

SCHOOL DAYS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2015

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



the Great Recession of the prior several years, and they generally reflect an improving economy. I sincerely hope life at home is somewhat easier economically for you all. I know that lower levels of economic stress can only support our children's success at school.

2 We completed a new five-year district strategic plan, one that reached out to all stakeholders and involved hundreds of participants in one form or another. The plan is available online at www.santaclarausd.org/strategicplan

3 We completed the second installment of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), a document that was reworked to create a more effective focus that should also support our students' success. The plan is available online at www.santaclarausd.org/LCAP

4 We planned and began implementation of the most robust professional development schedule the District has seen in several years, providing teachers, classified staff, and administrators the opportunity to improve their craft in support of our students.

5 We completed purchase of the Agnews property, future home to both elementary and secondary students.

6 We worked together to inform the community of our educational needs pertaining to facilities and passed Measure H 2014, the largest K-12 general obligation bond in the State last November.

7 We reinstituted elementary music and library programs that had been cut during the recession, including the purchase of new musical instruments.

These are just a few of the many things we have accomplished as a district. There are many, many others!

This year, we begin implementation of our five-year strategic plan, *Rising Above in Silicon Valley*. A plan that is designed to improve the lives of every single one of our students and the staff who support them.

All of us have an opportunity to grow closer in relationships across the District as we consider our opportunities to form more effective lines and networks of communication. Our staff heard about this opportunity at our Welcome Back assembly in August from Saul Rubinstein, Ph.D., Rutgers University, who has made effective communication and its effects on student achievement a subject of study for the past two decades.

I would like to thank Michael Hickey, President of United

Teachers of Santa Clara, for bringing Dr. Rubinstein's work to our attention through the Labor Management Institute that he, CSEA President Patty Picard, Board President Albert Gonzalez, and I attended last spring. Likewise, I extend my gratitude to Patty and Albert for their commitment to improving communication in order to improve student outcomes. Together we are improving communication and communication networks, supporting the strategic planning priority of creating a "culture of excellence" throughout SCUSD.

Lastly, you will see in our baseline data from the State's new testing program that we have work to do, as all districts do. What gives me great hope is that we have the wisdom and the commitment to serve all our students. We will make this a year of great growth for all staff members, as they grow in their abilities and opportunities to better serve our students.

We are all set to have a busy and very gratifying year. I cannot wait to see and work with all of you soon.

Sincerely,

Stan Rose, Ed.D.
Stan Rose, Ed.D.

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OPEN ENROLLMENT AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Open Enrollment for Kindergarten – Twelfth Grade

The Open Enrollment program for the 2016-2017 school year will be conducted from January 13 to February 10, 2016. Parents of students wishing to attend a school other than their school of residence must first provide proof of residency to their school of residence,

receive a permanent student number, and then complete the Open Enrollment application on the District website at www.santaclarausd.org/openenrollment. The link to the application form, school visitation dates and requirements, as well as other important information concerning this process, will be posted in December 2015.

Open Enrollment for 5th and 8th Grade Students

Fifth and eighth grade students must reapply for Open Enrollment when moving from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school if they do not live in the attendance area of their school of choice.

Open Enrollment for 2015-2016 Intradistrict Transfer Students

Students attending a school, other than their school of residence, on an Intradistrict Transfer must apply for the opportunity to continue at that school for the 2016-2017 school year through the Open Enrollment process. Only students accepted to a school through the Open Enrollment process are guaranteed placement for the following year. Parents therefore must apply through Open Enrollment if they wish their student to remain at the school of choice.

Once a student is accepted through Open Enrollment, the choice school becomes the student's permanent placement through the grade span served at that school.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year will also begin on January 13, 2016. Parents are encouraged to complete registration for kindergarten students wishing to attend their school of residence by February 10, 2016 in order to ensure placement at district schools with high enrollment. Kindergarten admission to the school of residence will be determined in the order in which applications are received. Parents of incoming kindergarten students wishing to apply for a school other than their school of residence must do so during the Open Enrollment period.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Enrollment

Transitional Kindergarten enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year will also begin on January 13, 2016. Parents of students who turn 5 years old between September 2 and December 2, 2016 may choose to register for TK. Currently, our TK students attend school daily on a modified schedule at one of four District locations. Registration in the TK program is optional. Open Enrollment does not apply to Transitional Kindergarten students as the SCUSD Open Enrollment policy applies to K-12 students only.

