



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

September 11, 2020

A Day of Remembrance and Service.

Dear Community,

Nineteen years ago today our nation was forever transformed. We acknowledge this day as a Day of Remembrance and Service, to honor the memory of those who lost their lives, the families and loved ones they left behind, and those who continue to suffer with illness and trauma related to this horrific event. And we are truly grateful for, and honor the bravery of, all who risked their lives to save others.

This is a day when we pause and reflect on the preciousness of our relationships, the tragedy of hatred and violence and the immeasurable value of life. As parents and educators, we share the significance of this historical event with our children and students; the mark it has made on humanity and our world, and the importance of freedom. We must also never forget the importance of togetherness, the strength in unity, and we stand in solidarity with all across this nation who remember the pain of grief and loss on this day.

In 2020, we find ourselves again faced with many challenges as a nation. This year has been fraught with numerous obstacles to our health and well-being and a succession of recent events have again led us to question our sense of justice and the opportunity of true freedom for everyone. These times call on us to remember the powerful values of our democracy.

As we remember the events that unfolded that September day and in the days, weeks and years after, let us be resolved to live out the virtues of justice and peace and display them as indelible symbols of our capacity for love and kindness for all. Take a moment today to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan".

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
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