawing: Colored Pencil, Felt Markers, Pastel, Oil Pastel

 Kenneth Chang, Buchanan High Best in
- Show, Drawing: Black and White
 ■Riley Putnam, Clovis East High Society of
 West Coast Artists, San Joaquin Valley Chapter
 Recognition
- Maya Thomas, Clovis West High Allard's High School Art Award
- Riley Putnam, Clovis East High Allard's High School Art Award
- Kaitlyn Gerner, Clovis North High Allard's High School Art Award
- Clovis West High Clay Mix Award

Livestock Pavilion

- Makayla Brandon, Reyburn Intermediate, Rabbit Intermediate Showmanship
- Jackson Wadley, Clovis East High, Advanced Turkey Showmanship
- Chase Gann, Clovis East High, Champion Breeding Doe (Goats), Reserve Champion Crossbred Market Lamb, Champion Hampshire Market Lamb, Champion FFA Market Lamb, Supreme Champion Market Lamb, Champion Pen of 2 Market Lambs ■ Crystal Galindo, Clovis East High, Reserve
- Lightweight Champion (Goats)
 Erin Basham, Clovis East High, Reserve
- Champion Middleweight Doe (Goats)

 Evelyn Moore, Clovis East High, Champion
- Lightweight Doe (Goats)

 Giada Sanchez, Clovis East High, Heavyweight Champion (Goats)

- Kenzie Cabezut, 2024 Graduate, Lightweight Champion (Goats)
- Morgyn Allbritton, Buchanan High, Champion Middleweight, FFA Champion Goat, Supreme
- Grand Champion Goat
 Sydney Folmer, Clovis East High, Novice
- Showmanship, First in Class (Beef)

 Elizabeth Brandon, Clovis East High, Hamp-
- shire Market Lamb Class
 Hope Cline, Clovis East High, Nature Colors
 Market Lamb Class
- Paige Batrich, Clovis High, Champion Suffolk
- Market Lamb
 Baylee Wright, Clovis High, Reserve Cham-
- pion AOB (Swine)
 Bobby Williams, Reyburn Intermediate,
- Yorkshire Classic (Swine)
- Henrick Melton, Clovis East High, Dark Cross Market (Swine)
- Jacob Yuenger, Clovis East High, Hampshire Class (Swine)
- Lakai Baldwin, Clovis East High, Hampshire Class (Swine)
- Sienna Smith, Clovis East High, Hampshire Class (Swine), Reserve Bred by Exhibitor
- Catherine Heather, Clovis East High, Reserve Champion Heifer, Champion and Reserve Champion Registered Angus Heifer, Champion of Excellence for Goats, Outstanding Beef Showman
- Aubrey Bustamante, Clovis East High, Horticulture Project
- Aundrea Rubio, Clovis East High, Horticulture Project
- Eva Yang, Clovis East High, Horticulture
- Faith Collup, Clovis East High, Horticulture Project
- Maryn Hodges, Clovis High, Horticulture
- Project ■ Izabella Guerrero, Clovis East High, Horti-
- culture Project

 Jocelyn Gutierrez, Clovis East High, Horti-
- culture Project ■ Mishaila Pena, Clovis East High, Horticulture
- Arrangement
 Kylie Lewis, Clovis East High, Horticulture
- Arrangement
 Taylor Catallo, Clovis High, Horticulture
 Arrangement
- Giselle Gruver, Clovis East High, Horticulture Arrangement
- Gurleen Kaloty, Clovis East High, Horticulture Arrangement

EXPANDED LEARNING CLUB We Are Hing

- Part time positions available at all elementary schools
- Before and afterschool programs for grades TK-6th
 - Professional development provided
 - Friendly work environments
 - Opportunity to work for the prestigious Clovis Unified School District





VISION

Passage of Measure A secures our schools' future

By Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. Superintendent

RECENTLY had the opportunity to hear the daughter of

our school district's founding Superintendent Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D., describe her family's move to town in the 1950s, and the condition of the schools they found when they



Corrine Folmer,

arrived. Bare dirt playfields, sagging and sway-backed rooflines that leaked and barbedwire topped fences were the norm.

