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CUSD Today

February 2022

Clovis Unified School District — WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS!

Volume 24, No. 7

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Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Grand Exploration



Photos by Kenny Gilman/CUSD Today

Cedarwood Elementary Campus Club kindergarten instructor Bianca Burgos talks about the colors and shapes in Vincent Van Gogh's painting of sunflowers with budding kindergarten artist Hunter Alexander.

Van Gogh, Matisse part of kindergarten Campus Club

By Carol Lawson-Swezey
Special to CUSD Today

If some Clovis Unified kindergarteners know more than their parents about Van Gogh and Monet, the credit may belong to Campus Club's innovative kindergarten program that includes a monthly focus on a noteworthy artist.

Campus Club is the district's before- and after-school enrichment and childcare program, and while it has always included creative and engaging activities, its curriculum has recently been reimagined.

In 2019, Shera Scott stepped out of the classroom and into the role of CUSD's Campus Club kindergarten supervisor, and she has worked with her team to further develop the program. She helped secure a grant for a Literacy Resource Library, initiated a Demonstration Classroom, built up classroom resources and developed a website to share curriculum with the district's Campus Club kindergarten staff.

"My vision is a simple one, to create a Campus Club kindergarten program that parents want to bring their children to, not because they need childcare, but because they want their children to experience what we offer and to offer a high-quality program where their children can flourish," Scott said.

Campus Club's kindergarten program is located on nearly every elementary school campus and has

► Please see *Campus Club*, Page 6



Kindergartner

Dominic Peter has fun mixing colors as he gets ready to paint his version of Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

Revisions made to dress code, school schedules

CUSD Today

Updates to Clovis Unified's existing dress and grooming policy (No. 5132), and to school start and end times (No. 6112) for the 2022-23 school year were adopted at the Jan. 12 meeting of the CUSD Governing Board.

A lengthy process was held in the fall and winter in order to develop recommendations based on community feedback about revising these policies.

During the review, every school held multiple meetings for parents, staff and students to learn more and offer comments, and an online comment form was available to submit feedback. Feedback collected from meetings and online comments were processed, and recommendations were presented to the Governing Board for discussion in December, and then voted on in January.

Dress code changes effective immediately

Some of the significant updates to the Clovis Unified's dress code policy include:

- Frayed and distressed clothing is allowed. Garments must be stitched evenly around, and if frayed, must be stitched to avoid further fraying. Holes in clothing must be patched (either from the inside or outside) so that no bare skin or undergarments are exposed.
- Shorts inseams must be at least 5 inches. Spandex or Lycra shorts are not permissible.
- Leggings and jeggings are permitted but cannot be see through or have mesh or ruching above the knee. Tops worn with leggings or jeggings must not expose midriffs at any time during school or school-sponsored activities or events.
- Camouflage patterns are allowable.
- Beards are allowable, so long as neatly groomed.

To view the updated dress code and more information about the fall reviews, visit <https://www.cusd.com/DressCodeReview.aspx>.

New bell schedules coming in the fall

The Governing Board also acted to approve new start and end times for schools in anticipation of California's new law taking effect in the 2022-23 school year that requires a later start time for high school and intermediate schools. That change will result in adjustments to elementary school schedules due to shared operational supports such as transportation and bussing.

The revised start times were also developed with review and feedback at every school site and online forms. The majority of input showed families preferred elementary schools start before and not after secondary schools.

Learn more about how this months-long study of bell schedules impacted the final start and end times in effect starting this fall, and see details of your neighborhood school's new schedules at <https://www.cusd.com/BellScheduleReview.aspx>.



Thank You

SALUTING OUR CRYSTAL WINNERS

Fifteen of Clovis Unified's very best employees will receive the district's highest award at *The Crystals* on Feb. 23 at our Performing Arts Center. The gala event begins with a light reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation ceremony of the Crystal Awards at 7:30 p.m. The celebration is open to the public and admission is free.

In this edition of CUSD Today, we begin a series that profiles each of this year's recipients. For a list of winners and profiles, please see Page 5.

CUSD students in Rose Parade

Disneyland performance part of national honor, too

CUSD Today

Eleven students and one band director from Clovis Unified marched in the 2022 Rose Parade on Jan. 1 with the Bands of America Honor Band!

The Bands of America Honor Band is a 320-piece national ensemble with winds, percussion, and a flag and dance team. Members of the 2022 Honor Band represent 213 schools from 39 states across the country.

David Lesser, Clovis North Educational Center band director, was selected to a faculty position for the 2022 Honor Band and was responsible for the 50-member saxophone section. Lesser also served in the position for the 2017 Honor Band. Said Lesser, "It is absolutely an honor to be able to... work with some of the best student musicians from around country."

Band members from Clovis Unified included:

- Cassandra Baber, Clovis North, Color Guard
- Sarah Elsberry, Clovis North, Clarinet
- Adam Garabedian, Clovis West, Trombone
- Talia Hovsepian, Clovis West, Piccolo
- Matthew Kerber, Clovis West, Alto Saxophone



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Eleven students from Clovis Unified high schools, along with Clovis North High band director David Lesser, pictured far right, performed in this year's Rose Parade in Pasadena.

- Justin Lesser, Clovis North, Banner Carrier
- Sarah Lesser, Clovis North, Color Guard
- Samuel Lozano, Clovis West, Trumpet
- Elizabeth Moua, Clovis North, Clarinet

► Please see *Parade*, Page 6

INSIDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free online tutoring available

Clovis Unified intermediate and high school students can access free, online tutoring for their classes. *Page 3*

FACES OF LCAP

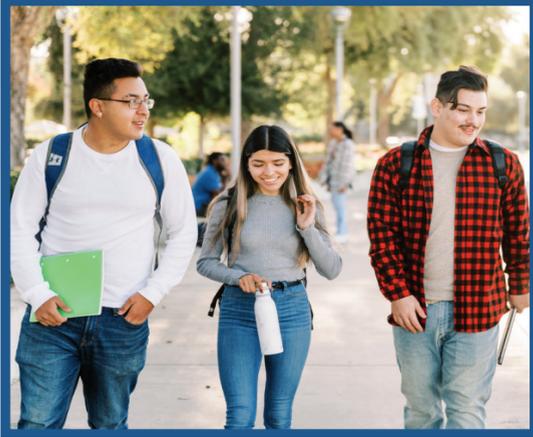
People making a difference

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) uses student, parent, staff and community feedback to develop a plan in Clovis Unified. *Page 4*

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Heroes fill CUSD campuses, classrooms

You can find them in the classroom, on the playground, on the school bus, preparing hot meals, or behind the keyboard of a computer. *Page 5*



Advising Session Dates

CCC will be at your high school on the following dates:

High School	Date(s)
Buchanan	February 1 & 2
Clovis North	February 4 & 11
Clovis High	February 8 & 15
Clovis West	February 9 & 10
Clovis Online/Enterprise	February 16
Clovis East	February 23 & 24

If you missed a session above, contact your high school counselor



High School Students:

Please contact your high school counselor or community college Outreach Specialist assigned to your high school for exact times and online event log in information.

