

CUSD NEWS

Important Dates:

- Regular Board Meeting, September 24 @ 6 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, October 8 @ 6 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, October 22 @ 6 p.m.

"WE OWN IT"



Our school year theme "We Own It" messages the main idea that all of us that make up our school district from students to adults take responsibility and take pride in what we do and what we achieve.

But before ownership, there is a price to pay. Nothing is for free; there is an investment, there is an effort, there is a willingness, and there is a desire to have whatever we want before it becomes ours.

In other words, we own and take responsibility for the work and achievement of our students because we "want to." We "want to" have an influence, we "want to" make a difference, we "want to" inspire kids, we "want to" affect their lives, we "want to" help them fulfill their purpose and destiny. Because we "want to," we are willing to take the risk to own their failures as well as their successes. The desire to be a significant contributor in their lives is much higher than the fear, risk, and even hurt that occurs when our kids and we do not do so well!

With all of this said, we are committed to doing what is necessary to see that our kids succeed and are equipped for life. We "own" our calling and responsibility, not because we have to; it is a choice and one that we take up gladly. Our students have to succeed to the degree that our kids in our own homes have to as well because our success depends on it. What a challenge and what an honor!

Meet Our Staff



Maria Velasco

What is your work history, including at CUSD? I used to work as a waitress at Tampico Restaurant in Delano. Now I'm working for John C. Fremont as a cafeteria worker preparing the most delicious salads for our lovely students.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job? The most rewarding to me is working with students, to be part of their healthy eating, see that they enjoy their lunches, and when they ask, "What's for lunch". It is also gratifying to me to have excellent co-workers that always motivate me and teach me to do my job better.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job? I'm working on crafts with fruits and decorating the salad bar to make them look attractive to our students, so they want to try something different every day.

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life? My family has been my biggest inspiration. I would do anything for them.

Tell us a little about yourself: I'm a friendly, grateful, and dedicated person. I surround myself with people with good energy, and I like to make others and myself happy. OH, and I love to eat!

If the world were listening, what would you say? Eat, sleep, and say something nice to someone each day.

"Maria is a new employee for our department this year. I am so happy she accepted a position with us. She is a kind and caring person and has been a great addition to our team."~Terri Thomas, Food Services Director

What is your work history, including at CUSD? I worked for my parents business growing up. I was a substitute teacher for the Kings County Office of Education. I was a sub mostly for John Muir Middle School and Corcoran High School. This is my sixth year working as an English teacher for Corcoran High School.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job? The most rewarding part of my job is the relationships that I have built with my students.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job? I have an upcoming project for students that focuses on broadening their understanding of the careers that interest them. This project requires students to create a legitimate plan focused on the expectations and requirements needed to obtain a career.

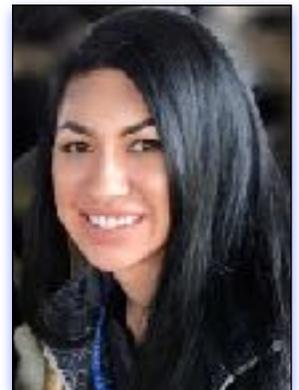
Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life? My mom has been immensely inspirational to me. She has taught me always to be productive and be the best person that I can be.

Tell us a little about yourself: I enjoy spending time with my son. I love attending all of his sporting events. I find peace playing the piano and reading.

If the world were listening, what would you say? In your eyes, you may just be one simple person, but to one person, you may be their world.

"Crystal Salinas is nothing short of awesome. She is humble and a hard worker and is the epitome of student centered. She says, "yes," to every request to help a fellow teacher or to be on a leadership team. We are extremely lucky to have her."

~Antonia Stone, Principal



Crystal Salinas

Corcoran Unified School District and partners will soon begin construction on the

Career Technical Education Gaming Center and Quad Remodel at Corcoran High School



The plan calls for reconstituting almost the total quad area with permanent benches landscaping, six shade covers, and an amphitheater area. The main area of the facility can also be used for multiple purposes such as dining and presentations.

The Games & Simulations pathway at Corcoran High School prepares students for post-secondary education, employment, and advanced training in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). When fully implemented, the pathway will serve approximately 180 students per year, grades 9-12. Pathway students develop foundational knowledge and skills within Information and Communication Technology while taking a rigorous, integrated course of study that includes curriculum needed for college and university admissions. Students who participate in the program will be allowed to complete industry-recognized certifications and participate in job shadowing and internships with industry partners.

To achieve the goals of this project, the Gaming & Simulations pathway needs a space that mirrors the real-world work environments they will encounter in the Information and Communication Technology field. The new facility will include two classrooms, a meeting room, collaboration space, a sound room, a motion capture area, and a green screen, in addition to other spaces and equipment to support creativity, problem-solving, and collaborative work.

The Gaming & Simulations pathway will partner with the Business pathway class to cross-teach project management and games development. They will be using real-world resources and application, with students in the Business pathway managing projects that the Gaming pathway students create.

To ensure best practices and theory will be incorporated into pathway instruction, representatives from Apple and Bitwise are involved in the planning of the curriculum. A partnership with John Muir Middle School will help guide incoming Freshmen toward the pathway. ICT Advisory Committee members will provide industry expertise for curriculum development. Involvement of these partners and alliances creates articulation from pre-secondary to secondary, to post-secondary, and finally to the workplace.

Quotes & Proverbs

**Motivation is what gets you started.
Commitment is what keeps you going.
~Unknown**

Most of us who work in the education business has entered into our “calling” because we are motivated to influence and affect young people’s lives. The bottom line is we love kids, and we have a desire and a passion for working with students and making a huge difference.

But passion is not enough when things get tough, when challenged, confront us, and when we might see failure and set back. Not every child is ready for school, and not every child grows and succeeds at the rate we would like to see at times.

What separates us as a leader of young people is that our commitment is bigger than any setback or temporary failure. This is because we look above and beyond the challenge, and we see kids who we care about and consider over the long term. We are committed to student success because we are committed to our kids!