My child turns five (5) years old between...

9/1/2010-9/1/2011	Kindergarten in 2016-2017
9/2/2011-12/2/2011	Eligible for TK in 2016-2017
12/3/2011 and later	Kindergarten in 2016-2017

Detailed information concerning the Open Enrollment, Kindergarten Enrollment, Transitional Kindergarten, and school and program visitations is available on the District website (www.santaclarausd.org/enrollment) and will continue to be updated through the commencement of Open Enrollment in January 2016.

PARENTS OF CURRENT TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK) STUDENTS

It will soon be time for kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year. **Kindergarten enrollment begins on January 13, 2016.**

We hope you and your child have found this transitional experience in school to be a positive one. Your child has been given the opportunity to learn important social, emotional and academic skills in a hands-on way this year and he or she is now ready to enroll in our regular kindergarten program.

Parents of current TK students must **re-register** your child at your home school for kindergarten enrollment. Your current enrollment in our TK program **does not** provide you with priority registration. Remember, all completed kindergarten registration packets are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please do not miss the opportunity to enroll your child in kindergarten.

In preparation for enrolling your child, please participate in the parent tours provided by your home school and become familiar with the dates and times that your home school office will be open for kindergarten enrollment.

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!



Kathie Kanavel
Assistant
Superintendent,
Educational Services

Kathie has been with SCUSD since 1989 when she was hired as an elementary school teacher. Some of her roles since have included technology curriculum specialist, curriculum and instruction TOSA, elementary assistant principal and principal, instructional resource specialist, and director of Educational Media and Learning Resources.

She received her teaching credential from Santa Clara University, her supplemental credential in computer concepts and applications from UC Santa Cruz, and her administrative credential and master's degree from San Jose State University.



Andrew Lucia
Assistant
Superintendent,
Human Resources

Andrew has been with SCUSD since 1995 when he was hired as a middle school science teacher. Since that time, he has served our community as a middle school vice-principal, an elementary principal, and the interim director of Human Resources.

He received his bachelor's degree in biology and his teaching credential from Westfield University in Massachusetts, his master's degree from National University, his administrative credential from San Jose State University, and his Personnel Administrators Academy certificate of completion from the Association of California School Administrators.

Don't miss important dates!

For board meeting, holiday, staff development, and quarter and trimester end dates, visit:

www.santaclarausd.org

The last day of school is Friday, June 10.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE

By Kathie Kanavel, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Now entering our third month of school with students, teachers, and staff focused on teaching and learning, here are a few highlights of what we've been up to:

New mathematics materials have arrived! Our new common core aligned mathematics materials are now in classrooms. Elementary teachers and secondary math teachers have been engaged in several days of learning about the new materials and how teaching California's new rigorous standards (formerly known as common core) is a shift in the way mathematics is being presented to students. Students are learning multiple methods to show their work and how to think like a mathematician.

Next Generation Science Standards. California recently adopted new science standards which also incorporate engineering practices. Teachers are learning about the new standards and how they are different as we follow the State's rollout plan. New student materials for science will follow in the next few years.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports, better known as PBIS, has been implemented at a few of our elementary schools for several years now. This year, as part of a U.S. Department of Education

grant, seven more elementary schools have begun setting up positive behavior climates at their schools. Common school-wide rules such as "Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe" help all students know and understand what it is to be part of a welcoming and inclusive school community.

Graduation requirement suspended. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) was recently suspended by the signing of Senate Bill 172. This test was outdated and no longer aligned to the standards being taught to students. What does this mean for our students? For those in the class of 2014-2015 who did not graduate solely because of the CAHSEE, diplomas are currently being prepared. For those students who graduated from 2004-2014, SB 172 takes effect on January 1, 2016 and we will begin preparing diplomas at that time. For more information, please visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/cahseesuspendltr.asp>

Future endeavors include a full high school summer program in 2016 to help students who may be behind in credits, the opening of a Maker Space at Wilcox High, the extension of the Hughes Technology Development Center grant, and the opening of the STEM Leadership Academy at Santa Clara High, just to name a few!