Clovis Community College Outreach Specialists



David-Anthony Navarro
Schools: Clovis West, Clovis Online, Enterprise, Gateway
559-325-5267
david.navarro@cloviscollege.edu



Isaac Reyna
Schools: Clovis East
559-325-5357
isaac.reyna@cloviscollege.edu



Amy Yocupicio
Schools: Clovis North, Clovis High, and Buchanan
559-325-5035
amy.yocupicio@cloviscollege.edu



Clovis Community College earned this prestigious recognition for the fourth consecutive year!

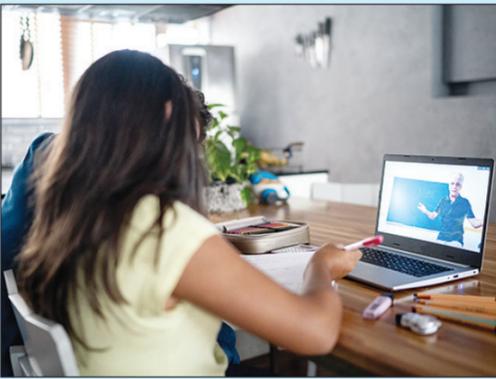
Creating Opportunities... One Student at a Time

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

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



► Announcements



Free online tutoring

Clovis Unified intermediate and high school students can access free, online tutoring for their classes through a partnership the district has created with the Princeton Review's tutor.com. Subjects range from algebra and calculus to chemistry, English and physics. Students can access the service through their Clever account.

District earns ASBO award

For 24 years in a row – the longest consecutive streak for any school district in California – Clovis Unified has received the Association of School Business Officials award for excellence for the district's 2020-21 budget.

'You Can't Take It with You,' Feb. 10-12

Clovis North High's Bronco Drama is in production of "You Can't Take It with You." The acclaimed comedy spotlights the antics of an engaged couple and their two families who clash in lifestyle and class. Remaining show times and dates are 2



p.m. Feb. 12, and evening performances at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10-12 at the Dan Pessano Theater. All health and safety protocols required at the time of shows will be followed. For more information or tickets, visit <https://www.cusd.com/EventsTickets.aspx>.

Young artists celebrated

The hallway walls outside of the Clovis Unified Governing Boardroom will feature artwork in February created by elementary students from schools throughout the district. Each school selects student work for the special display, and receptions are held recognizing the youth.

'Disney's Descendants' in March

The Mercedes Edwards Theatre will be filled with dancing, music and antics as Clovis High performs "Disney's Descendants" in March. The musical comedy centers around the children of some of Disney's best known heroes and villains coming together in the same land. Performances are 2 p.m. March 5 and 12, and 7:30 p.m. March 4-5 and 10-12 at the MET, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. All health and safety protocols required at the time of shows will be followed. For more information or tickets, visit <https://www.cusd.com/EventsTickets.aspx>.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools

and district office will be closed Feb. 14 in honor of Lincoln's Birthday and Feb. 21 in honor of Washington's Birthday. Spring Break will take place April 11-18.

Leadership conferences

Clovis Unified has opportunities for students to participate in student leadership conferences each year. The district partners with the community in creating these cultural events where students can learn about themselves and one another.

Conferences include keynote speakers and professionals in the community discussing their experiences, answering questions and providing information about college and careers.

More information or to sign up for the following is available through secondary school counseling centers.

- CUSD African American Student Leadership Middle School Conference, Feb. 8, at the Clovis North Educational Center

- CUSD Latino Student Success Middle School Conference, March 11, at Kastner Intermediate

- CUSD Latino High School Student Success Conference, March 21, Clovis North Educational Center

SPECIAL EDUCATION

CAC meeting, Feb. 23

Clovis Unified's Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting topic will be "Legislative Updates," for its next meeting at noon, Feb. 23 in the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. A free parent workshop on "All About IEP's" will be held

at 11 a.m. preceding the meeting. Details: 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.

Online webinars

The following upcoming online webinars will be offered by the CUSD Special Education Department's Family Resource Center. For more information or to inquire about an interpreter, call 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.

- "Helpful Strategies for Challenging Behaviors," 7-8 p.m. Feb. 24, online webinar. Free. Learn about positive parenting techniques; effective strategies in behavior management. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2-24-22CUSDIFRC>.

- "Special Education 101," 6:30-7:30 p.m. March 1, online webinar. Free. Learn about an overview of special education; how to prepare for an IEP meeting; and how to partner with members of the IEP team. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/FRC3-1-22>.

Award nomination window opens

CUSD Special Education Department's "Exceptional Persons Awards" is receiving nominations now through March 15. The award celebrates district employees and volunteers who are exceptional at helping students with special needs. A judging team will determine the recipients and a ceremony will be held in April. More information: CUSD Family Resource Center, 327-8455. To submit a nomination: <https://tinyurl.com/ExPers21-22>.



Clovis Unified applauds educators and students in our community who are working together today to impact the future.

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PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Transition counselors guide students to success

In this edition, we focus on Clovis Unified's Transition Program that is in all six school areas. There are six directors and 16 counselors. Let's meet one of our counselors.

NAME: Alejandro Morris
JOB: Transition Counselor
SITES: Boris and Miramonte Elementary

Q: What does a Transition Counselor do?

A: My role as a Transition Counselor in the school community is to provide support for students, their families and the staff at all my sites. I work to create positive and meaningful relationships with students and families. I believe that one of the biggest things we can give to a student, whether they're struggling or not, is a positive connection and that's what I aim to do every day.

I believe my role goes beyond helping students pass a test or getting good grades but to help them see that there is an adult on their campus ready to listen. I find I am often the bridge from student to teacher and from family to school. I have been serving as a Transition Counselor for five years now and have enjoyed every second of it.

