



CUSD NEWS

Important Dates:

- Regular Board Meeting, August. 27 @ 6 p.m.
- Holiday - No School, September. 2
- Regular Board Meeting, September 10 @ 6 p.m.

Getting Back to Why

We all had the pleasure of listening to entrepreneur Flip Flippen speak to us regarding the "why" we do what we do. The question he asked was: "Why do we do what we do? He asserted, "If you can't answer that, people will not follow you!" He challenged us that we should have an immediate and passionate filled answer to that question. People follow people who know why they do things and people want to know who you are based on your why. He mentioned that we are being "put to an unworthy purpose" in education to be like the corporate world, but we are different because of our "why." He said there are three questions to ask ourselves:

First question: *What is your why?*

Our why is personal. It is about what we believe deeply about kids and about our relationships with people. Some say, "I don't want to get personal." But why would I want to follow you if it is not personal?

If you're in education it better be personal! His experience in visiting organizations and schools especially is that in 30 seconds after arriving on that location, you can know the culture. Much of it has to do with how people treat each other "personally." What's your why, are you on fire about it, and if you're not, you're burned out!

Second question: *Who's your who?*

Who wrote on you? Flip shared how his second grade teacher held him back in first grade. What impacted him was the way she communicated why he was being held back. She stated first graders needed help, and he would be the one to help them. Little did she know that defined his life as someone who is dedicated to helping others!

He ended up never forgetting this teacher for her kindness, and faith in him. He asked the rhetorical question, "Do you think I loved her?" He spoke of the teachers that made such an impact on him: "Their history became my future."

These influences and principles led him to create an organization that sponsors teen leadership classes that have shown success in schools throughout the nation. The program is about helping teachers capture kids' hearts. "If you capture kids hearts you have their minds" He helps organizations and school see people belong before they believe. Our students want to belong to our school community, and we need to leverage that.

Third question: *Whose who are you?*

Are you writing a story on the lives of people you influence? Do teachers and colleagues want to work where you work? Do people around you have a fire and passion you have nurtured? Do kids want to be at your schools and in your classrooms everyday? Is our fire lighting other fires?

I think these are three questions I must ask myself everyday, and my challenge to all of us is to be somebody's who based on our why because of our who!

WHO'S
WHO ?

NEW FACULTY

Kim Bishop



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? K-5 Music at Bret Harte, Fremont & Mark Twain
Tell us a little bit about yourself: I love to sing and play the piano. I have also written some music. Someday when I retire, I will have the time to complete a couple of those unfinished compositions.

Where did you grow up? I was born in Tucson, AZ. My Dad was in the Air Force. We live in Hanford during elementary school. Maccagno's Bakery was my Grandfather. We moved to Visalia while I was in 5th grade. I have lived there most of the rest of my life. We did live in Arlington, TX, from my sophomore year in high school to my junior year in college. Then I returned to Visalia.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? The University of Texas at Arlington from 1976 - 1979. Then after a 25-year break, went back to school in 2001 at Fresno Pacific University and graduated with a music degree and obtained my teaching credential from there as well.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I taught K-8 music in Pixley from 2005 - 2009. I was then a substitute teacher for a few years. I taught one year at St. Paul's Christian School in Visalia, K-8 music. One year as Band/Classroom music in Riverdale. Then I was a K-8 music teacher in Lindsay for these last four years. Both Pixley and Lindsay had to cut their music programs. And lots of work experience for those 25 years in between my split years of college.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? My favorite thing to do is sing, especially when I get to sing harmony. Nothing else compares to that feeling when you blend your voice with someone else. I play the keyboard and sing on the worship team at church. I play the piano, although not often enough. I have also written some music. I enjoy baking (yes, I am the granddaughter of a baker!) and have seen a lot over the years.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I know that very few of my students will grow up to be professional musicians. But they will all be an audience to music for the rest of their lives. I want them to understand and appreciate the music they are listening to. To know what the individual instruments sound like and what is involved in creating that music they are listening to.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? Sharing the amazing world of music with all of the K-5 students here in Corcoran and also making new teacher friends.

Justin Chung



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Chemistry

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I like mostly nerdy things such as reading, games, and comics.

Where did you grow up? Upland

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? University of California, Riverside/Chemistry/ Bachelors Degree

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? Substitute Teaching

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? Eating, cooking, and playing video games.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. My teaching philosophy is to broaden student's minds on new subjects.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to changing minds.

Ashley English



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School, 9th grade English

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am 1 year new to Corcoran. I have a family of six. A husband, four boys, and five cats

Where did you grow up? Los Angeles

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? The University of Phoenix with Bachelors Degree in English and MA Secondary Education.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I previously worked in the Special Education Department at the Palmdale Stem Academy then moved to Corcoran and became a substitute teacher

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I enjoy reading, crafting and DIY (do it yourself) projects for the home.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe every student is capable of learning. You just have to find the right way to teach them.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? Being able to help students and hopefully inspire them to read more.

NEW FACULTY

Elissa Garcia



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School Math

Where did you grow up? Texas

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Texas A&M University/Mathematics/Bachelors Degree

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? Yes, one year at Ball High in Galveston, TX.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? Math

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. Students first, always.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? The amount of great tech in classrooms

What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John C. Fremont, 2nd and 3rd Special Day Class

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am 25 years old. My wife and I will be married for two years this September. I have three younger brothers named Jacob (14), Matthew (12), and Zachary (10), and my parents just celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary. I enjoy history and music and was a member of my high schools' Chamber Singers.

Where did you grow up? Bakersfield

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I attended California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). I received a Bachelors degree in Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I taught for Shelly Baird before joining CUSD. Before teaching, I worked as a Student Office Assistant, After School Program Leader, Noon Assistant, Intervention Paraprofessional, and a Substitute Teacher.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? The school takes up most of my time. However, when I do have free time, I enjoy traveling and working on my house.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe that all children have the right to learn. It is our duty as teachers to respect that right and support our students.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to using technology to support student achievement!

