



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

January 2025 Newsletter

The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our January 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 to Host Annual Literacy Summit January 23

San Benito County Office of Education is hosting its 2nd Annual Literacy Summit to promote and improve literacy for students in San Benito county on January 23 from 4:30 to 7:00pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building. This year's theme is "Words and Numbers: The Building Blocks of Literacy," and is designed for educators, families, and community members to collaboratively explore the critical role of language and numeracy in literacy development.

This year's Literacy Summit features sessions on best practices in reading, writing, and math skills. Attendees will gain valuable insights and practical strategies to support children's literacy growth at home and in school. Through interactive workshops and expert-led discussions, participants will learn how literacy encompasses both language and numeracy skills. The summit promotes a holistic view of literacy, showing that reading and math together form the foundation for lifelong learning.

In addition to an awards ceremony recognizing student literacy and math champions, participants will hear from keynote speaker, Dr. Greg Spencer and enjoy roundtable discussions led by San Benito County educational leaders. All families, educators, support staff, and leaders in San Benito county are invited to attend the Summit, which will include a free dinner, networking opportunities, SWAG bags filled with resources and raffle prizes. keynote speaker, and roundtable discussions on various literacy topics. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-annual-literacy-summit-tickets-1091263280849?aff=oddttdtcreator>.

SBCOE Spread Holiday Cheer and Warmth

This holiday season, the San Benito County Office of Education worked with local partners to bring much-needed support to families and students in our community. In November, SBCOE teamed with the Community Food Bank and Youth Recovery Connection to host a Holiday Food Drive. Together, we provided 50 families with students experiencing homelessness with holiday food boxes, turkeys, and grocery cards to help them enjoy a warm and nourishing Thanksgiving. On December 14, 2025, SBCOE partnered with the Hollister Police Department for the Holiday Warmth Coat Drive. This effort ensured students in foster care and those experiencing homelessness received coats, sweaters, and other cold-weather essentials to stay warm this winter.



These events were made possible by the generosity and dedication of our partners and community members. Thank you for helping us make a difference for local students and families this holiday season!

SBCOE to Celebrate Students in Reading and Math

During our 2nd Annual Literacy Summit, the San Benito County Office of Education will be honoring the top eight readers from our Winter Reading Challenge and eight math scholars who were selected by their school Principals. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate our students at the Literacy Summit. You can register for the FREE event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-annual-literacy-summit-tickets-1091263280849?aff=oddttdtcreator>.



Don't forget! Any child under the age of 5 can register to receive a FREE book each month until their 5th birthday from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The books are highly engaging and will be mailed directly to the child each month. To register, scan the QR code and follow the instructions under the "Online Registration" link. For more information, contact Monica Barragan at 831-637-5393 x126. Donations towards this project can also be made using the same QR code.



Community Food Bank of San Benito County Receives Community Champion Award

Community Foodbank of San Benito County received SBCOE's Community Champion Award from the San Benito County Board of Education in December. The organization has a long history of supporting schools and families in our county. In addition to the work they do to provide food to the community, they recently provided fifty \$50 gift cards to families in SBCOE's Alternative Education programs, helping provide healthy food for the holidays. Thank you for all you do!

SBCOE Above & Beyond Award Recipients

This month, SBCOE recognized Cielo Gonzalez and Elizabeth Eastman as Above & Beyond Award Recipients for December.

As a Mental Health Therapist, Cielo works with students at seven rural schools in San Benito county to provide mental health services. She also serves as the Community Schools Coordinator for Tres Pinos Elementary School and staffs their Wellness Center.

Elizabeth is a Speech Language Pathologist who also serves students in rural schools. On most days, you will find her traveling to schools as far away as Panoche and Bitterwater to provide speech services to students with IEPs. Both Cielo and Elizabeth are dedicated to the students and staff they serve. Thank you both for all you do for our students!



San Benito County Student Events Begin February 6

San Benito County Office of Education kicks off its spring Student Events on February 6 with our Annual Countywide Spelling Bee Competition followed by the San Benito County STEAM Expo on March 13 and the San Benito County Arts Showcase on April 3. All events take place at the Veteran's Memorial Building in downtown Hollister and are open to all students in San Benito County. For more information, contact Tony Balbas at tbalbas@sbcoe.org.



