

School News



Covering the Tehachapi Unified School District

Volume 1, Issue 1

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

January / February 2020

TUSD Highlights Student Success!



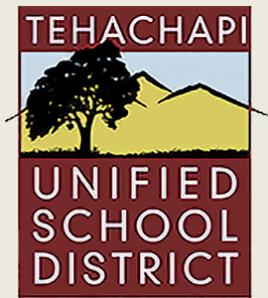
Jacobsen Middle School students, Kennedy Perkins and Rylie Jelleschitz, dedicated two months to collecting cans and bottles for the JMS recycling program. They raised \$250.00 to purchase books from the book fair for the Salvation Army.



The THS Girl's Golf Team finished the season with 4 wins and 2 losses; and became Fall League Champions. Furthermore, Senior Diletta Rocca was one of the 80 individuals invited to compete in the CIF Central Section Championships.



Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Uncompromising Excellence

Sipping with the Supe

The public is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee with Stacey Larson-Everson, Superintendent of Tehachapi Unified School District for an opportunity to have a conversation and answer questions about our school district.



Kohnen's Country Bakery
125 W. Tehachapi Blvd.

7:30-9:30 a.m.
every **3rd Wednesday** of the month



Congratulations Class of 2019!



287 students graduated from TUSD during commencement ceremonies held in June 2019. The class of 2019 has an impressive list of academic accolades and launched exciting plans for college, career and life long success. We are proud of the Class of 2019 and wish them continued success!

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SUPERINTENDENT



**Stacey
Larson-Everson**

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Winter Break. It is hard to believe that 2020 has begun and that we are already half-way through the school year! When I am out and about at schools and in classrooms, I see our smiling, bright, energetic and accomplished students in action. It reinforces for me why we are all here: our students! I am very proud of how team TUSD comes together to support

student success and want to thank our teachers, staff, administrators and parents for their many hours of hard work on behalf of our students.

As we brought 2019 to a close, TUSD proudly opened the new 13,175 square-foot 6th Grade Wing at Jacobsen Middle School. The new center provides our students and teachers with 10 new state of the art classrooms, which include smart TV's that allow for teachers and students to write, draw, show videos and pull information from the Internet in support of student learning.

As the school year began this year, we launched a new tradition, the monthly Sipping with the Supe, held the third Wednesday of each month, at a local business, from 7:30 - 9:30 AM. The purpose of this monthly gathering is to encourage family and community members to drop in for a conversation about our schools and educational programs. I have greatly enjoyed meeting many families



and community members as well as hearing directly from them regarding their questions, concerns and suggestions. Please stop by and join me on an up-coming Wednesday, I look forward to meeting you!

I encourage you to stop by and visit one of our schools; each one is unique and offers outstanding educational programs for our students. I am excited and proud to lead Tehachapi Unified School District and call Tehachapi my home. I wish you all the best in 2020!





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Covering the
TEHACHAPI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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We are pleased to begin publishing the excellence from the Tehachapi Unified School District.

In this issue you will read articles on subjects from Deck the Study Halls, A Reading Adventure Board, What is PBIS?, Planning for Success, and much more..enjoy!

On page 10 is a Word Search Contest with a twist. Entry is open to all ages including adults!

If your child is an avid reader and would like to be a guest student columnist reviewing his/her favorite books, email me for details.

Our next issue is March 11.



Food Services

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2100



Hortencia Tapia
Supervisor

Dedicated to Health and Well-Being

The Tehachapi Food Services department is made up of a team that is dedicated to improving

student's health and well-being. We support learning by promoting healthy habits. Together we can help reduce child hunger and improve student achievement.

We participate in the USDA National School Breakfast and Lunch program at all 5 of our sites and the Child and Adult Food Program at Tompkins for After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program.



During the 2018-2019 school year we served the following numbers of reimbursable meals.

Breakfast	127,715
Lunches	221,530
Snacks	23,325
Supper	15,326

Student Services

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2100



Dennis Ferrell
Director

First Semester Happenings

On the first day of the 2019–20 instructional year, school started for nearly 600 students with special needs. TUSD offers classes at six District schools, including Tehachapi High, Jacobsen Middle, Cummings Valley Elementary, Golden Hills Elementary and Tompkins Elementary.

On Special Friends Day in September, eight SDC classes attended the annual event held at the Kern County Fair in Bakersfield. Nearly 80 students participated, along with plenty of aides, teachers and parent volunteers. Students were transported on District buses and vans supported by drivers and riders.

On Halloween, seven SDC classes visited the District office for a fun and delicious trick-or-treat activity. Students went from department to department gathering goodies from the office staff. Students came in costumes and

enjoyed the offices that were decorated to celebrate the occasion.