NEW CALIFORNIA STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

By Elizabeth Gordon-Stoll, Assessment Coordinator

Last spring, over 7,000 Santa Clara Unified School District students in grades three through eight and grade eleven, along with over 3 million students statewide, participated in the first-ever online state assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. The assessments are known as: Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment (SBA).

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment is part of California's new assessment system designed to assess student progress towards mastering California's rigorous state standards. Both the standards and the assessments were constructed with broad national participation of educators from elementary to university representatives, as well as state and national representatives from industry.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment is the major component of California's new assessment system: The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). CAASPP/SBA replaces the prior STAR/CST system. Results from the new assessments cannot in any way be compared to prior STAR results, or equated with any prior accountability measures (such as API or AYP). The new assessments are far more complex, based on much more rigorous standards. Due to deep cuts in education at the time the new standards were adopted and the assessment created, the state of California is just this year supporting and organizing professional development and making materials available to help administrators, teachers and parents fully understand the connection between the standards and how those standards are assessed on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.

Student results from this first year of CAASPP/SBA provide a baseline upon which all stakeholders can measure growth. This was not possible with the prior STAR/CST's which assessed different standards at each grade level each year. The SBA measures the same core standards each year at deeper and more complex levels. As students take the test in succeeding years, the results will provide a growth measure for parents, teachers, schools, districts and the state of California.

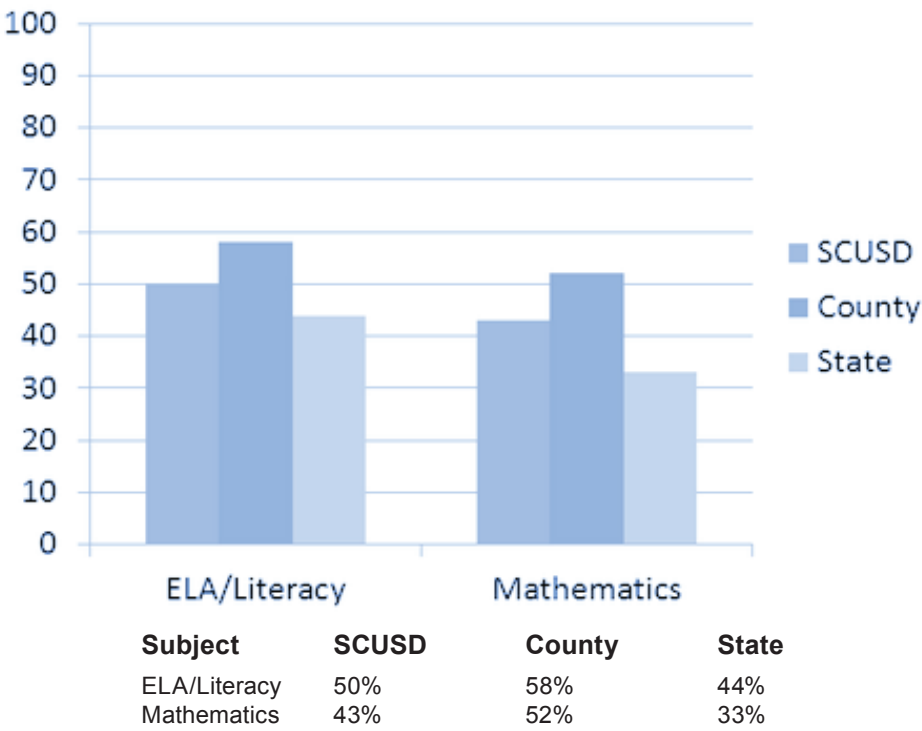
Along with new standards and assessments, California is also implementing a new accountability system with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP requires districts to track and report multiple measures of student progress and student engagement. The Smarter Balanced Assessment results will analyzed, along

with several other local measures, by stakeholder groups to recommend areas for improvement and funding allocations on an annual basis.