It was not because the community at the time did not care about their kids, but because there was not a common vision to invest in schools so that students were able to learn in the very best educational environment possible. Fast forward 60 years and the picture here in Clovis Unified is now quite different. That is because early pioneers in our community believed in Doc Buchanan's vision for high standards in the classroom and in the buildings and grounds of our school district.

I was struck by the relevance of hearing this story in the days following the Nov. 5 election as our entire district waited to learn whether Measure A, our \$400 million bond measure that invests in every one of our schools, would be approved by voters. As I write this column, the measure has received 57.36% approval and appears headed to success.

The community's commitment to us is humbling, and I could not let this opportunity pass without sharing our gratitude for everyone who cast a vote to support our schools. Our commitment in return is to get to work immediately on the Measure A project list and to do so with transparency and accountability every step of the way. We are also committed to being careful and responsible stewards of the funding you are entrusting to us, which is the same approach we take in educating the students we are privileged to serve.

The passage of Measure A marks a critical moment in our commitment to keeping our school facilities first class and in allowing us to complete the much-needed Clovis South High School in the southeast area of our district.

In the ensuing years since Dr. Buchanan and his family arrived, residents of Clovis Unified have chosen to repeatedly invest in their

66

The community's commitment to us is humbling, and I could not let this opportunity pass without sharing our gratitude for everyone who cast a vote to support our schools.

> Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. **CUSD Superintendent**

local schools through the passage of bond measures. In fact, since our first bond was passed in 1986, these locally controlled dollars have allowed us to build 22 new schools including six secondary schools as our population has grown from around 17,000 students to more than 43,000. Bond dollars have also allowed us to make necessary updates and modernizations to every one of our schools to ensure all schools meet our standards.

Our joint investment in our schools has allowed our students to flourish, and the district to attract and retain high quality employees, drive home values up, and draw state and national events to our area that infuse tourism dollars back into our economy.

This was a pivotal moment for our schools, and the passage of Measure A secures a stable path into the future for our schools and for our community. Thank you again for continuing to partner with us as we strive to develop our students to be their best in Mind, Body and Spirit.

If you are curious about how your own local school has been impacted by bond funds, you can see a complete list of projects on your school's website.



Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



SPREAD LOVE: Clovis Unified student peer counselors from all secondary schools take part in activities and hear from motivational speakers at the annual CUSD Peer Summit, designed to equip students to take positive messages back to their home campuses.

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

EDWIN EVERETT HALE, 19TH CENTURY AUTHOR

District using new communication platform

■ One place for all messages, newsletters and events

This year, all Clovis Unified schools are moving to ParentSquare as their main communication platform. Any parents or guardians who have not yet accessed the site or downloaded the app are strongly encouraged to do so in order to continue receiving important messages from their child's school.

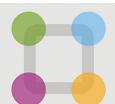
ParentSquare is a single communication platform for emails, texts, newsletters, signup sheets, calendars, permission slips and more. The platform is easy to navigate and allows parents to customize how and when they receive messages, and to select their preferred language settings.

'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 referring to the annual CUSD parent surveys.

"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."

With ParentSquare, school administrators and teachers can send information or class messages with any accompanying links, including permission slips or sign ups that, when approved, automatically populate on the family's custom calendar. Parents will be able to directly respond to a message from ParentSquare's communication por-

The platform also has sort features that



will help parents find information quickly.

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 events for both children on the calendar feature at the same time, or they have options to see calendar items for just one child at a time or even for just one child's club, team or classroom.

Parents can customize their account to receive messages by email or text and can select whether to receive post alerts/notifications instantly or just one time a day. view upcoming classroom and co-curricular Families can also choose their preferred entSquare.

language and view any messages in that translation; they may also reply in that language and the message will be translated for the teacher.

School sites have sent parents instructions on how to activate their ParentSquare account. Please contact your child's teacher or school with questions or visit the district's ParentSquare resources at cusd.com/Par-

Useful ParentSquare tips for parents, guardians

Activate Your Account

Click the link in the activation message (email or text) sent to you, or register your account on parentsquare.com or via the ParentSquare app. Use the email address or phone number that you provided during (re-) enrollment for the 2024-25 school year to connect your account.

Download App

It's easy to stay in the loop with the ParentSquare app. Download it now for iOS or Android devices.

Set Preferences

Click your name in the top right to set your notification and language preferences.

Get Photos & Files

Click 'Photos & Files' in sidebar to access pictures, forms, and documents that have been shared with you.

