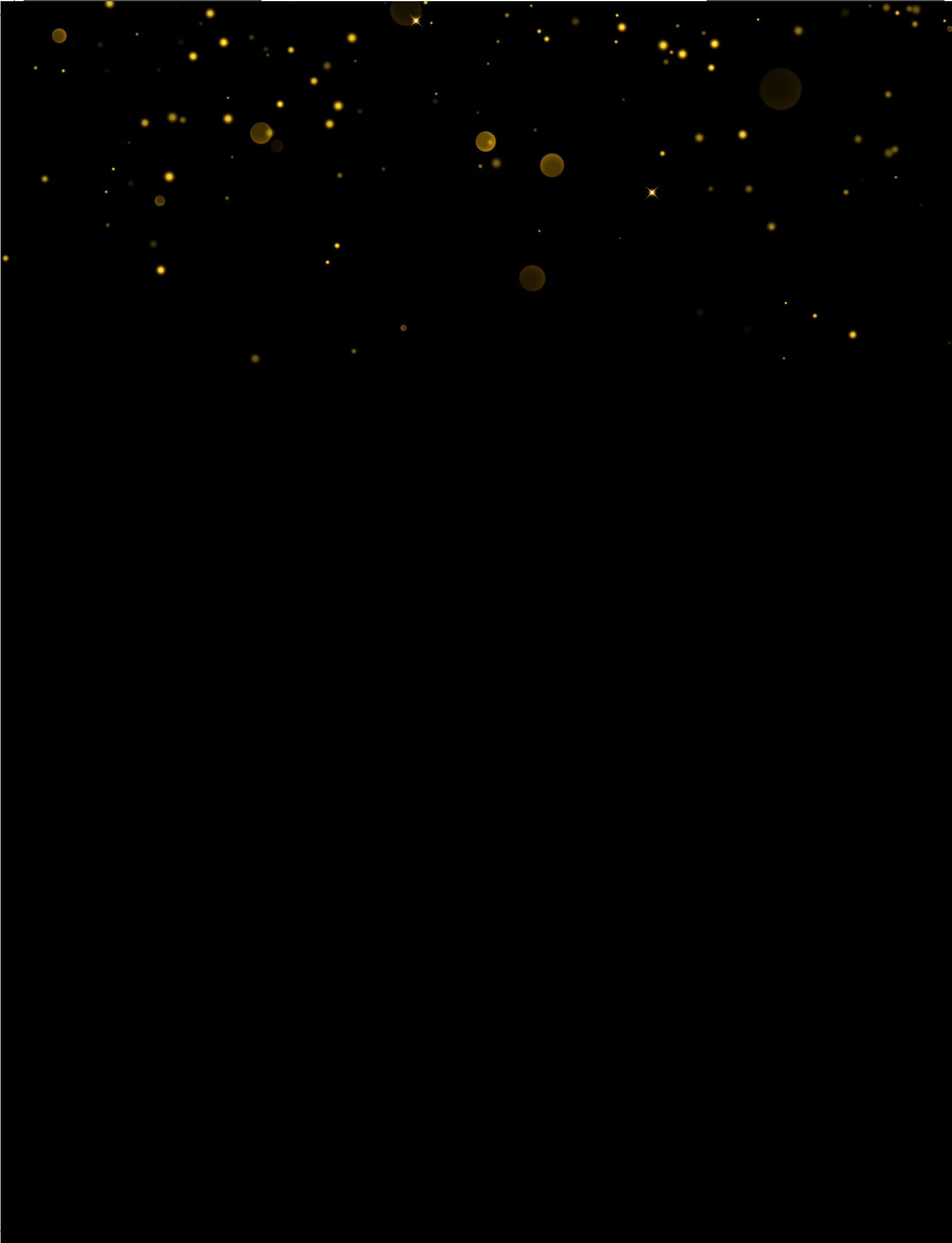


Santa Clara County  Office of Education



50th Annual Teacher Recognition Celebration

October 3, 2019 • Campbell Heritage Theatre



50th Annual
Santa Clara County

Teacher Recognition Celebration

*The use of flash photography is prohibited
during the program.*

Please silence cellular phones.

#SCCStarTeachers

RECEPTION

Prospect High School Big Band Orchestra
Erasmus Rodriguez Castaneda, Director

WELCOME

Bachrodt Elementary Dancers
Delia Trejo, Director

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
*County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education*

and

The Honorable Susan Ellenberg
Supervisor, District 4, County of Santa Clara

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO PAULINE LOWE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

ARTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

Presented by Rebecca Reynolds-Lytle
*President & CEO
Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union*

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

STEM TEACHING AWARDS

Presented by Andy Smith
*Executive Director, Texas Instruments Foundation
and Director of Corporate Philanthropy*

INTERLUDE

Sierramont Middle School Choir
Emelynn Montoya, Director

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Presented by Rosemary Kamei
*President
Santa Clara County Board of Education*

and

Melissa Baten-Caswell
*President
Santa Clara County School Boards Association*



Santa Clara County
Teachers
of the Year
2019

#SCCStarTeachers

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



THAO DOAN

Alum Rock Union School District
Ben Painter Elementary
Third Grade
Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 24

“Mrs. Doan responds to the needs of the Painter community by being a sound listener and thought partner. Through her actions, she is able to be a proactive partner in the community as a whole. She truly cares about her students and the Painter community at large.”