Q: What is a typical day like for you?

A: It varies from site to site and day to day. I typically start by going out to the playground where I try to be another set of eyes on our students, and it is a great time in which I can connect with kids and teachers since I split my time between two sites. I then usually go around to classrooms and begin checking in on some students that I know are currently struggling. I run CSI groups year round at my sites, hold transition activities, run after school homework support labs, and remain available for my sites when needed.

Between having students come into my classroom to play games at recess or upper grade students coming in during their lunch recess time for academic support, my room can often be seen with students in it. Since I speak Spanish, I am sometimes asked to translate for our Spanish speaking families. Whether I am responding for student support or doing transition activities, I remain visible and accessible to the students and staff at my sites.

Q: What is your most memorable moment?

A: One memorable moment recently has been a student "coming out of their shell." I met this student when I was invited to attend a meeting for them in hopes of getting extra support. I still remember this student's demeanor and their low self-esteem during this meeting – hardly looking at the adults in the room and not even wanting to speak to their guardian. I soon began to regularly meet with this student and found out that they loved Anime. As our meetings became a

FACES OF LCAP

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) uses student, parent, staff and community feedback to develop a plan in Clovis Unified that primarily support our foster youth, English learners and low-income students. In this series, we introduce people on our LCAP team making a daily difference in student lives. Learn more: cusd.com/lcap



place for this student to express themselves in this form of art, I encouraged this student to work with me to start an Anime Club on campus since there was none. After seeing them in the state they were in at the beginning of the year and how involved and social they are now is priceless.

Q: How does your work relate to the LCAP?

A: Within my job, I am constantly serving our students who fall under the LCAP in the Clovis East Area. These are the students that we support daily and the families that we connect to resources across the community. We take these students on field trips, to colleges when they're in high school, reward and encourage them, provide supplies, put on conferences, and host parent nights where we discuss topics that are important to our families. I am here to support the student and family in all aspects. Our goals are that when our students come to school, they feel safe and are in an environment where they can thrive. Building trust between our families and the school is vital for the success of our students.

"I am the first person in my family to get a college degree."

Alejandro Morris



Asian Student Conference a success

"All of you have the ability to do great things," said UCSF Fresno Chief of Psychiatry Dr. John Tran who was the keynote speaker this year for Clovis Unified's Ninth Annual Asian Student Success Conference.

Addressing students from all CUSD intermediate and high schools gathered for the conference at Clovis East, Tran encouraged students to pursue their dreams and

create balance in their lives by identifying their priorities.

Students in the day-long event also attended breakout sessions that included meeting with community mentors representing careers from engineering and nursing to law enforcement and politics. There were also presentations on Tai Chi and Finding Balance, and entertainment by district high school dance clubs.



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Central Fresno Community Health Center 4711 W. Ashlan Ave Fresno, CA 93722 559.203.6660	Kerman Unified School District Community Health Center 702 S. Eight Street Kerman, CA 93630 559.364.2975	Golden Plains Unified School District Community Health Center 6171 S. Daniels Ave Tranquillity, CA 93668 559.364.2984	

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Heroes fill Clovis Unified campuses, classrooms

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

EVERY day, heroes surround your kids. You can find them in the classroom, on the playfield, at the wheel of a school bus, preparing hot meals, or behind the keyboard of a computer. These heroes care about your child's success and strive to make every day positive for our students.



Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

Like never before, these heroes are stepping up to make sure that your child's school is open and ready for in-person learning. It is taking a team effort of gargantuan proportions and I am compelled to draw attention to their heroism.

Since early January, we (like every employer) have faced severe staffing shortages caused by increasing numbers of people in quarantine or isolation following a COVID exposure. This experience comes on the heels of more than a year and a half of acrobatic contortions to navigate California's early shutdown, return our students to our school sites earlier than most any other California school district, and the roller coaster ride of changing health and safety requirements.

As the numbers of absences has climbed, our commitment to keeping campuses open and students in class has not wavered. It

can't afford to, not after witnessing the challenges facing students returning from forced COVID shutdowns. Instead, we are focused on wrapping our campuses in layers of mitigation strategies, and keeping

our doors open. At the same time, our resolve has faced a very practical reality: find a way to continue to operate in the face of extreme staffing shortages. Our employees have

risen to the challenge in ways that both impress and humble me. Time after time I have heard from members of our team that they will do everything in their power to keep our kids on campus, but at the

same time I know that they are exhausted and stretched thin by two years of adjusting to pandemic conditions in both their professional and personal lives.

Did you know that of our 6,000+ employees, around 2,000 are teachers and the other 4,000 work behind the scenes to support the delivery of classroom learning and co-curricular opportunities to our students?

Whether it is the team leading our on-going hunt for scarce PPE and COVID testing resources; the teachers and administrators who are adding class coverage to their existing responsibilities; or the employees in our custodial, maintenance, transportation, campus catering, business, and other support positions, everyone is creatively adapting to ensure that the work gets done and our kids can come to school.

This includes making sure that supplies are ordered, bills are paid, technology works, buses roll, classrooms are cleaned and sanitized regularly, and millions of other details needed to pave the way for great education. (In the column below, you can read more about the stories of just some of these incredible heroes, those who are being recognized this month as our Crystal Award winners.)

Heroes do live among us, and I see them every time I enter one of our facilities. They are rock stars who often exist in quiet anonymity, and I invite you to find an opportunity to thank them for everything they are doing to overcome their own exhaustion and anxieties to be fully present in a positive and caring way for our students.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Special to CUSD Today

Hundreds of students learn about teamwork and competition each season through Clovis Unified athletics. Here, Woods and Fort Washington girls' basketball teams face off in the district championship game in January. The Patriots won by 1 point, with each player on both squads giving their all for their team.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

PHIL JACKSON, PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL COACH

Crystal Award winners show Clovis Unified at its best

Clovis Unified will celebrate 15 employees for their exceptional work conducted in the 2020-21 school year with a Crystal Award, the district's highest employee honor. These educators – ranging from teachers and principals to counselors and secretaries – were nominated by their peers or supervisor, and judging panels made up of Clovis Unified employees followed a strict rubric that outlines criteria in selecting the year's recipients.

All district employees, family and friends of the recipients are invited to attend The Crystals on Feb. 23 at the CUSD Performing Arts Center. A gala reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and the ceremony gets underway in the Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are not required and attendance is free.

