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

Dear Santa Clara County Community,

The winter months are a great reminder to check in with your neighbors experiencing loss or who are in need of necessities, such as food, clothing, medical attention, and more. The Santa Clara County community can count on the kindness of their neighbors as individuals and through community-based organizations to provide resources.

Studies have shown, that giving back to the community is connected to positive physical and mental health effects, such as lower blood pressure and decreased stress. Assisting neighbors in need can also serve as a way to keep Seasonal Affective Disorder at bay. It also creates a sense of community when people gather for a cause.

Acts of kindness are an excellent teachable moments for children and youth. When families practice giving back to their community together, children and youth learn core principles such as empathy, generosity, and recognition. No act of kindness is too small to serve as a teachable moment for them, which they can in turn share with peers. No matter how you choose to teach children about giving back, you can guarantee the benefits and the lessons learned will stay with them for a lifetime.


We are #StrongerTogether.

Be well,

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Visit the SCCOE Newsroom for the latest news and updates.

Community News and Resources

The Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) coordinates with school districts and the County Office of Education to provide a continuum of programs and services for individuals with disabilities, from birth through 22 years of age. We are also available as a resource to the community on issues related to special education. There are a variety of resources and training for families available at https://www.sccoe.org/selpa/Pages/Events.aspx

It's not too late to participate in Homework Club! Library branches are still looking for volunteers to assist students in grades K-8 with after-school homework help. Volunteers (age 15+) help local students reach academic success online and foster their ability to succeed in school. Homework Club will not meet during school breaks and library holiday
closures. Volunteers need to commit to a minimum of 2 consecutive hours per week, for the duration of the program.

Registration is now open for Silicon Valley Reads kickoff event. Mercury News columnist Sal Pizarro will moderate the conversation with all three featured authors: Tommy Orange, Amanda Skenandore and Kai Harris. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to have your books signed by the authors after the event.

The event will be on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at De Anza College. It will be simultaneously livestreamed by the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley. Please register for this free event.

District News and Resources
Take the next step in your career in education! Earn a School Administration Credential with Educator Preparation Programs. Find out more information about all our programs and apply today at eppscholar.sccoe.org.

Summer Career Development for Immigrant Students & Graduates!

Gain professional skills at the County of Santa Clara

10-weeks, up to $10,000 stipend

Applications OPEN on December 27, 2022! Stay connected to apply!

Office of Immigrant Relations

Applications Opening Soon

Young Artist Showcase 2023

Hope in a New Era

Young Artist Showcase
The Santa Clara County Office of Education announces the 2023 Young Artist Showcase. This showcase is open to public school students, grades Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, in Santa Clara County. Some students will have their artwork accepted into the permanent exhibit of student artwork located within the SCCOE campuses as well as showcased at the virtual Young Artist Showcase Celebration on May 9, 2023, celebrating Arts Education Month in California.

This year’s artwork theme, ‘Hope in a New Era’, encourages youth to reimagine, through the arts and creativity, a new era of creative freedom and expression. This new space in time can involve a new way of thinking, learning, and interacting with new possibilities and new ways or reinforce meaningful ways to engage with friends, family, work, school, community spaces, and our natural environments.

To submit artwork, visit https://sccoe.to/YAS2023SubmissionForm
For more information, visit https://www.sccoe.org/arts/ys

Health & Wellness

**FREE At-Home COVID-19 tests: COVIDtests.gov.**
Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a fourth round of four additional free at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests. Get tests now, so you are ready if you are exposed or get sick. Testing, vaccinations, and masking help us reduce the chances of spreading COVID-19 and its variants.

Order your free tests now at COVIDtests.gov

In support of the public health response to opioid-related overdose deaths, the SCCOE, in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services and Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project (SCCOOPP), recently launched the Naloxone Training and Distribution Project. The project has established partnerships with schools to facilitate training to volunteer school staff and community members on the emergency administration of naloxone and distribute free Narcan kits to schools and at community events.

The SCCOE, in partnership with the Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project and Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services, invites families, students, and community members to join us for a community event that will include training on administering Narcan, a presentation and panel discussion on the current opioid crisis and prevention measures, and free Narcan kit distribution.

The next Naloxone training and distribution will be on Monday, January 9 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at 1290 Ridder Park Drive in San Jose. To register, please visit https://na.eventscloud.com/728816.
The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department’s Sexual Health & Harm Reduction Program is happy to announce the launch of the 2023 Viral Video Contest this month for Santa Clara County high school-age youth. According to the CDC, 1 in 2 sexually active youth will get an STI by age 25 and most will not know it. This is an exciting opportunity for Santa Clara County high school students to address this staggering statistic by creating a short video (30-90 seconds) that addresses stigma around STIs and testing, encourages safer sexual practices, and promotes healthy relationships. Winning students will be awarded up to $1,500 for themselves and $500 for their high school. The submission deadline is March 12, 2023.

Watch and share this short video about the Viral Video Contest. For more information and to see winning videos from previous years, go to GoViralSCC.org.

**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 provides academic and fiscal oversight and monitoring to districts in addition to the Santa Clara County Board of Education authorized charter schools.

The SCCOE is a premier service organization driven by the core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership. The SCCOE is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. For more information about the Santa Clara County Office of Education, please visit www.sccoe.org and follow us @SCCOE on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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January 2023 Events Calendar

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