–*Alum Rock Union School District*

“I strongly believe that establishing authentic connections and trust between students and teacher will make a great impact in teaching and learning. Honoring and embracing students’ diverse needs and cultures will cultivate a strong and positive connectedness and classroom climate.”

–*Thao Doan*



JANNET ODOM

Berryessa Union School District
Majestic Way Elementary School
Second Grade
Years in profession: 17
Years with district: 16

“Jannet’s kids and colleagues absolutely adore her. She is always willing to help out as needed and she is quick to help out a fellow teacher. She is an amazing educator!” –*Berryessa Union School District*

“All students can learn when they are accepted for who they are and where they are in their academic journey. It is empowering for students when they can reflect on their strengths, make a plan, and set goals for what they want to improve for themselves. Supporting and encouraging students to move beyond what they think they are capable of is the best reward.” –*Jannet Odom*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019

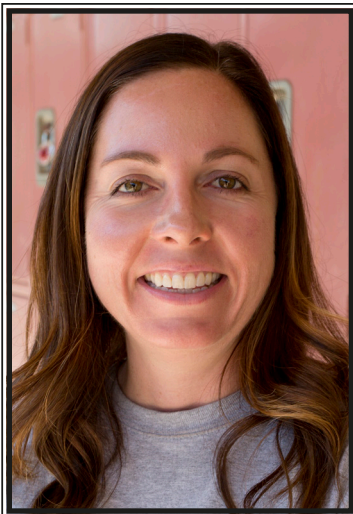


CHRISTINA FREIMARCK

Cambrian School District
Sartorette Elementary
First Grade
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 11

“Christina inspires her students and colleagues with her compassion, organization, and excellence. Her example of selfless giving, both in the classroom and outside of it, has truly made a difference in the Cambrian community.” –*Cambrian School District*

“I care very much about each of my students, and strive to help them be the best they can be.” –*Christina Freimarck*



KIRA DURANT

Campbell Union High School District
Del Mar High School
Social Science, 10th Grade AP Government
Years in profession: 8
Years with district: 8

“Kira is an outstanding teacher who goes above and beyond for her classes and the entire school. She is someone who is wholeheartedly committed to doing what is best for kids. Kira is the embodiment of the spirit of Del Mar.” –*Campbell Union High School District*

“I work really hard to maintain a student centered classroom that celebrates and empowers student voice.” –*Kira Durant*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



EFRAIN HERNANDEZ

Campbell Union School District
Sherman Oaks Elementary
Sixth Grade

Years in profession: 16

Years with district: 16

“Mr. Efrain Hernandez is an exceptional teacher that is highly respected by colleagues and parents at Sherman Oaks Elementary and Campbell Union School District at large. He is always willing to share knowledge and his expertise as part of the school community.”

–*Campbell Union School District*

“In the Dual Immersion Bilingual Program we love our students and want to be the best part of their day. We believe our students are smarter than they think and they become smarter. We bring out the ‘Super powers’ of being bilingual.” –*Efrain Hernandez*



JOHN MILUSO

County-Authorized Charter School
Downtown College Prep - Alum Rock High School
11th Grade US History, AP US History,
Ninth to 12th Grade Environmental Ethics

Years in profession: 14

Years with district: 8

“John Miluso’s work is grounded in equity and justice. His dedication is unmatched. He is a leader on campus and role model for students. He has high expectations and an ability to provide rigorous and enriching experiences for all of his students. He is the heartbeat of our school.”

–*Downtown College Prep*

“I am proud to be a founding teacher at a school whose focus is supporting first generation college students from East San José on their trailblazing and transformative journeys. I feel blessed to be able to work with such amazing young people who inspire me with their talents and resiliency daily.” –*John Miluso*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



STEVE SANCHEZ

County Office Of Education – Alternative Education
Alternative Education Department
Career Technical Education
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 10

“Steve Sanchez is a passionate and inspiring teacher who positively impacts everyone he comes into contact with. He has been teaching in the Alternative Education Department for the last 10 years and goes above and beyond every single day.”

–*Santa Clara County Office Of Education*

“I enjoy working with kids who need a little assist. Good students, but they just need a little course correction. Sometimes students forget to learn. If I can engage with them, and they start to like school again, we can reengage them with the learning process and launch them towards their future. That’s true success as a teacher.” –*Steve Sanchez*



DANIELLE TUCKER

Cupertino Union School District
Montclair Elementary School
Third Grade
Years in profession: 11
Years with district: 6

“Danielle provides a classroom environment that allows her students to learn and grow in a way that is individualized to their unique needs. She presents lessons and curricula in a way that is fun, fosters student engagement, and promotes creativity and critical thinking.”

–*Cupertino Union School District*

“Every day I strive to connect with my students and let them know I am their champion, no matter what, and let them know that they are strong and empowered individuals who are capable of working together to make this world a better place.” –*Danielle Tucker*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



CINDY HAYS

East Side Union High School District
Santa Teresa High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Special Education
Years in profession: 40
Years with district: 40

“Cindy sees her students as global learners and works tirelessly to ensure they have access to curriculum that will allow them to gain the skills needed to become independent, successful members of our community.” –*East Side Union High School District*

“My personal views about teaching include maintaining a special education classroom that is engaging and continues to integrate social-emotional learning as part of my best practices. Continue to maintain an open engaging teaching style. Finally, maintain a classroom where all students regardless of their background, abilities, or disabilities are valued and accepted.” –*Cindy Hays*



