

Friday Reflection

Incredibly, we are finishing our third week of distance learning. That means it was a month ago that we said good bye to students for Spring Break, which was effectively when our community and state began to stay at home. Now that we are in our third week, most teachers and students are starting to get into some kind of rhythm, even though the cadence has altered significantly.

By far, the highlight of my week stemmed from contact with staff, teachers, parents and even students. I miss standing out before school to greet students and staff, popping into a classroom to observe learning, or walking the facility at snack or lunch to supervise students. While these are only some aspects of my responsibilities, they are important in providing context and connection.

While making connections and gaining context are not as easy with distance learning, we are finding it possible in our current world. The key is taking intentional steps. It requires initiative, organization and drive. Ironically, some of the same requirements for successfully completing college, or doing well in a work setting beyond education. When school is in typical session, opportunities abound and people are everywhere, good people who want to help. In the current learning mode. Making connections and engaging in the learning is more easily avoided, and requires active steps like making a phone call or sending an email.

Our system, right or wrong, is established on a great deal of extrinsic motivation. We reward and assign consequences routinely. It is so embedded in our culture, we sometimes don't even realize the extent. Don't get me wrong, research supports that extrinsic motivation is effective, especially when it comes to establishing routines, gaining compliance and increasing simple learning. However, that same research suggests that for students, or even adults, to engage in high level problem-solving or creative thinking, intrinsic motivation is critical. That explains why we can spend hours at a time on complex tasks in which we have high interest and motivation. For example, in recent weeks, I retiled our bathrooms and changed the fixtures. It was challenging for me, but I was determined to figure it out. I got lost in the activity because I was motivated, I think intrinsically. However, on the flip side, completing my taxes is something I put off and reluctantly completed because my primary motivation was avoiding penalties.

Distance learning is both a test and an opportunity for our Tiller students. In a typical school day, there are many guiderails, rewards and consequences throughout the day, not the least of which are grades. Our distance learning experience is going to no doubt decrease the impact of grades in some form. Some might be tempted with the easing of this

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traditional pressure to back off and not engage. We have tried to track the number of students in classes who are not participating, and to this point, our numbers suggest it is between 5 and 10 percent. We will continue to reach out and make efforts to bring them into the learning. However, that means that a much bigger percentage of students are attempting to engage and learn on some level. We know that it is extremely challenging for some who are required to earn income for the family, watch siblings while parents work, or face navigating the distance learning process with much less support.

However, despite the challenges and difficulties, distance learning presents some great opportunities. This is a chance for students to problem-solve, utilize new technology and develop new skills. I am sure students who engage most over the remaining weeks are going to learn a great deal. Possibly more importantly, they will learn new skills in the process that may more significant for life after high school than even the actual content.

The key to figuring it out is reaching out. For some students, they had already acquired some important skills for successfully engaging in a distance learning environment. For others, the current format has proved more difficult. Again, reaching out will make all the difference. Teachers have office hours and want to help. Not only will you find them more responsive than you might think, but your feedback will also help them navigate the distance learning as a teacher. We are all trying to figure this out, and we have the opportunity to step up, learn new skills, and become better prepared for the world we will live in for years to come.

Now that we are four weeks into the “safer at home” way of life, I have started to already contemplate life moving forward. We know that for the rest of this school year, distance learning will be with us. It is even possible that summer school will look similar. However, I am hopeful that we will eventually start moving in a direction that looks more familiar. I look forward to that day. However, I hope that we don’t just completely slide back into old patterns. I hope that we take these new perspectives and learned skills and make them a part us. We have a choice to take learning opportunities today and incorporate them into our tomorrow. I encourage us all to determine to make those choices. May we end this year strong and with the focus on learning, not because of a grade, policy or requirement. Instead, may we learn because we want to become better versions of ourselves. When that happens, it is great to be a Tiller.

Go Tillers!

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Senior #accepted List:

Ethan Sanchez – accepted, San Diego State University; plan, attend SDSU

Hailey Adams – accepted Texas Christian University

Anaka Mahesh – accepted, UCLA, USC

Monica Meza – accepted, Cal State East Bay, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton, Northern Arizona University; plans – BFA in Ceramics at Cal State Long Beach

Natalia Murrietta – accepted, Stanford, Northwestern University in Chicago, Carnegie Melon University in Pennsylvania

Victoria Shores – accepted, Howard University

Savannah Thorn – accepted, UCLA

Citlali Aguilar – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Morningside College, Univ of La Verne, UC Merced

Monica Aguilar – accepted, Chapman University

Bryan Alarcon – accepted, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona Univ., Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona

Yolanda Allen – accepted, Cal State San Bernardino

Yoli Allen – accepted, Cal State Long Beach

Cesar Alvarez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Vanguard Univ., Cal State Fullerton, Cal State LA,

