

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Tehachapi Unified School District



Volume 3, Issue 8

April 2022

TUSD Students



Explore! Imagine! Connect! LEARN!



SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP



Ages 5-12

Location 1: Stephen Shy Center

Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm

Daily \$35.50 Weekly \$128.50

Daily \$27.13 Weekly \$96.88 (In district discount)

Extended day 6:00am-6:00pm

Available for an additional fee of \$5.00 per day

Tue/Thurs Pool Days

Register online at www.tvrpd.org for full weeks
or at district office for daily @490 W D St.

NEW!
NEW!
NEW!



Ages 3-4

Location 2: Aspen Builders Inc. Activity Center

Hours: 9:15am-2:45pm

Daily \$37.50 Weekly \$138.50

Daily \$28.20 Weekly \$103.88 (In district discount)

No extended day available

for 3-4 age group.

Tue/Thurs Water Play Days!

Register at district office only
for this age group @490 W D St.

**Sibling Discount \$10 - (For Weekly option only)*

**Military Discount 10% - Must come to District Office 490 W D St.*

INFORMATION

June 13-August 5

Lunch provided by TUSD summer meals program.

Drop off: Location 1: Ages 5-12

Location 2: Ages 3-4

Week 1: June 13-June 17

Adventure Camp Commences!

Week 2: June 20-June 24

Futuristic Fun!

Week 3: June 27-July 1

Minions Vs. Villains!

Week 4: July 5-July 8

Harry Potter Week!

Week 5: July 11-July 15

Welcome to Earth!

Week 6: July 18-July 22

Paradise Island!

Week 7: July 25-July 29

Adventure Camp Color Wars!

Week 8: August 1-August 5

Nickelodeon Days!



All Questions

Adventurecamp@tvrpd.org

www.tvrpd.org



@tvrpdadventure_camp



@TVRPDAdventurecamp



Adventure Camp

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SUPERINTENDENT



Stacey Larson-Everson

It is hard to believe that we are in the final quarter of this school year. We have made it through very challenging times by working together, and I thank you for your continued partnership, grace, and adaptability.

As we enter this final stretch of the school year, we remain focused on improving student outcomes and supporting their social and emotional growth. This school year, TUSD students have excelled in athletic competitions, performed music concerts

and plays, competed in academic challenges such as Battle of the Books and Mathletes, as well as engaged in unique learning experiences like Outdoor Science Camp at Tehachapi Mountain Park. I am extraordinarily proud to lead TUSD's amazing group of educators and support staff that continue to do their best for the district's more than 4,000 students and their families. We have much to celebrate as we continue to offer exceptional learning opportunities for students. I am also very proud of TUSD's resilient and poised students, who have continued to work hard and succeed, despite the challenges they have faced. This Spring will bring many opportunities for us to celebrate students' success and recognize

their accomplishments. I encourage parents and family members to attend events such as Open House, student performances, and of course promotion and graduation ceremonies.

Looking ahead to this summer and next year, I am excited to share that summer school offerings will include STEAM enrichment opportunities for elementary students as well as a variety of middle school options such as sign language and cooking. For the 2022-2023 school year, high school students will be offered history and physical education courses, in addition to credit recovery offerings.

For the 2022-2023 school year, TUSD is ramping up to launch the Capturing Kids Hearts initiative. This amazing program provides a set of consistent strategies that staff can use to help build meaningful connections between students, their peers, staff, and families. Research tells us that when students feel more connected to their school and staff, they achieve higher academic success and are less likely to have attendance, tardy or behavioral issues. Students thrive when they feel cared about and are engaged in their learning and overall school experience. TUSD wants all students to feel connected, supported and successful in school. When school relationships are positive and meaningful, the sky's the limit for learning!



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Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. This has certainly been a year like no other.

The Superintendent begins this issue on page 3 with her message reviewing the year and looking ahead to the 2022-2023 school year.

