



Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship

2019 BONNER CENTER HIGHSCHOOLS

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Central Unified School District

East Campus: 3535 N Cornelia Ave, Fresno, CA 93722

West Campus: 2045 N Dickenson Ave, Fresno, CA 93723

Dave Holtermann, Principal of West Campus

Robert Perez, Principal of East Campus

Schools must remember that educating students to be thoughtful, productive, and responsible citizens is imperative. Through character education, schools inspire students to identify, esteem and diligently live out core ethical values such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship through the improvement of one's self and others.

Central High School focuses on these core values in addition with the belief that *Every student can learn*. Members of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team (school psychologist, intervention specialist, classroom teachers and administrators) promote the Grizzly Five or CLAWS: *Come Prepared; Live Responsibly; Act Safely; Work Together and Show Respect*. Because of concentrated efforts, a reduction in suspensions, trancies, and classroom defiance has been observed this school year. Progress is also measured using feedback from students through Principal's Round Table meetings. In these meetings, a diverse group of students gets together and shares open and honest feedback to help Central High School reach its goals.

A "CLAW" of the week is reviewed on Central West Television and a video demonstrating the specific CLAW is also shown. Posters and other signage on campus reinforcing behavioral expectations are both inside and outside the classroom. CLAWS Bucks, 5-Minute Friday, Positive Postcards are just a few incentives to reward students as promote a positive environment at Central. The STND (Seven hundred and Twenty New Days) program has been revitalized after being called Project 720 for about a decade. This program brings together identified ninth grade students who may show signs of dropping out and/or not connecting to school and links them with an adult mentor and a Peer Connector (students who are in an elective class and possess "helping skills" for their peers). Informally, teachers and support staff can bring up issues to their direct supervisor; however, many teachers tell their department lead and issues are then shared at monthly Academic Council meetings.

Besides the leadership classes on campuses, students in the numerous clubs that are offered also demonstrate their leadership skills. The Presidents' Council provides opportunities for the Presidents of various clubs and organizations to meet monthly and support different clubs and

activities. Specific clubs and organizations have projects that provide meaningful service activities. As Central High School students focus on being engaged citizens, providing structured opportunities to reflect critically on their service experiences is seen in the classroom as they perform gallery walks, participate in structured critical thinking activities and complete reflection forms. Multicultural expression and understanding is provided through its numerous clubs such as the Asian Club, Black Student Union, French Corps, MECHA, Muslim Students Association, and the Sikh Honors Service Society. Lunchtime presentations by Folkloric dancers, Hmong dancers, and Punjabi dancers during multicultural awareness weeks also foster a sense of understanding among student at Central High School.

CLOVIS EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Clovis Unified School District
2940 Leonard Ave, Clovis, CA 93619
Omar Hemaiden, Principal

Each generation of students who come to Clovis East have a unique background, belief system and set of values. We understand that character is not something that is inherited, it comes from within, which is why we have a responsibility to develop character within our students. Our goals are centered around *building a community where we embrace cultural differences, creating an awareness surrounding digital citizenship and technology use, and establishing a campus where students and staff feel emotionally supported*. Another goal for Clovis East is to create a seamless transition for students each school year, as students are often faced with new challenges they must navigate. Along with these character education goals, we measure success through a multitude of facets including the Student Responsibility Center's referral data, attendance rates, club & organization participation, peer counseling, Clovis Support Intervention groups, service learning opportunities, graduation rates and many more.

At Clovis East we believe in dignity and respect for all and want to ensure that our educational environment mirrors those beliefs. As educators, we understand the power of knowledge to affect change. Through our Dignity and Respect Initiative we have worked as a school and community to create a culture of awareness that promotes a climate of excellence, ethics, safety and mutual respect to all WOLFPACK members. The REC DEC group has been working to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of social media posts and the impact they have on others. Additionally, the student diversity council decided it was important to address these concerns on a large-scale during Unity Week. A video was created by students to share with the school in hopes to increase empathy among all cultures. Students had opportunities to speak in front of the entire student body about their differences and what makes them unique. The students talked about using social media to spread kindness not hate. This project ultimately serves to help educate students on race and stereotypes, contributing to the solution of ending hate-motivated behaviors online and through social media platforms.

The Clovis East teachers and staff have many avenues to address school issues and create solutions. School issues are identified on many levels beginning with the classroom, site-wide and community. There are staff meeting opportunities such as department meetings, PLCs, faculty meetings, Student Success meetings, and Academic Senate meetings. The staff also

participates alongside parents and community members at our SART, School Site Council and English Language Advisory Committee meetings. Identifying these issues are vital to our success and we openly accept all ideas and recommendations for evaluation.