The Crystal Award is given to those employees whose passion, innovation, dedication and dynamic work ethic far surpasses their job description. These are people who in tangible, measurable ways selflessly help students reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit. They go above and beyond what is expected, and they do so without prompting. They lead and inspire others by their humble nature and heart-felt examples.

Crystal Award winners are each, in their own way, a testament to the exceptional work employees are doing across the district daily, especially during a year where all employees had to pivot and adjust to changing learning conditions due to the pandemic.

We thank these men and women who inspire us all as they do their very best for the students of Clovis Unified. In this issue of CUSD Today, we meet seven winners in alphabetical order with information taken from their nomination. The remaining recipients will be profiled in March in CUSD Today.

By Kathleen Coates
Special to CUSD Today



Vanessa Avitabile
Mountain View Elementary
Sixth-Grade Teacher

Most folks agree – Mountain View Elementary sixth-grade teacher Vanessa Avitabile sparkles and shines in all that she does. Said her award nominator, Vanessa Avitabile "is as Crystal as a Crystal can be!"

Mountain View Principal Monica Everson describes her as a dream teacher. "As a principal," she said, "it doesn't get any better than [Avitabile]."

Avitabile is a self-starter who is dedicated to her students' success. Just last year, she took two workshops to help her transform her classroom and bring about high-interest, real-world learning experiences to life. For example, she turned her classroom into an operating room when teaching about

► Show your support

- The Crystals
- 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23
- CUSD Performing Arts Center
2770 E. International Ave., Fresno
- Free. The public is invited to help us celebrate the year's top employees. No tickets are required.



body systems. Students assumed roles as doctors wearing scrubs and masks while working as a team to save patients using their classroom knowledge.

And when class had to be taught virtually because of COVID, Avitabile was not phased. Her robust lessons moved online, and she also developed a classroom Instagram site to celebrate students' birthdays, holiday parties and build the classroom community. She had students write a note of kindness to each student in the class. She looked out for the whole child.

Avitabile is known for working hard to find innovative solutions, and creating a warm and supportive environment for ALL of her students. That goes for her colleagues and the community as well. Under her leadership, Avitabile helped the sixth-grade teaching team start a rotating teacher system, and she also helped fourth- and fifth-grade teachers do the same.



Jennifer Boman
Clovis North Educational Center
Activities Administrative Assistant

Talk to anyone on the Clovis North Educational Center campus and they will know – and probably love! – Jennifer Boman.

As the Activities Office administrative assistant, Boman stepped up big time during the pandemic when students couldn't be on campus. She supported students through her work as webmaster for both Clovis North High and Granite Ridge Intermediate, and she kept the Broncos linked through social media to keep spirits high. It wasn't uncommon to see her working late evenings.

Since many of the Activities Office routine happenings were halted during the pandemic, Boman dug in and found ways to help other staff at the ed center. From organizing technology to helping streamline the textbook check-in and check-out process through distance learning, Boman went

beyond her job description and jumped in where needed. She could be found helping field calls in the front office and training new and substitute administrative assistants.

This all-around go-to gal earned the title of "Queen of the School," and is seen as the heart and soul of the Clovis North Educational Center.

She volunteers her time generously whether it is to be a liaison with the Bronco Foundation, to help with Clovis North's graduation or to decorate a softball stadium for a Valley Championship game during summer break. When asked why she does these things, she says simply, "Students deserve it!"



Shareen Crosby
Benefits Department Risk and
Benefits Manager

Shareen Crosby is the district's Risks and Benefits manager and truly embodies the highest of Clovis Unified standards in all she does.

After COVID-19 struck, the district had to comply with new, unfamiliar state mandates. Crosby took it upon herself to develop methods to track important data. With little time, she created new systems for COVID testing, vaccine clinics and completion of all newly required reports. She exceeded all expectations.

Crosby – foreseeing the need for testing with a quick turnaround time for employees – commandeered a retired school bus, worked with the district's maintenance and transportation departments, stripped the bus's seats and outfitted it with a generator and COVID testing equipment. This allowed the team at Clovis Unified's health center MiCare to process tests on the bus and employees were able to drive up to be tested.

When legislation was passed requiring back tracing of cases and contact tracing, she took on the job of surveying all sites and contacting school nurses and employees to verify information met the new criteria.

Keep in mind she did all this while working as a benefits analyst for employees and as president of the Clovis District Office Employee Association. She also made efforts to keep morale up. She brought in her own items to decorate the district's lobby for the holidays, and she wore a bacon costume for employee drive-thru breakfasts that she helped organize, which included breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls, and of course, bacon!

► Please see *Winners*, Page 10

— ABOUT US —

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

Circulation: 34,000.
Funding: All costs associated with producing, printing and mailing CUSD Today are entirely funded by our advertisers. To show your appreciation of their support, we ask you to consider patronizing these businesses and services as the need arises.

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

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Campus Club: Art component of program always growing, changing

FROM PAGE ONE
more than 100 staff members who serve about 25% of the district's kindergarteners.

The reinvented curriculum is shared on the new website. There teachers can easily pull daily and monthly themed activities that include art, music education and literacy that benefits Clovis Unified's littlest learners. It includes monthly themes, book lists, literacy focus, activities, songs, cooking projects, and, those lessons on renowned artists.

Vincent Van Gogh was the featured artist in January, and children used tin foil, paint and Q-tips to swirl and explore the shapes and colors of his works.

Cedarwood kindergarten teacher Dominic Peter became both artist and art, as he got nearly as much paint on himself as on his paper when doing his study.

"I made different color swirls. I mixed the colors. I like to use lots of colors," Dominic said while observing and creating his own inspired Van Gogh "Starry Night."

Nearby, in another corner



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Above: Lily Hall uses a light table to create a ship while studying a Van Gogh painting. At right: After studying a bowl of pears, Clark Mercado shapes Play-Doh to replicate the fruit.

of the room, fellow classmate Lily Hall used a light table to create a ship while studying another Van Gogh painting for inspiration.

"I am making a ship, like in the painting. I like to fill it all in, using all the colors," Lily said.

For the new art education approach, students are exposed to artists, genres and specific art techniques in an age-appropriate curriculum. Lessons range from abstract to globally recognized folk-art, and artists and style are chosen based on those the

children can experiment with.

Although an art component was part of the Campus Club program since its inception in the 1990's, Scott asked instructors what worked and what didn't and then how would they reimagine the curriculum.

