



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

October 2024 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our October newsletter with you. Each month, we update you on programs, events and news in the county office and the districts we serve in San Benito County. In addition, we invite you to stay connected through our various social media platforms.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and our students across San Benito County as we *Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate!*

SBCOE Named Small County Office of the Year

At its September Statewide Meeting, California County Superintendents named County Superintendent, Krystal Lomanto, and the San Benito County Office of Education the 2024 Small County Office of the Year. The recognition is given to county offices who provide innovative programming and extraordinary support to the community, districts and students they serve.

Of the 58 county offices in California, 22 are considered small based on average daily attendance. Although SBCOE is a small county office, Superintendent Lomanto leads with the belief that every student deserves access to high-quality educational programs, regardless of where they live. This commitment has driven SBCOE to identify and address the specific needs of its students, ensuring they receive the resources necessary for success in school and beyond.

This acknowledgment highlights the collaborative effort and dedication of the staff at SBCOE, who work tirelessly to enhance educational opportunities for all students. The recognition of San Benito County as the 2024 Small County Office of the Year not only celebrates the achievements of its staff but also underscores the importance of equitable access to education for students in smaller, rural areas. As SBCOE continues to innovate and advocate for its students, it sets a powerful example for other county offices throughout California.



SBCOE Hosts "Fair Ever Learning" Booth at San Benito County Fair

Once again, SBCOE hosted a booth at this year's San Benito County Fair, expanding on the "Fair Ever Young" theme to include "Fair Ever Learning". In addition to items depicting various fair entries, the booth also included photos of current and past students as well as a wall of educators who grew up in San Benito County pictures from their elementary and high school years as well as their current photo. The display, which won first place in the commercial booth division, highlights how education and agriculture are connected in San Benito County.

Throughout the 3-day weekend, SBCOE staff provided an opportunity for kids attending the fair to make their own notecards and plant succulents. They were also able to enter a raffle to win a basket with science kits, art activities and books.



Above and Beyond Recipients

Victor Negrete and Mari Romero were presented with SBCOE's Above and Beyond Award by the SBCOE Board of Education on September. As the Educational Liaison serving Homeless and Foster Youth, Victor organized the Foster & Homeless Resource Fair and has supported several other events. In his role, he has also done an excellent job connecting students and families to resources and supporting them to be successful in school.

Mari is a Special Education Preschool teacher. Each day she puts together fun, effective lessons for her preschool students. This year, she has also volunteered to mentor one Intern teacher and two student teachers as they complete their teaching credentials.



Board Member Campbell Garcia Retires

In September, SBCOE Board of Education Member, Joan Campbell Garcia, retired from the SBCOE Board after 24 years of service. She taught at San Andreas Continuation High School for 11 years before being elected to the Board. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Campbell Garcia has been a strong advocate for students, making decisions that support student learning and helping them become successful and contributing members of our community. Thank you for your service! We will miss you and wish you the best in your retirement!



SBCOE Honors Community Champion ACE Hardware

SBCOE Board Members honored ACE Hardware as a Community Champion at their September Meeting for their support of education over the years. Each year, Ace Hardware donates to the SBCOE Teacher Resource Fair and this year was no different. They provided 100 succulent plants and pots for the teachers who attended the Fair in August. This is just one way teachers are supported by our community.



Early Literacy Certification Program Begins Fall Cohort

San Benito County Superintendent Krystal Lomanto and the San Benito County Office of Education kicked off the Fall 2024 Cohort for the Early Literacy Certification Program on September 14. The program is part of SBCOE's Building Bridges 2 Literacy initiative and provides training for community child care providers and preschool teachers around Early Literacy.

To receive their Early Literacy Certification, participants attend three workshops where they learn the 6 components of literacy and 5 areas of reading and develop an Early Literacy Plan to be implemented in their child care center or preschool. Participants who complete the certification course will earn Early Literacy Certification from the San Benito County Office of Education and receive a yard sign that can be displayed at their place of business.

The Fall 2024 Cohort has 22 participants, attending workshops on September, October 19, and November 23, with a recognition ceremony to be held on November 23 for program completers and their families. SBCOE offered the program last spring with 18 program completers.

Special Education Preschool Starts the Year Strong

In September, Special Education Administrators continue to build relationships with rural school staff by visiting Cienega and Tres Pinos Elementary Schools. Visits to Jefferson and Willow Grove are scheduled for October. In addition, staff will be participating in child find activities within the community by sharing information on the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Preschool program and assessments.

Our ECSE Preschool Special Education Teachers have been taking a deeper dive into the implementation of the Frog Street curriculum and piloting Touch Math, now that most students have successfully transitioned into the new school year. This month, teachers integrated a Farm Day theme into their learning activities within the classroom and incorporated the theme into Family Fun Day. Students and families engaged in sensory activities and games while having fun with staff members who dressed up like farmers and farm animals.

Our next Family Fun Day will be held on Halloween. We are also in the process of scheduling Parent Professional Learning Opportunities. A survey will be sent home for parent input/interest to help determine topics of interest.





SBCOE Announces Red Ribbon Week Events

Join SBCOE and the community in celebrating Red Ribbon Week October 19-25! This year's anti-drug and tobacco theme is "Life is a Movie: Film Drug Free." To celebrate, SBCOE is bringing awareness speakers and activities to each school in the county throughout October. Red Ribbon Week begins with the 34th Annual Red Ribbon Run & Festival on October 19 at Veterans Memorial Building and concludes October 23 with a FREE family awareness movie night at Hollister High School. The movie, "Fentanyl High", brings attention to the fentanyl crisis effecting our community and nation. It is jointly planned by SBCOE, San Benito High School District, San Benito County Behavioral Health Services and led by San Benito County Public Health. Families with students fifth grade and older are encouraged to attend this documentary and hear from a panel of speakers who will be sharing their varied experiences.



