



INSPIRATION

From Ted Alejandre



County Superintendent's Monthly Message



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Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

This is a time of celebration and a time of recognition for all the hard work, dedication and diligence put forth by our graduates across San Bernardino County.

The months of May and June are some of the most rewarding times of the year. I've had the pleasure of attending a variety of celebrations recognizing students and educators.

It has been a difficult journey for all of us—students, teachers, families and school staff—as we navigated, together, the uncertainties of the pandemic. Our graduating seniors overcame numerous challenges, and it is a well-deserved and deeply celebrated milestone when our seniors walk across the stage to receive their high school diplomas.

The month of May was also an opportunity to show our hardworking colleagues and staff how much they are valued, respected and appreciated. We celebrated National Teacher

Appreciation Week and Classified School Employee Week. Although this month was a great chance to show gratitude to our educators and essential staff, let's all remember to extend that gratitude and kindness throughout the year.

Please [watch](#) this month's Inspiration video newsletter to learn more about the collaborations and to explore how we are transforming lives through education.

Sincerely,

Ted Alejandre
County Superintendent of Schools



The Newsroom

A Bridge for Donors, Districts and Families



At San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, we continue to work with our partners to provide academic, emotional and day-to-day support for our students.

With 33 school districts in San Bernardino County, we serve more than 400,000 students, and there is a tremendous need that spans across the largest county in the contiguous United States.

We had the opportunity to thank just a couple of our community donors, like the Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association (SEBA) and Santa Claus Inc. County Schools holds a variety of annual drives that allow us to extend support and donations to our districts and partners. These two organizations donated thousands of toys and personal items, such as socks, shoes and undergarments for students and families without even being asked.

"We rely on these donations greatly," said Yesenia Arvizu, Director of Family and Community Engagement at Ontario-Montclair School District. "We work with low-income families, and if it weren't for the partnerships that we have built in our community with San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, I do not know... If it wasn't for these relationships that we can build, it just would not be possible."

Representatives from school districts in San Bernardino County from Snowline Joint Unified School District to Cucamonga School District came to Roy C Hill to collect these donations to distribute to their students.

"Our community is about 4,300 students and we do have about 70% on free and reduced lunch, so we have a need for any kind of supplies we can give and help our students at home. It's a really critical time now that we're all back in person," said Kim Bliss with Central School District. "With the support of the county, the resources I get to pass forward are immense, and I really think that's the bridge that we need."

Dance the Night Away!

Special Education students from the West End and East Valley took to the

dance floor to show off their moves at two separate dances on May 13.

Rancho Cucamonga's community center hosted the annual prom night for individuals with moderate to severe disabilities, ages 16 and up.

Dozens of students and chaperones enjoyed a night of live music, colorful lights and dancing.

"I just love the gathering of us," said 18-year-old Nicholas Samson. "I've been getting older, but I'm so glad I get to hang out with people like me, people with disabilities. I'm glad there's people who make these kinds of things happen."

Nicholas' mother shared her son has autism and has seen positive changes with opportunities like the prom.

"It is very rewarding because he had social issues. He's making friends, talking, he's talking now. He didn't talk for a long time," said Jeanette Ramos. "I feel like he's come a long way and he's built some good friendships."



Special Education students in the Desert Mountain area got together for a luau theme Spring Dance at Elks Lodge in Hesperia.

Principal Tom Hannett was the live DJ and emcee, and students and chaperones came festively dressed in tropical attire and donned leis.

It was also a celebratory occasion for some students who received their Certificate of Completion.

Amplifying Student Voice



The inaugural Student Voice Advisory Council to the Superintendent wrapped up a successful series. It was a first-of-its kind student leadership council for students who receive direct education services from San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

"I like being heard. I wasn't expecting this," said Joseph Jordan, a senior at Bob Murphy County Community School. "I'm honored. I'm surprised I got the chance to participate in this event. I'm very proud of myself."

The San Bernardino County Teachers Association and the SBCSS Office of Equity and Access were awarded a grant from the National Education Association to provide leadership development opportunities for students in our Alternative Education programs. In collaboration with our Student Services Branch, this program provided an opportunity to foster equitable student leadership, with each of our sites nominating students to represent their schools and region.

Students participated in a series of three-hour sessions at the Roy C Hill Education center, taking part in leadership workshops with invited guest speakers and team building exercises.

"I think everyone deserves a chance to speak their mind and let their voice be heard. I think it's great," said Jaiden Flowers, a senior at Victorville Education Center. "Hopefully this builds a legacy, and it keeps going throughout the years."

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Keep up with the latest stories from our Newsroom. Monthly articles feature staff, students and outstanding work being done throughout our county.



[Visit the SBCSS Photo Gallery](#)

See the latest photos in our official SBCSS gallery. Each month we add images from noteworthy events that highlight staff, students and programs across San Bernardino County.

[Visit our Website](#)



Superintendent Alejandre issues this monthly publication to keep stakeholders informed about the many services and programs SBCSS provides to our learning community throughout the year.

[View the 2020 archive.](#)