Natalie Anaya – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

Emely Andrade – accepted, Cal State Channel Islands

Andy Arellano – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ., Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

Brian Arriaga – accepted, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, UC Riverside

Charene Bailey – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon Univ, San Francisco St, Hawaii Pacific Univ

Hannah Barajas – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, San Francisco State

Giselle Barrera – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Cal St Los Angeles

Yalen Bastida – accepted, Northern Arizona Univ, Cal State San Bernardino, Cal State Bakersfield, St. John's New York, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of New Mexico, UC Riverside

Raj Birla – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Mariah Bohorquez – accepted, Cal State Long Beach

Sydney Busa – accepted, Humbolt State Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, Cal State Dominguez Hills, San Francisco State Univ, Cal State Northridge, Hawaii Pacific, Univ of Oregon

Lisbeth Cabrera – accepted, Concordia Univ, Grand Canyon Univ, Humbolt State Univ, Chico State Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of New Mexico, Azusa Pacific Univ, Hope International Univ.

Emanuel Calderon – accepted, Univ California Merced

Karla Campos – accepted, Grand Canyon University, San Francisco State Univ

Cristobal Camboy – accepted, Humbolt State Univ, St. Mary's Twickenham

Jennifer Cano – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Colorado Mesa Univ

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Janet Carrasco – accepted, Vanguard University

Cassie Castro – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

Guadalupe Castro – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona

Ruth Cinco – accepted, Vanguard Univ, Concordia Univ, Grand Canyon Univ, Morningside College, Cal State Fullerton

Alex Cox – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Hope International Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, Humboldt State Univ

Clarice Diaz – accepted, Morningside College, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Charlene Ducusin – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Humboldt State Univ, Cal State Bakersfield, Dominican University, Colorado Mesa Univ, Whittier College, Hope International Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of La Verne, Mills College, Univ of the Pacific

Leslie Felix – accepted, Univ of La Verne, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State San Marcos, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz

Jocelyn Flores – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

Ashley Fraga – accepted, San Francisco State University

Brian Gallardo – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton

Ricardo Garcia Hernandez – accepted, Grand Canyon University

Lileny Garcia – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, UC Merced, Chico State Univ

Ricky Garcia – accepted, San Francisco State

Saul Gomez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Northridge, Fresno State University

Bryanna Gutierrez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Cynthia Guzman – accepted, Cal State Fullerton University

Jeremy Haugh – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

Destiny Hernandez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

Samantha Hernandez – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Northern Arizona Univ

Sergio Jimenez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

Lizbeth Ledesma – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Sacramento State University

Arely Lira – accepted, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University, Cal State San Marcos, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

Trisha Macias – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Monterey Bay, San Francisco State University

Jenny Martinez – accepted, Cal State Los Angeles University

Veronica Martinez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Northridge University

Jennifer Medina – accepted, Grand Canyon University

Juliann Melara – accepted, Humboldt State University, Cal State Dominguez Hills, San Francisco State, Chico State University

Martin Melarejo – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Humboldt State, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Mylene Molina – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton University

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Johan Monroy – accepted, University of La Verne

Fazia Najibullah – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Chico State University

Carolina Naxi – accepted, San Francisco State, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Stanislaus

Phi Nguyen – accepted, University of La Verne, Hult Univ, Dominican University, Berry College, Georgia State Univ, Sacramento State, Chico State, Cal State Fullerton, San Francisco State, UC Riverside, Chapman University

Vincent Nguyen – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of Nevada Las Vegas

Aline Ollua – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Northern Arizona Univ, Humboldt State, Cal State Channel Islands, Univ of New Mexico

Vanessa Ortiz – accepted, University of Portland, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Long Beach, UC Santa Cruz, Cal State San Luis Obispo

Hashim Patel – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton University

Maria Perez – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon University, San Francisco State, Chico State

Lesly Ramirez – accepted, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona

Catherine Rios – accepted, Vanguard Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Los Angeles

Julitza Rodriguez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Univ of La Verne, Concordia University, Cal State Fullerton

Andrea Rojas – accepted, Cal State Los Angeles University, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton

Hannia Rojas – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Concordia University, Hawaii Pacific University, Cal State Fullerton

Hilsi Romellon – accepted, University of Oregon, Cal Poly Pomona, San Francisco State, UC Irvine

Alan Ruano – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Vanguard University, Chapman University, UC Riverside, Loyola Marymount University

Sebastian Rubio – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

Chris Sanchez – accepted, Humboldt State, Hawaii Pacific University

Fatima Sanchez – accepted, San Francisco State University

Josue Sanchez – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona,

Manny Segura – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Kameron Sok – accepted, Cal State Fullerton

Diana Solis – accepted, University of La Verne, Morningside College, Whittier College, Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton

Saul Soto – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

Jessica Tacalo – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Chico State, UC Merced