Appreciate Posts

Click 'Appreciate' in your email/app or website to thank a

teacher or staff member for a post. ■ Participate

Click 'Sign Ups & RSVPs' in the sidebar to see available opportunities. Click bell on top to check your commitments. You'll even get a reminder the day before an

Keep Schedules

Watch the calendar for upcoming school and district events, and keep track of the events you've RSVP'd for, all in one place.

Join a Group

Click 'Groups' in the sidebar to join a group or committee at your school to participate or to stay up-to-date.

■ Find People

Click 'Directory' in the sidebar to find contact information for school staff.

Get in Touch

Click 'Messages' in the sidebar to privately get in touch with

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

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> Announcements



Student art on display

A reception was held recently for students and their families celebrating the fall-themed artwork now on display that was created by Clovis Unified special education students. Drawings, paintings, crafts and more make up the collection that is lining the hallways of the district's Professional Development Building. Visitors are invited to view the masterpieces through Dec. 13 during weekday office hours. The PDB is located at 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis.

Website changes coming

Clovis Unified's school and district websites will be getting a new look and moving to a new platform over the upcoming Winter Break. Users may notice a disruption during this time. All sites are expected to be ready for users when school resumes in January. The web addresses will remain the same. If you are on the new site and have a question, use the contact feature to let us know.

Sierra Vista Children's Health Center

Did vou know Clovis Unified has a Children's Health Center, and has for over 30 years? The health center is located on the . Sierra Vista Elementary campus and is open to all children from ages 0-18.

Services include sports physicals, flu shots, well baby and well childcare, immunizations (must qualify for VFC services), treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, preschool/first grade physicals and more. Some services are free to income-eligible families and no health insurance is required.

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 510 Barstow Ave., Clovis. To learn more about services or to make an appointment, call 559.327-7976.

'It's a Wonderful Life' in December

Clovis High's Drama Den will kick off the holiday season with the production "It's a Wonderful Life." The story tells the saga of George Bailey, who feels overwhelmed by his

responsibilities and dreams of escaping his life. He encounters



his guardian angel on Christmas Eve who shows George what life would be like if he did not

exist. The play will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5-7 and 12-14, and 2 p.m. Dec. 7 and 14 at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: cusd.com/drama.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 6 for Winter Break. The CUSD District Office at Herndon and Sunnyside avenues will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1.

'Wizard of Oz' in January

Get ready for Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion to help Dorothy as she follows the Yellow Brick Road in her attempt to get home. In January, Buchanan High's BearStage production will perform the lively musical, "The Wizard of Oz," that in addition to the high school cast, will also include several area elementary and intermediate school students. The musical will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16-18 and 23-25 at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis; and at 2 p.m. Jan. 18 and 25. For information and tickets: BearStage.org.

'Voice in the Dark' in January

Clovis East High is preparing for a January performance start for its production of "A Voice in the Dark: A Salem Story." The story follows a 15-year-old girl living in Salem, Mass., during the unprecedented times of the witch trials. The play will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1 and 6-8 at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: cusd.com/drama.

Curious about CTE?

Clovis Unified families are invited to learn more about the district's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at CTE Night to be held Jan. 28. This is an informational fair that will have engaging demonstrations, industry-standard equipment, and CTE staff and students available to talk about the district's 21 different career education pathways.

In Clovis Unified, CTE programs blend academic learning with hands-on experience in pathways such as Patient Care, Public Safety, Financial Services, Environmental Resources, Food Services and Hospitality and more. CTE courses provide hands-on instruction combined with real-world experience.

CTE Night is designed for prospective students to gain a better understanding of the many opportunities available at their school sites. The drop-in event will be from 6 to 8 Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis.

Enrollment for 2025-26 CTE courses will begin soon after, and students can learn more about fitting CTE classes into their schedule by talking with their school academic counselor. For a full list of pathways and more details about Clovis Unified's CTE programs, please visit cusd.com/cte.

Asbestos management plan in place

In compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Clovis Unified is providing written notification of the availability of the 2023-24 school year asbestos management plan for public inspection at each school site and at the district office, 1450 Herndon Ave., Clovis. The management plan includes inspection records as well as documentation of any asbestos removal that has occurred at the site. Arrangements may be made to review these plans by contacting the district's asbestos coordinator, Adam Belmont at 327-9491.