FREE Tickets, Raffle prizes, and Narcan



Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice Returns

SBCOE held its first Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice workshop for the 2024-2025 school year with over 50 educators representing schools throughout the county. David Flores, the Senior Lead Trainer of the Mindful Life Project, gave teachers useful strategies for integrating SEL and Mindfulness into their classrooms across grade levels. All attendees received SEL classroom posters and fidget boxes. Building capacity at the classroom level is the theme of this year's series. For more information on SEL workshops and PBIS integration, contact Amber Lister at alister@sbcoe.org.

- **Oct 17:** Check-In, Check Out: Evidence-based Implementation Strategies
- **Nov 7:** Classroom Positive Support Strategies
- **Dec 11:** PBIS Tier I Foundations
- **Feb 13:** Champions of SEL - Moving Schools Forward to Strengthen Capacity

Mental Health Providers Support Suicide Prevention

SBCOE Mental Health Therapists and Social Workers promoted suicide prevention and awareness during Suicide Prevention Month at Maze Middle School and SBCOE's Alternative Education campus by hosting special lunchtime activities. Students at SBCOE Alternative Education programs participated in creating a "Kindness Chain," where they wrote positive messages for themselves or others going through difficult times. In addition, they made friendship bracelets as a symbol of support and connection. This event helped spread awareness and encouraged kindness and empathy within the school community.



SBCOE Student Support Network

The Student Support Network launched its first session on September 23. The session focused on Community Schools, exploring their alignment with the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). Participants also learned about new funding opportunities to bolster school initiatives and received updates on upcoming Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) activities, which will begin in October. Most school district representatives and their schools attended the network meeting.

Future session topics will include Foster Youth support, homeless resources, legal updates on state guidelines, and other student services information. Attendees will be provided with valuable insights on how to enhance services for their students as well as the opportunity to collaborate with partner agencies to ensure they are equipped to meet the diverse needs of At-Promise youth.

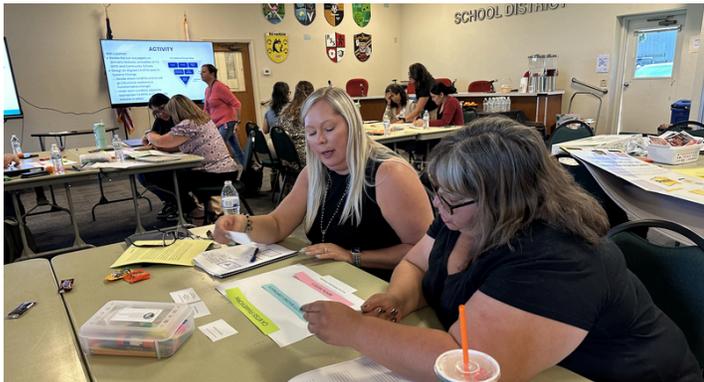


San Juan Elementary School Wins Summer Reading Challenge

County Superintendent, Krystal Lomanto, rewarded Kindergarten-2nd grade students at San Juan Elementary School with pizza and reading charms for winning SBCOE's Summer Reading Challenge. Together, students read 1,098,494 words this summer! Tiger Colores Vasquez was the top reader in the county and received a special award.

Footsteps2Brilliance offers books, games and activities in English and Spanish for children up to 3rd grade. Features include pre-reading, learn-to-read and general reading programs as well as science activities. The program can be downloaded on any electronic device and, once downloaded, no internet connection is needed. To register your child for FREE, visit

www.myf2b.com/register/SanBenitoCOE.



Save the Date! March 20 Family Wellbeing Resource Fair

Mark your calendars for our first San Benito County Family Wellbeing Festival: Empowering Families, Thrive within your Community on March 20, 2025. This festival will provide access to valuable well-being and mental health resources, wellness activities, workshops, and opportunities to connect with local and state agencies dedicated to family well-being. Stay tuned for more details!



Calling all 3rd-8th grade students and families!

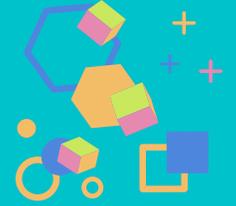
3rd Annual SBCOE Math Festival

October 24, 2024

4:30-6:30pm

Veteran's Memorial Building

Fun for the whole family * Take-home math puzzles and giveaways



Professional Learning Opportunities

Oct 3 Intermediate SIRAS Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251131>

2:00-3:00pm via Zoom

Oct 10: Live Binder Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=256077>

2:00-3:00pm via Zoom

Oct 9: Administrator Designee Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=237509>

3:00-4:30pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

Oct 17: Check In, Check Out: PBIS Tier II

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=257100>

2:30-3:30pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

Oct 17: A Clear and Complete Offer of FAPE

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=251478>

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Oct 19: Early Literacy Certification Program

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255792>

9:00am-2:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

Oct 22: AAC in the Classroom

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255198>

9:00-10:00am

SELPA Office, 3230 Southside Road

Oct 23: Continuous Improvement Leadership Series

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255876>

3:00-4:00pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

Oct 30: Threat Assessment for School Admin & Mental Health Providers

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255837>

1:30-2:30pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

Oct 30: Mental Health Provider Network

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=251090>

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Meetings

Oct 3: Induction Coach Workshop (High School)

3:15-4:15pm

HHS Davis Library

Oct 10: Induction Coach Workshop (TK-8)

3:45-4:45pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

Oct 16: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:00pm @ Panoche School

Oct 23: SARB Screening

9-11am

SBC Sherriff's Office

Oct 27: Mental Health Lead Meeting

10:30am-12:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom