

The Migrant VOICE

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Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools



The mystery hiding behind *Fresno State*

Have you ever
wondered how it feels
to be a dreamer?

By: Claudia Gomez

Our journalism team went to Fresno State University to take a tour and interview Gaby Encinas. We went by charter bus on Friday, January 31, 2020.

When we first arrived, our tourists Jennifer and Maria led us to several buildings on the Fresno State campus like the library, the student center, and the Bulldog Zone. They

also showed us the restaurants located on campus like Subway, Panda Express, Starbucks, and Taco Bell. Something unique about Fresno State's student center is that they serve ice cream that no other place can sell. The library is very big and it has about 1.3 million books. The library also has movable bookshelves. The student center has games like bowling, video games, and pool tables. The Fresno State campus has a peace garden that we were able to tour. The statues in the garden were of



Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, and Jane Adams. They also have sleeping pods where students can go and relax. The hardest part of Gaby's job is when students aren't doing well because it makes her sad.

Gaby's message to all students is that all students should go to college. She wants all students to know that they should never give up, go to college, and always believe it's possible. When you go to college you might want to read this article first, because it has a lot of helpful information to help you to be successful at college.

Fresno State: *One Incredible Trip*

By: Daniella Delgado

Have you ever been to Fresno State's campus? Well, I have and it was fun! On January 31, 2020, my journalism team and I went to Fresno State on a charter bus to interview Gaby Encinas about the DACA program and get a tour of Fresno's State campus. When we first got there, we were introduced to Maria and Jennifer who were our tour guides. We started off in the library. The library has five floors that include a Starbucks on the second floor. As soon as you walk in to your right, you will see the information center.

Students can go to the information center if they need any help. In the basement of the school library, it has a Writing and Learning Center. The basement also has rows of movable bookshelves. The books on the shelves have GPS so if students need a specific book, they will locate it. The next place we went to was the student center. The student center has two floors. The top floor is where the students can come and hangout. The bottom floor has food courts and includes the Bulldog Zone. The Bulldog Zone is another place where students can come and hangout. The Bulldog Zone includes food courts

and sleeping pods. Students can use sleeping pods between classes if they ever get tired. The next thing we did during our visit was interview Gaby Encinas about the DACA program. We found out that DACA helps students that were not born in the United States to remain here. Some facts about Gaby Encinas is that she's the oldest in the family, she is a first generation to go to college, she majored in chemistry, she's from Mexico, and she also loves to help her students. So if you have never taken a tour of the Fresno State campus you should, because you will have a lot of fun!

Fresno State *has dreamers covered*

Have you ever wondered what DACA actually is?

By: Daniel Ramirez

On January 31, 2020, our journalism team went to Fresno State to tour the campus and interview Gaby Encinas of the DACA program. DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. It helps immigrants stay in the United States and prevents them from being deported. DACA has been around since 2012 and was established by the Obama administration. The DACA program at Fresno State helps immigrant students find scholarships to go to college, assists with counseling needs, and helps students with their academics while they are in college. Gaby Encinas explained that she chose this job because education is so important for students. Gabby wants students to feel empowered. She has worked for Fresno State for a



Admiring the statue of Cesar Chavez at the Peace Garden on the Fresno State campus.

total of 10 years. Gaby is an academic advisor and a counselor. DACA is important because it will help you stay in the United States. Gaby graduated with a Master's degree in chemistry in 2014. The DACA program



Our Journalism team taking a break at the beautiful water fountain during our visit to the Fresno State campus.

gets its funds from the state as well as from the college. Next time you are in need of assistance with aca-

demics or immigration questions, you might want to visit Gaby Encinas located on the Fresno State campus.

My trip to *Fresno State*

by Taylete Hernandez

On our tour to Fresno State, some girls helped us on the tour. The girls were named Jennifer and Maria. We started the tour at a library that was very large! It had more than 1 million books! When we were going down to the floor below, we went to the stairs and there was a noise like rain. There were

also some people who helped you find the book you wanted.

After we left the library, we went on a tour and saw The Recharge Zone; there were balls you sleep in. We also saw some statues. The first one was César Chávez, the second was Gandhi and the third was Martin Luther King Jr. Then a child asked her that a question and she answered, "I earn

money."

Then we went to eat. Jose, Katia, and I grabbed Panda Express and we sat down to eat on some nice benches. Jose and I were drinking Gatorade and Katia was drinking Coca Cola. After we finished eating, we went to the store where they sell books and clothes that have the Fresno State design. Mrs. Isaak bought a backpack



Henry Madden Library at CSUF.

for Katia and me that says Fresno State, and she bought Jose a doll that sticks in the fridge.

Last, we got our things, got on the bus, and went back to the Cutler Elementary School.

A trip to *Fresno State*

A day with Gaby Encinas, coordinator for the Dream Success Center

By **Juan Reyes, Cesar Reyes,
Javier Mora, and Jonathan Virelas**

On Friday morning, January 31, 2020, the migrant journalism class went to Fresno State to interview Gaby Encinas about the Dream Success Center.

First, we went to the Henry Madden Library. We found out that there are about 1.3 million books in the Henry Madden Library. The library offers a tutoring center for students that have trouble with homework. We also saw the sliding bookshelves in motion. When someone pushes the button the shelf starts to move. If someone walks in between the bookshelf will stop because the sensors detect the person's motion. Jonathan, a student from Golden Valley Elementary, got the chance to experience it.

After that, we went to the Dream Success Center to interview Gaby Encinas on her job duties. Her main job duty is to be an academic advisor. Gaby Encinas, takes her time to help students get

their classes and find scholarships for them. Other services provided by the Dream Success Center are to refer students for counseling and promote health and wellness among students.

Finally, Gaby Encinas told us about DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States when they were children from deportation. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: protection from deportation, and a work permit.

Clearly, our experience at Fresno State gave us the opportunity to practice our interviewing skills with someone in a leadership role, like Gaby Encinas.

Leading Visalia into a new decade! *Visalia City Hall*

By: **Daniella Delgado**

Have you ever wondered what it is like being a leader of your own city? On November 21, 2019, my migrant journalism team went to the Visalia City Hall on a charter bus to interview Mayor Bob Link. During the visit, we had the opportunity to get a tour of the Visalia City Hall building. When we first got to the Visalia City Hall, we were introduced to Allison Mackey, who was our tour guide. In the entrance of the City Hall there were pictures of previous mayors on a wall. She led us through a VIP tour of the Visalia Fire Department. While on our tour of the Visalia Fire Department, we were able to see where the firefighters live as well as learn about their job

to help the community. When we ended the tour, we went back to City Hall to interview Mayor Bob Link. When we interviewed Mayor Bob Link, we found out that he has been mayor for 20 years and that before he became mayor he owned a shop. Link became mayor because he wanted to make a difference. Mayor Link has a degree in business administration and ran against four other men for the position of mayor. The mayor's job includes running council meetings, talking to organizations and or concerned citizens, as well as attending ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the community. Sometimes Mayor Bob Link can work from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Link states that the most challenging part of his job is running the meetings and ensuring that every citizen has an opportunity to speak without the meeting lasting too long. We also found out that when they hold their meetings, by law they have to start at 7:00 p.m. If no one shows up, they must wait a certain amount of time before ending their meetings. The council consists of the mayor, vice mayor, and three council mem-

bers who include both a city attorney and a city manager. The city attorney is needed to assist with any legal complaints. The meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. for a work session and then again at 7:00 p.m. they will open the meeting for the public to attend. At 7:00 p.m. they allow citizens to speak about their concerns or issues that they may want resolved. Each council member, who has the job of voting on issues to resolve, consists of an odd number to ensure that there is not a tie when voting. For a vote to pass, three of the five voters have to vote yes. The council is able to make decisions regarding all issues that involve the community except those of public hospitals or schools. Overall, the visit to Visalia City Hall was amazing and our Migrant team was able to learn more about the Visalia City Hall and Mayor Bob Link. So if you ever wanted to know what it feels like to be a leader of a city, you might want to attend a Visalia City Council meeting and watch Mayor Bob Link in action.

Visiting *Visalia City Hall*

By: **Claudia Gomez and Daniel Ramirez**

Did you know that being a leader can be both challenging and fun? Well, on November 21, 2019, our Migrant students and teachers went by charter bus to the Visalia City Hall building in Visalia, California to take a tour and learn about the Visalia Police and Fire Station employees' jobs. During our visit to the Visalia City Hall, we also had the opportunity to interview

Mayor Bob Link to learn about what it is like to be a leader. When we arrived at the Visalia City Hall building, we were first given a tour and then learned about their various jobs.

First, we learned that at the police station people go there if they get a traffic ticket. The station is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, we had the opportunity to tour the Visalia Fire Station. We learned that unlike the police station where the

workers get to go home at the end of their workday, firefighters actually eat, sleep, and live at the station 24 hours a day. Firemen are only allowed to go home on their days off. We learned that both the police station and fire station are available to help people wherever they are needed even if it is not in Visalia. The Visalia Fire Station was established in 1869 and has been in Visalia for 150 years. The

See **CITY HALL** on page 8

Interviewing the *Mayor of Visalia*

Do you go to Visalia? Have you ever experienced a problem there? If there is an issue, you can visit Mayor Robert Link at the Visalia City Hall. He can help by coming up with a solution to any issue about Visalia.

On November 21, 2019, the Golden Valley journalism class traveled to Visalia CA, on a study trip to Interview Mayor Robert Link to find out about the daily duties of someone in leadership.

During our trip, we had the opportunity to sit in the boardroom, and interview Mayor Link. In this room, five council members meet and make

decisions based on issues in the city. For example, one of the issues that has been brought up in one of the meetings was regarding vaping. If one of the council members does not agree with the rest of the group, they will not be able to make a decision.

In addition, we also had the opportunity to interview the mayor about his job duties. Meetings always start at 7:00 p.m. They take up to about two hours to finish their meeting. Every Friday afternoon, Mayor Link receives all his information on an iPad. In addition, whenever there is a new employee Mayor Link gets to be the first

one to meet them.

Finally, Mayor Link shared experiences about becoming mayor. The reason why he wanted to become a mayor was a shopping complex that was going to be built on Highway 198 and Interstate 99. Mayor Link knew that this would affect the downtown area of Visalia and retail. Mayor Link worked with the city before he got into politics. He has served twenty years on the council.

Clearly, Mayor Link makes many important decisions on a daily basis, with the other council members, for the city of Visalia.

Meet Palm School's *Principal*

By Marlen Ortega, Alixon Tenango, Francisco Tenango

Have you ever wondered who Mr. Jayboy Camaquin is? Well, he is a principal and he was born on March 18, 1974. He was born in the Philippines in a town called Vintar. When he was little, he went to a private Catholic school. In 1988, he came to the US when he was 13 year old. At this time, he attended school in the United States. He attended Orosi High School. He lives near his work. He lives in Dinuba, California. Mr. Camaquin got married and he has three children. The first child is named Samantha. She is a senior in high school. The other child's name is Ben. He is in 8th grade and will be in high school soon. His third child's name is Karielle. She is the youngest and is in kindergarten.

Mr. Camaquin knows how to speak many languages. He can speak Ilocano, Tagalog, English, and a little bit of Spanish. He also enjoys doing many things in his free time. He likes to grow things, go for walks, and visit new places.

