

Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year!

It is my honor to continue to serve as your Superintendent, and I am very excited about the upcoming school year. One of the most enjoyable aspects of being an educator is to begin a new school year--it is a time for new beginnings, and a time for setting new goals with hope and inspiration for continually improving our services and supports for students and families. It is also a time for thoughtful reflection on past learning, and it is in this spirit that I want to share our district's ongoing and future work.

Through our Local Control and Accountability planning process last year, we established strategic areas to inform our continuous improvement efforts as a school district. Built with input from students, parents, staff and community partners, these areas include:

- Academic Literacy
- Mathematics
- English Learner Progress
- School Connectedness

You can find an executive summary of the 2018-19 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) on the quick links on our website that includes our planned expenditures of our state and federal supplemental resources. In August before school begins, our site leaders and teacher leadership teams will be hard at work planning to put the LCAP goals into action at each school site to address the needs of each individual learning community.

Also, to support the implementation of our LCAP, our teachers, counselors and school leaders have spent a significant amount of time together this summer participating in professional development and collaboration to support students' success. This summer's professional learning included training to support math achievement, implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards, refining counseling programs, improving outcomes for English Learners and building academic literacy.

This fall, we are excited to continue with the second year of a Computer Science for All grant in partnership with the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and Education Training and Research (ETR). Last year, our computer science teacher leadership team began developing plans and piloted curriculum for K-8 computer science. This effort supports access to the computer science pathways available in all three of our comprehensive high schools. Soon after school begins, we will be sending links to a survey to parents about technology to inform our planning.

To support all of our instructional work, our Human Resources department and school leaders have recruited excellent new employees. And, despite a teacher shortage, we are fully staffed at the start of the school year. We welcome 61 new members to the SCCS certificated team, including teachers, psychologists, speech therapists, counselors, and administrators. We are pleased to be bringing some SCCS alumni into our teaching ranks again this year.

In addition to preparing for our academic program, our facilities team has been hard at work with projects supported by Measures A & B which were generously supported by Santa Cruz voters. Construction, repairs and modernization planning has been underway at each our school sites. You can find updates on each of our campuses on the district website bond page at www.sccs.net.

As we enter the new school year, we recognize there continues to be heightened awareness regarding student safety. Santa Cruz will continue to focus on the social emotional health of our students, and we prioritize student safety. Under our LCAP focus on "Student Connectedness", we have planned for new supports for our students through staff who will provide direct services in and outside of the classroom. We are committed to ensure that each student's heart and mind is known well so that we can support each individual's needs and keep our campuses welcoming and safe for all students and families.

I wish you and your children a wonderful new school year. I am looking forward to working with you as we continue the journey to support our students to learn, grow and thrive.

Best regards,
Kris Munro
Superintendent