SBC Spelling Bee

February 6, 2025 5:30-6:30pm

Open to students in Grades 4-9

Veteran's Memorial Building

Register at: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SBCOEBEE25](https://bit.ly/SBCOEBEE25)

State Qualifiers receive a room at Great Wolf Lodge and 6 tickets to the Water Park

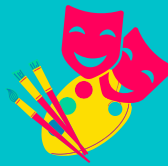
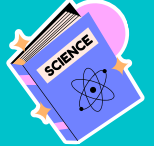
SBC STEAM Expo

March 13, 2025 4:00-7:00pm

Open to ALL students

Veteran's Memorial Building

Register at: <https://bit.ly/2025SBCOESTEAM>



SBC Arts Showcase

April 3, 2025 4:00-7:00pm

Open to ALL students

Veteran's Memorial Building

Registration opens in March

SBCOE Continues Math Workshops

As part of the San Benito County Math Initiative (SBCMI 2.0), SBCOE will offer its next math workshop on Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm to educators in San Benito County. Led by Phillip Consalves, the workshop will focus on a variety of specific mathematics content including developing number sense, operations on whole numbers, integers, decimals, LCM, fractions, as well as concrete, effective instructional practices that participants will be able to immediately utilize in their classrooms. The workshop is part of our 5-year math initiative and is one of the ways SBCOE is promoting math literacy across subject areas as part of our Building Bridges 2 Literacy Initiative. Educators may register for this workshop at <http://sanbenito.k12oms.org/616-258133>



ECE Students Enjoy December Activities

December's Family Fun Day at the Early Childhood Special Education Center included a winter wonderland where students rotated to each of the preschool classrooms participating in holiday crafts and activities. Students also had an opportunity meet our very own Santa and take pictures. Thank you to VFW for making a special delivery of donated toys donating toys to be given to our preschool students.

Students have also begun inclusion with Head Start and Migrant Students during recess. Our special education students are playing with typical students to work on social interaction skills while engaging in structured activities.

In addition to our Frog Street Curriculum, preschool teachers have been piloting the Touch Math curriculum this school year and will be trained in Footsteps2Brilliance in January to implement within the classroom.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 2025

Professional Learning Opportunities

Jan 9: Behavior Supports

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255895)

[gid=79&id=255895](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255895)

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Jan 15: Leading the Future of Math Education: the CA Math Framework in Action

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=260572)

[id=260572](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=260572)

9:00am-12:00pm

SBCOE Annex

3230 Southside Rd

Jan 16: SBCMI 2.0 Content Knowledge Series

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=258133)

[id=258133](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=258133)

1:15-3:15pm

Maze Middle

900 Meridian St

Jan 16: Continuous Improvement Leadership Series

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255876)

[id=255876](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255876)

3:00-5:00pm

SBCOE Annex

3230 Southside Rd

Jan 21: SELPA Educator Open House

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=256091)

[id=256091](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=256091)

3:30-4:30pm

SELPA Office

3230 Southside Rd

Jan 23: Procedural Safeguards

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251343)

[id=251343](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251343)

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Jan 23: 2nd Annual Literacy Summit

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=258636)

[id=258636](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=258636)

4:30-7:30pm

Veteran's Memorial Building

Jan 25: The Tech Academies Fellowship

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=259134)

[id=259134](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=259134)

8:30am-12:30pm

SBCOE Boardroom

Jan 30: ELD 101

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=250381)

[id=250381](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=250381)

8:30-3:00pm

Hollister School District Enterprise Room

Jan 30: Educational Benefit

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251156)

[id=251156](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251156)

3:00-4:00pm

SELPA Office

3230 Southside Rod

Jan 30: Brown Act Workshop

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=260401)

[id=260401](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=260401)

5:00-7:00pm

SBCOE Annex

3230 Southside Rd

Meetings

Jan 15: SARB Hearing

8:00am-12:00pm

Community Services & Workforce
Development Center

Jan 15: Rural Principals PLN

3:30-5:00pm via Zoom

Jan 29: Mental Health Provider Network Meeting

3:00-4:30pm

SBCOE Boardroom

Jan 31: Mental Health Lead Meeting

10:30am-12:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom