



THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Sharing Our Progress, Accomplishments, and Appreciation

FALL 2018

Dear Friends,

We are so fortunate to be part of a community that works together to help our children succeed. We see the results every day, through our student's academic growth and well-being.

In the District, we base our practices on research and continually refine them to create the best opportunities for learning success. We start by clearly communicating what we expect of every person in our classrooms. When students behave safely and respectfully, and teachers are warm and supportive, children can focus on learning without the anxiety that plagues some school environments. For most students, this is the simple foundation they need for success. Others need targeted help or intensive interventions to address social, emotional, and learning needs. We assess every child regularly, and if we identify a need, we deliver a combination of supportive services specifically designed to help.

In this issue of *The District Bridge*, we offer some insight into this multi-tiered support system, which you have made possible through your support of our District. In doing so, you are strengthening our entire school community, offering all of our children the opportunity to overcome their challenges and realize their learning potential.

With gratitude,



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



OUR SCHOOLS

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Arnett
Anita Herrmann
Michelle Maginot
Reid Myers
Nancy Newkirk

A Solid Foundation.

Our first objective is to create a safe and supportive learning environment for every child, so we work to ensure our practices and expectations are consistent from class to class and school to school. These universal practices offer an effective learning foundation for the more than 6,000 children we serve.

Students and teachers learn to speak a common language about behavioral and academic expectations, respect, and responsibility, and all understand the critical role they play as individuals in making school the kind of place where everyone flourishes.

Teachers build culturally responsive classrooms and use proven instructional methods and best practices. We assess all students early in the year to determine whether these strategies are working for them. If not, we act quickly to give them more targeted support.





A Hand to Hold Onto

When a child needs a little more guidance, we layer targeted services on top of the universal supports. Services may include extra check-ins throughout the day with teachers or staff, teacher-directed group activities during lunch, or other support that helps address academic, behavioral, or social-emotional needs. Our orderly campuses, combined with targeted supports, mean that students feel safer and more connected to their school, and become more engaged in learning.

We are careful to schedule these services in a way that allows students to stay with their class during regular instruction; interventions are always designed to boost learning — never to interfere with classroom lessons or enrichment. In fact, all aspects of our system of support at the Sunnyvale School District are designed to work together, not just for the children needing extra help, but for all the students we serve.

Personal Attention

For students with the greatest need, we intensify service delivery to address each student's individual situation. These personalized services are layered atop our universal and targeted academic supports, and may include individual behavior or education plans.

Sometimes students need counseling, health services, or community agency assistance. We then engage with, or refer families to, community experts to provide needed services. The objective is to give every student the opportunity to increase well-being so they can thrive in school today and in the world tomorrow.

These supports result in increased student achievement and improved well-being, and ultimately better student outcomes across the board, with students showing greater academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth. This is great news for our district, where we believe every child can learn, and that it is our responsibility to prepare them for success.





Photo courtesy of American Modular Systems

Better and Better

We are nearing completion on the second phase of Bishop Elementary School's modernization. The administration building, auditorium and new library are taking shape! Classes are underway in the new, single and two-story buildings, which opened last spring.

Over the summer, we replaced two parking lots and began upgrading adjacent landscaping at Columbia Middle School. At Lakewood, preschool children are exploring their new play structure; while students and staff at Cherry Chase are enjoying their school's new energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

These facilities improvements were made possible through Measure G. Our staff and students thank you for supporting our District and helping us keep our children healthy and safe.



Looking Forward

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, voters in the Sunnyvale School District will have an opportunity to vote on Measure GG, a \$100 million school bond. Measure GG will provide funds to renovate older schools, improve instructional technology, and increase campus safety and security at District schools. The average yearly cost to property owners in the District will be \$10 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (not market value).

Measure GG funds will be used to continue school renovation and modernization, making campuses comparable District-wide. The bond will help provide schools with long-term facility maintenance funds and updated instructional technology.

Measure GG will:

- Build new classrooms to replace aging and deteriorating portables.
- Increase campus safety and security.
- Replace old heating, plumbing and ventilating systems with energy-efficient systems.
- Upgrade computers and network infrastructure to provide students with better access to classroom technology.

For more information, please visit www.sesd.org.



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www.sesd.org

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

Register to vote for the upcoming election by October 22, 2018!

Registration forms are available at District schools, the District office, and other government offices, including public libraries, post offices, and the DMV.

Complete and return your form to the Registrar of Voters.

In person: 1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2
San Jose, CA 95112

By mail: P.O. Box 611300
San Jose, CA 95161-1300

Or register online: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/>

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