SCUSD's results were better than expected, given the prediction made from the results of the 2014 national field test. SCUSD results mirrored those of similar districts in Santa Clara county, especially with regard to socioeconomic status. Nearly all grades tested showed a significantly higher percentage of SCUSD students scoring in the "met or exceeded grade level standard" range than both the 2014 field test and 2015 overall state results, but lower than Santa Clara County overall. SCUSD expects to see significant improvement in coming years' mathematics results given that we are implementing new standards-aligned mathematics curriculum this year.

For more information about CAASPP/SBA and results, please visit our CAASPP webpage: www.santaclarausd.org/CAASPP. County and statewide results can also be found on the CDE results website: <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2015/>.

Overall 3rd-8th and 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Results: Percent of Students Scoring Met or Exceeded Grade Level Standard



PARENT WORKSHOPS

Ongoing parent workshops to support deeper understanding of new state tests are being scheduled throughout the fall. Call (408) 423-2271 or visit www.santaclarausd.org/CAASPP for up-to-date information on locations, dates, and times.

BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

By Larry Adams, Bond Projects Director

FACILITY TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

Making History at Buchser Middle School

As classes started in August, students entered the new multipurpose building and two-story classroom building for the first time. The project, the capstone accomplishment of the 2004 Measure J Bond program, was made possible by prudent and careful planning by the Buchser school community, staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees.

Features include a new stage, music classroom, large assembly area, full cooking kitchen, and spacious classrooms and computer labs. Next summer, the project will finish by closing Bellomy Street and connecting the North and South sides of the campus for the first time in the school's long history.

And, the location is steeped in history. The land under the project

was purchased by Santa Clara School District in approximately 1889. The two-story building covers the location of the first Santa Clara High School campus which opened in 1905. The courtyard contained the District's first high school outdoor athletic facilities. Later developments included the first Santa Clara School District administration building on the corner of Market and Washington Streets.

A New Office for Educational Options Campus

Work is now complete in the new administration building on our Educational Options campus. The project was specifically designed for the wide-ranging programs and services provided by Educational Options, including Adult Education and Wilson High School. Work continues on signage and drainage improvements.



Buchser Middle School
Multipurpose Room and Two-story Building

Educational Options
Administration Building



NEW MEASURE H 2014 – WHAT'S HAPPENING?

High Priority Modernization

Plans have been submitted to the Division of the State Architect for major renovation projects on the Buchser and Peterson Middle School gymnasiums. Next up are projects to modernize the Peterson locker building, address the Peterson pool and possibly construct a new locker building/classroom building at Cabrillo Middle School.

New Schools on the Agnews Campus

Work continues to perform environmental clean-up and demolition at the Agnews Campus in preparation for constructing new schools. Approvals and permitting will take all of the estimated 10 to 12 months before major work can begin. Planning and design of the new schools will begin later this year.

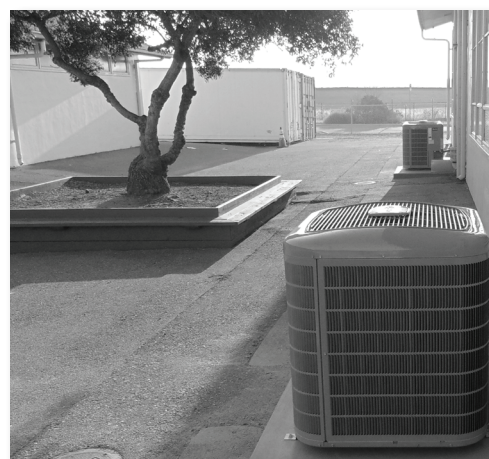
Critical Facility Needs

Elementary school air conditioning has taken top priority in this category. Currently, twelve elementary schools do not have cooling in all classrooms. A project was successfully completed at George Mayne Elementary school this past summer to integrate air conditioning in the heating and ventilation systems. That project is being used as the pattern to attempt to air condition all twelve schools in one summer next year.