"At that time, the art program was comprised of blackline activity pages," Scott said. "We now strive toward a more process versus product type of experience for our kindergarten students. Choosing artists, styles in

which the children can observe and create their own interpretations is a goal. I don't ever want them to feel that they must make a copy of a Van Gogh painting. But we want to teach them to see colors and shapes and then create their own work through painting, shaping, weaving. They learn about various artists, learn about history through a painting, nature through a watercolor. Most importantly, they learn to see and that lasts a lifetime."

The changes have been dramatically illustrated in what embellish refrigerators in district homes: bright splashes of color, collages and other kindergarten masterpiece.

"Students are learning to see the world around them, to use their senses to experience art. They have the freedom to create and interpret art in their own way, gain knowledge and share this with their families," Scott said.

In previous months, students were introduced to artists as varied as Georges Seurat and local artist Mar-

“Students are learning to see the world around them, to use their senses to experience art.”

Shera Scott
CUSD Campus Club
kindergarten supervisor



garet Hudson. In February they are being introduced to artist Matisse, using crayons, paint and construction paper. Concentrating on the artist's cutwork, the children will learn to use scissors to create art as well as increase their fine motor skills.

"Art is a valuable teaching opportunity for self-expression, confidence and creativity," said Andi Courter, a Campus Club lead instructor at Cedarwood. "Participating in projects provide children with skills to communicate with one another and to interact with the world around them."

Said Lincoln Elementary

instructor Reve Buckle: "Showcasing work they've done and learning what others have done seems to give them a sense of pride that is truly wonderful to witness."

As Scott's vision for the program takes hold, she continues to keep it evolving. Staff feedback resulted recently in adding stand-alone themes, such as Art of Disney that explores animation, history of Disney art, art careers and creative student art experiences.

"The art component of the program is always growing and changing," she said. "In my opinion it will never be finished."

Parade:

FROM PAGE ONE

- Avery Ramirez, Clovis East, Clarinet
- Savannah Wightman, Clovis North, Piccolo

Students from across the country audition for a spot in the Honor Band, which assembles once every four years to participate in the Rose Parade. Originally scheduled to march in the 2021 Rose Parade (which was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic), this band's invitation was extended to 2022 and included 2020 and 2021 graduates.

Preparation began in March 2021, with online sessions for band members and

faculty to meet one another and begin sectional rehearsals.

Students had regular music assignments, meetings and assessments. In addition to the New Year's Day Rose Parade, the band also performed at the Tournament of Roses Bandfest at Pasadena City College and at Disneyland.

"I am very proud of all our students from CUSD who took the time to prepare an audition and were then accepted to participate," David Lesser said. "I can say without question being part of the National Honor Band in the Rose Parade will be life-changing for these students."

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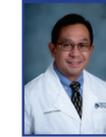
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NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

16 Students of Promise to receive scholarships

Sixteen students representing all Clovis Unified high schools were selected by the Foundation for Clovis Schools as Students of Promise scholarship recipients. They will be honored at the foundation's Students of Promise Dinner March 23 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

Each student has a unique story, but all have persevered during extreme challenges. Despite the obstacles and difficulties, each one has demonstrated a responsibility and commitment to school.

Recognized during their junior year, Student of Promise honorees will receive a \$2,000 scholarship for use in post-secondary education; the gift encourages them to enter their senior year and finish strong.

The 2022 recipients are: from Buchanan High, Kamron Murray, Briel Rodriguez, Priscilla Gonzeles; Clovis High, Pratham Singh, Kristen Mendez, Jesus Rodriguez; Clovis West High, Karen Ly; Clovis East High, Mario Hernandez Garcia, Jordan Akira Gifford, Angelina Jones, Christian Esquivel Pizana, Alyssa Murillo, Ethel Asequia, Ayane Juliana Corin Isleta-Orozco; Clovis North High School, Monique Rodriguez; and Gateway High, Aaliyah Angel Nolan-Young.

Look for more on this year's honorees in the March edition of *CUSD Today*.

CW's generous readers

Clovis West's National English Honors Society broke its own record recently by collecting 1,250 books in its annual book drive. The large collection was donated to Reading Heart of Fresno, a nonprofit program dedicated to serving children and adults with limited access to books in schools and hospitals. Books included young adult series like "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," "The Remnant Chronicles," "Hunger Games," and "Harry Potter; children's picture books like "Bernstein Bears" and "Dr. Seuss," and high-school level books such as "The Old Man and the Sea," "The Alchemist" and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Club advisor Jeffrey Williams said he is



Photo special to *CUSD Today*.

Clovis High Kayli Gibbons was named Miss Clovis Outstanding Teen and Clovis East High student Hana Tilksew is the new Miss Fresno County Outstanding Teen.

Outstanding teens from CUSD

Congratulations to two Clovis Unified students who recently earned local scholarship competition titles and are now preparing to compete for a state title.

Clovis East High student Hana Tilksew was crowned Miss Fresno County Outstanding Teen and Clovis High student Kayli Gibbons is the new Miss Clovis Outstanding Teen.

"This experience was all new to me," Kayli said, "I have learned and grown more in the last six months than I could have ever imagined."

Hana agreed, describing the many ways she prepared for the competition and how it has helped her grow. "Success is more

than wearing a pretty crown or owning nice things; it's being proud of the person in the mirror," she said.

The competition categories included interview, poise, fitness and talent, and the teens dedicated several hours each week preparing.

In addition to their new duties representing their titles and preparing for future competition, both are active in their studies and activities.

Hana keeps involved at Clovis East and enjoys dance, reading and writing. Kayli plays for Clovis High's tennis team, is part of student leadership and serves as Junior Class President.

proud of the 35 student members, who also recently took part in a Beautify Fresno event in the Clovis West Area.

Wolfpack family unites

During the recent Unity Week on the Reagan Educational Center campus, Clovis East High and Reyburn Intermediate students and staff took part in cultural and educational activities designed to create awareness and appreciation of the many cultures represented there.

"We want our students to understand

that we are more alike than we are different," says REC Activities Director Sarah Bures.

Activities included daily informational messages, such as the Wolfpack Pledge about respect and dignity; learning basic phrases in the most frequently spoken languages on campus; and lunchtime events – such as cultural games with cultural candies as the prizes and cultural dance performances – that focus on unity, diversity and empathy. A day was also designated as a cultural showcase dress-up day.

Originally created by the REC Diversity

Education Council, the goal of Unity Week is to celebrate the variety of cultures represented on the campus and increase connectedness, inclusiveness and kindness among students by spreading cultural awareness, encouraging cultural appreciation, and teaching empathy.



