Message from Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools

Hello everyone,

PRIDE is a time to celebrate and elevate the importance of accepting everyone while honoring the journey to justice and equal opportunity the LGBTQ+ community continues to fight.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to creating safe and inclusive school environments for all youth, free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination while addressing the needs and inequalities LGBTQ+ youth experience in school. As youth continue their pathway to self-discovery, they must have positive LGBTQ+ role models and safe and inclusive spaces.

I am reminded of the following quote from Harvey Milk, “All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

Here are a few ways to support LGBTQ+ youth:

- **Actively listen** to youth whose voice is deserving of amplification and respect.
- **Model inclusion** by making an effort to use inclusive language and asking a person’s preferred pronouns. Using the correct pronoun and gender identity affirms and respects the person.
- **Be an LGBTQ+ youth advocate and ally** by being willing to act with and for others in pursuit of ending oppression and creating equality. It can be difficult work, but we must be flexible, adaptable, and open to shifting as we learn and do better. Share resources and tools that help youth live their authentic selves. Allies are some of the most effective people in a youth’s life.
I encourage you to visit the SCCOE’s LGBTQ+ Supports & Resources page for resources, services, and support. Here are local resources available to community members:

- County of Santa Clara Office of LGBTQ Affairs
- The LGBTQ Youth Space
- The Q Corner
- BAYMEC Community Foundation
- Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center
- PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter
- The Trevor Project

As we all reflect on and celebrate the unique contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, I encourage you to engage in meaningful discussions and work that uplifts diversity, equity, inclusion, and partnership. Together, we are working toward a better future for all.

We are #StrongerTogether.

Be well,

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

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Community News and Resources

Daypack checkout from libraries
If you are near Gilroy or Morgan Hill libraries, you're invited to stop by and check out a nature daypack. These nature daypacks contain everything you need for an outdoor adventure! They have a lightweight hiking backpack with binoculars, a compass, bug magnifier, first aid kit, and various guidebooks. The best part – they also include free day parking at any County of Santa Clara park. Learn more at https://bit.ly/3wUFJRO
The Santa Clara County Library District is hosting a fun, educational, and interactive in-person workshops led by early childhood educator, Dr. Gerardo Lopez. Each week Dr. Lopez will focus on certain skillsets children need to develop before they start kindergarten.

- Wednesday, June 15, 7-8:30 p.m.: Early Literacy & Language & Communication
- Wednesday, June 22, 7-8:30 p.m.: Math and Science
- Wednesday, June 29, 7-8:30 p.m.: Social Emotional Development and Health & Well-Being

These programs will take place in Room C35 at the Campbell Community Center. To sign up, visit https://sccl.bibliocommons.com/..../626db052b0decc832c6c88c3

PRIDE Month is here!

As we prepare our celebrations, we invite everyone to join us in Spreading Pride and Radiating Kindness (S.P.A.R.K) across Santa Clara County and beyond.
Share an authentic, encouraging, and inspiring video or written message in 1-3 sentences,

1. In support and to uplift LGBTQ+ youth. Need some help getting started? Try one of these sentence starters:

   - I appreciate …
   - Thank you for …
   - You’re amazing because …
   - You are …

Or,

2. Share what PRIDE means to you.

Participate by submitting your video or text online at https://sccoe.to/SPARK. Your video or message may be used in an SCCOE PSA or Social Media Campaign over the course of the next year.

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The National Compadres Network is offering this training and certification process for individuals to become Circle Keepers under a specific curriculum model. Grounded in the philosophy of La Cultura Cura, each curricula or Círculo (Circle) seeks to offer a healing-centered, asset-based and culturally-driven process by which Circle Keepers will have the ability to facilitate with youth, families, and communities. There is limited capacity for the training. Applications will be reviewed and responded to on a rolling basis.
Interested applicants should hold all of the following dates/times for the training:
Wednesday, June 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday & Friday, June 23-24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

District News and Resources

Conversations with Crayons
A Back-to-School Planning Event

Wednesday, June 22
at 7 PM EST
on the Crayola Education Facebook page

Join us for free lesson plans, giveaways, and more!

