

# CRAYONS-2-COLLEGE: INSPIRING FUTURE FALCONS

Welcome to Crayons-2-College, an initiative to cultivate a love for learning and expose elementary students to the world of higher education.



**Gerrett Suarez**  
Principal  
Firebaugh Middle School

**Tracey Mason**  
Principal  
Mills Elementary School

**Bethany Matos**  
Dean  
Coalinga College- Firebaugh Center





# Building Bridges: Firebaugh Unified & Coalinga College-Firebaugh Center

## A Collaborative Vision

Crayons-2-College is a dynamic partnership, joining forces with Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District (FLDUSD) and the Coalinga College – Firebaugh Center!

United, we aim to simplify the journey to higher education and inspire young minds to pursue their most ambitious dreams!





# Building Futures: Cultivating a College Going Culture



## Future Ready: Dual Enrollment

Pumping up students to tackle the wild adventures and golden opportunities that higher education throws their way!



## College-Bound Mindset: Jr. Falcons

Instilling a belief in students that college is attainable and achievable for them.



## Early Exposure: Crayons-2-College

Providing students with experiences that expose them to college life.



# OVERVIEW OF JR. FALCON PROGRAM



 **COALINGA FIREBAUGH**  
COLLEGE CENTER  
BETTER TOMORROWS BEGIN HERE.

# Jr. Falcon Program

03/17/2025-05/16/2025  
Tuesdays

## OPEN TO FIREBAUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADERS

STUDEV 002 will empower students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary for successful career/ life planning in a diverse and dynamic world. Join us as we take you beyond traditional career planning to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Students will have the opportunity to discover personal strengths, values, and interests through self-assessment tools and understand how your identity relates to your career/life planning and educational goals.



# Unlocking Potential: The Jr. Falcon Program

1

## Year One

A pilot program launched to provide a taste of college life to 8th graders.

2

## Year Two

Expanded program with increased participation and positive feedback from students and educators.

3

## Year Three

A well-established program that fosters a positive and supportive learning environment for 8th graders.





# JR. FALCON TIMELINE

1

## Fall Planning Meeting

In early fall, administrators and counselors come together to strategize the course schedule, set dates for college visits, establish enrollment timelines, and identify areas for improvement.



2

## Creating Experiences

Firebaugh Middle School recruits and engages perspective Jr. Falcons.

Perspective Jr. Falcons visit the college. Participating in hands-on activities and get a taste of college life.

3

## Registration

One month prior to the course starting, our Dual Enrollment team guides students through the application process, and evening informational workshops for parents are organized.

4

## Course Engagement

During the course students are routinely checked in on and grade-checks are pulled. Any students who are at-risk are connected with support.

Students are also encouraged to participate in campus events when they are on site.

5

## Celebrations!

At the end of the course a celebration is held at the Firebaugh Center.

Jr. Falcons are recognized during their eighth grade graduation.



# Outcomes: Jr. Falcon Program

1

## Year One 2023

- 22- students
- 100% Pass Rate
- 80% of Students Enrolled into Dual Enrollment Courses at Firebaugh High

