



THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Sharing Our Progress, Accomplishments, and Appreciation

SPRING 2018

Dear Friends,

There are few things I value more than student learning. That's why I am so grateful to our community for ensuring we can provide students with everything they need. But there is one thing that is even more critical than learning: the safety and well-being of our children.

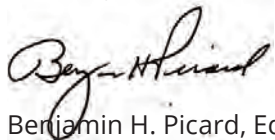
Concern for safety underlies every District decision, from policy development, to instructional initiatives. Social-emotional curricula and proactive interventions reflect our commitment to a healthy school climate, which we know is critical to student learning and achievement.

We begin by establishing respectful, inclusive classrooms in which each child is recognized, heard and valued. We teach both staff and students how to care for themselves and others, and we offer tools and support to help them succeed. We also constantly upgrade and enhance our buildings and campuses to ensure our facilities are safe.

Our community partners — including District families, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations — are critical to our ability to do this work. In this issue of "The District Bridge," we are pleased to highlight our partnership with the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, whose team works side by side with us every day in keeping our children safe.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and our community.

Sincerely,



Benjamin H. Picard, Ed.D
Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District



OUR SCHOOLS

Bishop Elementary
Cherry Chase Elementary
Cumberland Elementary
Ellis Elementary
Fairwood Explorer
Lakewood Elementary
San Miguel Elementary
Vargas Elementary
Columbia Middle
Sunnyvale Middle

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Arnett
Anita Herrmann
Michelle Maginot
Reid Myers
Nancy Newkirk

To Our Community,

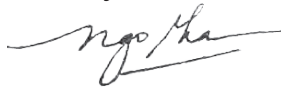
Sir Robert Peel, “the father of modern policing,” said, “The police are the public and the public are the police.” At the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, we embrace this principle by actively collaborating with the community. A prime example of this is our partnership with the Sunnyvale School District.

Our Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) foster close relationships with all District schools, connecting with students and staff, and encouraging principals to call at any hour for assistance on school-related issues.

NROs and school administrators constantly evaluate campus security at every District school. NROs train staff members and students on how to prepare for and respond to incidents on or near campus. NROs also provide training for students on digital safety, drug awareness, gang awareness, and cyberbullying education. In addition, we engage students with Police Activities League programs and the newly created Youth Leadership Academy.

I believe our strong partnership with the Sunnyvale School District has contributed to Sunnyvale’s distinction as one of the safest communities to live, work and learn in. Indeed, I also believe that our relationship embodies Sir Robert Peel’s philosophy that public safety is a shared responsibility of law enforcement and the community.

Sincerely,



Chief Phan S. Ngo
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety



Sunnyvale NROs

Lieutenant José Ramirez
Oversees the NRO Team

Officer Eric Fujii
Cherry Chase, Cumberland, Ellis,
Vargas, Sunnyvale Middle

Officer Raymond Strom
Bishop, Lakewood, Fairwood,
San Miguel, Columbia Middle

Officer Amy Pistor
Fremont Union High School
District schools

Officer Jahari Tracy
Sunnyvale schools in the
Cupertino Union and Santa Clara
Unified School Districts, and
private schools



Valuing the Individual

We know that communities are safer when people feel valued and known, so each District instructor has committed to learning about each student, from precisely how their names are pronounced, to their diverse cultural backgrounds.

Through a variety of specialized curriculum and instructional methods, we teach children how they can recognize their emotions and productively manage their behaviors and relationships. If children or their families need a little extra help, we are ready to refer them to the resources they need to receive any needed support.

Our teachers are specifically trained to integrate social-emotional skills and awareness into the school day in a variety of ways. For example, across the District, many of our teachers — including every teacher at Lakewood Tech EQ — build “calming corners” into their classrooms. Calming corners are safe spaces students can use to cope with their emotions; they are one of many tools and strategies teachers provide students to use whenever their emotions feel chaotic and they need to take a break.

Better Together

Respect and civility are key elements of a safe school climate. These elements also allow for thoughtful discussion, creative problem-solving, and fruitful collaboration — key skills required in a 21st Century classroom. We bring in partners such as Project Cornerstone and The Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child to help us teach lessons that enable children to develop mutual respect and the ability to work productively in groups.

Respect and civility are also foundational to Bishop Elementary School's ongoing transformation as a "Leader in Me" school. At Bishop, students set and work toward their own goals, tracking progress and taking personal responsibility for the part they play in the success of the whole school community.





An Ounce of Prevention and Preparation

In addition to creating a safe climate, each school maintains an up-to-date safety plan, including staff training on what to do in the event of an emergency. Clear communication is paramount—we make sure staff, students, families and visitors know our schools' safety rules and procedures, and their own roles and responsibilities in regard to safety. We also test our emergency communication systems and procedures regularly.

Through our partnership with Sunnyvale Public Safety, we offer prevention education for our students on topics such as cyberbullying and fire safety; meanwhile, Neighborhood Resource Officers provide daily support to each of our schools, building relationships and trust that keep our schools safe.

Public Safety uses the Nixle system to send out important information and advisories to the community; sign up for the free service at www.nixle.com.



School Sweet School

With the ongoing support of our community, we upgrade and maintain all of our facilities to ensure our schools are well cared for and up to date on seismic, fire, playground and other safety regulations.

Our most recent facilities project — made possible through Measure G — is a completely renovated Bishop School, featuring a new media center, a new multi-use/cafeteria building, brand-new classrooms, a pair of new two-story buildings, improvements to existing buildings, and technology and energy-efficiency upgrades throughout the campus. Classes have already moved into the new two-story buildings. The next phase of construction will be to complete the modernization work in the administration building and auditorium, as well as finish the new media center. That will be followed by the construction of the multi-use/cafeteria and play area, all to be completed in early 2019.

Thank you for supporting our District and helping us keep our children healthy and safe.



819 W. Iowa Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

www.sesd.org

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<http://sesd-district-digest.org/subscribe>

We are proud of the many state and national awards our schools have earned, including:

- California Distinguished Schools
- Blue Ribbon Schools
- Gold Ribbon Schools
- Ashoka Changemaker School
- Hoffmann Awards

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