Thomas Green



Charles Hickinbotham



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School Music (9-12)

Where did you grow up? Stockton, California

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Humboldt State University - BA in Music Education, Minor in Theater Arts, Dual Credential for Music and Theater Arts

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? 20 years of teaching, including the last 17 years at Lindsay Unified School District where I taught music to grades from TK-12

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I enjoy playing board games with friends, participating in local community theater, and making tasty things in the kitchen

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. Every student is unique, with different strengths and weaknesses. But any student can learn to do anything when they push themselves to improve their strengths and don't give up on their weaknesses.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? Developing the Performing Arts program here to something the whole community will be proud of.

NEW FACULTY

Randi Lutrell



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John Muir, Math & Science 8th grade

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I'm a proud first-generation college graduate. In my time spent as an undergrad student, I became intrigued with social science and decided to pursue sociology for both of my undergraduate majors.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Tulare, Ca.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I went to college at College of the Sequoias and Fresno State University #GoDogs!

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I have previous experience in the classroom as a special education aide, an Advancement Via Individual Determination AVID tutor and then substitute teaching. I've subbed so many classes; I'm excited to have my own finally.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? My hobbies are listening to music and walking on trails.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. Every student deserves to be held to the highest expectations and be provided the chance to develop and practice the skills that will help them meet and exceed those expectations.

Jayde Johnson



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John Muir 6th grade Math and Science

Tell us a little bit about yourself: This is my first year teaching, and I am so excited! I come from a family of educators who told me at a young age that I will be a great teacher when I grow up. I come from a big family and am the oldest of 5 kids. When I got my first job at an after school program, I knew this was the path I needed to take in my life.

Where did you grow up? Hanford

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Fresno State. Majored in Liberal Studies with a concentration in STEM.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I was an after school teacher in Hanford for three years and an after school director in San Diego for one year.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I love playing softball and soccer, traveling, and spending time with my family.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I want to help students enjoy school and see all the advantages it brings. We will be learning for the rest of our lives, and I want students to use it to the best of their ability to form a bright future.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to getting to know the students and be apart of their lives personally. I cannot wait to learn new teaching strategies and make these students excited to come to school.

David LaMora



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School, Special Education, 9-12

Tell us a little bit about yourself: This is my second year of teaching. I coach my son's baseball and soccer teams. I love to travel and visit new places. I like to read and play golf.

Where did you grow up? Troy, New York

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Colorado State University Masters in Ed/Education and Human Resource Studies with Specialization in Adult Education and Training Empire State College B.S./Business Management and Economics

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I taught kids last year for the first time. I have done training and mentoring in a corporate setting. Most of my work experience is in the telecommunication industry, but I have also worked for a large medical center and an airline.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? Reading, golf, travel, and family activities.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe in lessons, which are student centered, and every student has the potential for greatness.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to developing personalized learning lessons, getting students excited about learning, and becoming engaged in their educational journey, also, learning and developing my skills to grow as an educator continually.

NEW FACULTY

Ruben Martinez



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John Muir, History and English Language Arts (ELA), 7th grade

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I have 23 years as an educator, I am a retired reserve police officer of 17 years, and I am a part-time actor, movies, and commercials.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Fowler, where I still reside.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I went to California State University, Fresno, where I received a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and my teaching credential. I also attended National University to obtain my Administrative Credential. I have my POST training certificate in law enforcement obtained at Fresno City College.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I have 23 years as an educator. I have taught 2nd, 5th, 6th grades, and now 7th grade at John Muir. I also taught continuation high school and served ten years as a principal for the Fresno County Office of Education Court/Community Schools.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I play golf, softball, write, act, and love spending time with my family.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. My teaching philosophy is my game plan for student success. I have simplified it to focus on a few core concepts: First and foremost, I believe making connections with my students is my main priority. A positive connection is a foundation, which enables me to be an effective mentor. Second, I believe in the mantra that "proper planning prevents poor performance." This increases productivity and improves student performance. Last but not least, I think every child can succeed when given the opportunity and encouragement. This helps me stay grounded in the big picture---"educate the whole child."

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to making my mark and giving

Emily Wood



What school, subject and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School, English, Freshman

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I like to write creative fiction, I'm a huge fan of Harry Potter, and I'm a cat person.

Where did you grow up? Visalia, CA

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Brigham Young University-Idaho, Bachelor's degree in English

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I subbed for a year prior to teaching.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? My hobbies involve movies, music, and spending time with family.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe that students should come away from the classroom with the knowledge and skills to succeed in their lives.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to making connections and lasting relationships with both staff and students.



to our team!

QUOTES AND PROVERBS

We must have a theme, a goal a purpose in our lives. If you don't know where you're aiming, you don't have a goal.

~Mary Kay Ash

The particular selection of this quote is inspired by Flip Flippen's question, "What's your 'why'." Our "why" in life and in our work is our purpose, our mission or the very thing that moves us emotionally and spiritually.

I often hear the question, "What gets you up in the morning?" or I hear "What one thing compels you improve, get better, change if you have to?" The above quote illustrates the importance of each and every one of us finding our "why" in life and in work (hopefully they are similar). Each of us has a purpose, but some of us do not know what that is. We are motivated to do just that: find out what moves us and build our life's work on fulfilling that purpose.

A life without a known purpose is a life without fulfillment and a life that comes short of making the huge difference a purpose filled life can make. I am thankful for people like Flip Flippen who helps all of us adjust our GPS and destination in order to become the life changers we are made to be!!

THE FLIPPEN GROUP

Bringing out the best in people