SUZANNE ZAMORA

Evergreen School District
LeyVa Bulldog Tech Middle School
Seventh Grade English Language Arts
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“Suzanne has and demonstrates a deep passion for teaching and learning. Almost every student who has ever attended Bulldog Tech will attest to Suzanne being their favorite teacher because she deeply cares for her students.” –*Evergreen Elementary School District*

“I work within a collaborative leadership model with staff and a team teacher to create engaging projects that reflect real world experiences that lead to deeper learning. I believe non-academic mindsets are just as important as academic mindsets, and I strongly believe that building relationships in the classroom is the key to engagement and student success.” –*Suzanne Zamora*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



LYNETTE IRVINE

Franklin-McKinley School District
Captain Jason M. Dahl Elementary
Fifth / Sixth Grade Combination
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 20

“Lynette is a compassionate teacher role model who advocates and leads for the well-being of colleagues, students and their families. She is compassionate to all she encounters, acts as an advocate and will look for ways to support colleagues, students and their families.”
–*Franklin-McKinley School District*

“My philosophy involves building communities and rapport with my students and families by providing ongoing open dialogue. I provide a safe place to learn, make mistakes, and be themselves. Our classroom celebrates diversity and achievements of all sizes.” –*Lynette Irvine*



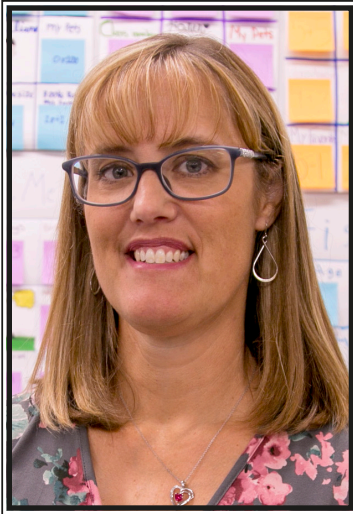
SEAN BUI

Fremont Union High School District
Cupertino High School
Tenth to 12th Grade Business Law and Ninth to 12th Grade
English Language Development: Level 3
Years in profession: 9
Years with district: 9

“Sean strives to create a supportive and inclusive culture on the Cupertino High School campus. His bubbly personality demonstrates joy in the teaching profession and is a positive force for good in the world.”
–*Fremont Union High School District*

“At the center of my teaching practice is this belief: ‘we are a team.’ The moment that students step foot into my classroom they join something bigger than themselves: an educational community dedicated to the educational, social, and emotional wellbeing. My students and I succeed together because ‘we are a team.’” –*Sean Bui*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



JENNIFER EVANS

Gilroy Unified School District
Rod Kelley Elementary School
Fifth Grade Dual Immersion English
Years in profession: 22
Years with district: 22

“Jennifer Evans is an amazing colleague, teacher, and leader. She comes to work each day with a servant heart and willing smile for all. It is an honor to work alongside her every day.” *–Gilroy Unified School District*

“Throughout my years in Gilroy Unified, I have taken an active leadership role in numerous site and district level activities. I enthusiastically learned and implemented best practices in an effort to boost all students’ achievement.” *–Jennifer Evans*



WENDY GRANT-RICHARDS

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
C. T. English Middle School
Sixth to Eighth Grade Spanish, Social Studies
and English Language Arts
Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 12

“Wendy Grant-Richards is a wonderfully supportive colleague. There isn’t a day that goes by that she doesn’t put a smile on our faces. Wendy is valued by her students, community members, and colleagues.” *–Loma Prieta Joint Union School District*

“I strive to make the Spanish language accessible, personal, and engaging. Studying another world language allows us to examine our own language and culture while giving us access to new people, places, and perspectives.” *–Wendy Grant-Richards*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



SARAH GERLINGER

Los Altos School District
District Office
New Teacher Advisor
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 7

“Sarah’s impact can be seen when walking through classrooms filled with students buzzing with enthusiasm for learning. Sarah works tirelessly to develop teachers who see both theoretical and practical ways for building independent learners.” *–Los Altos School District*

“As a new teacher mentor my goal is to ensure every single student has the high quality teacher that they deserve. I support teachers in addressing the strengths and needs of their students and together we build a reflective practice that truly reaches all students.” *–Sarah Gerlinger*



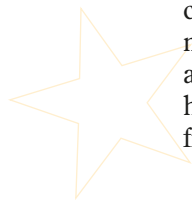
JENNIFER YOUNG

Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District
Los Gatos High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Mathematics
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 7

“Jen is a force of nature. She is unfailingly joyful and caring with her students and colleagues, she treats everyone with humanity and heart, and she knows her math. She has done a fantastic job as Math Department Chair, as the department moved to increased collaboration. Jen’s day is spent making the lives of those around her just a little bit brighter and we are so thankful for her!”

–Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

“Three years ago I helped start a new collaborative class at our school called Applied Math to help our struggling students fill in gaps before moving on to Geometry or Algebra 2. We teach real-world math through applications of personal finance. We also prepare students for life after high school, looking at the financial implications of life decisions ranging from college or their first job to retirement.” *–Jennifer Young*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



NELLO SANTILLANA

Los Gatos Union School District
R.J. Fisher Middle School
Eighth Grade Math and Geometry Teacher
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 6

“Nello is an outstanding teacher and colleague. He has a gift for connecting with students, helping them to find their passion for Math and push themselves to a deeper understanding. He has been a tremendous asset to the Math department at Fisher and is a collaborative team player.” *–Los Gatos Union School District*

“My job is to understand at what level students enter my classroom and then get them to grow from there. I want them to have fun, enjoy themselves, and learn math in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Too many people think that they can’t ‘do’ math, and that’s just not true. I try to instill a growth mindset at all times. I try to teach my students to stay mindful and disciplined.” *–Nello Santillana*



SANDY BROOKS

Luther Burbank School District
Luther Burbank School
Seventh Grade
Years in profession: 24
Years with district: 18

“Ms. Sandy Brooks is an outstanding teacher who provides engaging, rigorous, standards-based instruction for her students. She has developed a positive classroom culture of high expectations and always creates a warm, welcoming student-centered environment! She is gracious, poised and always professional in her interactions with students, parents and colleagues.” *–Luther Burbank School District*

“I have been a reading coach and reading intervention teacher, but I love being a classroom teacher the most. I have a newfound love for teaching middle school” *–Sandy Brooks*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



JAMES BURNHAM

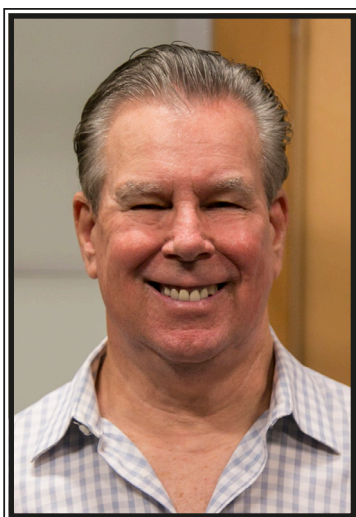
Metropolitan Education District
Silicon Valley Career and Technical Education
Tenth to 12th Grade Mechatronics Engineering
Years in profession: 3
Years with district: 3

“Mr. Jim Burnham is without a doubt an amazing and inspirational educator who comes from industry and strives to teach our students the skills for both college and career readiness. Mr. Burnham encourages lifelong learning, makes a significant different in the lives of his students.”

–*Metropolitan Education District*

“My students are inspired to push themselves to learn technology, explore physics, and realize that they are better at math than they think. I give back, as a teacher, I support other teachers and develop and share lessons, curriculum, and materials in an open source community.”

–*James Burnham*



JEFFREY LAMB

Milpitas Unified School District
Milpitas High School
Ninth to 12th Grade High School Athletic Director
Years in profession: 42
Years with district: 42

“Jeff is a responsible and dedicated employee who stays late hours and weekends to ensure that the Athletic Program at Milpitas High School is one of the strongest in the State. What makes Jeff stand out is his care and concern for the students at Milpitas High School.”

–*Milpitas Unified School District*

“I have been fortunate to have to have been able to serve, fantastic students and adults in education. Receiving California State Honors as Athletic Director, Volleyball Coach, and CIF State Model Volleyball Coach were some of my great honors, in addition to being the MUSD Teacher of the Year. I truly believe that in education we are here to serve others!” –*Jeffrey Lamb*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



MARCIE COLONNA

Moreland School District
Baker Elementary School
Fourth to Fifth Grade Special Education
Years in profession: 40
Years with district: 30

“Marcie has been a role model for her students, not only meeting their academic needs, but also meeting their social emotional needs and teaching them life skills. Marcie has always collaborated with both teachers and parents in order to meet the needs of her students.”
–*Moreland School District*

“It has been my philosophy that each child deserves to feel that they are special, and believe that they are capable of reaching their fullest potential. I hope I was able to instill this belief. I can only hope that my wishes as a teacher come true for each child.” –*Marcie Colonna*



Photo courtesy of Morgan Hill Times

JEANIE WALLACE

Morgan Hill Unified School District
Sobrato High School
High School Social Studies, Civics, and AP History
Years in profession: 34
Years with district: 34

“Jeanie is passionate about educating students to be active participants in their communities. Her dedication to education, civic engagement, and social justice is an inspiration to students and colleagues alike.”
–*Morgan Hill Unified School District*

“I have always believed that my students are capable of grappling with complex issues, and that they hold the hope of our future in their hands and their hearts. I have tried to make my classroom engaging and to respond to each student as an individual. I hope that I have helped them see their own capabilities.” –*Jeanie Wallace*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



LARAINA IGNACIO

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District
Los Altos High School
Ninth to 12th Grade AP Calculus AB and Algebra 1
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 12

“Laraine has been a strong advocate for all students to be successful academically, be self-aware of who they are, encouraging them to be realistic, and self-advocate for themselves. Laraine is one of those talented and flexible teachers in the department who can effectively teach at ANY level.” –*Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District*

“I have always enjoyed teaching students who have historically been unsuccessful in math for various reasons. I enjoy working teams that are constantly thinking of ways to help these students achieve. Education opens a lot of doors and every student should have access to it.”
–*Laraine Ignacio*



LAUREN BALL

Mountain View Whisman School District
Theuerkauf Elementary
Kindergarten to Eighth Grade Special Day Class,
Medically Fragile
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 3

“Lauren Ball is passionate about supporting individuals with disabilities through the lifespan. She realizes that the expectations she has for her students greatly affect their achievement; she knows that students generally give to teachers as much or as little as is expected of them.”
–*Mountain View Whisman School District*

“I am honored to advocate for my unique population of students and help create an inclusive school community. Everyone has value and something to offer. Inclusion is when everyone is allowed to share those things.” –*Lauren Ball*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



JHORDANE TOMAS

Mount Pleasant School District
Robert Sanders Elementary
First and Second Grade Combination
Years in profession: 8
Years with district: 6

