



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

September 2023 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our September 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!

Back to School for SBCOE Students

August 17 marked the first day of school for all SBCOE programs, including the Early Childhood Special Education Center, Pinnacles Community School, Santa Ana Opportunity School and San Andreas Continuation High School. As a year-round school, the San Benito County Juvenile Hall Court School has been in session since July 1.



This year the alternative education programs have a new Principal, Garret Quindimil. Mr. Quindimil is not new to the SBCOE Alternatives Education programs, having served as a teacher for all four sites over the past four years. In addition, five new teachers began the school year. All five are experienced teachers, two of which have taught in alternative education programs previously. Back-to-School Night for San Andreas Continuation High School and Santa Ana Opportunity School will be held September 7 at 6pm.

Students at SBCOE's Early Start Special Education Center were excited to return to their classrooms, see old friends and meet new ones. Service providers for Speech and Occupational Therapy began supporting students in their classrooms on day one. Our itinerant staff who provide services in the areas of Speech, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairment and Occupational Therapy have also begun working with students throughout the county. ECE is continuing its collaboration with the Diagnostic Center this year. They will conduct classroom observations and provide coaching for the Preschool staff. ECE will host its Open House September 27th at 3:30pm and the first family fun day is slated for September 28th.

Teacher Resource Fair Provides Classroom Supplies

For the second year, SBCOE was able to partner with several organizations to offer a Teacher Resource Fair to San Benito County teachers at San Andreas Continuation High School on August 11. The event built upon last year's success, providing over 100 teachers in San Benito County free classroom supplies, STEM kits, books, succulents, and PBIS incentives, as well as information on classroom field trips, continuing education and retirement. The goal of the event was to show gratitude to our amazing educators. Thank you to Ace Hardware, CalSTRS, CA State Parks, Chipotle, Grand Canyon University, RAFT, SBC Free Library, Scholastic, Synopsis, and Target for providing so many great resources for our teachers in San Benito County!



SBCOE Hosts Foster Youth & Homeless Resource Fair

SBCOE's 6th Annual Back-to-School Resource Fair took place on August 4 at San Andreas Continuation High School. The outreach event provided more than 200 students in foster care or those experiencing homelessness with supplies needed to start the year off positively. SBCOE, the Hollister Police Department and Grocery Outlet gave out backpacks, school supplies, snacks, and other back to school items. Additionally, Enfermo Kutz and the Gavilan College Cosmetology Department offered free haircuts to the students and Snowie provided free snow cones. Thank you to all the local agencies, vendors, and non-profit organizations who teamed with us to support education. This event demonstrated how community agencies can work together to make sure every student has what they need for school.



10th Annual Stuff the Bus Event Held

On August 5, SBCOE partnered with United San Benito for the 10th Annual Stuff the Bus Event to provide backpacks and school supplies to students in the county. Approximately 2,000 backpacks were stuffed with notebooks, pencils, crayons, and other items students will use during the school year. Thank you to the generous members of our community whose donations of money and supplies allowed us to provide so many backpacks this year!





HEALTHY MINDS HEALTHY LIVES

ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER...EDUCATE!

SBCOE Promotes Healthy Minds, Health Lives

This fall, SBCOE is working with districts and community to provide Social Emotional and Mental Health services as part of its Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives initiative.

Mental Health With grant funds received through the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA), Student Behavioral Health Initiative Program (SBHIP), CA Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), SBCOE has been able to hire School Social Workers and Mental Health Therapists who provide mental health services to students in most schools in San Benito County. These services are in addition to those already provided by schools. SBCOE staff and the San Benito County Behavioral Health Department are also working together to bring together school-based providers and those within the community to develop common processes and coordinate services. The Mental Health Provider Network began August 31 and the Mental Health Lead Meeting begins September 7.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) As part of the CalHope Grant, SBCOE has offered an SEL Community if Practice (CoP) for two years. The SEL CoP, which begins October 4, brings together school and community members to increase their knowledge and understanding of Social Emotional Learning strategies. SBCOE is partnering with four focus schools to implement SEL strategies schoolwide and is working with all schools in the county to build capacity around SEL.

PBIS 2.0 At the end of August, SBCOE rolled out PBIS 2.0, a training series designed to help schools implement Positive Supports and Intervention (PBIS) using proactive strategies form teaching, and supporting students, and creating a positive school climate. PBIS 2.0 is part of the Integrated Systems Framework that brings together behavior and Social Emotional Learning supports to better support students.

Administrators Learn to Lead for Equity

Each August, Administrators in San Benito County gather together to kick off the new school year with countywide professional development and this year was no exception. On August 1, the group met in Hollister School District's Enterprise Room to explore the systemic barriers that hinder equitable outcomes in education and examine the impact of implicit bias, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive practices on student achievement. Follow-up sessions will be held in September, October and March online, with a final in-person session in April.



F2B Reading Challenge Success



San Benito County Office of Education is excited to announce the results of our 2023 Summer Reading Challenge! Between May 1 and July 31, students across the county read 4,589,715 words and 7,117 books. They also wrote 6,354 books! Forty-eight students met and exceeded the 25,000 word challenge individually and two students, read over 100,000 words.