Thank you for supporting education and including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is October 5th. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer. Don't forget to include the library among your activities.



**Congratulations
Class of 2022!**



Caroline Robison Optometry

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Business Services

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Hojat Entezari
Chief Administrator

School Facilities

Tehachapi Unified School District wants to provide facilities that are healthy and safe learning environment. In October 2021, the District adopted a board resolution to seek eligibility in the California State Facilities Program, a program that provides funding to school districts for the purposes of modernizing and constructing classroom space for

districts that qualify. TUSD began the process to apply for these funds with a review of the current condition of district facilities. The modernization study's being

performed by an independent agency working on behalf of TUSD. The agency has found that many buildings in the district's inventory, both permanent and relocatable, are over 25 years old and may qualify for state modernization funds.

Moving forward, TUSD is also in the process of revitalizing the Wells Elementary School facility located on the corner of Robinson and E Streets. In order to rehabilitate and reopen the Wells campus, the District will have to work closely with a number of local and state agencies. Although the rehabilitation process will take 2-3 years to complete, we look forward to re-opening the Wells Elementary campus in the not too distant future.

District Nurse

300 South Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/979-6596



Jenna Burgess, RN BSN
Credentialed School Nurse

Health Screenings in School

Credentialed school nurses implement various health screenings in the school setting to support student health and wellness and reduce barriers to their learning and academic success. These screenings are key to early detection of health issues and impairments, and often lead to early treatment and better prognosis. Which keeps kids in school learning.

Student vision screenings are mandated by the state and completed every year by the credentialed school nurse at schools within the district. Vision is vital to completing most tasks in the school setting and accounts for 80% of what children learn. It is also one of the last senses to fully mature, vision develops slowly over the first 6 to 7 years of life. Usually, children are not aware of their vision impairments, blurry vision is often normal if they have not been screened or visited an Ophthalmologist. One in 20 young children has a vision

disorder that can lead to permanent vision impairment if left undetected and untreated. For these reasons, it's critical children have their vision screened early in their school careers. Mandated vision screenings are performed on students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, second grade, fifth grade, and eighth grade. First grade boys are also screened for color vision deficiencies. Teachers or staff members can refer students to be screened if they have concerns. Special education students are also screened during the assessment process to rule out vision problems as a contributing factor to their needs.

It is important to remember these screenings performed by the school nurse at school are not diagnostic, but can help identify potential problems that require further evaluation by a healthcare provider. Once vision screenings are completed, referrals are sent home for those that fail for the parent to follow up with their provider (Selekman, 2013).

Selekman, Janice. *School Nursing*. F A Davis Company, 2013.

Personnel Services

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



Dr. Roxane Romero
Chief Administrator

Update

We are preparing for the new 2022-2023 school year and are excited to bring on board more talented people to work with our amazing students. If you know of dynamic people who have a passion for working with students, please have them visit our links on Edjoin at <https://www.edjoin.org/tusd>, to see open positions. Available job postings can also be found in person at the District Office posted on our reception area bulletin boards.

Volunteers are welcomed back to our school sites. If interested in volunteering, please contact the school site directly for volunteer opportunities or you may find documents at the following link <https://teh.schoolblocks.com/volunteers-0d7b2de1#>.

We are happy to continue to offer COVID-19 testing during the following hours at the District Office for TUSD students and household family members from Monday through Friday-1:45 pm to 3:45 pm (south end of building).

Food Services

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



Hortencia Tapia
Supervisor

Meals and More!

The District's food service staff is dedicated to providing the best meals possible for our students. And as the school year is quickly coming to an end, the food service department is not shutting down. We are merely shifting gears. We will be sponsoring the Seamless Summer Program. This summer's program will take place at the Jacobsen Middle School cafeteria. We will open for breakfast and lunch. The Summer Food Service Program makes it possible for us to continue to feed children when school is not in session. All children, ages 1 to 18, may receive free meals, regardless of income. This program is open to all children in the community, not just the students attending Summer School.

We hope to see you there!



Instructional Services

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



Andrea Paxton
Chief Administrator

Gifted and Talented Education

During the 2021-2022 school year, Tehachapi Unified School District offered Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) assessments for students in grades first through fourth grade. In addition to developing a system that allows for early identification of Gifted and Talented students, TUSD has invested in providing professional development opportunities for our teachers to strengthen our instructional strategies to best meet the needs of all students and their individual academic needs. Teachers are participating in a series of six professional development workshops with USC professor, Dr. Sandra Kaplan. Teachers are learning how to facilitate intra or interdisciplinary connections between subject areas and use the icons of Depth and Complexity. The icons of Depth and Complexity are visual prompts designed to help students think deeply and critically.

Additionally, teachers use the icons of Depth of Complexity to assist students in initiating different types of cognitive operations to perform specific thinking skills such as categorizing, making analogies, making predictions, creating an argument, determining bias, recognizing fallacies, sequencing, etc. Students also learn how to locate an appropriate resource based on the task at hand. To best address the needs of GATE students, students will have opportunities throughout the school year to dive in deeper to core content areas to identify and explore areas of interest. As students work independently to explore their individual area of interest they are asked to focus on identifying problems in that area, make connections or find applications on how the topic relates to other areas, and identify how the research they have conducted affects what is currently known about the area of study. TUSD is continually focused on meeting the individual needs of each student to assist each student in reaching their maximum potential.

Professional Development

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



Jennifer Butler
Coordinator of
Instructional Support
and Improvement

MTSS - Multi-Tiered System of Support

Here in Tehachapi Unified School District, we believe all students can learn when we provide equitable access to academic curriculum, social-emotional support, and behavioral support. As educators we must have high

expectations for all students. Universal assessments and surveys are administered to students to determine student needs. District teams consisting of administrators, district leaders, teachers, social workers, and psychologists meet together every other month to evaluate student needs and to determine how we can best support each student at the site level and district level. School site MTSS teams meet bimonthly to dig even deeper into student successes and examine any new needs. The above picture is a fishbone activity that was conducted during a district-level MTSS meeting used to get to the root cause of the barriers that prevent students from engaging at school. After identifying



the root cause, we can begin choosing interventions to support students in engaging in their lessons. California MTSS begins with universal support known as Tier 1 Support. Tier 1 includes curriculum and instruction that all students have access to. This is where the first best instruction happens through Universally Designed Lessons using state adopted curriculum, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), and Social-Emotional

Lessons (SEL) for all students. When some students need additional support, they receive this by receiving supplemental support or Tier 2 interventions in small groups. At times, a few students may need intense support by Tier 3 interventions such as one on one support. MTSS is not just about tiered interventions, but all systems working together to support the whole child. MTSS is an effective use of resources by using an organized structure to deliver and monitor support. We are working together at TUSD to be proactive, rather than reactive to support all students and teachers. School is where this positive transformation happens bringing academics, behavior, and social emotional support together to benefit the whole child.

Student Services

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



Dr. Bonny Porter
Director
Student Services

Enriching Independent Learning at TILA

Tehachapi Independent Learning Academy (TILA) offers TUSD families an alternative to traditional classroom instruction. Students enrolled in TILA work from their home with virtual support from a credentialed teacher. Tutoring is available to students as well as encouragement

from paraprofessionals to help secondary students follow course pacing guides. One of the challenges of learning from home is keeping students interested in academics. To foster student interest and passion for knowledge, TILA has implemented a literacy and art component. Recently, elementary students selected stories about winter and were able to choose an art project to accompany the stories they read. Some of the books and completed art pieces are pictured above. Currently students are learning about the importance

of taking care of the Earth. They are reading stories about the environment and are making objects out of recyclable materials. TILA students are encouraged to use creativity to enhance their education.



