



## A Strong Start to The New Virtual School Year



*Welcoming our teachers, paraeducators, counselors and support staff back for the new school year!*

Back-to-school has taken on a new meaning and significance amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As county superintendent, I want to welcome back students and staff to the new 2020-21 academic school year. This has certainly been both a challenging and exciting time for education, as school districts across the nation have adjusted to new virtual learning environments. Seeing districts across our region pivot to online digital platforms has been highly uplifting.

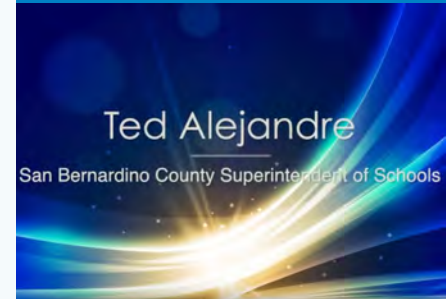
While many of our districts continue to move forward with implementing rigorous distance learning, one of our 33 school districts is moving forward with on-campus, face-to-face instruction. Lucerne Valley Unified School District's reopening waiver was approved to have in-person instruction for grades TK-6 after meeting the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health's strict guidelines. With the start of the new school year, I had the pleasure of visiting their campus to welcome back students. It was wonderful to see and hear the excitement of students returning to school with their teachers and classmates again.

For County Schools-operated programs, our Student Services and Technical Services branches have been able to collectively distribute 110 T-Mobile hot spots and 517 student devices to be used for distance learning since the start of the school year! As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting equitable outcomes in remote learning for all our students, SBCSS has partnered with Empire KVCR and

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## Newsroom Spotlights

**Watch County Superintendent Ted Alejandro's Weekly COVID-19 Update**



In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, County Superintendent Ted Alejandro provides weekly updates regarding collective inter-agency COVID-19 response efforts.

*View the [video message](#) regarding these important updates.*

## Equity Minded: Challenges Facing Vulnerable Students Webinar



Educators, administrators, and community members from San Bernardino County participated in the "Equity Minded: Challenges Facing Vulnerable

the Riverside County Office of Education to provide at-home, California standards-aligned public television programming in English and Spanish for students in grades K-12. The daily programming aims to provide alternative and informative learning experiences for students.

I want to share my sincere appreciation to our teachers, staff, students and families for the strength and resiliency shown during these unprecedented times of uncertainty and adjustment. Your perseverance and dedication to work collectively to provide students quality learning, while keeping the health and safety of students and staff a priority, has been tremendously inspirational. I have great hope this new school year will invite innovation and push boundaries as we maintain our mission of transforming lives through education.

## Congratulations to Our SBCSS Class of 2020 Graduates



*What an amazing ceremony. Congratulations SBCSS Class of 2020 on your outstanding accomplishment!*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional high school graduation ceremonies were canceled to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, yet we still honored our outstanding students. Our SBCSS at-promise graduates were recognized for their important milestone with Class of 2020 yard signs, recognition awards provided by Student Services and the San Bernardino County Teachers Association and car parades of decorated vehicles filled with enthusiastic staff. Our SBCSS staff also provided senior portrait sessions as another opportunity to recognize the graduates for their wonderful accomplishment.

On August 28, SBCSS held a drive-through Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2020 at Barbara Phelps County Community School to honor our Student Services graduating seniors. The event observed local and state public health department guidelines with three ceremonies in order to maintain social distancing. We had more than 180 students meet the requirements to receive their diplomas— one of our largest graduating classes to date.

While this event may have looked a little different this year, it was a pleasure to be able to congratulate our seniors for their hard work and determination during these challenging

Students” webinar this morning. San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre welcomed attendees and encouraged them to continue this important work.

This critical webinar and panel discussion involved students, homeless and foster youth liaisons, student advocacy groups, parents, and school officials regarding the experiences, needs and concerns of students who may have traumatic experience(s) or basic needs insecurities.

This is the third session of equity themed webinars hosted by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office of Equity and Access in collaboration with Brenda Dowdy, Bernadette Pinchback and Paul Durham from the Children Deserve Success program.

[Watch the video.](#)

## Macy's in Victorville Donates Dresses to SBCSS Desert/Mountain Operations



The Desert/Mountain Operations Principals, Managers and Teachers received a donation of more than 100 Prom Dresses from Macy's in Victorville.

These Prom Dresses will be provided to SBCSS Desert/Mountain Operations students attending the Winter and Spring Celebrations and Dances.

SBCSS Desert/Mountain Operations is very appreciative of this generous donation. We expect these dresses will make wonderful experiences and memories for our students.

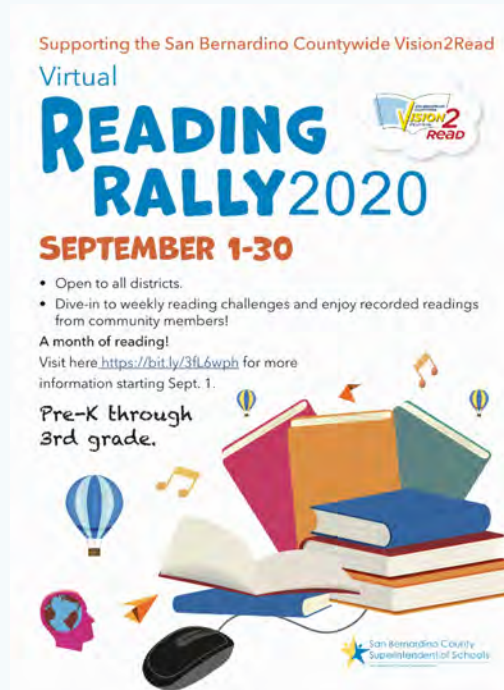
Pictured are Desert/Mountain



times. Families, friends and staff cheered on our graduates and made this commencement truly remarkable! I applaud them for their support.

We hope that our graduates' education has prepared them to be college- and career-ready as they take their next steps into their futures. These students demonstrated that whatever you set your mind to, you can achieve it. Congratulations Class of 2020!

## Reading Rally Goes Virtual



Check out the 2020 #SBCSSReadingRally2020 event!

In support of the San Bernardino Countywide [Vision2Read](#) initiative to raise the bar for literacy, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is hosting this year's Reading Rally in a virtual format throughout the entire month of September.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines, this year's traditional one-day event has been transformed into a month-long virtual event through Sept. 30.

For the past seven years, the Reading Rally has been an inspiring event that aims at promoting early literacy in children ages 4-8 and bringing students together to enjoy storytelling and engage in fun literacy activities.

This year's event is open to all San Bernardino County school district students and includes exciting individual and weekly reading challenges such as finding a space to read outside, creating a game based on a favorite book and turning a story into a play. The Reading Rally also includes special performances, including theater arts and puppetry and recorded readings from our community members.

The SBCSS Reading Rally encourages students to come together and be engulfed in literature through immersion in reading, which can lead to mastering the skill of reading and

Operations Principals, Managers and Teachers along with Macy's of Victorville employees coordinating the donation.

Thank You Macy's of Victorville!!

## Norton Science and Language Academy Charter



The Norton Science and Language Academy, a County Board of Education authorized charter school broke ground on a campus expansion project. The site will grow from grades TK through 8th to TK through 12th grade. NSLA is one of the first and few full dual immersion programs in the state.

### Quick Links

[Newsroom](#)

[Our Mission](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

[SBCSS Website](#)

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### Stay Connected



[www.sbcss.net](http://www.sbcss.net)

help build a child's educational success.

For more information and to participate, please visit the [Reading Rally website](#).

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