Mr. Camaquin has had many jobs in his life. When he was 13 years old, he worked in the fields. He picked tomatoes and zucchini. He realized it was hard work and decided to go to college. He worked at R-N Market as a cashier in Orosi, California, and helped at Orosi Library for two summers. He knew he wanted a better job but did not know what he wanted to be at first. He took college classes at Fresno State and

he thought he wanted to be an accountant. He took classes for this career path; however, he later realized that he did not want to be that. By accident, someone told him about majoring in liberal arts to become a teacher. It was at this point in his life that he decided he wanted to be a teacher.

He was asked who or what influenced him in his career. He said he was influenced by seeing the great things people were doing and he wanted to influence other people too.

After he graduated from college, he first became a teacher. Later, he became a vice principal in 2007. He is now a principal at Palm Elementary School in Cutler-Orosi Unified. He has been a principal at this elementary school for six years.

Mr. Camaquin works with many people every day. He works with 81 people. They are teachers, custodians, aides, secretaries, and nurses. He also works with many parents and students.

As a principal, he has many duties. When he is at work, he checks his emails, goes into classrooms, helps students and teachers at recess time, and has to attend many meetings. He said that the most important thing about his job is to help students to be great learners and teachers to be great teachers. He helps and supports them. He also informed us that being a principal is a good paying job. When he was asked how much is his salary he stated he makes over \$100,000.00 a year.

The pandemic of COVID-19 changed the job role of many people. However, when Mr. Camaquin was asked how the pandemic changed his job role, he said COVID-19 did not change things for him. He said one good thing from it was that he learned a lot more about how to use technology and how to meet and talk to people virtually.

Jobs always have some good and some bad. What Mr. Camaquin likes about his job is working with a lot of people and helping students and teachers. What he does not like about his job is when students do not follow the rules. When that happens, he has to talk to the students and parents about the situation.

His advice to students is, "Whatever your parents and teachers tell you to do, do your work without complaining. Listen and follow directions, and ask for help when you need it!"



Palm Elementary *School's Principal*

by Alexander Pacheco

Are you ready to know about Mr. Camaquin? Mr. Camaquin is currently Palm School's principal, however his life journey started in a different country.

His life started in a town called Vintar in the Philippines. He was born March 18, 1974, and came to the US when he was 13 years old. When he attended school in the United States, he attended Orosi High School. He speaks several languages, Ilocano, Tagalog, English, and a little bit of Spanish.

He worked in the fields when he was young. He picked tomatoes and zucchini. He realized it was very hard work so he decided to go to college. He also helped in the Orosi Library for two summers when he was older. He also worked at the R-N Market as a cashier.

He did not know what he wanted to be until he took college classes at Fresno State. At first, he

thought he wanted to be an accountant. He later realized that he did not want to be an accountant. Someone told him to take classes in liberal arts so that he could become a teacher. He thought about it and decided it would be a career he would want to pursue.

He shared he did not have any specific person who influenced him; however he was influenced by seeing what teachers were doing for others. Therefore, he wanted to influence other people too.

His career in education began as first being a teacher and then becoming a vice principal in 2007. He is now a principal and has been for six years at Palm Elementary School in Cutler-Orosi Unified.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect his job according to him. He said he still goes to work and does mostly everything he used to. He also said one good thing is that he now knows how to use more technology and how to meet and talk to other

people through technology. As a principal he makes over 100,000.00 thousand dollars a year and works with 81 people plus parents and students.

He now has three kids named Samantha who is a senior, Ben who is in 8th grade and Karielle who is in kindergarten. Mr Camaquin lives in Dinuba and likes to grow things, garden, go for walks and visit new places.

He also has advice for students. He said, "Whatever your parents and teachers tell you to do, do your work without complaining. Listen and follow directions, and ask help when you need it!" Alexander Pacheco, a student in Migrant journalism class said, "I think his advice to me means you have to do your work and ask for help when you actually really need it. In addition, I think its great advice for students because there are many kids not wanting to do their work and asking for help when they actually don't need it."



By: Andrea Meza

Ms. Yanez, *future Teacher*

Teaching Credential.

