



Santa Clara County Office of Education

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

November 3, 2020

Dear Community,

Today is Election Day and many in our country will participate in our democracy by voting in the presidential elections. Having a say in the political landscape of our communities and country is not only impactful, but monumental. We acknowledge the historical relevance of this significant event and reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by many to ensure our voices will be heard. In the words of the late United States Representative, John Robert Lewis, "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It's the most powerful, non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we've got to use it."

As we go to the polls, and exercise our rights, we must not lose sight of our sense of justice and the opportunity of true freedom for everyone. Our students, families and neighbors are watching. The world is watching. While we all eagerly anticipate the results of this election in the coming days, we can reflect on this truth from author Sharon Salzberg, "Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world."

It is not too late to be counted in this year's election. Our Ridder Park campus is an official polling place and ballot drop-off site. Doors will be open today from **7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**, and COVID-19 health and safety guidance will be strictly followed.

Now is the time for us all to join together, empowered by what the future holds, and continue the mission to improve the experiences and opportunities of our children, their families, and communities. It is our responsibility to model what a truly United States of America must embody and create the conditions for all children to experience success in their education and wellbeing.

Regardless of the election outcome, the Santa Clara County Office of Education will continue its commitment to be a safe and welcoming place for the students and families we serve. These times call on us to remember the powerful values of our Democracy, and it is a prime opportunity for us all to demonstrate the importance of civic engagement. Let us lead by example. Our young people are watching. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Dewan".

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
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