Fatima Teodoro – accepted, Humboldt State, Grand Canyon University

Ave Thompson – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

Denise Torres – accepted, Northern Arizona, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, San Diego State University

Irvin Torres – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona

Jacob Torres – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

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Joline Tu – accepted, Grand Canyon University

Vionda Valencia – accepted, Humboldt State, Concordia University, UC Riverside, Cal State Fullerton

Kelly Vargas – accepted, Vanguard University, Grand Canyon University

Melanie Vasquez – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, University of New Mexico, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Grand Canyon University

Cynthia Vela – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton

Genesis Villapando – accepted, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University

Olivia Williams – accepted, University of Hawaii, Manoa, Grand Canyon University, University of Alabama, Texas Tech, University of Houston, Cal State East Bay, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara

Vanessa Zuniga – accepted, Cal State Fullerton University

Reese Marcosa – accepted/recruited, Bethesday University in Anaheim; plans - Business Administration & play baseball

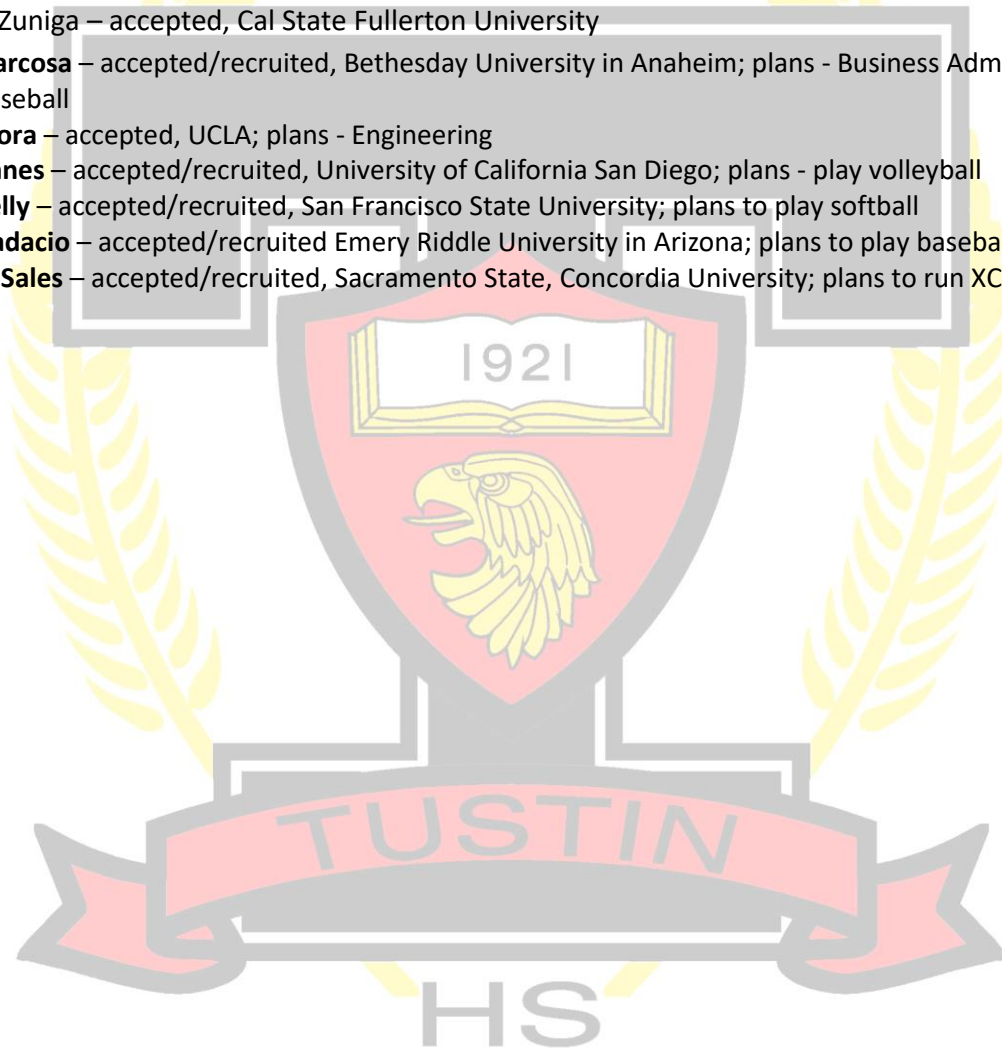
Dhaval Vora – accepted, UCLA; plans - Engineering

Ava McInnes – accepted/recruited, University of California San Diego; plans - play volleyball

Taylor Kelly – accepted/recruited, San Francisco State University; plans to play softball

Parker Cadacio – accepted/recruited Emery Riddle University in Arizona; plans to play baseball

Desaraie Sales – accepted/recruited, Sacramento State, Concordia University; plans to run XC and track



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