Miss Yanez does like using technology. She said she likes it, but she sometimes does not feel very comfortable. When asked what was the best thing she liked about technology, she answered that having immediate access to the internet on her phone device is very helpful.

I asked if Miss Yanez felt skilled at using technology and how does she strengthen those skills. She replied, "I do my best with basics and try to learn a little more every day." She said she became good by everyday uses at school, work, personal life, and regularly uses Google Doc and Google Slides. She also uses many other programs that help to create lessons and connect with students.

Miss Yanes presently works for Porterville Unified School District for student teaching and at Castle Rock Elementary School in Woodlake assisting with the journalism class. At work, she shared that she inputs work hours, sends timesheets electronically, completes paperwork through Google Docs, and attends virtual Zoom meetings with students. She currently teaches in-Person on Wednesday and a STEM class on Saturday. All her lesson

plans are created and shared from her computer. The devices she works with regularly are Chromebook, iPad, and her phone. All are always helpful to access work documents at any given moment.

I wondered, where did Miss Yanez learn about the technology she uses? She answered that she learned by practicing with many different technology applications and input from family members. With all her daily activity on a computer, it was interesting for me to learn that Miss Yanez did not grow up with devices in her home! It was in high school that she received her first mobile phone! School, at that time, did not give out Chromebooks, but had some computers for student use at school. Throughout this pandemic, my school has provided all students with a device and free WiFi! Even preschool-aged children are learning from home on different devices. Finally, I asked Miss Yanez if she has any concerns regarding technology use. She responded, "Technology is great, but needs to be monitored. Too much screen time is not good. And unfortunately, one must be very careful with the availability of inappropriate material and mean people who use technology to find ways to harm children."

Have you ever questioned yourself about the many uses and functions of technology, especially through this pandemic? I also questioned myself about the effects of technology and how it is viewed by people. I was able to interview someone who gave me their personal perspective and point of view towards this topic; her name is Maria Elizabeth Yanez. Miss Yanez is a future teacher and currently works as our journalism assistant. Read on to see how she has been impacted by modern technology.

Miss Yanez, the only girl and youngest of four siblings, was born in Mexico and raised in the outskirts of Tulare. Living in the country where there is very little traffic is what she enjoys most about Tulare. Growing up she loved to play volleyball and soccer, although she never played on the school teams, always just for fun. Her parents are from Jalisco, Mexico. Miss Yanez is 24 years old and is currently attending Fresno State University. She will be graduating May 2021 with a California

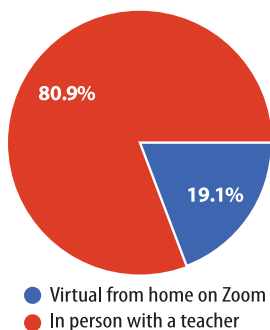
The first day of school *Six Feet Apart!*

By: Chanaly Castrejon, Anita Gutierrez, and Jamileh Ramirez

The world has experienced the most unusual school year imaginable!

On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, our journalism team conducted a virtual survey to see how second-through fourth-grade students think and feel about in-person compared to online learning. The students answered our survey questions during their in-person instruction time, and we evaluated their survey responses from home. We interviewed students about their feelings regarding distance versus in-person learning.

The results of our interview showed that most of the students surveyed preferred in-person instruction to virtual learning. The red section on the graph indicates that 80.9 % of students preferred in person instruction. The blue section shows that only 19.1% of students favored

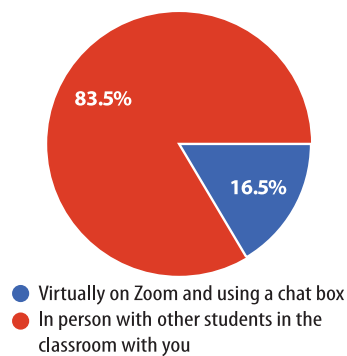


virtual learning.

Here are the top five responses to: "What is your favorite part about virtual learning?"