Crayola Education ☑️ TeacherLists

Back-to-school planning

Teachers, you have a lot on your plate. Crayola wants to help make planning for the new school year just a little bit easier (and fun, too)! Hear from teachers who are using creative experiences to welcome their students to the classroom, get tips for prepping your supplies list, and hear ideas on two colorful lessons that encourage students to express themselves with a focus on inclusion, kindness, and well-being.

Student Mental Health & Wellness Symposium
The Santa Clara County Office of Education would like to invite you to our Student Mental Health & Wellness Symposium on Monday, June 13 from 3-5 p.m. You will learn more about the efforts of the state, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Wellness Center for Santa Clara County Schools Initiative, and SCCOE's Department of Youth Health & Wellness.

For more information, please contact Ana Ramirez, Administrative Assistant IV, by sending an email to youthhealthwellness@sccoe.org or by calling (669) 212-4446.

The SCCOE has partnered with GenderSpectrum to offer The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN). The ISN is a learning community of educational professionals committed to creating school settings and leading efforts to create gender-inclusive environments.

The year-long commitment of professional development includes a Training-of-Trainers sequence along with a comprehensive set of activities and resources that will equip ISN members to chart a path to deepen their confidence and capacity and move toward more intentional practices employing the lens of gender.

(Virtual) Network Launch: June 21, 22, & 24 & June 27-28; 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Contact Dr. Christina Arpante (carpante@sccoe.org) with your interest, and/or any questions

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**Health & Wellness**

Sun Safety: SPF

Warm, sunny days are wonderful. It's good for children to spend time playing and exercising outdoors, and it's important they enjoy it safely. The American Academy of Pediatrics has some tips on how to help keep your family safe from too much exposure to the sun's harmful rays.

- Keep **babies** younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight. Find shade under a tree, an umbrella, or the stroller canopy.
- When possible, dress yourself and your children in cool, comfortable clothing that covers the body, such as lightweight cotton pants, long-sleeved shirts, and hats.
- Wear a hat with an all-around 3-inch brim to shield the face, ears, and back of the neck.
- Limit your sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when UV rays are strongest.
- Wear sunglasses with at least 99% UV protection. Look for youth-sized sunglasses with UV protection for your child.
- Use sunscreen.
Dr. Jo Olson-Kennedy, Aydin Olson-Kennedy, and Darlene Tando, all experts in the field of adolescent trans health, present "The Medical and Mental Needs of Gender Nonconforming & Transgender Children, Youth, and Young Adults."

This free virtual symposium will:
1. Equip community service providers with the clinical skills and best practices needed to inform and guide their care.
2. Allow for discussion of current medical interventions, including puberty blockers, gender-affirming hormones, and surgical options.
2. Explain the clinical needs of transgender youth ages 5-12, the role of parental support,
and how gender dysphoria is experienced and its impact on the psychosocial well-being of transgender adolescents.

When: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
June 13, 14, 16, and 17 at 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Register for the training here.

Announcements

News Release:

- Santa Clara County Office of Education and LGBTQ+ Youth Space Kick Off Pride Month with a Pride PSA Contest for Santa Clara County Students
- Santa Clara County student competes in Scripps National Spelling Bee

About the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Working collaboratively with school and community partners, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a regional service agency that provides instructional, business, and technology services to the 31 school districts of Santa Clara County. The County Office of Education directly serves students through special education programs, alternative schools, Head Start and State Preschool programs, migrant education, and Opportunity Youth Academy. The SCCOE also provides academic and fiscal oversight and monitoring to districts in addition to the 22 Santa Clara County Board of Education authorized charter schools. For more information about the Santa Clara County Office of Education, please visit www.sccoe.org.