



SPRING 2017

THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Sharing Our Progress, Accomplishments, and Appreciation

Dear Friends,

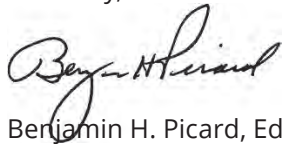
With our wet winter behind us, we see a more vibrant world emerging — a testament to the transformative powers of spring. It's like our students: with a warm and supportive environment that provides all they need to thrive, we see them transform before our eyes.

Our students learn to think critically about problems. They work in teams. They debate. They support one another. They hypothesize, test their theories, draw conclusions, and share results. They learn to interpret and influence their world. Our students find their voices, which resonate with confidence as they grow in skills, knowledge, empathy, and understanding. The shy preschoolers and kindergartners blossom and are soon graduating eighth grade, ready to shape their futures.

Thank you for helping us to provide everything our young scholars need to transform from curious children to confident learners! Your support allows us to make the most of our district resources and demonstrates your commitment to the well-being and success of all of our community's children. As a result, every Sunnyvale School District student, regardless of socioeconomic background or individual circumstances, has the opportunity for academic and social-emotional growth.

Our children are thriving, and we could not be more grateful for your support. I wish you the brightest of springs.

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
Reid Myers
Nancy Newkirk



Bishop 2.0: New Den for Bishop Bobcats

Construction of Bishop Elementary School's new campus — the largest capital facility project ever undertaken by the Sunnyvale School District — has begun! We have completed demolition and relocated programs and classes in preparation for the next phase of the project, which is scheduled to begin in late April. In the next phase, we will construct new classrooms, including the district's first two-story classroom building, as well as a new media center and a new multi-use building.

Bishop's new and improved learning environment is just one example of how our community is supporting student success. Through the passage of local bond measures, we have been able to make technology improvements at every one of our schools and increase energy efficiency district-wide, as well.



San Miguel's Winning Approach

One-hundred percent of San Miguel students know that school leaders believe in them, according to recent survey results. That sentiment is embodied in the school's Community School Model, which was recently honored with a 2017 Glenn W. Hoffmann Award.

To create its award-winning Community School Model, San Miguel has partnered with more than 35 organizations who deliver programs and services on-site. All are designed to improve student and family access to the kind of opportunities that lead to increased wellness, social-emotional development, and academic growth.

For 33 years, the Santa Clara County School Boards Association has awarded the Hoffmann to school programs that significantly impact student success. Previous awardees in the District include Cherry Chase's Stretchers Art program, Columbia Middle School's FLEX program, Cumberland's project-based learning program, and Fairwood's parent participation program.

Literacy Soars for Ellis Eagles

In addition to teaching students essential skills and strategies for reading, Ellis Elementary School has adopted the Reader's Workshop, an approach to reading instruction that is designed to foster a love of reading, leading to a love of learning. The Common Core-aligned curriculum utilizes daily reading and guided interactions and conferences with peers and classroom teachers. The curriculum is being used in all of Ellis School's K-5 classrooms this year and has been showing inspiring results!

Reader's Workshop engages students and stimulates high levels of thinking about texts by encouraging students to select their own "just right" books, write daily about their reading, collaborate with peers, and reflect on themselves as readers. Reader's Workshop also provides materials for parents and teachers to help them learn the best way to develop young readers.





Our Kids Our Community

Children can't learn when they are hungry, and children whose families struggle to provide adequate nutrition lose academic ground over the summer. That's why, five years ago, the Sunnyvale School District, Sunnyvale Rotary Club, and Sunnyvale Community Services established the annual Our Kids Our Community fundraiser, which fights childhood hunger by providing thousands of meals each summer.

Our Kids Our Community also supports a program that provides food to more than 140 low-income families on weekends when school meal programs are unavailable, as well as Sunnyvale Community Services' back-to-school program that provides new shoes, backpacks, and school supplies to children in need.

Donations for the effort are welcome and are tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to the Sunnyvale Rotary Foundation, 510 S. Mathilda Ave., Suite 6, Sunnyvale, CA, 94086. For more information please visit <http://ca01902799.schoolwires.net/Page/4015> or call 408-522-8200, ext. 1084.

Girls Design Bright Futures

In the Sunnyvale Library's Make-HER program, Columbia Middle School girls are using their hands and their creativity to build their STEM skills.

Students in the Make-HER program invent and design projects such as personal charms, magic wands and stop-motion animation videos, and use high-tech equipment like 3D printers to create their inventions. The girls document each step of their designs in their maker journals, and learn about engineering, circuit design, wearable technology, electrical systems and animation along the way.

A group of women who work with technology — dubbed #LadyMakers — formulate the Make-HER program workshops.

Make-HER was recently awarded a Microsoft/KCI Innovation Award, which honors innovative teacher-student collaboratives that fully integrate technology and benefit the Silicon Valley educational community.

For more information on the Sunnyvale Make-HER program visit <https://sunnyvalemakeher.wordpress.com/>.





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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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