Tehachapi Unified has an outstanding WorkAbility I grant-funded program to support our students' transition to adult life. The 2019 Job Fair was held, featuring nearly 15 vendors and agencies for students and families to connect with for services offered beyond high school. TUSD's food truck was on-site with free hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies.

Finally, the Holiday Lights at the California Living Museum took place in December. This holiday event, sponsored by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, is an annual event that is very popular and well attended. Students with autism and severe physical challenges can bring their immediate family members and enter this extravaganza of lights event in the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m., with no admission charge. The District had over 50 students with their families in attendance.

Technology

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2100



Ryan McKay
Director

Review

Technology at Tehachapi Unified School District saw a lot of changes over this last year. We saw a change in our Internet connection bringing us up to 1GBps with another upgrade planned to move us to 5GBps. These upgrades give us a better experience on the Internet. We also made some foundational changes to the network and the way our computers communicate

back to our server room. These changes weren't something you would notice while using the computers, but lay a groundwork for us to improve and utilize more technology.

The 6th grade wing at Jacobsen was built this year and included smart boards in every room. Teachers and students have been enjoying utilizing new ways to learn! The technology department ran our first inventory this year which has paved the way for our first purchase of our computer replacement program! 90 new computers have been ordered and will be making their way to their

new homes for teachers and staff throughout the district. Multiple Chromebook carts have been ordered and delivered this year across the district for students to take advantage of in the classroom.

Jacobsen's phone system was upgraded and is now using a VOIP system. The new phone system is working and we are working on integrating the bell system to it now. Once that is complete, we will be moving Cummings Valley's phone system over to the new system next.

It's been an exciting year and we're looking forward to seeing how the classroom evolves over the next few years!



Instructional Services

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2100



Scott Heitman
Chief Administrator
of Instructional
Services

New, Exciting Programs!

The Tehachapi Unified School District's Instructional Services Department has been busy implementing an array of new and exciting programs. We are excited to roll out our new science curriculum! New science materials were accessible this fall for preview at each elementary site for both teachers and parents. Comment cards were made available for parents and staff to provide feedback, which will inform our professional-development and training schedule.

Full implementation began in January 2020.

Instructional Services is also collaborating with the Next Generation Science Standards planning team and site administrators to provide training, support and direction for all transitional-kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers. Throughout the month of January, teachers at each elementary site will be provided training and planning time as they get familiar with their new curricula.

Instructional Services is pleased to announce new partnerships with multiple vendors. These vendors will provide templates for our school plans for student achievement, school accountability, report cards and comprehensive school-safety plans for each school site as well as templates for the English-Learner Master Plan and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Another partnership offers support and direction with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). Accurate CALPADS information has become increasingly more important as the California School Dashboard reflects the data entered into CALPADS.

Instructional Services will also implement an internet-based software program to support TUSD in meeting the needs of our English-learner students. This software program will provide the opportunity for staff to easily view a student's level, status and history and to record notes. This comprehensive program will capture everything staff needs to know about their English learners, all in one place.



Linda Quiroga
Elementary
Coordinator of
Learning and
Achievement

Night of Families and Literature

Fourth- and fifth-grade students performed for families and the community at the district Oral Language Competition in December, at the district boardroom. Competitors are the winners of their school-site competitions. Students presented pieces from published literature in which they represented themselves as the characters in their story to relay the selection orally to the audience. Their performances were

entertaining and heartfelt. Categories included Serious Solo, Humorous Solo, Serious Duo, Humorous Duo and Verse Choir.

"I thought it would be great to do this with my friends, and a lot of fun, too," said Gianna Moreno, age 10. "Our teachers helped us a lot."

Performances included such pieces as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *A Porcupine Named Fluffy*, *Caps for Sale* and *The Napping House*. Winners moved on to the regional competition later in December. Winners from regional will move on to the final county competition in February.



Instructional Services *(Continued from Page 7)*



Bonny Porter
*Secondary Coordinator
of Learning and
Achievement*

Professional Development

Through professional development, educators keep current on instructional trends as well as learn new skills that will help increase student performance. On Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m., our Instructional Services Team offers “Workshop Wednesdays” to help provide our teachers with new ways to improve their knowledge

about topics such as Thinking Maps, Questioning Strategies, English language development, math instruction, and social emotional development.

Teacher experts and our academic coaches guide these trainings. Secondary math and history teachers have also received additional professional development during the school day as provided by our Kern County Office of Schools (KCSOS) specialists and professional trainers. In addition, TUSD

instructional coaches, in coordination with KCSOS, are now in the process of Next Generation Science Standards training.