Photo special to *CUSD Today*.

Clark Intermediate student Ryleigh Brown, standing, began a movement on her campus passing out spontaneous candygrams with words of encouragement. Others are now joining her in making cards.

Kindness is contagious at Clark

Clark Intermediate student Ryleigh Brown took her leadership teacher Jimmy Rivera's Positivity Project lessons on empathy to the next level – and now she has classmates joining her in daily acts of kindness on campus!

It began in the fall when, after lessons from Rivera about empathy and also finding herself with a lot of Halloween candy, Ryleigh had the idea to share her candy with other students. She made notes with kind messages to go with the treats and she handed them out to kids during lunch. Ryleigh said she was nervous at first, approaching several students she didn't know or hang out with, but it made her feel good to see them smile.

"I can make a difference by committing a simple act of kindness," Ryleigh said of what she learned. She continued making her candy-grams and other students began to help her. They are now passed out daily – maybe to a student who looks like he or she is having a difficult day, a teacher who is very busy or a custodian making the campus clean – in an effort to help people feel cared for and appreciated.

"I know that the actions of these students have encouraged their teachers and me," said Principal Teresa Barber.

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CTE pathways offered at all CUSD high schools

By Karen M. Boone
CTE Learning Director

As eighth- through 11th-graders soon begin registering for 2022-23 classes, this segment of CTE Corner previews some of the 21 pathway courses available for students.

EDUCATION PATHWAY:

Offered at all five comprehensive sites. Students interested in joining the field of education as a teacher one day can take classes sophomore year and remain in the pathway through senior year. Courses offered include Honors (weighted) English classes at the 10th and 11th grade and dual-enrolled college credit at the 11th and 12th grades.

Grade 10: Exploration of Child & Adolescent Literature (HP): This English Language Arts college preparatory course is integrated with the Education Pathway standards. This course allows students to utilize Language Arts skills to investigate and evaluate the value and purpose of world literature for children and adolescents. Students synthesize their knowledge of the developmental stages of physical, intellectual, social and emotional development with their understanding of appropriate teaching materials and readings for each of the stages.

Grade 11: Contemporary Issues in Education (HP): This course is a college preparatory 11th grade English course is also integrated with the Education pathway standards. Students conduct research, closely read and analyze complex texts, evaluate instructional methodology and philosophy, and create a portfolio of reflections, activities, and compositions that, when synthesized, serve as the foundation for three capstone projects.

Grades 11 or 12: ROP Careers in Child Development (P) which includes Dual Enrollment with Child Development 1 (3 units). This course prepares students to work in fields dealing with children from birth to age 12. Students learn the organization and procedures involved with a preschool or day care center, as well as techniques for instructing, guiding and caring for children in a childcare program. Through off-campus internships, field trips and classroom speakers, students will learn firsthand about career opportunities that involve children.

Grades 11 or 12: ROP Careers in Education (P) which includes Dual Enrollment with Education 10 (3 units). Students in this class study the nature and scope of the school system, the duties and opportunities of the professional teacher, factors relative to success in teaching, and credentialing requirements. Students participate in early field placement at Clovis Unified elementary and intermediate schools and

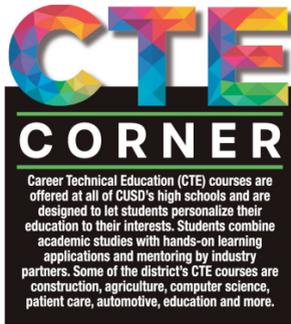


Photo Special to CUSD Today.

Clovis East students Aaliyah Bell, Sky Lee and Christy Moua, who are taking child development courses in the Education Pathway, visit the Clovis Unified Teacher Center to learn about tools and resources available to CUSD teachers.

have the opportunity for employment in summer programs. Students prepare for and take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST).

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING (BIM):

A new addition to the popular Building and Construction Trades pathway offered at Clovis High. This single-period introductory course introduces students to architectural drafting, design and modeling. Utilizing industry software and technologies to visualize projects, students gain a deeper understanding of how a project moves from design through construction. In the BIM class, a student may create his own zombie apocalypse shelter, design a floor plan for a tiny home that fits within a shipping container, or create a digital 3-dimensional model of a house from a set of blueprints.

BIM combines creative and technical skills, so it appeals both to those who like the arts and those who prefer math and science. Students who will enjoy taking BIM are creative, like solving problems, are curious about how things work, and like working on computers. As part of the course, students are given the opportunity to explore careers within the industry that align with their unique interests and skills. Because BIM can open doors to several different educational or career opportunities, many students may find the class well-suited to them.

INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DESIGN

A new course offered at Clovis North as part of the

In the Spotlight:

CTE PATHWAYS

QUICK FACTS:

- 21 CTE Pathways in CUSD – for full list: cusd.com/CTEpathways.aspx
- Enroll now for Fall 2022

Manufacturing and Product Development pathway. Students practice in class what fabricators, engineers and manufacturers of products really do—observing, questioning, experimenting with designs and drawing conclusions. Questioning and thinking logically and critically are emphasized.

Students discuss and collaborate through the engineering and design of the form and function of solutions to problems. Learning content is important, but helping students to think like a fabricator, engineer and manufacturer (critically, logically, using justifications for arguments) is the focus of this course.

Join us this Fall!

Interested in any of these courses or any of Clovis Unified's 21 Career Technical Education pathways? Students can take CTE classes at schools other than their homeschool but must provide their own transportation. See your counselor or the CTE counselor at your school to enroll!



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Winners: These employees go above and beyond what is expected

FROM PAGE 5

Kelly K. Eichmann

Clovis East High CTE/ROP Patient Care Pathway Instructor



Clovis East High School Patient Care Pathway instructor Dr. Kelly Eichmann didn't let the grass grow under her feet during the pandemic when in-person classes were cancelled. She used that time to further develop her Patient Skills Lab to provide students with real-world experiences when they returned. Her room features patient beds with hospital curtains, IV poles, an EKG machine and even a crash cart just like hospitals.

That state-of-the-art environment allowed 34 of her students to be certified in Basic Life Support and 94 students to be certified in OSHA health careers this year. "Dr. E," as she's affectionately called by her students, took it upon herself to take courses to become certified as a Basic Life Support trainer so that she could oversee the certification process and students would not have to go to an outside agency.