“Jhordane Tomas is a model teacher when it comes to thoroughly planning out her instruction, and thrives on feedback of student learning. She truly believes every student can learn, and every student will learn as a part of her classroom family.” *–Mount Pleasant School District*

“My philosophy in education is to always teach with a heart. It helps me connect with my students, which helps them learn to love what I teach them. It means showing them that not only do you want them to learn, but you also have their best interest at heart.” *–Jhordane Tomas*



REGINA ARAUJO

Oak Grove School District
Sakamoto Elementary School
Kindergarten
Years in profession: 32
Years with district: 32

“Regina is adored by the Sakamoto community for her innovative teaching style, engaging thematic units, and her strong relationships she builds with students and their families. Her knowledge of effective instructional strategies and early childhood development runs deep.” *–Oak Grove School District*

“Over the last 22 years, our amazing Kindergarten classes have engaged in a true developmental learning approach. Through our learning and hands-on efforts, we have conducted fundraisers and preserved over 18 acres of tropical rainforest land, funded adoption of various rainforest animals, and sponsored beehives to underprivileged villages around the world.” *–Regina Araujo*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



ALISON STROOT

San José Unified School District
Almaden Elementary
Kindergarten to Fifth Grade Intervention
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 18

“Alison is creative, patient, interesting, and committed to excellence. While many people believe that “all children can learn,” she makes it happen every single day. And every day she does it with integrity, intelligence, and kindness. We are fortunate to have Alison on our San José Unified team.” –*San José Unified School District*

“I believe that success in school is built on a foundation of morale and self-confidence. I strive not only to accelerate student academics but also foster a belief in themselves with a growth mindset. I hope this is something they can take with them for years to come.” –*Alison Stroot*



MARY MACKIE

Santa Clara Unified School District
Santa Clara High School
High School Foreign Language - Spanish
Years in profession: 34
Years with district: 34

“Mary makes sure all students feel comfortable in her classroom and does not tolerate any put downs whatsoever. She involves parents and follows through on all behavioral contracts she establishes with a student or family. One of her greatest strengths as a teacher is how she teaches her students to be empathetic (and how she relates this to the subject matter).” –*Santa Clara Unified School District*

“Just try your best every day. You never know what students are going to learn as a “take-away” from you – it may be the subject matter, life skills, or some personal truth, awareness or kindness. They sometimes stop listening, or seem to, but students are always watching what you do.” –*Mary Mackie*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



JUDY WOLTHAUSEN

Saratoga Union School District
Saratoga Elementary School
Fourth Grade

Years in profession: 23
Years with district: 13

“During the past 23 years, Ms. Wolthausen has created diverse pathways for students to demonstrate their learning and she treats each child with both empathy and high expectations. Likewise, she consistently serves her colleagues as a trusted mentor, confidant, and provider of hospitality.” –*Saratoga Union School District*



MARY GRACE VOTRAN

Sunnyvale School District
Columbia Middle School
Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts and English Language Development

Years in profession: 15
Years with district: 8

“Mary Grace is a rockstar in the classroom, and the epitome of a warm demander. Students know she cares about them, and that because she cares about them, she won’t tolerate anything less than their best. For many students, Mary Grace’s classroom is their ‘home away from home’ as she has created a community that supports each other, and is responsible to each other.” –*Sunnyvale School District*

“I would like to acknowledge my district and the amazing team, students, and community of Columbia Middle School for inspiring me every day. I am extremely honored and grateful to work in such a special place where my students teach me what is truly important; where staff support is stronger than steel; and where I aspire to be like the leaders before me.” –*Mary Grace Votran*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2019



ERIC M. LIVINGSTON

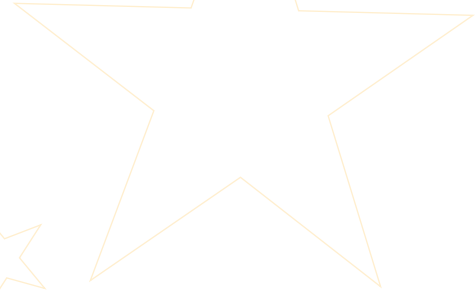
Union School District
Dartmouth Middle School
Sixth Grade Mathematics and Science
Years in profession: 21
Years with district: 17



“Eric is passionate about his students and his profession, he is dedicated to doing all he can to inspire his students and help guide them on their paths to success. To that effect, Eric devotes hours of time not just to his teaching and the students in his classroom, but also to the students in the general Dartmouth Middle School community.”

–*Union School District*

“I became an educator because I had several incredible teachers and coaches in my life who helped me believe in my own abilities and stressed the value of hard work and perseverance. I was determined to become an educator like them, to pass on these valuable lessons and tools. It has been an incredible journey.” –*Eric Livingston*



Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2019



JOHN BENOIT

County-Authorized Charter School
Downtown College Prep - Alum Rock High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Engineering and Computer Science
Years in profession: 2
Years with district: 2

“John has the skill of planning a unit of study, thinking through how he might modify the national curriculum provided, and implementing it in a way that best meets the needs of students. He is an educator and community changer at heart.” *–Downtown College Prep*

“All students have the ability to succeed and excel in STEM fields if given the opportunity and the material is engaging and relevant to them. Creating the classroom where they’re all welcome, heard, and encouraged to explore and fail is critical to creating problem solvers.”
–John Benoit