- My favorite part about virtual learning is that we can get to class much faster.
- My favorite part about virtual learning is the using chat box.
- My favorite part about virtual learning is that I get to stay at home and be safe.
- My favorite part about virtual learning is staying at home and being able to stay in pajamas.
- I could wake up one minute before class and still be on time.

When students were asked about their favorite way to talk and interact with other students our graph results showed once again that many of the students surveyed preferred in person instruction to



virtual learning. The red section on the circle graph indicates that 83.5% of students preferred in person instruction. The blue section shows that only 16.5% of students favored virtual learning.

Here are the top five responses to: "What is your favorite way to talk and interact with other students?"

- My favorite part about in-person learning is that I can be hands on and ask questions.
- In my opinion, I think it is easier to learn in-person because there are no distractions.
- My favorite part about in-person learning is that I can see my friends and teachers.
- I get to talk to my classmates, and it is easier to do work since your teacher is there with you.
- My teacher can help me better.

It was exciting to see that the student survey we conducted showed that most students felt the same way that we do about preferring in-person learning to virtual. If you ever had any doubts about whether students want to be in school with their friends and teachers, our survey will eliminate those thoughts!



By: Chanaly Castrejon, Anita Gutierrez, and Jamileh Ramirez

Have you ever imagined that there would be a sickness around the world and it would stop teachers from instructing their students the way that they have in the past?

Our journalism team conducted a virtual survey and Zoom interview to find out how teachers think and feel about in-person compared to online instruction. The teachers were asked to answer our survey questions through email and Zoom interviews on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Did you ever imagine that there would be a time when teachers could not teach in person and students could not attend classes in person for almost an entire year due to a virus? The COVID-19 virus changed the way that teachers would teach and students would learn. The results of our teacher survey revealed that most of the teachers interviewed preferred in-person instruction because they can see their student's facial expressions and assess what they are learning. In addition, the teachers we sur-

No mask, *No Instruction!*

veyed believed that in-person instruction would allow them to monitor their students more effectively. Here are the top four responses to each of our three questions. The first question was: "What do you like or dislike about in-person instruction?"

- Dislike having to get all prettied up for work.
- With DL (distance learning), I can apply a filter to myself and not have all my blemishes show on camera. Dislike when students come to school sick.
- I like that kids participate more in person.
- I like having kids in-person before COVID. Having kids in smaller groups is always a plus to give kids more one-on-one help. Not being able to have small groups and not being able to work together is a huge disadvantage.
- I like that with in-person instruction, I can see the work that the students are doing in front of me instead of just on the computer. Since I am able to see the work that they are doing, I feel like I can provide them more individualized support. I also

like that with in-person instruction, students appear to be less distracted than when they were on the computer. Students are able to focus in class a lot more.

The second question was: "What did you like or dislike about virtual teaching on Zoom?"

- Like the ability to have more time teaching my students. We have 90 minutes of DL instead of 55 minutes. Dislike technology does not always work like it is supposed to. Students have issues with their internet connectivity and sometimes the lag is just too much to keep their interest.
- I dislike teaching virtually because I am not able to get to know my students on a personal basis like the one I am used to doing with in person instruction. It has been a challenge getting to know my students' capabilities, likes, and dislikes.
- I disliked the fact that students had no accountability. I liked the lack of distractions for high

We Asked, *They Answered!*

Classified staff speak out!

By: Chanaly Castrejon and Anita Gutierrez
April 15, 2021

In order to find out how classified school staff feel about students being on campus compared to students learning off campus, our journalism team asked them questions about the different challenges that they have experienced with having students on versus off campus. The school classified staff surveyed include our teacher's aides, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria staff, and librarians. We worked from home and sent out a virtual survey on the computer for classified staff to answer our questions and then we reviewed their responses to share them with our readers.

As a result of our classified staff survey, we learned a lot of information. Our schools could not run effectively if we did not have classified staff on our campuses. This is why we felt it was important to let their voices be heard. The following comments were just a few of the responses that we received from our survey respondents. Our first question was: "How do you feel about having students back on campus?"

