

# CUSD *Newsletter*

## Upcoming events/ reminders

Board Meeting  
March 8, 2022  
Board Room @ 6 PM

Board Meeting  
March 22, 2022  
Board Room @ 6 PM

NO SCHOOL  
Spring Break  
April 11 - April 18, 2022

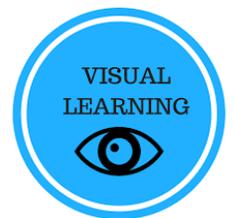
## Teachers are Learners Too

There are many approaches to providing first instruction to students. Many approaches have been introduced over the years, including inquiry-based, progressive, project-based, student-centered, and others. What has been found, more often than not, is that direct instruction is more effective and efficient, especially for students from low-income families, including those who come from families that do not have an extensive academic background, for English Learners, and students who are already struggling academically due to deficiencies in specific academic skills as well as for students with special needs.

John Hattie, the author of *Visible Learning* (2009), found that direct instruction brought about above-average gains in both surface and deep learning for students of all ages and abilities. When teaching new content and skills to novices, teachers are more effective when they provide explicit guidance accompanied by practice and feedback, not when they require students to discover many aspects of what they must learn.

So what does a well-structured lesson include? From the book *Explicit Direct Instruction* (Hollingsworth and Ybarra, 2018), EDI consists of an approach to learning that focuses on using a strategic collection of research-proven instructional practices from Hattie, Rosenshine, Hunter, Sousa, and Marzano, including:

- Starting lessons by reviewing prerequisite learning and skills
- Providing a short statement of learning goals
- Presenting new material in small steps, with student practice after each step
- Giving clear and detailed instructions and explanations
- Providing a high level of active practice for all students
- Asking a large number of questions, checking for understanding, and obtaining responses from all students
- Guiding students during initial practice
- Providing systematic feedback and corrections
- Providing explicit instruction and independent practice that, where necessary, is monitored



District-wide, our academic emphasis will include learning about, practicing, modeling, and refining these research-proven instructional strategies to provide all of our students with a solid academic foundation. We are a learning organization. Students will learn and improve at a greater rate when all members of the organization are learning and improving every day also.

# Caught in The Act



*Jenny Ogando*

## **What is your work history, including at CUSD?**

I worked in education grades k-12 for six years in the Dominican Republic, three years with Visalia Unified School District as the principal's secretary, five years as an ELA/History teacher at Lemoore Union School District, and now serving as Vice Principal at John Muir.

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

The most rewarding part of my job is making a difference in students' lives, being able to not only help them succeed academically but helping them to have good work ethics and life skills so they can be successful in life as future adults and as members of their community.

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

I am currently trying to tackle tardiness. If students are not in class, they are not learning. I am working with all teachers and admin to create a school-wide program that will address this issue.

## **Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?**

While I have received inspiration from many people, two big factors have been my mom and husband. My mom has taught me never to give up and be kind while still being a strong independent woman. My husband has helped me grow as a human being. He has taught me to see the world from a perception outside of my own.

## **Tell us a little about yourself:**

I am married to an amazing man, and we have one incredible son. While I grew up in California, I lived 13 years in the Dominican Republic, where I worked with the Dominican and Haitian people and helped work along with the deaf and hard of hearing community. Along with my family volunteering our time every week to teach people the Bible, I speak five languages, love to paint, and have a passion for dancing.

## **If the world were listening, what would you say?**

Obstacles are not to be yielded to but challenge to be met and overcome!

**What is your work history, including at CUSD?**

I was a classroom teacher for 15 years. The majority of my teaching is at the high school level. I taught English in grades 10-12, ASB, and yearbook. I worked at the Kings County Office of Education for four years as an ELA/ELD curriculum consultant. My duties included working with schools across the county to implement and refine their ELD programs and support teachers in ELA standards alignment. I also worked with the Early Childhood Education Department in providing professional development to preschool teachers serving our County preschool students. Finally, I was an instructor for the New Teacher Induction program. I came to CUSD in February 2021 as an Academic Coach at John Muir before transitioning to my current role as Vice Principal at Bret Harte.



*Linda Korff-Reis*

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

I love interacting with the students at Bret Harte! I enjoy going into classrooms to see how students are engaged in learning and seeing the kids' interactions with each other on the playground.

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

Right now, I am providing support to Laurie Haas and the rest of the Bret Harte team in any way that I can. As a new administrator, I am learning campus procedures and systems and getting to know the students and staff.

**Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?**

My mom is my biggest inspiration. My mom didn't graduate from high school due to being pregnant. She was a single mom who worked hard to ensure that my siblings and I had everything we needed. Education was very important to her, and she taught me the value of having an education and how it could positively impact my life. My mom passed away seven years ago; she would have been proud and excited to see how my career in education is changing.

**Tell us a little about yourself:**

I've been married to my husband Darrell for 22 years, and we have three kids: Ethan is our oldest; he's a sophomore in college at Montana State University, studying economics. Our middle daughter, Sydney, will graduate from high school in May and wants to study nursing. She hasn't made her final decision about where she will attend college. Our youngest son is Sawyer, and he's a freshman at Hanford West. He's in the band and is on the water polo and swim teams. I'm the youngest of five kids. I love to read and cook when I have time. My family and friends are very important to me, and I spend as much free time with them as possible.

**If the world were listening, what would you say?**

That's a difficult question. I think I would like the world to know everyone is doing their best. Families are doing their best in preparing their children for school, students are doing their best in the classrooms, and teachers are doing their best in educating our students.



CUSD is proud to partner with the city of Corcoran and the RAC After School Education & Safety Program and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program for:

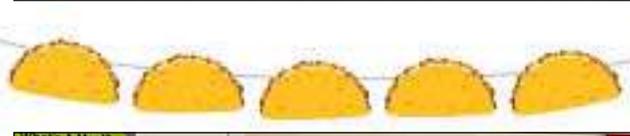
# Tacos & Technology



Technology Q & A  
Google Classroom Overview

Thursday, February 10, 2022  
at John Muir Middle School  
5:30-7:00 PM

Complimentary tacos will be provided to the first **150** entrants



# CORCORAN HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAY NIGHT



# CORCORAN HIGH SCHOOL

## Incoming 9th Grade Registration



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