



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
January 30, 2015

Contact: Ken Blackstone, SCCOE  
(408) 453-6514

### **Santa Clara County schools roll out the red carpet for Chinese “Young Cultural Ambassadors”**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – Several Santa Clara County schools are preparing to host some very special visitors on Wednesday, Feb. 4; more than 100 students, along with dozens more parents and teachers from China will be touring local classrooms, making new friends and putting on a cultural showcase as part of an exchange program created by the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the Chinese Society of Education.

Dubbed the “Young Cultural Ambassador Communication Troupe,” the students were selected locally in China after several rounds of competition for their bilingual and bicultural fluency, outstanding talent, and academic excellence – particularly in science and the arts. This once-in-a-lifetime visit is designed to foster opportunities to share and collaborate around the topics of science, cultural diversity and multilingualism for students and adults alike.

“Part of what we do at the SCCOE is to develop and promote local and international partnerships that provide real-world context for global learning experiences,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. “We are proud to be able to connect schools with these partners and create the learning environments that make diversity and global engagement concrete and tangible for our students, so that they develop a lifelong connection to other cultures, languages and experiences.”

The idea for the exchange trip was sparked when SCCOE Science Coordinator Sandra Yellenberg was selected to join the Silicon Valley Corps of Science Educators in China due to her leadership in the local science education community. She along with two teachers from Alum Rock Union Elementary School District traveled abroad to present at a special two-day conference about American innovations in STEM and learn about the Chinese education system. Over the course of the trip she and event organizers began discussing how students and teachers from both countries could continue to benefit and learn from a visit to Santa Clara County public schools.

During their stay, the Chinese delegation will visit Evergreen School District’s Tom Matsumoto Elementary School, as well as Campbell Union School District’s Rolling Hills Middle School, Forest Hill Elementary School, Castlemont Elementary School, and the “Campbell Cares” after school program. Students will attend classes, have lunch and socialize with their young

American hosts, and parents will have an opportunity to mingle at a special breakfast reception, as well. The highlight of the trip will be an assembly at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at Evergreen's Katherine Smith Elementary School where the Chinese students will showcase their talent in music, calligraphy, painting, and perform a Chinese version of the song "Let It Go" from the film *Frozen* accompanied by classical Chinese dance.

For more information about the events at Evergreen schools, including the assembly at Katherine Smith, please contact [Charles Crosby](#), Director of Communications and Community Engagement, at (408) 270-6809.