During the pandemic, she challenged her healthcare students to find ways to support those impacted in the healthcare industry. Whether it was notes and cookies for medical workers, or cheerful pictures and positive messages for senior citizens in care facilities, students continued to learn from Dr. Eichmann the power of caring.

Dr. Eichmann began a partnership with Clovis High's CTE construction pathway, allowing 30 construction students to learn basic first aid for injuries from her Clovis East healthcare students. She also began the annual Clovis East Blood Drive.

Leeann Errotabere

Purchasing Department Purchasing Director

"The PPE Queen of the San Joaquin?" That's quite a title. But it is one longtime Clovis Unified employee Leeann Errotabere earned.



Errotabere is the director of Purchasing, and when the pandemic hit, she quickly thought ahead in all her purchasing efforts to find ways to get personal protection equipment that she predicted would become scarce down the road. Think hand sanitizer by the gallons, masks and more! She stretched every dollar through creative problem solving, and Errotabere's diligent research resulted in getting many items for free through grants and relief programs.

Errotabere's motivation for her preplanning was simple: to be ready with what supplies would be needed – whether it was Lysol wipes or COVID test kits – so that Clovis Unified's 43,000 students could safely come back into classrooms as soon as possible.

Errotabere also made sure her team felt supported. When warehouse employees worked on site while other teams were remote, she was by their side. She met the morning crews who were receiving and delivering food, instructional materials and electronic devices throughout the district. She often brought them breakfast, and she even befriended many Amazon and UPS delivery drivers.

Under her leadership in 2020-21, district Warehouse pickups and deliveries increased by 45%, and they received 40% more items than the previous year. Her team processed 16,000 assets, double the prior year, and processed 3% more purchase orders.

Keep in mind – Errotabere did all this despite supply-chain issues, staffing shortages and delivery delays. Her work literally helped every student and staff member in the district.

And the Crystals goes to ...

- Vanessa Avitabile, Mountain View Elementary Sixth Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Boman, Clovis North Educational Center Activities Administrative Assistant III
- Shareen Crosby, Benefits Department Risk and Benefits Manager
- Kelly K. Eichmann, Ph.D., M.S., R.D.N., Clovis East High CTE/ROP Patient Care Pathway Instructor
- Leeann Errotabere, Purchasing Department, Purchasing Director
- Sean Ford, Clovis North Educational Center Guidance Learning Director
- Ryan Gettman, Bud Rank Elementary Principal
- Kacey Gibson, Janet Young Elementary Principal
- Gabriel Hughes, Weldon Elementary and Clark Intermediate Student Relations Liaison
- Daryl Katoch, Alta Sierra Intermediate Learning Director
- Kevin Miller, Clovis North Educational Center Transition Coordinator
- Dan Pearce, Buchanan High CTE Video Production Instructor
- Teri Smart, Gateway High/Alternative Education School Secretary I
- Sonna Swiderski, Sierra Outdoor School Office Supervisor
- Tammy Williams, Miramonte Elementary Teacher on Special Assignment

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A SEASON OF GIVING

CUSD students and staff show care for others

CUSD Today

Clovis Unified students and staff know how to be generous. During the holiday season and through the winter months, literally thousands of books were collected, donations of food provided and countless hours of volunteer time given in order to support others in the community.

“School canned food drives are important because they help to raise awareness about hunger in the community, they motivate and inspire others to participate, and they serve as an act of kindness and compassion to help those in need,” said Mountain View Elementary Principal Monica Everson of her school’s efforts.

Fourteen Clovis Unified schools partnered with Clovis Rotary Club’s annual food drive with a mission to distribute food boxes to hundreds of local families. The collaborative effort resulted in 45,000 items which benefited 475 families.

Clovis Unified students helped sort the thousands of items into bins of soup, sauces, fruits, vegetables, cereal and more on Dec. 18 before a new crew of volunteers helped pack the items into large, overflowing boxes for families who picked them up the following day at a drive-thru event held at P-R Farms.

Schools involved were Buchanan, Clovis, Clovis North, Gateway high schools; Alta Sierra and Granite Ridge intermediate schools; and Clovis, Copper Hills, Dry Creek, Fort Washington, Mountain View, Oraze, Riverview and Weldon elementary schools.

Below, find a sampling of the many student-driven events that helped others within the district and community.



Buchanan High – GENEROSITY: Buchanan Activities office, Bear Necessities Student Store, Buchanan Yoga Club and the student body collected 4,600 items for Saint James Episcopal Church food pantry, 2,800 books and more than 700 new children’s books that benefited Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Marjaree Mason Center.



Clovis East Area – CONVOY OF FOOD DONATIONS: A police-escorted convoy of trucks from the Clovis East High area delivered 56,507 units of food to the Central California Food Bank following the T-wolves’ collection drive. The generous community – made up of Clovis East High, Reyburn Intermediate, Boris, Fancher Creek, Freedom, Miramonte, Oraze, Reagan, Temperance-Kutner and Young elementary schools – collected flats of canned soups, bottles of water, bins of dried beans, boxes of cereal, and much more.

The “Clovis East Area Convoy” included about a dozen staff members driving their pickup trucks and a bus from the Fresno County Rural Transit driven by a driver from Build Your Dreams that was filled with donations. Motorcade escorts from the Fresno Police Department guided them to the Food Bank.

Clovis Elementary – GRATITUDE: Clovis Elementary celebrated Heritage Week learning about ethnic cultures while studying gratitude through the Positivity Project. “We took this opportunity to get to know our community and express how thankful we are,” said Principal Donelle Kellom. Clovis students donated over 1,700 non-perishable items and 700 grateful grams.

Clovis North Educational Center – COMPASSION: Four-thousand students on the CNEC campus were touched by the thoughtfulness of peers in their leadership classes. Each student walked into class on finals week to find candy grams with notes of encouragement for the week ahead. Other

projects included a food drive that collected more than 2,800 items that SSSA and Transition Teams gave to area families; and the Secret Santa Project in which CNEC staff provided gifts for students in the Transition program.



Clovis West High – MAKING IT BEAUTIFUL: Clovis West’s National English Honors Society Club advisor Jeffrey Williams said he is proud of the 35 student members who took part in a Beautify Fresno event in the Clovis West Area. The volunteer work included cleaning up areas and removing trash and litter.