The following responses were received:

- I absolutely LOVE having the kids back. The entire energy has shifted on campus. Not having them, then having them, totally backs up the whole reason why we do what we do. We love our students. It is not the same when they are not physically there and to be honest, I am not sure if I would stay doing the job I do if they were not a part of my daily duties.
- I am so grateful for the opportunity to have our students back on campus in-person. Including myself personally, I have seen the spirits of the teachers lifted and their energy rebuilt just by having the students back in classrooms. It has

brought me so much joy to be able to interact with the kids again. Being able to say, "Good morning, how is your day?" or "Bye, have a good day!" has felt so good. Our purpose is being fulfilled once again.

- Excited to be able to help them with assignments.
- Excited but worried.
- Excited to be able to help them with assignments in-person.
- I think it is great. They have had a rough year.
- I love having them back!
- My heart was smiling! I was so excited to see their smiling faces when they returned.
- I am happy they are back on campus.

Our second question was: "What benefits or challenges have you experienced with students being off campus?"

The following responses were received:

- I do not see any benefit of having them off campus. Over this past year, we have seen our students decline academically and socially. For some of our students we (the school and the staff) are their only outlet for happiness and stability. A huge challenge has been not being able to sit and talk to them when they are having a bad day or helping them with a situation when they are struggling with schoolwork or a computer or just being lonely and isolated at home.
- While students were off campus, I believe most of our staff's spirits were brought down. Our reasoning for our jobs was not being satisfied to the extent it should be. We are here for a purpose, to serve our students and community. Without the kids on campus, it did not feel like we were doing justice for them.
- Challenges that I experienced with students being off campus was it was difficult to help those

students who are too shy to participate in class. Another challenge was that not all students were willing to participate in class activities and it was hard to get them to participate.

- Benefits would include being able to provide extra support for students who truly need it and having the ability to make sure students are focused in class by keeping an eye on them. A challenge would be keeping them socially distanced and making sure masks are always worn.
- Challenges that I experienced with students being off campus was it was difficult to help those students who are too shy to participate in class. Another challenge was that not all students were willing to participate in class activities and it was hard to get them to participate.
- Students staying on Zoom and doing their work.
- Not being able to create that relationship with them and get to know them better.
- For me, the challenges were the Chromebooks not working properly and internet provider issues.
- I think there were more challenges than benefits to having the students off campus. The connection was not always the greatest. Students could turn off the camera and walk away from their Chromebooks. There was no accountability for the students.

As you can see from the survey results, our classified staff have also missed the students being on campus and believe that their return has not only had a great impact on the students' ability to learn, but has also improved the entire staff's working environment. It takes many people doing a variety of jobs in order to make a school run smoothly. During our interview process, we realized that teachers, students, and classified staff all agree that in order for students to learn effectively and schools to function properly, it is best for all students to be back on campus.

NO MASK

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achieving students.

- I really disliked the fact that some students often had their cameras off during class instruction. That made it very difficult for me to know how they were grasping the content that we were learning.

The third question was: "Which method of teaching do you prefer, in person or virtually?" Why?

- It depends on the content that I am teaching. My lower-level courses need to be in-person so that I can monitor them more. My AP & GATE courses can be virtual because they do not need as much monitoring.

- I prefer in-person teaching and I am looking forward to being able to go back. Again, I feel that in-person teaching lends itself to getting to know my students and being able to meet their academic needs much easier. With distance learning, some students have been able to hide behind the screen, which makes it harder for me to support them academically as I normally do.
- I prefer in-person because I can assess the needs of each student.
- I prefer teaching in person because I feel like students are much more comfortable learning in an environment that they know is primarily for learning. This means that students are much more comfortable asking for help, and the participation

among students greatly increases in the in-person learning.