Classroom and School Site Expansion

Plans are moving rapidly to open Central Park Elementary School next summer. The school is planned to open with grades TK to 3 in 2016. New buildings are being planned to add capacity for grades 4 and 5 in 2017.

The school is being designed around a STEAM theme: science, technology, engineering, art, and math.



Air conditioning system at George Mayne

Thank you, Santa Clara Unified community,
for supporting these important modernization efforts!

*Bond measure funds can only be used
for facilities; these funds cannot be used for operations or salaries.*

PARCEL TAX EXEMPTION

In May 2012, voters overwhelmingly supported Measure A, a five-year parcel tax benefiting the Santa Clara Unified School District. Many seniors still wonder how to apply for the exemption to the tax or renew their current exemption.

The process to apply for the exemption is relatively simple. Seniors only need to fill out a request for exemption form, available at the District Office at 1889 Lawrence Road in Santa Clara and online at www.santaclarausd.org/ParcelTax. After completing the form, seniors may bring it to the District Office with identification (driver's license or state identification card) and their most recent property tax bill that contains the County Tax Assessor's Parcel Number (APN#). The form requires name, address, APN number, telephone, birth date, and signature. We must receive your request by June 1, 2016.

For those who have already registered for the exemption, renewal notices for the 2016-2017 tax year will be mailed at the end of March 2016. We must receive the completed form by June 1, 2016.

Please note: 2016-2017 is the final year of the parcel tax and exemption.

For more information, call our Business Office at (408) 423-3323.

SANTA CLARA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Santa Clara Schools Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the teachers and students in SCUSD. In addition to student scholarships, the foundation awards teacher grants that encourage academic performance, give students hands-on experiences, and enrich the learning environment.

The foundation relies on donations to fund these important programs for our local students. When you consider groups for your charitable giving, please consider the Santa Clara Schools Foundation. For more information go to www.santaclaraschoolsfoundation.org. "Like" us on Facebook to get all of our latest updates.

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Superintendent

Stanley Rose III, Ed.D.

Board of Education

Albert Gonzalez, President

Jim Canova, Vice President

Jodi Muirhead

Andrew Ratermann

Michele Ryan, Ph.D.

Noelani Sallings

Christopher Stampolis

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www.santaclarausd.org

Editorial and Design: Jennifer Dericco, Public Information Officer



RISING ABOVE IN SILICON VALLEY!

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

www.santaclarausd.org/strategicplan

On August 20, we welcomed back our returning students and got to meet the newest additions to our Santa Clara Unified family. Visit our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/SantaClaraUSD](https://www.youtube.com/SantaClaraUSD)) to watch a fun back-to-school video featuring Dr. Rose.

This is an exciting time for us. We are in the first implementation year of our brand new five-year strategic plan, *Rising Above in Silicon Valley*. We had almost 200 staff, students, parents, and community members join us on nine different planning teams last school year and had over a thousand participants in Community Conversation events and online surveys. We are all immensely proud of our shared vision and excited to work together to make it a reality for our students. We'll come back to you with updates but, in the meantime, visit our website for more information.



1ST ANNUAL FIREHOUSE RUN

FOR EDUCATION

REGISTER TODAY!

WWW.THEFIREHOUSERUN.COM

NOVEMBER 1, 2015
8:00AM
COURSE BEGINS IN BUCK SHAW STADIUM AT
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

The Firehouse Run is a new 5K walk or run, and 10K running event established by the Santa Clara Firefighters Foundation, in partnership with the Santa Clara Schools Foundation and Santa Clara Unified School District, to support local schools. The goal is to bring the community together - families, first time racers, elite runners, and everything in between - for a fun event, with the larger goal of enhancing the education provided to the children in Santa Clara Unified. All proceeds of this event will be donated to the Santa Clara Schools Foundation to support our students and teachers.

Cost to Register:

\$20 18 and under 5K/10K

\$30 Adult 5K

\$40 Adult 10K

SCFF: www.santaclarafirefightersfoundation.org
SCSF: www.santaclaraschoolsfoundation.org



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