

CUSD NEWS



- Important Dates:**
- Martin Luther King Day, No School - January 20, 2020
 - Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2020
 - Lincoln's Birthday, No School - February 10, 2020
 - Regular Board Meeting, February 11, 2020

All We Do is WIN!!!

Many of us who work in our district are firm believers in working in and developing what I call a "winning culture." Just what does it take to "win" in a school setting? "Winning" schools and "winning" classrooms have adults in the system who know what "winning" looks like, and what it takes to create a winning culture.

Here is one definition of such a culture:

It shapes how people within the culture think, feel, and act. A culture that celebrates virtue, for example, will inspire the people within it to be virtuous.

A winning culture, then, is a culture that sets the stage for positive attitudes, high expectations, and successful performances. (Jamail, 2020)

In other words, it takes people who are winners. They know they have a competition every day, and how they need to get to the "finish line" every day.

These winners invest in creating an environment where kids and adults win. People work in a school, an office, a classroom, a kitchen, a field, etc. where they are encouraged, free to be creative and are inspired to do great work because of their personal pride connected to owning their work and the success of the school and the district.

The hope and the vision is to help shape our kids to becoming who they are built to be: winners in life to help create winners in the world they influence!



Meet our Staff



Ashley Williams

What is your work history, including at CUSD?

I began working for the district as a substitute teacher in 2006 then became a counselor in 2013 at John Muir Middle School.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job?

The most rewarding thing for me when working with students is knowing that I can give back to the community and help encourage students to believe in themselves and achieve their potential. Students inspire me and remind me every day to do my best because even though they are children, they are very brave, positive, and hopeful and usually willing to change if they know you believe in them.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job?

This year, we are making sure students have personalized reachable goals and are held accountable for their actions. We do this by connecting them with outside agencies as well as other district resources and people to make sure they have all that they need to succeed mentally, behaviorally, and academically.



Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?

My biggest inspiration in my life is my family and children. They remind me every day of my purpose. I am so blessed and want to do everything I can to make them proud and happy by being a good role model and providing them with a quality life.

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am a third-generation Corcoran High School Graduate and am very proud to be part of this community. I went to Fresno Pacific University for my Bachelors and Masters Degrees and was able to be a stay at home mom for a while before working at John Muir. I love animals and the outdoors, have a great family and support system, and we love to travel!

If the world were listening, what would you say?

Be patient, be kind, and remember to try your best to make the world a better place one step at a time.



Meet our Staff



Tammie Hutton

What is your work history, including at CUSD?

My teaching career began after a 10-year stint working in an office for the dairy industry. I began teaching in 2001 at Martin Luther King in Hanford. For the following next two school years, I worked at Cyesis through the Kings County Office of Education. After the program ended, I started my career with CUSD. I worked at Bret Harte, teaching 1st-grade for several years. I then moved to Mark Twain and began teaching 4th-grade in a self-contained setting. After one year, I was part of the team teaching pilot program where my focus was Math, Science, and PE. This was a great experience that I shared with two different partner teachers. It was my fourth year here at Mark Twain that brought the most significant change yet. I started my new position as Title 1 Resource Teacher. This position that I am currently in has provided me with so many opportunities. I am currently working and also attending school. It is my hope to be completed with my Administrative Credential by December of 2020.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job?

I find it most rewarding when students experience success. I love to see that look of, "Yes, I did that!" It's even better when they get so excited that they say it out loud. I work with teachers as much as I work with students, so I would like to say that the most rewarding part of working with teachers is when I see them complete their schooling and earn their CLEAR Credential. I love helping teachers become their best selves.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job?

At Mark Twain, our current project that I am most excited about is the implementation of MTSS. We now have a clear focus on our academics and review data regularly to improve our instruction, guide our students learning, and apply new strategies. We are utilizing the resources that we have on campus in a much more effective way. We have also started to implement a few social-emotional strategies within our classrooms with the help of Eileen Wright, Melinda Leonardo, and the rest of our MTSS team. GO EAGLES!!!

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?

The biggest inspiration in my life is hard to narrow down. My parents are my rock and my source of support and inspiration for marriage and parenting. My husband is my inspiration when it comes to a kid that was able to overcome adversity and become a successful adult, wonderful husband, an amazing father. My brother is my inspiration on how to be a GREAT HUMAN. He is the why behind I do what I do. He struggled through school and has taken his struggles and made a wonderful life that is filled with doing good for the sake of all Americans. My inspiration as a teacher comes from the excellent teachers that supported my brother throughout his schooling. I want to give a huge shout out to Mr. Beagle, Mr. Parks, Mrs. Simas, Mr. DeRuiter, and even the teachers that didn't believe in him. They taught me, through him, that students with different learning styles are not incapable of learning; it's just that we as teachers need to be capable of recognizing what they need in order to learn.

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am a 43-year-old daughter, wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend. I love spending time with people that make me laugh. Family time is everything to us. We enjoy concerts, monster trucks, baseball (GO BRAVES!), hockey, riding in the desert, and car shows.

If the world were listening, what would you say?

All students have the ability to learn and be successful. It is our job as educators to make sure that all students understand this.

***“Winners are not people who never fail,
but people who never quit.”***

~Unknown

One of the most tragic beliefs that come out of our educational experience is that life is defined by our achievement on a test or our performance in a class, (good or bad). The true-life lesson for all of us, whether we perform in a classroom, a playing field, or on the job is that perseverance and outlasting our attempts and failures is the true key to success. The idea of "one and done" that measures our ability to think and learn is not realistic.

With the above said, our District is moving toward personalizing learning and growing in order to give students multiple opportunities to attempt, correct, and achieve. If a student needs multiple opportunities to learn and master a concept, so be it. If a student needs more time on a test or a project, so be it. Life is not about our ability to master something over a short period of time as much as it is about mastering what we need to know and do.

Our goal is for every student to improve to be life-long learners who learn and experience who they are as winners who never quit learning and growing!

—Don't—
GIVE
—up!—