Technology

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



Ryan McKay
Director

Closer Look: Amplifications Systems

TUSD has installed amplification systems in 3 schools within the district at the time of this writing. By the time of publication, 4 schools will have the amplification systems installed. These systems, called “Juno”, allow the teacher to be heard from all corners of the room. The teachers are given a small microphone on a lanyard to put around their neck, allowing them to keep their hands

free for teaching. The systems also come with a small microphone for teachers to hand out to students to use so the other students can hear them when they speak. For teachers and students who may still be wearing masks this tool is extremely helpful to ensure everyone can be heard clearly while wearing their masks.

The system microphones work over infrared, meaning that while a teacher is in their classroom the system will be active allowing the teacher to be heard no matter where in the classroom they are. However, if a teacher were to leave their room to talk to a student or another staff member and forgot to turn off their microphone, the system would not work while the teacher was outside of the room and those conversations would remain private.



As a bonus, the amplification system can be used as an extra speaker for Newline TVs, which are installed in many TUSD classrooms, allowing media rich lessons to be heard with greater ease. I have visited some classrooms after the systems were installed and have enjoyed watching the engagement and excitement of the students when they use the microphone in class.

Transportation

401 East H. St., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2115

Denise Berry, Supervisor

The School Bus is Still the Safest Vehicle on the Road

School Buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road. They are designed to be highly visible and include several safety features. It is important parents and students practice safe loading and unloading procedures. Here are a few helpful tips to follow:

At the Bus Stop:

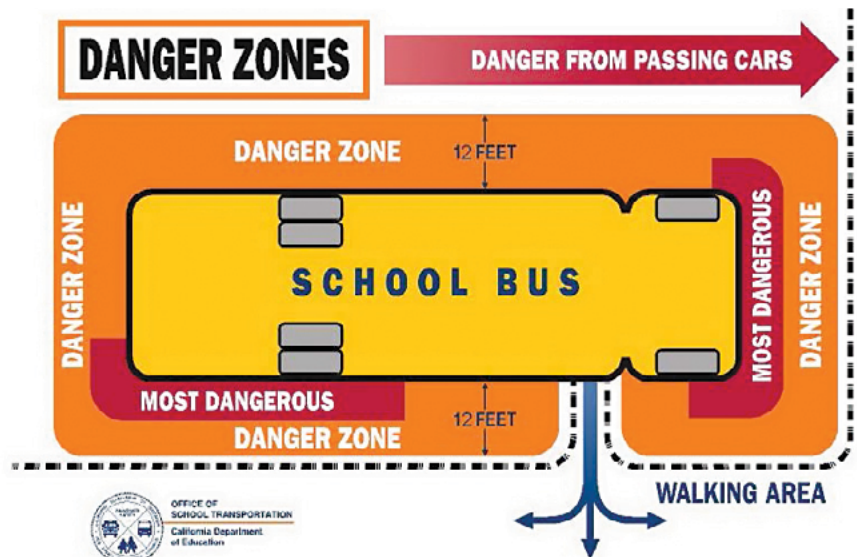
- Arrive early, at least 5 minutes before the bus.
- Stand at least 12 feet from the curb.

Getting On and Off the Bus:

- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors have opened.
- Use handrail when going up or down the steps.
- Secure all loose or hanging objects ex. shoelaces, straps or drawstrings.

Around the Bus:

- Always cross in front of the bus, make sure you make eye contact with the Bus Driver.
- Never walk behind the Bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, do not pick it up, tell the Bus Driver.



Cummings Valley *Elementary*

24220 Bear Valley Rd., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2190 • cvs.tehachapiusd.com



Traci Minjares
Principal

Treasure Hunt Fun

Students at Cummings Valley School (CVS) celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with a fun-filled and challenging Treasure Hunt throughout campus.