Our journalism team was not surprised by our teacher interview results because before COVID-19 started, a majority of teachers liked teaching students in their classrooms. When COVID-19 started, the teachers were not happy because the students had to be virtual and they were not able to observe their students completing class work or effectively assess their academic progress. As you can see from our survey results, the current COVID-19 teaching situation has not only affected students' academic and mental progress, but has also had a similar effect on teachers as well.

CITY HALL

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fire Captain who gave us a tour of the Fire Station let us know that each station has both a fire engine and a fire truck. They are different and are both needed during a fire. A fire engine is yellow and includes a fire pump and water. A fire truck is red and has no water or fire pump. Firemen need to make sure that everything is working properly when they are at the station waiting for a call. The average number of calls the firemen receive each day is about 10. During our tour of both the Visalia City Hall building and the fire station, we were able to learn a lot of information regarding the hard work that workers at both the police station, fire station, and the employees of city hall do each day to assist the community. In addition, we learned about the

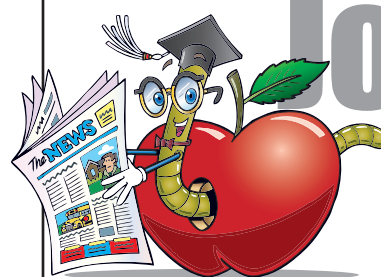
important role that the leadership of these services has to enforce and ensure that we are safe.

We also had an opportunity to tour the office and interview the city of Visalia's mayor, Bob Link. The building where Mr. Link's office is located looked small from the outside, but the inside was very large. The inside of the building had pictures on the walls of the previous mayors. It had a lot of doors; one of the doors was the passport door where people go to obtain a passport to go to places like Mexico or any other place outside of the United States. The city hall building is open on Mondays and Wednesdays. One of the mayor's jobs is to be available to talk to citizens when people want or need to talk with him. The mayor has a very busy job with meetings most of the day, attending ribbon-cutting ceremonies, as well as handling

complaints and or concerns from the public regarding their neighborhood or a particular community areas. Each council meeting involves five city council members meeting together to make decisions regarding citizen complaints and concerns. If you have a complaint or concern, the public is invited to attend a city council meeting at the city hall building to voice their concerns or opinions. The Visalia City Council meets the first and third Monday of every month at 4 p.m. to discuss issues and then again at 7 p.m. for their regular sessions with the public. If you would like to attend a meeting, they are held in the Visalia City Hall building Council Chambers located at 707 West Acequia in Visalia, California. If you are interested in making a difference in your community, you might want to attend the next Visalia City Hall meeting.

Journalism Classes

Participating Students:

2019 - 2020
Claudia Gomez,
Tulare City School District
Daniella Delgado,
Tulare City School District
Daniel Ramirez,
Tulare City School District
Taylete Hernandez,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Jose Pacheco,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Katia Pacheco,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Juan Reyes,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Cesar Reyes,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Javier Mora,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Jonathan Virelas,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
2020 - 2021
Marlen Ortega,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Alexander Pacheco,
Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
Chanaly Castrejon,
Tulare City School District
Anita Gutierrez,
Tulare City School District
Jamileh Ramirez,
Tulare City School District
Alixon Tenango,
Woodlake Unified School District
Francisco Tenango,
Woodlake Unified School District
Andrea Meza,
Woodlake Unified School District
Anabel González, MA
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Journalism Teachers:

Darlene Isaak, *Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District (2019-2020)*
Janice Pearson, *Tulare City School District (2019-2020 & 2020-2021)*
Javier Hurtado, *Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District (2019-2020)*
Jeff Johnstone, *Tulare City School District (2019-2020)*
Juanita "Penny" Ureña, *Woodlake Unified School District
(2019-2020 & 2020-2021)*
Michelle Larralde, *Monson-Sultana Jt. Union School District
(2019-2020)*
Sylvia McLaughlin, *Cutler-Orosi Jt. Unified School District
(2019-2020 & 2020-2021)*