Going Gold for Pediatric Cancer is a service project where our students collect donations for patients and families of Valley Children's Hospital. They also give their time at the community animal centers cleaning facilities and caring for the animals. The Interact Club works in conjunction with the Clovis Rotary Club to clean and plant trees throughout our city. During the holiday season our students are involved in the Shoebox Project alongside The Boys and Girls Club to send necessities to bring joy to the children in the Philippines. The Can Food Drive is another opportunity to support our local food banks, which brings in approximately 50,000 donation items. The Clovis East JROTC program volunteers at events such as, The Wreaths Across America Ceremony and the Old Town Clovis Electric Parade. This group attends a number of events presenting the colors. Clovis East provides these structured opportunities for reflection in REC DEC, school clubs, student feedback surveys, The Senior Exit Survey and during Administration classroom visits. Although formal avenues are productive, we also find value in the conversations that take place every day between staff and students. These conversations provide critical feedback of the school climate and sheds light on the areas we need to grow.

Our school prides itself on its diversity. Nothing illustrates this more than the student developed and led Unity Week which showcases students coming together to celebrate and share their different traditions. Each day a different culture is celebrated on campus. At lunchtime various groups represent their uniqueness in multiple ways. For example, our Folklorico group showcases their dances from different regions in Mexico. The Clovis East Hmong and Punjabi dance groups also perform during Unity Week.

CLOVIS WEST HIGH SCHOOL
Clovis Unified School District
1070 E Teague Ave, Fresno, CA 93720
Richard Sarkisian, Principal

Civic and character education are more important than ever before. At Clovis West, it's not just one program that helps drive our vision to create an environment where students learn to be respectful of all in our diverse community, it's the many systems we've put into practice that helps us reach to this end. Developing character means developing the whole child. Clovis West embraces the Clovis Unified motto of mind, body and spirit. In the last 2-3 years, schools and districts have seen an evolution in the awareness of mental health and Clovis West has seen the positive impact of this awareness. Clovis West has four main goals that all address the mantra of character and civic education. The four main goals and quotes are:

Doc Buchanan (original CUSD Superintendent) believed that we should "teach students to work in groups and compete in groups". **Clovis West students will be effective scholars.**

Doc Buchanan encouraged teachers to "help students build on their strengths and overcome their weaknesses". **Clovis West students will be critical and creative thinkers.**

Doc charged teachers and students to “win with class and lose with dignity” and to provide a “fair break for every kid”. **Clovis West students will learn to be respectful of all people in a diverse community.**

Doc believed that “education revolves around teamwork and trust” and that as educators, we should prepare students “to be the best they can be in mind, body and spirit” and to “learn to compete against themselves”. **Clovis West students will be prepared for adult life as productive, analytical, cooperative members of society.**

During our WASC visit the visiting committee confirmed our progress by stating:

1. The school culture is one of support, community, and family.
2. Students and community members are highly involved on campus and/or attend campus activities and events.
3. Student academic success and college readiness is an emphasis at Clovis West.
4. The student supports and intervention programs in place focus on improving social emotional learning as well as academic learning.

Clovis West values the input, feedback and ideas from our staff, students, and parent community. At Clovis West, we have created a partnership with our parent community through our School Assessment Review Team, SART, and Intercultural Diversity Advisory Council, IDAC. For Clovis West, these groups are one in the same. Our district has a standard of having quarterly meetings and Clovis West exceeds that by having monthly meetings with this group of parents.

Clovis West relies on the voices and leadership capacity from PASA, Peer Counselors, Safe School Ambassadors, Link Crew, and leadership students to identify areas of growth or concern on campus but to also drive the solutions to solve issues. Clovis West fosters a culture of student empowerment by providing multiple means for students to express their voices.

Clovis West gathers input from a variety of surveys. Parents are surveyed every year as are staff and students. Action plans are created from the information received on these surveys. Last school year, based on student survey data Clovis West charged itself with reducing the number of D and F grades earned by students. Clovis West, through academic senate, a group of academic department leaders, focused on identifying academic behaviors we expect and know our students are capable of accomplishing.

Encouraging students to learn and practice civic responsibility, leadership and meaningful service begins by how the school creates that culture on campus. The theme of family will always be used to describe Clovis West. This theme of family is driven by our diverse student body at Clovis West. Our students recognize and celebrate their diversity.

Finally, all students have access to many important conferences throughout the year. Attendance at the Latino Student Success Conference, Asian Student Success Conference and the African American Student Success Conference draw the largest participation from Clovis West. These conferences help to build the leadership capacity within each and all of us. Students are inspired by guest speakers, learn about careers and colleges through a fair type setting, and also dialogue in small groups with school site leaders.

Clovis West has many clubs on campus that not only embrace student's diverse cultural backgrounds but also provide a mindset of emotional wellness and support. The leadership class engages in countless philanthropic events throughout the year. One such event is the La Bella Vita Fashion show where the proceeds help support the Pinedale Boys and Girls club. Also over the last two years, Clovis West students have been named student of their year for the local chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society raising over \$200,000 collectively. The support the student body provides and puts into these philanthropic efforts is amazing.