CUSD District Office – BETTER TOGETHER: Boxes filled with all the fixings to make a Thanksgiving meal were given to families in need of assistance in Clovis Unified thanks to a food drive from the Clovis Unified District Offices East and West, and teams from the Professional Development Building, DSB, Technology Service Center, Professional Learning Center, School Services and Student Attendance, Graphic Arts, Warehouse, Plant Operations, Transportation, Campus Catering and the New Covenant Church student leadership group.

Freedom Elementary – TEAMWORK: Freedom’s student council members and Human Relations committee worked together to host Freedom’s annual food and Toys for Tots drive. Over 1,800 cans and 14 boxes of toys were collected.

Garfield Elementary – JOY OF LOVING: Garfield held its 24th Annual Giving Tree project themed after Shel Silverstein’s, The Giving Tree. One-hundred-fifty students at a sister school received new clothing and toys from their



friends across the district. “We do the Giving Tree because it gives presents to people who may not get gifts during the holidays and I like to help the community,” said student Matty Weber.



Mountain View Elementary – KINDNESS: Mountain View Student Council members led their campus in collecting 2,000 cans to contribute to Clovis Rotary’s food drive. “It is important because it helps so many people in need,” said student Liza-Jayne Madsen.



Oraze Elementary – CITIZENSHIP: Bearcat families donated 3,607 non-perishable items to the Clovis Rotary’s food drive. Principal Robyn Snyder said she’s proud of her students. “It is not only a way to teach our students about caring for others, but also a perfect way for our students to model being good citizens!”



Woods Elementary – BOXES FOR TROOPS: Leadership students at Woods decorated 150 boxes for Blue Star Moms that were to be filled with gifts and shipped to troops who were not coming home for the holiday season. Also at Woods, students and families participated in the Giving Tree that resulted in 69 families at a sister school receiving wrapped gifts and food boxes. The principal of the sister school said: “The kindness and gratitude from the Woods community provides our families with hope and joy. We are thankful for the continued partnership.”



Alta Sierra Intermediate – JOY: Alta Sierra helped more students than anticipated during their giving season. Beginning in November, the campus contributed over 3,000 food items to Clovis Rotary’s food drive; its Coat Drive produced 12 bags full so local students can be wrapped in warmth; and Caring and Sharing Peer Counseling gifted 48 families presents and food. Buchanan Area Transition Coordinator Marcos Martinez said he heard a recipient student say: “Someone did this for me? No way, this is really for me? I can’t believe someone would really do this.”

New principal named for Clark Intermediate

By Kelly Avants
Chief Communications Officer

► BOARD BRIEFS

Jan. 12

The Clovis Unified Governing Board approved updates to the district’s existing dress and grooming policy effective immediately, and to its school start and end times effective Fall 2022. (See full story on Page 1).

Members of the Inter School Council (ISC) attended the meeting and gave board members an update on their annual leadership camp held in August, their work on a Habitat for Humanity project to serve the community, and annual dances hosted by ISC for students with special needs.

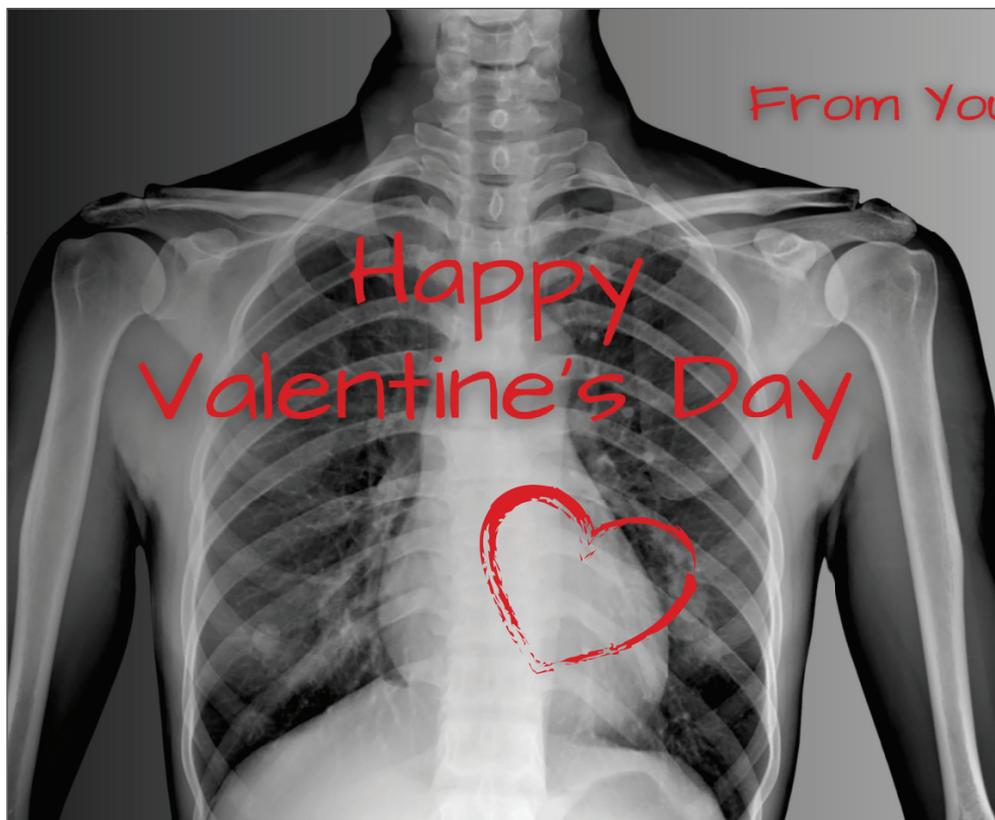
In other action, the board:

- Approved the appointment of Matt Hernandez, current deputy principal at Clovis High, to the position of principal at Clark Intermediate, effective July 1. Hernandez assumes the role from retiring Principal Teresa Barber.
- Approved new courses of study for use at the district’s intermediate and high schools for the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the annual Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and the categorical budget for each school for the 2021-22 school year and authorized each school to implement its categorical program.

■ Approved agreements with Fresno State for the paraprofessional teacher development program and with the Office of Community Based Learning; and with West Ed and Nancy Akhavan – Coordinated Intervention Services to support the district’s Coordinated Intervention Services (CCEIS) Plan.

- Ratified the sale/disposal of surplus equipment.
- Accepted the quarterly summary showing zero Williams Complaints received by the district.

Complete minutes, agendas and videos of meetings are available online at www.cusd.com. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is Feb. 16, with the public portion of the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.



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