Sponsored by the CVS Student Council, the Treasure Hunt invited 3rd through 5th grade classes to compete against the other students in their grade level to follow mysterious clues, puzzles and riddles throughout campus. Students used problem-solving skills as a class group to lead them to the next clue, with no help from their teacher or other adults. The first class from each grade level to be led to the final destination won a "Pot O' Gold" filled with St. Patrick's-themed treats for the whole class!

This year's Treasure Hunt winners were Mrs. Rush's 3rd grade class, Mr. Brown's 4th grade, and Mrs. McKay's 5th grade.



Golden Hills *Elementary*

20215 Park Rd., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2180 • ghe.tehachapiusd.com



Kendra Bailey
Principal

Welcome Jenn Carr

We feel very lucky here at Golden Hills Elementary to have found a pot of gold in our new Learning Director Jenn Carr. Mrs. Rhea was promoted to Vice Principal this year, and Jenn Carr started as our new Learning Director in January of this year. Jenn comes to us with experience uniquely complemented to our needs. In her

10 years in education, Jenn has served a classroom teacher, reading intervention specialist, math intervention specialist, and instructional math coach. She has experience providing professional development for teachers focused on equitable and student-centered math instruction, along with coaching and co-teaching with colleagues in the classroom. Jenn has also worked with teachers as a math consultant for Math Transformations. We will leverage her skills and experience to provide quality professional learning to teachers, to support teachers through consultation, coaching, and co-teaching, and to lead our intervention school program.



Jacobsen Middle School

711 Anita Dr., Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2150 • jms.tehachapiusd.com

Eric Loe, Principal

Jacobsen Middle School Hosts TUSD Fifth Graders!

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 was an exciting day at Jacobsen Middle School (JMS). On that day JMS hosted Fifth Graders from Tompkins Elementary, Golden Hills Elementary, and Cummings Valley School, for a day of "Bulldog Welcome."

Buses began to arrive at 9:45 am and students, teachers and chaperones made their way to the JMS Gym. As they found seats on the bleachers they were entertained by a musical performance of the Intermediate Band Class. Once everyone was present, they were welcomed by the

Administrative Team, and treated to a Rap, written and performed, by Thaddeus Dyer, just for them!

Fifth Graders were matched with eighth grade students who had applied for the privilege of leading tours of the JMS campus. On the tours, students got a first look at the campus that will be their educational home for the next three years.

After getting ice cream in the Cafeteria, students returned to the Gym for a question and answer session with the JMS principal. Then they headed back to the buses and returned to their respective elementary schools.

We are looking forward to starting the 2022-2023 school year with TUSD's new Sixth Graders!



Tehachapi High School

801 S. Dennison Rd, Tehachapi, CA 93561 • 661/822-2130 • ths.tehachapiusd.com



Cristina Libatique
Principal

THS Mathletes are Number One!

The Desert Interscholastic Mathematics League has been sponsoring competitive mathematics among Antelope Valley high schools since the late 1960's. Tehachapi High School has been a competitor since the beginning winning the league championship 11 times since 1975

(first place honors in 1979, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1995, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2019, 2020 and, most recently, in 2022). Competition math consists of a series of 10 questions given in 5 ten minute 2 question rounds followed by a team problem. There are 5 competitors per school who answer the individual questions and then group to answer the team problems. In past years the Warriors have fielded strong teams led by amazing mathematicians such as Mathes-Orr, Schoenberg, Bilotta,

Brockelsby, Poulson, Nichols, Riggs, Chao et al. This year the tradition was upheld by Ryan Fong, Nick Siebold, Jessica Teare, Alaina Riggs and Donovan Russell who delivered the victory, keeping Tehachapi as #1. Go Warriors!



Kneeling (row 1): Ainsley Alsbury, Alaina Riggs
Standing (row 2): Sydney Russell, Sophia Theriault, Jessica Teare, Luke Schlosser, Ryan Fong.
In the van (3rd row): Nick Siebold, Donovan Russell

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