Riley Coffield, from Cerra Vista Elementary School, was the top reader in the county, reading a total of 129,729 words. Rancho Santana Elementary School's Jaxson Wygal also read an impressive 101,009 words. Students at San Juan Elementary School read the most words over the summer, a whopping 1,174,526 words!

Superintendent Lomanto will provide special recognition to students who read 25,000 words or more. Congratulations to everyone who participated. Watch for our upcoming challenges this fall. Register at www.myf2b.com/register/SanBenitoCOE.

SBCOE Welcomes New Staff

SBCOE is excited to announce the addition of new staff members for the 2023-24 school year. Please help us welcome the new members of our SBCOE Team!

Anissa Arroyo-Flores	Instructional Aide-SPED
Adina Austin	Mental Health Coordinator
Jasmin Avila	Instructional Aide-SPED
Tony Balbas	Coordinator, Instructional Support
Jovanie Bontia-Carpio	Alternative Education Teacher
Maria Camps-Cuta	Alternative Education Teacher
Marjoline Carpio	Alternative Education Teacher
Mayra Damian	Mental Health Therapist
Roselyn Decatoria	Resource Specialist
Mai Cruz	Director, Curriculum & Instruction and Equity & Access
Celeste Galvez-Villagomez	Instructional Aide-SPED
Ashley Gamboa	Instructional Aide-SPED
Karyn Garcia	Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Cielo Gonzalez	Mental Health Therapist
Amber Lister	Director, Prevention & Intervention
Carla Loomis	Alternative Ed Teacher
Gina Perry	Accounts Payable/Purchasing Specialist
Garret Quindimil	Alternative Education Principal
Rolan Resendiz	Alternative Education Teacher
Eduardo Rodriguez	Transport Driver
Victoria Sarria	Instructional Aide-SPED
Emily Schneider	Business Analyst
Julieann Trice	Coordinator, Special Education
Antonio Vela	Director, Human Resources
Vanessa Ventura	Registered Behavior Technician

SBCOE Appoints New Board Member

At its August meeting, the San Benito County Office of Education appointed a new Board Member after the position representing District 1 became open. Three applicants interviewed for the position during the open session of the August 10th meeting. Rodney Bianchi received the appointment and was sworn in, allowing him to begin serving in his new position that evening.



SBCOE Board of Education Names Local Restaurants Community Champions

At its August Board Meeting, the San Benito County Office of Education Board recognized four local businesses as Community Champions for their donations to support education, Heavenly Bakery, La Catrina Restaurant, Round Table Pizza and Running Rooster Restaurant provided breakfast and/or lunch to teachers during the four-day San Benito County Math Initiative (SBCMI) 2.0 training. We appreciate your support for the educators in our community!



Community Advisory Committee Hosts Parent Meet & Greet

San Benito County's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) hosted a Parent Meet & Greet on August 28. The event, sponsored by San Benito County SELPA, gave parents an opportunity to learn about role of the Community Advisory Committee, meet District and Parent Representatives and mix and mingle with other parents. They were also given information about the upcoming Parent Education Conference and were able to sign up for Parent Education Seminars and Open Houses. To learn more about the CAC, contact Jennifer Henig at jhenig@sbcoe.org or 831-637-9269 x312

SBC Rural Principals Professional Learning Network Begins

The San Benito County Rural Principals Professional Learning Network (PLN) officially kicked off the 2023-24 school year on August 16. The PLN meets the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year and provides important information about educational topics around curriculum, instruction, fiscal services and human resources to Rural School Principals. San Benito County Rural Principals include Candace Brewen (Bitterwater-Tully Elementary), Amanda McCraw (Panoche Elementary), Elizabeth Volmer (Jefferson Elementary), Sarah Fruit (Cienega Elementary), Dr. John Schilling (Southside Elementary), Nancy Wilcox (Tres Pinos) and Linda Smith (Willow Grove Elementary).



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 2023

Professional Learning Opportunities & Meetings

Sept 6 & 7: Footstep2Brilliance Teacher Training

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83101121123?pwd=ZzB1bCt2eDZqUFVmempaRmNka2ZBQT09>
3:30-4:30pm via Zoom

Sept 7: Live Binder Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=224329>
3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Sept 9: PBIS-Addressing Challenging Behavior with Classroom Behavior Supports

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=238570>
8:00am-3:30pm

Sept 14: Deconstructing the IEP

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=237319>
3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Sept 21: PBIS 2.0

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=239930>
2:30-4:30pm
Epicenter

Sept 23: Learning How English Works

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=235882>
8:30am-2:30pm
HESD Enterprise Room

Sept 23: Parent Education Conference

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=233552>
8:00am-12:00pm
San Andreas Continuation High School
191 Alvarado St, Hollister

Sept 28: Leading for Equity

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=238472>
2:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Meetings

Sept 7: SBCOE Teacher Induction Orientation

3:45-5:15pm Hollister High School Davis Library

Sept 8: SARB Kickoff

9:00-11:00am CSWD Office

Sept 8: MHSSA Lead Meeting

10:00-11:30am SBCOE Boardroom

Sept 20: Rural Principals Meeting

4:30-5:00pm Southside Elementary School

Sept 27: Mental Health Provider Network Meeting

3:00-4:30pm Strada Verde Building