JENNIFER CLAUDIO

East Side Union High School District
Oak Grove High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Forensic Science, AP Biology,
Advanced Science Research
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 6

“Jennifer advocates science fair participation for her students, whether she has had them in her own courses or are referred to her when they seek research opportunities. She encourages all students to explore ideas, then to not only pursue it, but capture it. She creates memories for students for which they can further perpetuate the love of science through her inspiration” *–East Side Union High School District*

“I would like to acknowledge my science research student cohorts at Oak Grove High School for driving growth of the program on our campus. All of my past students spread the light of the flame to new student cohorts, helping to inspire each other and to validate the time and effort that we all put into fostering curiosity and exploration. We hold the philosophy that who we are matters less than who we can become.” *–Jennifer Claudio*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2019



RODRIGO COPPELLI

Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Lso Gatos High School

Ninth to 12th Principals of Engineering,

Introduction to Engineering Design, and Robotics

Years in profession: 14

Years with district: 6

“Mr. Coppelli represents the best of what Los Gatos High School has to offer -- someone who embodies the expression ‘service above self.’ He sees the exquisiteness in what students are able to accomplish, if given the opportunity to explore, inquire, invent, and collaborate. He uses innovative teaching methods to incentivize student agency, reflection, and creativity.” *–Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District*

“Under my guidance the robotics team made it to the World Championships for the first time in 2018, and again in 2019. I love to find fun challenging engineering projects where learning turns into play.”
–Rodrigo Coppelli



DEREK KONING

Fremont Union High School District

Fremont High School

Ninth to 12th Grade, Engineering Design and AP Statistics

Years in profession: 6

Years with district: 6

“Derek exudes a passion for both student learning and for his subject matter. He makes math and engineering come alive for students. Derek’s personality, his connection to students along with his experience as an engineer are some of the reasons his class is one that students love and learn a lot.” *–Fremont Union High School District*

“I love teaching engineering and math because it allows me to help students see the real-life power of those two subjects and how they are so much more than sitting and crunching numbers. By giving my students the opportunity to design their own products in my Engineering Design course and apply their mathematical skills toward investigating real-world problems in AP Statistics, I am able to bring the subjects to life and help my students take true ownership of their learning.”
–Derek Koning

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2019

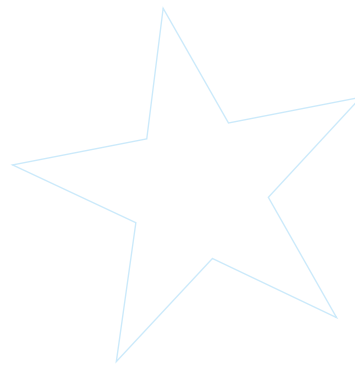
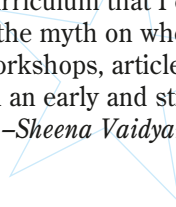
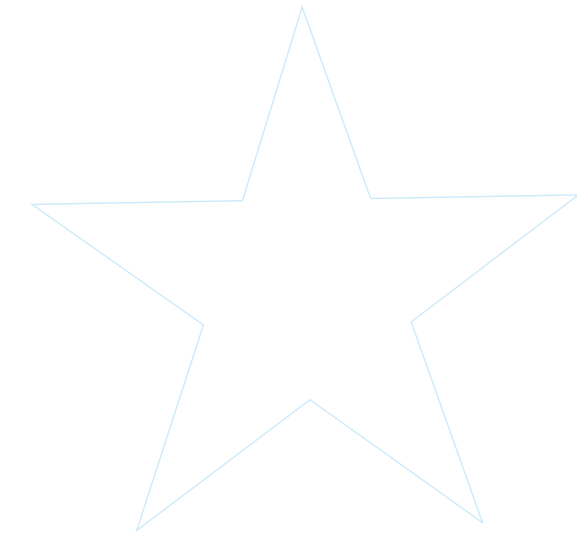


SHEENA VAIDYANATHAN

Los Altos School District
Blach Intermediate School
Sixth to Eighth Grade Computer Science
Years in profession: 13
Years with district: 13

“Sheena has a passion for teaching and computer science. She designs lessons with students in mind by providing challenges and scaffolds for students within their learning targets. She encourages students to be curious and excited about learning to code.” *–Los Altos School District*

“I have helped several hundred students fall in love with computer science by showing them how to use code to express their creativity. The district wide curriculum that I created over the years engages ALL students and busts the myth on who can succeed in computer science. Through teacher workshops, articles and my book, Creative Coding in Python, I have been an early and strong advocate for K-12 computer science education.” *–Sheena Vaidyanathan*



Welcome from the Santa Clara County Board of Education



At this evening's event, we are honoring 31 "Teachers of the Year" for their commitment to education, innovative teaching strategies, ability to motivate students, and parent and community involvement. On behalf of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, please accept my warmest greetings as you gather for the 2019 Teacher of the Year Celebration.

I want to thank these outstanding teachers for their hard work and dedication, both in and out of the classroom, motivating students to fulfill their potential. We have accomplished much in Santa Clara County, and so many of those great strides are a result of the time and input of educators like you. As we work towards providing all students with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed, you are our greatest asset in challenging our students to achieve their goals.

Fifty years ago, Frank and Pauline Lowe organized the first Teacher Recognition Celebration, seeking to honor the teaching profession and those individuals who dedicate themselves to a life of educating our children. Since that time, it has been a goal of the Santa Clara County Office of Education to increase the community's awareness of the invaluable contributions of teachers, demonstrate appreciation for their achievements, and acknowledge the incredible amount of preparation, planning, and professional development that has taken place for them to be successful in their chosen profession.