During the past school year, the district conducted two required six-month surveillance AHERA inspections at all sites. This included

p.m. Jan. 28 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial inspecting all known asbestos locations and reporting any changes in condition.

Questions or additional information: Adam Belmont, 327-9491.

Newcomer Parent Night

Clovis Unified Supplemental Service's Parent Academy hosts free, monthly Parent Night workshops for parents to learn about topics that may affect their child and about 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 in-

■ Jan. 9 – "Newcomer Parent Night" Resources in CUSD and the community for new and immigrant families. To be held from 5:30-7 at Weldon Elementary.

■ Feb. 6 – "Navigating Modern Parenthood" - Challenges of homework, social media and peer pressure, and tips on how to guide students and balance homelife.

■ March 6 - "Enhancing Family Communication" Tips about strengthening bonds; active listening; and conflict resolution.

April 10 - "Family Literacy Night" Learn



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The High School Enrichment program offers students in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades an opportunity to take college courses with no enrollment fees and receive college credit. Details are available in the High School Enrichment application at cloviscollege.edu/hse.





Spring semester starts January 13th, 2025.

There is still time to enroll!

Online, hybrid, and in-person classes available.

NOTE: Not all classes may count towards general education for transfer, High School Enrichment provides college credit only. Please check with your high school counselor or meet with a college counselor.











SPORTS

NFL player, first district coach to ever win championship inducted into Hall of Fame

Seven former Clovis Unified athletes and coaches, four years of cross country teams and a retired district leader were celebrated in November at the annual Athletic Hall of Fame event.

To kick off the weekend, inductees were invited to attend a "tailgate" dinner at the Clovis High and Clovis West High football game. The former athletes took to the field for special recognition and to watch the coin toss to begin the game. The following evening, they attended the ceremony where each athlete and coach had memorabilia from their career on display, and were interviewed on their athletic accomplishments, both in and out of the district. It was an inspiring evening for all in attendance.

The following are the 2024 HOF Class of Inductees:

■ Dennis Lindsey Doc Buchanan Award



Dennis Lindsey played a passionate role in developing the legacy of high standards and excellence in the Clovis unified School District athletic programs. During his 39 years with

CUSD, he partnered with first Superintendent Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D., in his vision to establish Clovis Unified as a premier district for student-athletes.

Lindsey joined the district in 1970 as a coach and teacher at Clovis High. He led the CHS football team to the district's firstever Valley Championship win, establishing the start of Clovis Unified's dominance in the CIF Central Section.

Lindsey joined Clovis West High when it opened in 1977 as an English teacher. He became the CW activities director and then

athletic director. During his tenure, CW won Athletic Supremacy awards, 2 state titles and was named Cal-Hi Sports State Athletic School of the Year.

Lindsey became the coordinator and eventually director of the district's Co-Curricular Programs from 1997 until he retired in 2009. He developed the first district athletic code of conduct, establishing expectations of high standards, and he created the elementary school playoff system still

■ Jose Hernandez – Basketball Coach

Representing the 1970s/80s/90s



Clovis West girls basketball coach from 1978-97 with 379 wins, 11 League championships, 6 CIF Central Section championships. SoCal State Finals in 1991, 1994 and 1995. Clovis

West assistant boys basketball coach 1997-2002 and 2016-2024. From 2002-2006, assistant mens basketball coach at Fresno City College.

■ Todd Kemp – Water Polo **Swimming**

Representing 1980s



Standout water polo player at Clovis West (1982-84), Stanford University (1985-1990). Played on U.S. Junior National Water Polo Team, U.S. National Water Polo Team; was

1989 U.S. Senior National Water Polo champion and tournament MVP. Also swam at Clovis West, earning three league titles and was 1985 B'nai B'rith awardee.

■ Ryan Indart – Water Polo, Swimming, Track & Field Representing 1990s



Clovis West water polo player named firstteam All League in 1990 and 1991; set Boys National Record 4x100 freestyle relay record in 1992 for swimming; 1992 Boys High Jump

league champion with 6'10" jump. Played both water polo and high jump at UC Davis, named first team All-American DI in 1996. Post college, played for the Olympic Club of San Francisco for 10 years.

