



CUSD NEWS

Important Dates:

- Labor Day Holiday - No School, September 2
- Regular Board Meeting, September 10 @ 6 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, September 24 @ 6 p.m.

I recently came across a book called Excellence Wins written regarding the leadership of one of the cofounders of Ritz-Carlton Hotels, Horst Schulze. The book came up in a discussion about excellence and how this particular company committed to excellence from their main motto:

"We are Ladies and Gentlemen serving Ladies and Gentlemen."

I love this because I see how it can be so readily and excitingly applied to our educational environment. You can use this motto as is, and it identifies our students and us. We can apply it to our District and what we do in a similar fashion:

"We are excellent and powerful leaders creating excellent and powerful leaders."

What do you think? What motto can you come up with?

Their motto caught my attention. The philosophy and ideals from which the motto was built, speaks a great deal about the type of organization. This company and its service are committed. There are some real common ideals to this year's them of "We Own It."

I was going to point out a few, but I found that every one of these values points to our "ownership.":

The following table shows the Ritz-Carlton Service Values, and I have adapted those to represent what those values would be like with our District:

| Service Values: I Am Proud To Be Ritz-Carlton | Service Values: I Am Proud To Be Corcoran Unified |
|--|---|
| I build strong relationships and create Ritz-Carlton guests for life. I am always responsive to the expressed and unexpressed wishes and needs of our guests. | I build strong relationships with every student and staff member. I am always responsive to the expressed and unexpressed wishes and needs of my students, parents, community and staff. |
| I am empowered to create unique, memorable and personal experiences for our guests. | I am empowered to create unique, memorable and personal experiences for our students. |
| I understand my role in achieving the Key Success Factors, enhancing Community Footprints and creating The Ritz-Carlton Mystique. | I understand my role in achieving success and helping CUSD become a Destination District. |
| I continually seek opportunities to innovate and improve The Ritz-Carlton experience. | I continually seek opportunities to innovate and improve our work. |
| I own and immediately resolve guest problems. | I own and immediately do what is necessary to resolve problems. |
| I create a work environment of teamwork and lateral service so that the needs of our guests and each other are met. | I create a work environment of teamwork so that the needs of our students are met. |
| I have the opportunity to continually learn and grow. | I have the opportunity to continually learn and grow. |
| I am involved in the planning of the work that affects me. | I am involved in the planning of the work that affects me. |
| I am proud of my professional appearance, language and behavior. | I am proud of my professional appearance, language and behavior. |
| I protect the privacy and security of our guests, my fellow employees and the company's confidential information and assets. | I protect the privacy and security of our students, my fellow employees and the District's confidential information and assets. |
| I am responsible for uncompromising levels of cleanliness and creating a safe and accident-free environment. | I am responsible for uncompromising levels of cleanliness and creating a safe and accident-free environment. |



It is uncanny how we can apply each one of these ownership and personal responsibility principles and apply it to our service to students, parents, community and each other in any of our work in the District. When "we own it," all of these are easy and enjoyable to implement with pride!



Horst Schulze Excellence Wins: A No-Nonsense Guide to Becoming the Best in a World of Compromise, Ken Blanchard, forward, Dean Merrill, contributor, 2019, 224 p.

NEW FACULTY

Stephanie Martinez



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Corcoran High School, Math 1A (9th grade) and College-Level Math Prep (12th grade)

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am a first-generation graduate student, and my favorite color is green.

Where did you grow up? Born and raised in Corcoran

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I went to Sacramento State for two years then transferred to UC Santa Cruz where I received my Bachelor's in Mathematics

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I tutored students with disabilities at Sacramento State.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I enjoy being outdoors and doodling.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe the classroom is its own little community. Creating a positive environment where students feel safe asking questions and are engaged is very important to me.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I'm looking forward to watching students thrive and reach their goals.

Vanessa Medina



What is your position? College of the Sequoias, Counseling 100: Career and Life Planning; Grades 9-12

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I enjoy spending my spare time with my family, and I love exploring new cities while traveling.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Corcoran

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I attended Fresno State and received a Bachelor's in Psychology and Masters in Counseling.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I worked as a substitute teacher and a vocational career counselor.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I enjoy playing tennis.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I strongly believe that each student is capable of success, and I will do my very best to provide them with the tools in order to become successful.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to assisting students from my hometown and preparing them for college. I am passionate about working with the youth. I am excited about this school year!

Rosemarie Nevarez-Alvarez



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? High School Special Education 9-12, Algebra, Physical Science, and Guidance Counseling.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I've grown up in Corcoran for most of my life and have been blessed to have worked for some really great people and businesses, for more than 20 years all within a five-mile radius. Most people are familiar with me as working for Bank of the West as a Financial Service Consultant for ten years. I take pride in knowing my community and always trying to stay connected. Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of being a teacher and giving back to my community. I have four beautiful children, two who have since graduated from Corcoran High. I recently married my soulmate, and we enjoy spending time with our children and dancing the night away in our spare time.

Where did you grow up? I was born and raised in beautiful Corcoran.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? I obtained my Associates in Child Development through College of the Sequoias and my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development through Fresno Pacific University. I am currently entering the Tulare County Impact Program to obtain my multiple subject credential and my Special Education Credential.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I worked for Shelly Baird School in Hanford for a school year and substituted exclusively for Corcoran Unified School District this past year.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I love to read in my spare time; I have about three books waiting for me to finish them. When I am away from work, I enjoy spending my weekends with my family and dancing if I can squeeze it in.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I truly believe in the idea that "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to the camaraderie amongst my coworkers to help every single one of our students be successful.

NEW FACULTY

Marlena Ramirez



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John Muir, English/SS, Grade 6.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am a proud wife and mother of an amazing daughter. I am happy to be apart of the Corcoran team.

Where did you grow up? The Valley- Kings County.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Western Governors University WGU - Interdisciplinary Studies

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I was a teachers' aide for four years.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I like to ride my bike, dance, garden and put on fundraisers as part of the Kings County Black History Committee.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. In this class, we are F.A.M.I.L.Y. - Focused on Academics- Always be respectful -Motivated- Inclusive- Listeners- Young leaders.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to a long and productive career that will make a positive impact on the lives of my students.

Carlota Reid



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? JMMS, 7th Grade Math and Science

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am married and have a daughter.

Where did you grow up? Corcoran

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? San Joaquin Valley College - Associate of Science Degree, Fresno Pacific University - Bachelors Degree, and Brandman University - Teaching Credential

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I have taught for 14 years. I used to teach at San Joaquin Valley College. I have taught at several of their campuses and have even been in leadership positions (Academic Dean, Dean Of Student Services).

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I love spending time with my family and going to the beach.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I look forward to growing with CUSD and touching the lives of the community members I reside side by side with.

Jesus Rodriguez



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? John MM Math/Science

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I was born in México and came to the US at age two; been here for 42 years. I graduated from high school in 1994 and started working at Lemoore Elementary School District as a Custodian. Later, in 2000, I became a Groundskeeper/Custodian at Lemoore Elem. I enrolled at West Hills, graduated, and transferred to Fresno State. I completed credential courses at Brandman University. I held a full-time job while attending school, and at times, long-term sub assignments. I have taught at a dual-immersion setting for the last couple of years. I have felt nothing but warmth, respect, and a feeling of worth the first three weeks at Corcoran Unified. The only thing I can promise is that I will pay it forward! I will go hard for the school, students, and community!

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Lemoore

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? West Hills Lemoore. Fresno State. Brandman University.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? This will be my third year in the classroom.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I love to coach. I coach or have coached just about every sport at every age level. I have coached boys and girls.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. We, as educators, must find a way to inspire, engage, and advocate for our students today so that they are prepared for tomorrow.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I look forward to making a difference in our students' lives.

NEW FACULTY

Jaclyn Swarm



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 of teaching. I have two sons, a ten-year-old and a twelve-year-old.

Where did you grow up? Tulare

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Western Governors University/Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies. Multiple subject teaching credential.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I completed student teaching at Garden Elementary in Tulare in 6th-grade math/science. Afterward, I subbed for three different districts.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? I enjoy dancing and “DIY”ing. I love to repurpose old materials.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I think a classroom should be built on mutual respect and understanding. I want my students to know I care about them as a person, as well as their studies.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I am looking forward to building our school community into a place of caring and understanding.

Angela Toone



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? Kindergarten at Bret Harte

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I grew up in Corcoran and graduated from Corcoran high. I lived in Arkansas for six years.

Where did you grow up? Corcoran

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? Fresno Pacific for both BA in liberal studies and teaching credential

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? Taught third grade for three years, preschool for four years and kindergarten six years

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? Crafting, camping and spending time with my family

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. I believe I am a caring and compassionate teacher that tries my best to do everything I can for all my students

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? Working with great students, awesome staff and having other wonderful kindergarten teachers.

Christina Touchstone



What school, subject, and grade are you teaching? CHS: English 10 & 11; Theatre 1

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I like tea, rain, and books.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

Where did you go to college? Majors/Degrees? For undergrad, I attended Loyola Marymount University and earned my bachelor's in English with a minor in philosophy. I received my master's in English from CSUB.

Do you have any prior teaching or other work experience? I started teaching in 2001 in Los Angeles.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you enjoy doing away from work? When not at work, I like to spend time walking my dogs with my husband.

Give us a short sentence or two on your teaching philosophy. You have to show students your thinking process so that they can implement a similar process. Also, every student can learn.

What are you looking forward to at CUSD? I look forward to getting better at using technology as a tool to help students achieve. I also want to become an expert at Kagan strategies.

QUOTES AND PROVERBS

***We are not a team because we work together.
We are a team because we respect,
trust and care for each other.***

Vala Afshar

There are few things better than being part of a real team as defined above. We are only as strong as our culture defines us, and a culture can be defined as only as strong as the poorest behavior we are willing to accept and tolerate.

Because we work with such quality teachers, bus drivers, custodians, food service employees, administrators, board members, physical and mental health care professionals, support staff, security staff, secretaries, community contacts, grounds employees, counselors, we cannot help but be motivated to take ownership of what is needed to fulfill our mission and vision for our schools and students. In other words, we just do not work together, we pull together to do great things for kids!