On behalf of the County Board of Education, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to these fine educators for bringing out the best in every child and providing them with world class educational opportunities. Enjoy your special night!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Kamei
Rosemary Kamei
Board President

Congratulations from the County Superintendent of Schools



On behalf of the residents of Santa Clara County, I congratulate the teachers being honored this evening as “Outstanding Teachers of the Year.” They are exemplary educators, going above and beyond to ensure that our public school children receive an education that is inclusive and recognizes the rich diversity of our community. Our award-winning teachers exemplify our values of students first, innovation, collaboration, service, and using a strengths-based approach.

Recognizing the great work of dedicated educators in Santa Clara County is a rich tradition. Our Teacher Recognition Celebration is the largest and oldest celebration of public school educators in the state. It is our local version of the “Academy Awards” for Teachers.

Every fall, the Santa Clara County Office of Education honors a Teacher of the Year from each of our school districts for creativity in the classroom, commitment to student success, and a passion for lifelong learning. We also honor the winners of the Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards, which was created to honor educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

This year we are pleased to include two new awards. The Santa Clara County Arts Leadership Award honors instructors who inspire students to enjoy and excel in arts, languages, creative writing, and literature programs. The Santa Clara County Civic Engagement Award honors those who inspire students to enjoy and excel in civic, history, government, journalism, social science, and community engagement programs. Both awards are sponsored by the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union.

Honoring our greatest teachers would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate community partners. We thank them all, and extend a special thank you to our co-sponsors – Texas Instruments and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union.

I applaud the teachers we honor tonight for their dedication to students, and for their ability to recognize the talents and gifts of each of them. They give their time and talent to a profession that is among the most rewarding and important. The excellence they bring to their classrooms affects not just their students, but the entire community. They play a role every day in preparing our children for a successful life in an ever-changing and increasingly complex world.

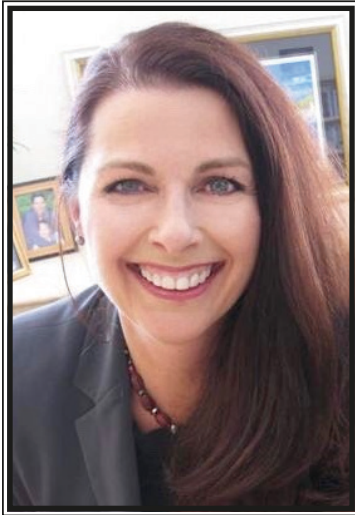
As we celebrate this special 50th Annual Teacher Recognition Celebration, congratulations to each of the honorees, and my best wishes to everyone for a wonderful event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
County Superintendent of Schools

A message from the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



County Federal is proud to once again sponsor the Teacher Recognition Celebration and offer our sincere congratulations to the 2019 Teachers of the Year!

For the past 25 years, we have partnered with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to celebrate and recognize teachers that have made a positive impact in their field, their community and in students' lives. This year, we are expanding our support and honoring teachers in both the fields of Civic and Arts Education, each with inspiring stories.

Teachers are essential to the future success of our society. Teachers not only educate, but they help mold young minds to be the leaders of tomorrow. Many successful individuals have often attributed their accomplishments to a teacher who inspired them to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams. Their influence on a young child is indelible.

On behalf of the County Federal Team and our members, we congratulate all those being celebrated for their passion and commitment to the prestigious field of teaching. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the outstanding achievements of these exceptional educators - their dedication and hard work, and what it truly means to go above and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lytle'.

Rebecca Reynolds Lytle
CEO

Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



A message from Texas Instruments



We believe if students want to change the world, they can. The ingredients are simple: Them, and their education. With an education, students are unstoppable. And behind every student is a teacher, preparing and guiding them to discover what's possible.

We are proud to partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to support their mission of championing the students they serve and honoring the outstanding teachers who work tirelessly to show students what they can achieve through an education.

Tonight, in conjunction with the SCCOE's annual Teacher Recognition Celebration, we will present the Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award to grades 6 – 12 teachers who consistently demonstrate quality instruction and enhance student learning outcomes.

On behalf of TI, congratulations to tonight's honorees. You are one of the greatest influences on student academic success, and the work you do is essential to preparing future leaders. Thank you for your commitment to your students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Wong', written in a cursive style.

Kim Wong
*Vice-President and General Manager, Display Power & Drivers
Santa Clara Site Manager
Texas Instruments*

Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration 2018

The Teacher Recognition Celebration is presented by the Santa Clara County Office of Education with the help of generous corporate and community sponsors.

Platinum Sponsors

Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union
Texas Instruments

Gold Sponsors

Santa Clara County School Boards Association
Sixth District PTA



The Santa Clara County Office of Education thanks all of the organizations and individuals who have generously donated their time and resources to tonight's event. We wish to express our gratitude to the community which supports Santa Clara County schools. Thank you for your support of public education.

Event Production:
Abby Almerido
Allison Book-Arango
Mariaisabel Balandra
Priscila Caballero
Summer Reeves
Cynthia Romero
Tricia Zamora

Event Photography:
Lynne Dickerson
Israel Rivera
Graphic Design: Mike Bromberg
Video: Tim Walter
Lindsey Wong
Invitation and program printing:
Lee Blevins, Print Services



The Significance of the Teacher Recognition Celebration

The Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration has endured for 50 years as a grand tradition of honoring teaching excellence in the region.

