Oakland Unity High School

2023-2024 Measure N Education Improvement Plan Presentation

Presented to Measure N Commission

4/19/23

Overview of School

- A small school rooted in East Oakland since 2003

- A California Distinguished School

- Deep partnership with the community, developing a community-led school
  - 3 full time teachers
  - 6 instructional aides
  - 1 Operations Manager
  - 1 Technology Support Lead
  - ALL UNITY ALUMNI :-)

Our Pathway

- **Information Technology and Digital Media Pathway:** Our mission is for Oakland Unity students to become empowered, 21st-century professionals who can problem solve, advocate for themselves, and enrich their community. The Unity Pathway of Information Technology and Digital Media offers technical training in computer programming, digital literacy, and digital arts and design, with technical certification opportunities upon completion of sequence.

Reflections on Past 3 Years

What are you most proud of in terms of Pathway development?

- **2022-23 Course Sequence:**
  - 10th Grade:
    - CS Discoveries
  - 11th Grade:
    - AP Computer Science Principles
  - 12th Grade:
    - Introduction to Information Technology (COMP-TIA certification course)
    - Introduction to Digital Media

Reflections on Past 3 Years

What are you most proud of in terms of Pathway development?

- Tech Fair 2022
  - Overall: https://www.instagram.com/reel/CgmNQrqgkXD/?igshid=NmZiMzY2Mjc=
  - BEANS: https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cf89-Dag_1z/?igshid=NmZiMzY2Mjc=

Reflections on Past 3 Years
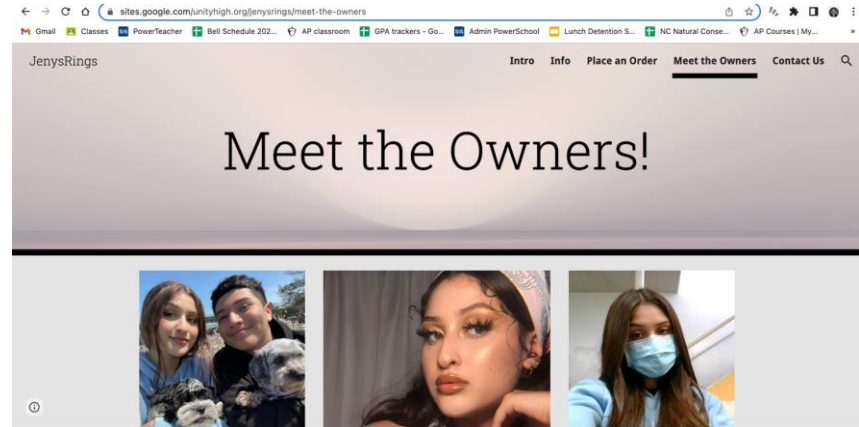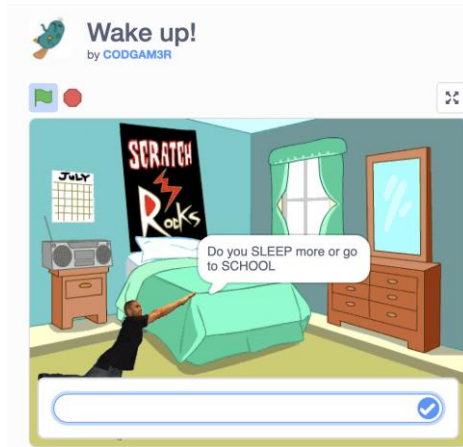
What have been some of the challenges?

- Pathway Leadership Transition
- Computer Science Teacher Hiring and Development
- Authentic Growth of Pathway Culture

Reflections on Past 3 Years

What have been your biggest learnings?

- Students build beautiful websites, awesome animations, and compelling survey-driven presentations!
- Great teaching is great teaching!
- Students can have internships in technology!

Looking Ahead

What have you learned through creating this new plan for the next 3-year cycle?

- Shifting our vision of a Technology Pathway from an emphasis on entrepreneurship within tech to an emphasis on data science lets us prepare students to solve real world problems with data. This is an essential skill in ANY industry, and data literacy is increasingly important in our society. Entrepreneurship is still an exciting aspiration, and the essential business skills (collaboration, ethics) continue to be included across curricula at every grade level. The shift in focus allows us to teach more applied skills in data science (qualitative and quantitative research, spreadsheets, programming).

Looking Ahead

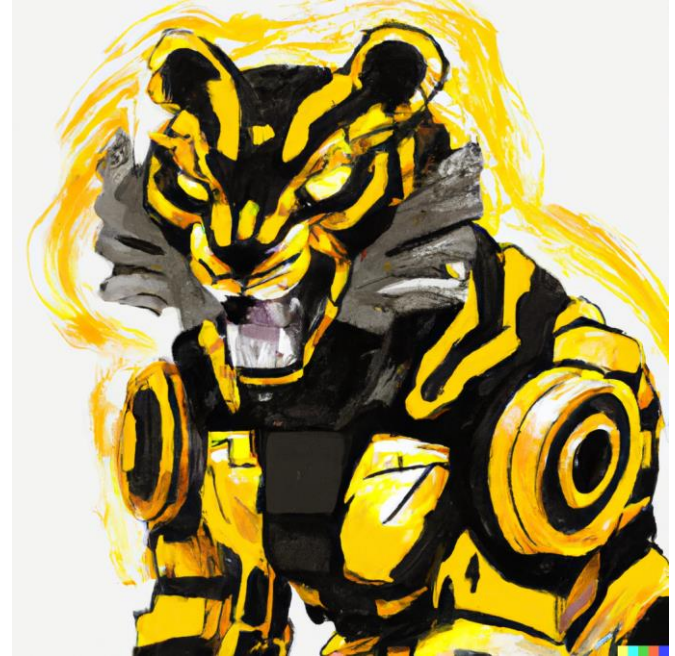## What are you most excited about?

- Data visualization
- Robotics
- Game development
- Wearable technology and digital textiles
- Web development
- Machine learning
- AI
- Connecting students with potentially life-changing opportunities in tech

Looking Ahead

What are your biggest challenges moving forward?

- Slow and steady wins the race - easy to get distracted by quick fixes or "haircuts" but persistence and focus over time brings long term results
- Integrating Internship Coordinator and Career Counselor into Pathway Team
- Continuing to authentically build WBL and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Equity

How are your Pathway(s) helping to close equity gaps in your school? (through the lens of your LCAP focal groups)

- Hands-on, analytic, and professional training aspects of the Pathway are engaging to both traditional and nontraditional students
- Computer science can be accessible to ELL students because the results of computational tasks are immediately visible and gratifying (i.e. animation, successful programming outputs, graphic design, charts, digital music and sound design)

Questions?