Professional development is an important component of the successful educational experience for the students in our community. The TUSD Instructional Services Team is proud to offer our teachers high-quality professional development opportunities.



Transportation

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2100



Robbi Miller
Supervisor

Serving Students on the Road

The Tehachapi Unified School District Transportation Department provides transportation services to all eligible students while maintaining safety as our top priority. We transport an average of 1,200 students daily and cover an area of 550 square miles.

Buses are on the road by 6 a.m., and the last students are dropped off at 4:30 p.m. We run 10 general education routes and nine special education routes daily. All of our special education routes have trained aides to assist students. In addition to home-to-school transportation, we cover all athletics trips and extracurricular trips requested by district schools.

All of our transportation employees are dedicated to providing the best and safest transportation services possible. Our drivers must pass background checks and receive extensive specialized training, including certification in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and

atrial defibrillator use and crisis prevention (CPI) training. Drivers are required to participate in 10 hours of in-service training annually on topics such as assisting with student loading and unloading, student evacuation procedures, student behavior and emergency procedures, and behind-the-wheel training in a school bus. All school bus and van drivers are required to participate in random drug and alcohol testing, as regulated by federal guidelines. They also undergo frequent driving record checks provided by the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Our fleet mechanics maintain all school buses and district vehicles to the highest safety and service standards, according to regulations set forth by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). This includes bus safety inspections and services every 45 days or 3,000 miles and required annual terminal inspections, which are performed by CHP. Our mechanics and aides participate in all bus driver safety training and testing to ensure that our transportation department provides the safest and most efficient service for our students.

Cummings Valley *Elementary*

24220 Bear Valley Rd., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2190 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/11



Traci Minjares
Principal

Camp Cummings Valley

When we say, “It’s Always an Adventure at Cummings Valley School,” we’re not just referring to surprise power outages or snowstorms! This year, the entire campus has adopted a Camp Cummings Valley theme to encourage a spirit of adventure and

exploration in everything we do here at school, especially reading.

Each week, teachers report a cumulative total of pages read, and those totals are recorded on our Reading Adventure Board. Students can track where their class is as they hit reading goals and virtual landmarks, including waterfalls and ranger stations. Classes are rewarded with a prize for each landmark reached. Intermediate students also record their pages read, and the top 75 readers at the end of the year will be rewarded with a fun campout party!



In keeping with the theme, the office is decked out in fun camping décor. Stop by any time to check out Camp Cummings Valley!

Golden Hills *Elementary*

20215 Park Rd., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2180 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/12



Kendra Bailey
Principal

What is PBIS?

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. PBIS is an approach to teaching and supporting positive behaviors in effort to meet the needs of all students. Golden Hills Elementary School uses this schoolwide approach to student discipline to create and maintain a safe and positive learning environment.

The foundation of PBIS at Golden Hills focuses on five schoolwide expectations: EAGLES Act responsibly, Give respect, Listen attentively, Encourage others, and Safety first. We have additional expectations for the specific common areas of the school. At GHES, we are intentional about teaching these expectations and recognizing our students for following them. Students earn Eagle Eggs for following expectations. These paper eggs are entered into a weekly raffle for the treasure box and a monthly raffle for rewards such as lunch with the principal. They are used as currency for fun and exciting quarterly events.

The goal is to teach, encourage, and recognize safe and positive behavior. Our staff and students love our PBIS program!



Jacobsen *Middle School*

711 Anita Dr., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2150 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/10



Sharon Heitman
Principal

New Wing

The 2019–20 school year began with anticipation for the first-ever class to occupy Jacobsen Middle School's brand-new wing! Our sixth-grade teachers have been long awaiting this dream now turned reality.

The idea came from previous principal Paul Kaminski about five years ago. The building project was finally complete and ready for sixth-graders just into the second quarter of school. There are 10 new classrooms, each equipped with interactive boards and innovative 21st century furniture. Sixth-graders moved in November, with the ribbon cutting and open house also held in November for parents and community members.



The new wing, also referred to as the 400 Hall, has been an especially welcome addition to students and teachers during recent inclement weather, as they can now be inside! This new wing has also brought a hopeful feeling that has contributed to building a positive school climate at JMS.

Tehachapi *Independent Learning Academy*

400 S. Snyder Ave., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2124 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/9



Steve Bsharah
Principal

Planning for Success

Our staff members couldn't have been more excited as the 2019-2020 school year got off to a great start. The efforts, focus, and collaboration of our staff members and students is commendable. TILA staff members are inspired by our students' and parents' work ethic, character, and mindset for academic collaboration. We are all enjoying another school year of growth, success, and celebration.