Proudly coordinated by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the annual event remains one of California's oldest and largest recognitions of public school educators. The gala ceremony's humble origins can be traced back nearly five decades to when San Jose residents Frank and Pauline Lowe decided that educators deserved more acknowledgement, admiration, and respect.

On September 26, 1970, 41 teachers gathered at the San Jose Civic Auditorium. The afternoon's multicultural program included the Counsel General of China, local political leaders, and groups performing Scottish Highland, American Indian, and Hawai'iian dances.

With help from the Lowe family, generous sponsors, and the County Office of Education, the Teacher Recognition Celebration has grown from a small gathering to a gala event that draws over 500 people; but the mission remains the same: to honor excellence in teaching.

Thirty-one teachers were selected in 2019 by their school districts for their exceptional ability to achieve the following:

- communicate subject matter in an interesting, relevant, and effective manner;
- use creative methods in classroom instruction;
- continually upgrade and update their own education through classes, training, or staff development programs;

- participate in activities within the profession, keeping aware of issues and trends, encouraging professionalism and making a contribution; and
- show a sincere commitment to be a champion for students, schools and community.

The Teacher Recognition Celebration is conducted with objectives similar to what the Lowes envisioned decades ago:

- publicly recognize the efforts and contributions of educators throughout Santa Clara County;
- increase public awareness of teachers' responsibility in helping our youth to develop their ideals and goals;
- show appreciation for their many fine educational achievements;
- acknowledge the many years of training that teachers undertake to prepare for and stay current in their profession; and
- strengthen ties between students and teachers, and to bring about a greater understanding between generations.

In 2012, the Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards were added to the event to acknowledge the growing emphasis placed on preparing students for the global, high-tech workforce. This year, a panel of judges selected five teachers in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from sixth to 12th grade to receive the award.

One of the premier events of its kind in the country, Santa Clara County's Teacher Recognition Celebration has received a Golden Achievement – Exemplary Program Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

#SCCStarTeachers



Head Start



Alternative Education



Special Education



Environmental Education



Santa Clara County Office of Education

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. The organization serves as an exemplary regional resource to students, parents, school districts, charter schools, community agencies, and businesses.

The SCCOE provides instructional, administrative, human resources, business, and technical support services to the county's 31 school districts. By centralizing services such as payroll, employee technology support, professional development, and fingerprinting, the SCCOE helps districts to achieve greater efficiency and cost-savings.

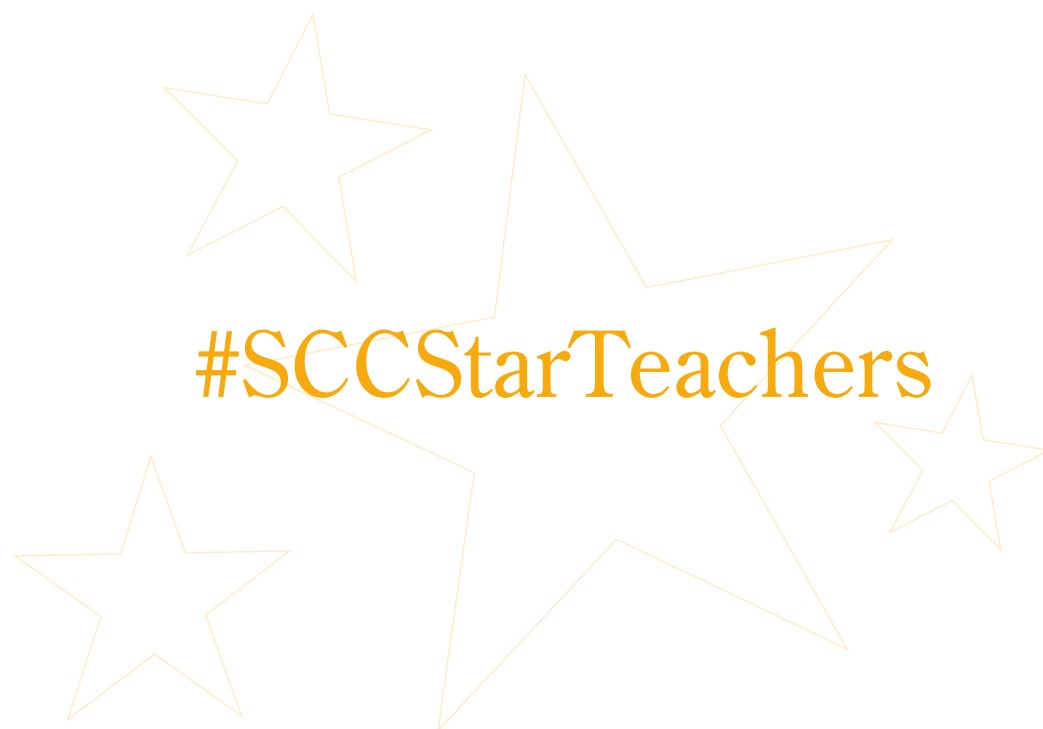
SCCOE programs that provide direct instruction include Alternative Education, Special Education, Migrant Education, Head Start, State Preschool, and Environmental Education.

OUR GOALS

- Improve access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education.
- Provide quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities.
- Be a premier service organization.







COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Di Salvo • Rosemary Kamei • Kathleen M. King
Grace H. Mah • Peter Ortiz • Claudia Rossi • Anna Song

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131-2304
www.sccoe.org/trc

