



Santa Cruz City Schools District Newsletter

September 25, 2017
Volume 8, Issue 1

Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!

The school year is in full swing; students are engaged and learning every day. This fall, we welcome 51 new teachers to our schools. We are also pleased to welcome three new Principals to the SCCS team. Yvette Garcia has taken the helm at Bay View Elementary School, coming to us after serving as an Assistant Principal in Milpitas Unified. Yvette is excited to be a Bobcat and to serve in the community where she and her family live. At Delaveaga, Bob Greenlee is returning to the Santa Cruz area from Monterey County. He is excited to bring a wealth of experience in bilingual education and elementary leadership to the Delaveaga community. Bob's children and grandchildren are here in Santa Cruz and he is excited to be back in the county. Ann Mekis is very pleased to join the mighty mavericks at Mission Hill this fall. She is also a local school leader who joined the SCCS team last year after having begun her career over the hill in Campbell. Ann brings extensive experience in secondary education and is thrilled to be serving our middle schoolers. We are fortunate to be able to recruit experienced, enthusiastic, dedicated leaders and teachers to our district.

Santa Cruz City Schools is seeking candidates for a provisional Board Member appointment:

We want to thank Trustee Alisun Thompson for her service to Santa Cruz City Schools. At the end of August, Trustee Thompson resigned to take a position at Lewis and Clark in Portland. The Governing Board is now working to fill the vacancy. At the September 13, 2017 Board meeting, the Trustees passed Resolution 01-17-18, formally opening the vacancy for a Board member seat. Anyone interested in being considered for the position may request an application by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 831-429-3410 x220 or visiting the District's website at www.sccs.net. Applicants must be registered voters, living in the District and not otherwise disqualified from holding a civil office. **Applications are due in the Superintendent's office no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, September 29, 2017.** The Board will review the applications and conduct the interviews of the final applicants at a special Board meeting on October 11, 2017. After conducting the interviews in open session, the Board will finalize their selection and make the provisional appointment. The selected candidate will then be sworn in and take their seat at the Board table at the Regular Meeting on October 18, 2017.

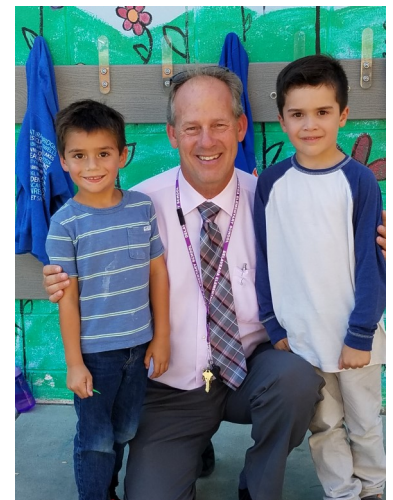
[Board Appointment Application](#)
[Trustee Job Description](#)



Bayview Principal Yvette Garcia shows a new student around Day 1



Mission Hill Principal Ann Mekis and Assistant Principal Kat McElwee



DeLaveaga Principal Robert Greenlee with students



Santa Cruz City Schools partners with the Santa Cruz Educational Foundation and ETR to receive \$300,000 grant for K-8 students computer science education

Santa Cruz City Schools, the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and ETR (Education, Training and Research) have been awarded a 2-year, \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant to address disparities, bolster computer science education and expand computer science pathways for K-8 students in our district.

This National Science Foundation grant will allow us to increase access to computer science education in our elementary classrooms, and to better understand and strengthen computer science pathways for all of our students. The funds will be used to strengthen existing computer science activities in elementary and middle school and provide professional development for teachers.

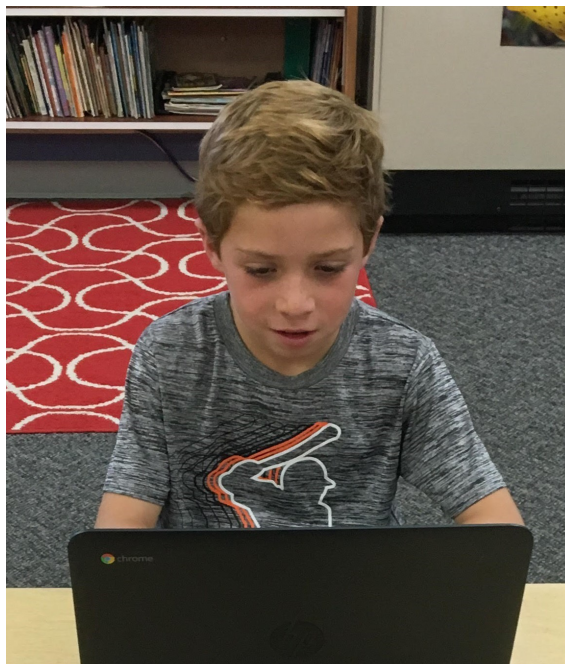
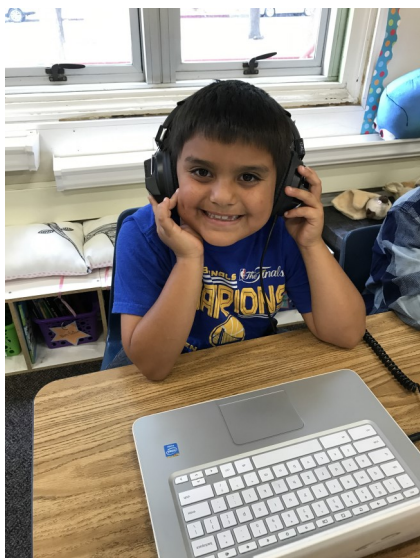
Gault Elementary Principal Amariah Hernandez is enthusiastic about what the grant will mean for her students. She says, "We are excited that our students will be given the chance to learn and explore more technology in their classrooms and have direct instruction with 21st century skills. We feel fortunate to be a part of a grant that will support the growth of integrated, diverse skills for our kids."