The staff members at TILA recognize the ongoing cycle of reflection, assessment, inquiry, prioritizing, and implementation. This year we are continuing an emphasis on engaging and empowering all of our learners. Students at TILA benefit from a rigorous and relevant curriculum that promotes academic knowledge and is intended to set them up for success in the future.

We are excited to be continuing the Plato online learning platform, along with a greater focus on the state assessments. Student and family events such as our Open-House BBQ and "Pastries with the Principal Day" also allow increased discussion opportunities to help communicate more effectively with our stakeholders.

Our staff also continues to cultivate a safe and supportive environment that demonstrates how all of our TILA students are respected, valued, capable, and feel at home. Look for more updates on TILA in future newsletters!



Celebrating Drug-Free During Red Ribbon Week

Tehachapi High School

801 S. Dennison Rd, Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2130 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/8



Cristina Libatique
Principal

New Year, New Faces

You may have noticed many new faces at Tehachapi High School (THS) and Monroe High School (MHS) this year. Ms. Libatique is the new principal for both THS and Monroe, Mrs. Loe is the new vice principal for ninth through 11th grades, and Mr. Frankhouser is our new school psychologist. Our entire physical education department is new to THS: Mr. Grimes, Mrs. Grimes, Mr. Krempien, and Mrs. Shryock. In Special Education, we have added Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Severson as teachers and Ms. Skeels, Mrs. Perkins, and Ms. Price as paraprofessionals. We also have a new library clerk, Mrs. Ohmit.

We also welcomed Mrs. Kabonic as a new teacher at Monroe, and she has brought the academic focus that was needed to support student success. Mrs. Kabonic

guides her class toward credit completion by meeting with students regularly for goal setting. She has also implemented restorative circles in her classroom and introduced mindfulness into the classroom. These changes have led to increased success in the program. Monroe has had five early graduates so far this year!

As we begin the second semester, we are getting into the spirit of fun and giving. Interact held a coat and sock drive and volunteered at the Tehachapi Senior Luncheon at The Shed's soup kitchen, where they helped people "shop" for coats.

We also celebrated the 11 Days Before Finals with some dress-up days. Deck the Study Halls was a favorite, complete with an ugly sweater competition, snacks, and helpful study guides.

We are already off to a great start in 2020!

Novelist –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Tehachapi in the subject line.

Entries must be received by February 20, 2020

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | PEN |
| EDITOR | BROWSER |
| IPAD | GOOGLE |
| SPELLCHECK | INTERNET |
| PRINTER | BING |
| PUBLISHER | ASPIRIN |
| NOTEPAD | KEYBOARD |
| READERS | TELEPHONE |
| PENCIL | WIFI |
| IDEAS | IMAGINATION |



Tehachapi *Adult School*

400 S. Snyder Ave., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2112 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/567



Steve Bsharah
Principal

Adult School

Many people are not aware that the Tehachapi Adult School (TAS) offers community members a second chance to earn their high school diploma without any charges. TAS has existed since the early 1990s. The TAS program today is very different from the 1990s because of the advent of technology. Our program is all online with a required weekly meeting at our facility.

Students are welcome to work at our facility as much as they would like. The program allows flexibility for our adults and their variety of scheduling requirements. TAS offers students the choice of obtaining a high school diploma or a GED. We encourage community members to come to our facility and explore the options available at TAS.

Our student body is composed of a variety of students, and no one is turned away. We have students as young as 18 who missed a few classes and could not finish at the regular comprehensive high school, and we have students as old as 75 who want to accomplish their dream of getting their diplomas.

Tompkins *Elementary*

1120 S. Curry St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2170 • www.teh.k12.ca.us/Domain/13



Rebecca Castellanos
Principal

Keen on Kindness

Our Tompkins Tigers practice kindness in all that they do. During our first semester they went above and beyond to show kindness toward others in the community.

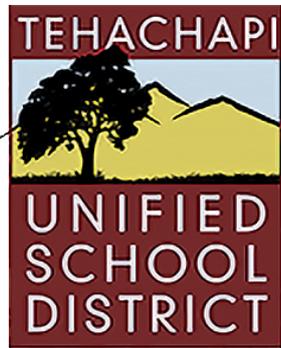
In November, students held a special Veterans Day assembly to thank local veterans for their service. They surrounded the veterans on the blacktop and sang songs and waved handmade banners of thanks. Our

students also participated in a coin drive to raise money for the Salvation Army, and raised \$450 in change!

In December, each class decorated a mason jar with treats and wintry designs for our local senior citizens. The ASB members then took the jars to the senior living apartments, did some caroling, and delivered the jars to residents!

The kindness will continue throughout the new year as our students participate in The Great Kindness Challenge in January, as well as a Math-A-Thon to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in the spring.





*Uncompromising
Excellence*



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