2

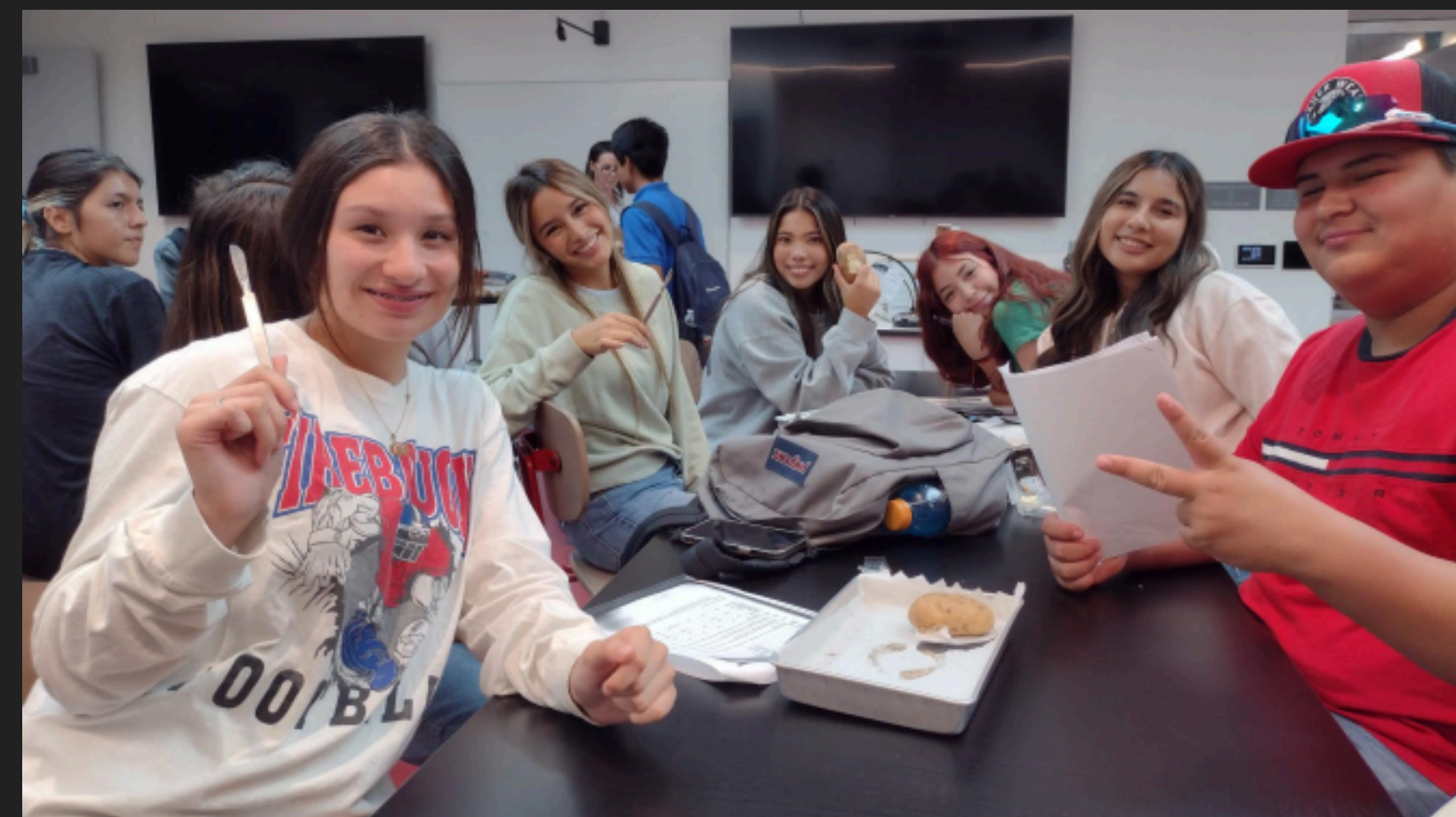
## Year Two 2024

- 31-students
- 40% Increase from Year 1
- 100% Pass Rate
- 92% of Students Enrolled into Dual Enrollment Courses at Firebaugh High

3

## Year Three 2025

- Have room for 40 students!





# JR. FALCON STUDENT FEEDBACK

“  
*I feel like a real  
college student!*  
”

“  
"I'm actually understanding  
the material! I was worried it  
would be too hard, but it's  
challenging in a good way."  
”

“  
*"This makes me even  
more excited to go to  
college after I graduate."*  
”

“  
"I feel like I'm getting a  
head start on my  
future."  
”



# OVERVIEW OF CRAYONS-2-COLLEGE





# Partnerships

Inviting Everyone to the Table is Essential

We make it a priority to invite our K-8 partners to participate in our engaging events and activities.

- Over the past two years, we have had over 40 classes, and nearly 1,000 students visit the college center from Mills Elementary.
- Looking ahead we will have 20 more classes with 500 students visiting the center spring 2025.

Additionally, the center served as a venue for various administrative meetings held by the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District (FLDUSD).



## ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS MEETING

Join us for a light breakfast while we share information on:

- High School Application Rates
- Support Programs
- Falcon Day 2025
- Financial Aid
- Admissions and Records
- And much more!







# Transforming Lives: **Impact** of Crayons-2-College

**Building Confidence:** Visiting a college campus or interacting with college students can build confidence and make the idea of attending college seem less intimidating.

**Parental Involvement:** Early exposure can encourage parents to start thinking and talking about college with their children, fostering a college-going culture at home.

**Breaking Down Barriers:** For students from underrepresented backgrounds, early exposure can help break down socioeconomic and cultural barriers that might hinder their access to higher education.

**Demystifying College:** College can seem like a distant and unattainable concept to young children. Early exposure helps demystify it and makes it feel more accessible.





NOW what do you do with a bunch of 3rd and 4th graders?!



- Tours galore!
- Games that spark joy!
- Fun little hands-on shenanigans!
- Cute paper graduation hats!

\*The secret sauce? Quick and snappy visits!



*It does not have to be fancy to make an impact.*



# Make It Easy!

- Only 3–5 people needed!
- Involve Faculty
- Invite “Non-Traditional” Staff
  - M&O
  - Front Counter
  - Library Staff
  - Tutoring







# Closing

## Opening Doors to Higher Education

### Jr Falcon Program

An immersive program where 8th graders take a college course during their final semester.

### Firebaugh Center Activities

The Firebaugh Center hosts events for all Firebaugh Elementary and Mills students to engage with higher education.



### Community Outreach

Inviting local K-8 schools to participate in events and workshops at the Firebaugh Center.







*Crayons-2-College: Be a Part of the Journey*