■ Billy Volek – football Representing 1990s



Led Clovis West football team to CIF Section championship 1993; named league MVP in 1994. Played at Fresno State, winner of WAC championship in 1999. Played in the National

Football League for Tennessee Titans and San Diego Chargers. Completed 60.5% of his NFL passes with 27 touchdowns.

■ Ken Shipley – girls golf coach Representing 2000s/10s/20s



Clovis West girls golf coach 2007-2023, earning 16 league championships, 13 CIF Section championships, 12 Northern Area championships. CIF Central Section matches 99 wins

out of 101 matches. 2018 State CIF Model

Coach of the Year.

■ Tristin (Baxter) Kranenburg – water polo, swim Representing 2000s



Four-year varsity water polo player and swimmer at Clovis West. Water polo TRAC and CIF player of the year 2008, 2009. Swimming earned 15 CIF champion titles (7 individual

and 8 relay); named TRAC and CIF player of the year 2009, 2010. Played water polo and swam for Arizona State, earned ASU MVP Swimm award 2014.

■ Willy Irwin – football, track and field Representing 2010s



First Clovis East High inductee. Played three years varsity track and field, football. 2010 State discus champion, runner up shotput; 2009 State runner up discus. 2009 Defensive Player

of the Year football. Played at Fresno City College, Concordia College in Portland. 2013 NAIA All-American track and field.

■ 1981, 1982, 1983 & 1984 Clovis **High Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams**

Girls: CIF Section champions 1981-84, ranked fifth in California 1984

Boys: CIF Section champions 1981, 83, 84; ranked third in California 1983, 1984.

More information on the **Athletic Hall of Fame and past inductees:** https://www.cusd.com/AthleticHallofFame.aspx

Fall sports champions

Thousands of student athletes participated in sports this fall, learning skills about their game and also about teamwork and dedication. Congratulations to all players and to the following Fall 2024 championship teams.

District Fall Champions, elementary schools

Girls Volleyball Champions: Gettysburg Elementary; Football Champions: Fort Washington, Dry Creek and Bud Rank elementary schools; Fourth Grade Girls Cross Country: Garfield Elementary; Fourth Grade Boys Cross Country: Dry Creek Elementary; Fifth/Sixth Grade Girls Cross Country: Fugman Elementary; and Fifth/Sixth Grade Boys Cross Country: Woods Elementary.

Clovis Intermediate Athletic League (CIAL), intermediate schools

Alta Sierra Intermediate - Football, 8th Grade (tied); Boys Water Polo, 8th Grade; Girls Cross Country. Clark Intermediate -Boys Water Polo, 7th Grade; Boys Cross Country. Granite Ridge Intermediate – Girls Tennis; Boys Cross Country; Girls Golf. Kastner Intermediate - Football, 7th and 8th Grades (tied); Girls Water Polo, 8th Grade. Reyburn Intermediate - Girls Volleyball, 7th and 8th Grades; Girls Water Polo,

Tri-River Athletic Conference (TRAC) League Champions, high schools

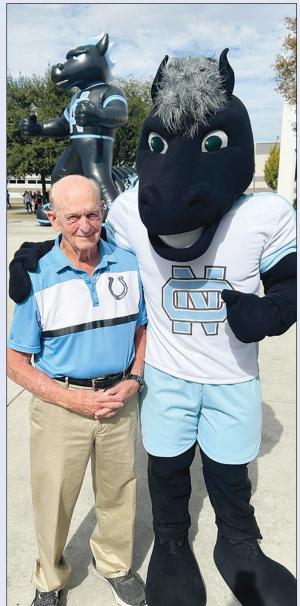
Buchanan High - Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Water Polo; Clovis High - Girls Volleyball (tie), Girls Water Polo (tie); Clovis East High – Football, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Water Polo (tie); Clovis West - Girls Gymnastics, Girls Volleyball (tie).



