**MEDIA ADVISORY**

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D., Superintendent

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**Aug. 14, 2023**

**For Immediate Release**

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**School back in session Aug. 21 in Clovis Unified**

*Opening-day ceremony marks return to Jefferson for new superintendent*

When new Clovis Unified Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D., rings the bell at Jefferson Elementary School Aug. 21 to mark the beginning of the new school year, it also will be a reunion for the former Bluejay.

Folmer, who took over the reins of the district in July following the retirement of Dr. Eimear O’Brien, began her own educational journey as a 5-year-old kindergartener at Jefferson Elementary.

“I remember that first day – I was excited but also a little nervous, and my teacher made me feel so welcome,” she said. “As we prepare for the 2023-24 year, I want all of our new and returning students to feel that same warm welcome. Our entire educational team is ready to support our students toward success in mind, body and spirit in the new school year.”

The Jefferson Bell Ringing Ceremony is attended by CUSD Governing Board members and district leadership, and it marks the official start for the district’s 43,000 students attending Clovis Unified’s 52 campuses. Students and staff from Jefferson will gather outside with the special visitors for this, the 139th year of the ceremony.

The bell-ringing ceremony is held on the Jefferson campus, which is where founding Clovis Unified Superintendent Floyd “Doc” Buchanan, Ed.D., had his office when the district unified in 1960. The bell is the original bell that was in the one-room schoolhouse when Jefferson began.

**WHAT: Jefferson Bell Ringing Ceremony** – official CUSD new school year opening

                           Ringing of the Bell by Clovis Unified Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

**WHEN:** **8:15 am., Monday, Aug. 21**

**WHERE:** Jefferson Elementary School, 1880 Fowler Ave., Clovis

**CONTACT:** Kelly Avants, Chief Communications Officer, 559.217-5138, available at event and can assist with other first-day scheduling

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*ADDITIONAL PRE-BACK-TO-SCHOOL COVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES*

**Thursday, Aug. 17 – 8:30 to 11 a.m.: Alta Sierra Intermediate Tours**, 380 W. Teague Ave., Clovis. Incoming students can learn more about the school and take part in tours by leadership students to find their classrooms and know where to find the library, lunch and other important locations.

**Thursday, Aug. 17 – 10 a.m. to noon: Clovis West High School Freshman Orientation**, 1070 E. Teague Av., Fresno. Incoming students will get to know all about “C-Dub” – resources, staff, culture and a tour of the campus.

**Thursday, Aug. 17 – 5:30 to 7 p.m.: Freedom Elementary School Back-to-School Night**, 2955 Gettysburg Ave., Clovis. Students and families come together before the school year starts to get familiar with campus and reconnect with staff and friends. Food trucks at 5:30 p.m.; classroom tours and open house at 6 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 18 – 9 to 11 a.m.: Reagan Elementary “Sneak Peek” for transitional kindergartners and kindergartners and “Treats with Your Teacher” for 1st through 6th graders**, 3701 Ashlan Ave., Clovis. The Timberwolf mascot will be present as TK/K students get to see their classroom and meet new friends at 9 a.m. and 1st through 6th graders enjoy a treat and meet their teacher starting at 10 a.m.

**Friday, Aug. 18 – 1 to 3 p.m.: Bud Rank Elementary TK/K Meet & Greet**, 3650 Powers Ave., Clovis. The youngest Ravens will have the chance to meet their teacher and explore their classroom.

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