The Santa Cruz Education Foundation is an important nonprofit partner for our school district that promotes excellence in the Santa Cruz City Schools. The Santa Cruz Education Foundation (SCEF) supports our schools through advocacy, outreach and fundraising.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 colleges, universities and other institutions. Each year, NSF receives more than 48,000 competitive proposals for funding and makes about 12,000 new funding awards.

ETR is a behavioral health non-profit based in Scotts Valley that is devoted to providing science-based programs and services, driven by their mission to advance health and opportunities for youth and families.

We want to express our gratitude to the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and ETR for making this grant possible. We are especially grateful to Stephanie Pache and Rocco Cappalla from the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and Dr. Jill Denner (Senior Research Scientist and SCCS Parent) and her team from ETR.



Parcel Taxes and Bond Funds provide Santa Cruz City Schools students with a 21st century learning environment for all!

Santa Cruz City Schools District trustees and staff extend their appreciation to the greater Santa Cruz community for approving Bond Measures A & B last November, which will transform facilities into effective learning environments. Enhanced science labs, career technical education classrooms, computer labs, libraries, Americans with disabilities improvements, safety compliance and athletic facilities extend learning opportunities for our students. Coupled with facilities improvements, Parcel Tax Measures from our generous community ensure quality instruction with smaller class-size, K-12 visual and performing arts, library programs, counseling programs, life lab and elementary science programs, career technical education, and after school engagement programs including athletics — all a direct result of community generosity.

Bond funds are restricted; they can only be used on ballot language expenditures. Santa Cruz City Schools has formed The Bond Oversight Committee to ensure compliance and expenditure alignment with ballot language. Parcel Tax funds also align with ballot language, and the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee reports annually to the Board of Education regarding these expenditures.

We are grateful to our local voters and taxpayers for their continued support of our students, our learning environments, and our academic programs. The learning experience of our students is greatly enriched by community support.

This year ongoing design efforts are underway for projects at all sites – with an initial priority focusing on safety issues. Some of the scheduled and completed projects for this school year include:

- master planning and design for all site work
- classroom and technology standards developed
- model furniture will be tried at school sites
- re roofing at Bay View, Gault, & Mission Hill
- parking lot expansion at Delaveaga
- repair of ramps and elevator modernizations at Westlake
- stairwell replacement at Branciforte Small Schools
- additional classroom at Branciforte Middle
- landscaping and entry to Mission Hill Middle School
- pool replacements at Soquel High and Harbor High
- new marquee sign at Soquel High
- tennis courts resurfacing Soquel and Harbor, courts repaired at Santa Cruz
- water intrusion repair, fencing repair at Santa Cruz High
- athletic fields remodel at Harbor High School
- AB 300 seismic analysis completed for all sites
- classroom modernizations to begin at all sites in 2018-2019



SCCS BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting descriptions and locations can be found on our district website:

[Board Meeting Schedule](#)

Oct. 11	6:30 pm
Oct. 18	6:30 pm
Nov. 1	6:00 pm
Nov. 8	6:30 pm
Dec. 6	6:00 pm
Dec. 13	6:30 pm
Jan. 17	6:30 pm
Jan. 31	6:00 pm
Feb. 14	6:30 pm
Feb. 28	6:30 pm
Mar. 7	6:30 pm
Mar. 28	6:30 pm
Apr. 18	6:30 pm
Apr. 25	6:30 pm
May 9	6:30 pm
May 23	6:00 pm
Jun. 13	6:30 pm

Questions??

Contact us:

Nancy Lentz
Administrative Assistant
Superintendent's Office

(831) 429-3410 ext. 220

nlentz@sccs.net

Santa Cruz City Schools Supports the Privacy and Rights of All Students and Families

In Santa Cruz City Schools, we believe that diversity is our strength. It is the differences in and between our students, families and staff that help shape students' learning and their character, and prepare them for success in college, career and the global community.

Our district is committed to protecting this diversity and is providing resources to students and families who may be anxious or have questions about a changing federal landscape of policies and practices regarding immigration, LGBTQ protections and religious freedom in our country.

Safety is not political. It's educational. And since students cannot learn if they don't feel safe at school, our district team is working to ensure students feel welcome, safe and supported in school every day. To that end, we have taken the following measures and made the following commitments:

The SCCS Board of Trustees passed a new Board Policy for *Protection of Undocumented Students*. Resources and materials on Immigrant Rights are available in every school office.

Federal legislation protecting the rights of transgender students was removed. Please know that California law continues to protect the rights of all students, including our transgender students. And, beyond legislation, our district is committed to creating a safe, inclusive environment for all students. Our practices are guided by board policy, the law and our belief that every student should be honored, welcomed and safe.

As educators who accept a credential from the state of California, we swear to uphold the constitution. That constitution guarantees religious freedom. As educators, we will work to ensure that all world views are respected and every student feels valued and supported in our classrooms.

Santa Cruz City Schools remains steadfast in our commitment to creating a safe and affirming environment for all students, families and staff.

ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
WELCOME HERE

Santa Cruz



Diversity is our strength