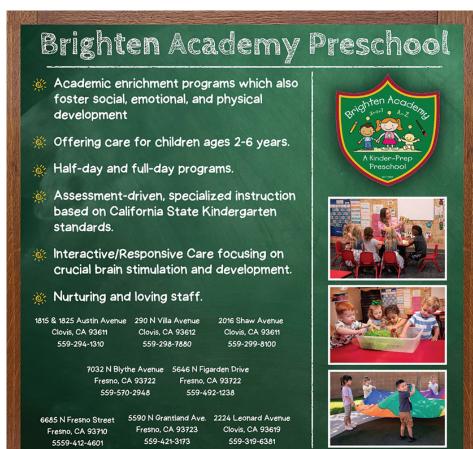




Meet 'Coach'



At the Clovis North Educational Center, the Bronco mascot now has a name: Coach! The name honors legendary Clovis Unified football coach Tim Simons who helped establish the football program at Clovis North High when the school opened in 2007, and he led the Broncos to their first Valley title. Simons remains as the Broncos' freshman coach and advisor to the varsity team today. He began his coaching career at Clovis High from 1976 to 2000 and lead the Cougars to several championship titles.



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Board reviews achievement data, okays summer school dates

By Kelly Avants, Chief Communications Officer

Nov. 13

The Clovis Unified Governing Board gathered early on Nov. 13 to conduct a workshop to study student achievement data with school leaders. Discussion during the workshop centered around the academic progress of students since 2019 and the instructional strategies used by schools to help students master grade level standards.

During the regular meeting the Governing Board heard an update on preliminary election results for Measure A and board member positions. Fresno County Elections office has until early December to certify the election.

In other action, the board:

- Bid farewell to Board Member David DeFrank, who was attending his final meeting after not running for re-
- Approved all conference, fundraiser, student trip, notice of completion and voluntary community recreation program requests as submitted.
- Approved minutes from the Governing Board's Oct. 23 meeting.
- Approved the district's 2025 Summer School Academic Calendar.
- Accepted the donation of a custom facility branding enhancer package to the Terry P. Bradley Educational
- Held a public hearing for comment on the initial collective bargaining agreement from the ACE ASL Interpreters to the district, and later sunshined and scheduled a public hearing to allow comment on the district's initial collective bargaining agreement to ACE ASL Interpreters to occur at the Dec. 13 Governing Board meeting.
 - Approved construction costs for Increment Five of

BOARD BRIEFS

the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center.

- Approved the appointment of an architect for portable and shade structure projects as needed.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements and rights of way for the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the conveyance of an easement to Fresno Irrigation District for installation of a pipeline and other incidental purposes regarding property at Fowler and Herndon avenues.

Oct. 23

As work on the new Fowler/Herndon campus continues, at the Oct. 23 meeting, the Governing Board declared its intent to convey an easement for off-site infrastructure to the Fresno Irrigation District and set a hearing for public comment on the subject to take place. The campus will be the permanent home of the CUSD's Clovis Online School and a Special Education service center when it opens in

During her report on activities and accomplishments occurring since the last meeting, Superintendent Corrine Folmer also paused to acknowledge that Nov. 4-8th is National School Psychologists Week and to thank the team of professionals working to support the social emotional health of our students for their work.

In other action, the board:

■ Approved a one-time, retroactive payment to all eligible employees and retirees for the observance of the federal Juneteenth holiday in 2021 and 2022. Employees whose regular work year encompassed June 19 in one or both of these two years will be notified directly with more details

later this month. As of 2023, this holiday is included in the district's list of observed paid holidays.

- Approved minutes from the Oct. 9 meeting of the
- Approved a provisional internship permit for one teaching candidate to allow additional time to obtain specialized credentialing.
- Approved participation of students from the district's comprehensive high schools in the Concurrent Public Education Program for the first semester of the 2024-25 school

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be Dec. 13 in the CUSD Boardroom, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. The public portion of the meeting begins at noon. Complete minutes and agendas are available at cusd.com.

Foundation:

learning to collaborate on building bicycles, which are later provided to students at local elementary schools to promote positive behavior.

Oraze Elementary

- Bringing the Heart of Writing to 1st Graders with Heggerty Writing & Supplemental Materials: Materials to support outside-the-box writing experiences to help close the COVID learning gap in young learners and equip underserved communities and English Learners with what they need to become successful members of the global commu-
- Words Matter Initiative: Resources and materials to support the message that our words matter and can make a positive impact on others' lives in our community.

Red Bank Elementary

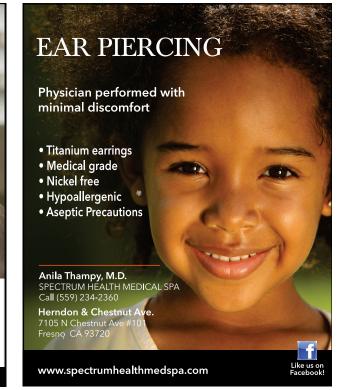
- Bobcats' Brews and Bites: Provides reading, math and social skills opportunities to 1st through 4th grade students in the Autism special day class through managing a coffee and pastries cart, including taking and delivering orders to staff.
- Structured Recess and Peer Mentoring: Provides behavioral modification and peer mentoring program for 1st -3rd graders through collaborative games paired with older students (4th - 6th graders) in a mentor/mentee relationship. Sierra Outdoor School
- All-Terrain Wheelchairs: Enables students with disabilities to participate in outdoor activities such as hiking and environmental exploration, promoting physical and mental wellbeing, and fostering a sense of community and connection

Sierra Vista Elementary

■ Healthy Bodies = Peaceful Hearts and Minds: Equipment and resources for an articulated Physical Education program integrated with Social-Emotional Learning for Pre-K through 6th grade students designed to improve and support mental health and social emotional skills to maximize academic learning.

Weldon Elementary

■ Teaching Social Emotional Learning through Physical Education: Resources and materials to support an innovative and effective way to teach and practice the much-needed five components of social emotional learning in a manner that is understandable, memorable, enjoyable and developmentally appropriate.





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- **ECE 5- Observation and Assessment**
- ECE 6- Health, Safety and Nutrition in Early Childhood Education
- **ECE 7– Diversity and Culture in Early Care Education Programs**
- **ECE 11– Guidance for Young Children**

*Courses are available in face-to-face formats

All courses listed above are 3 units and are transferable to a CSU/UC. Do you have any questions or are looking to get started?

Heather Boynton: 559-325-5305 heather.boynton@cloviscollege.edu Eric Mendoza: 559-325-5306 eric.mendoza@cloviscollege.edu Liz Romero: 559-325-5247 elizabeth.romero@cloviscollege.edu

Are you interested in joining the **CCC Teaching Education Mentorship** program in SPRING 2025?

As part of our mentoring program, we want to make sure our students understand the need to support the community. With the guidance of their amazing mentor, English Instructor Melanie Sanwo, future teacher mentees Emily Brereton, Claudia



Nunez, Minerva Diaz, Diantha Baroi, Liyah Esqueda, and Will Wilder organized a donation drive for Miss Winkles, a local pet adoption center. In addition to a successful drive, the mentorship group also meets monthly focusing on career goal setting, professional development, and networking. Congratulations to this wonderful group of future teachers!

> Contact: Megan Bennett megan.bennett@cloviscollege.edu AC1-184

Visit www.cloviscollege.edu to register/details.













High School Seniors: What's Next to Enroll in Fall 2025 Classes?

ONLINE

Orientation Has Begun!

Complete your orientation starting now at **scccd.edu/orientation** or log in to your Student Portal. Don't wait – the earlier you complete orientation, the earlier you can register for classes!

Scan the QR code now to complete your Online Orientation!

January - April: Academic Advising Begins

Check with your high school counselor to see when advising will take place on your campus. Clovis Community College, Fresno City, Reedley College, and Madera Community College counselors will be available to help you plan your first semester of college courses!

There's still time to apply for Summer/
Fall 2025



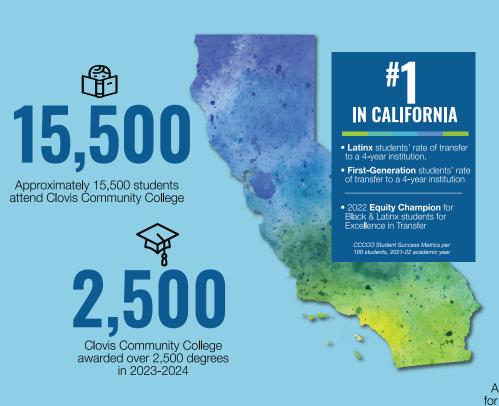


?? Questions?

Visit www.cloviscollege.edu/outreach for links to live Zoom help, YouTube videos, or to make an appointment with an Outreach Specialist.



Want to take a class before graduation? CCC is still accepting Spring 2025 applications for the High School Enrichment program. Visit www.cloviscollege.edu/hse for more information.









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