



SDUHSD Department of Special Education Newsletter

February 2021

Happy New Year!

The San Dieguito Union High School District welcomed students to the second semester/ third quarter at the end of January. We appreciate our community's support, patience and partnership as we've navigated these unprecedented and ever-changing times. Together we are stronger! The District website is updated regularly with the most current information about the safe reopening of schools: www.sduhsd.net and the [COVID-19 resources page](#).

Testing, 1, 2, 3!

Each spring, students take a variety of local and state tests to evaluate their academic progress. Students in grades 7, 8, and 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English, Math and the CA Science Test. Students in grade 12 will also take the CA Science Test this year. For 11th grade students, their scores are used to inform students' readiness for college English and mathematics, helping inform placement into college courses. Most tests can be taken in the virtual school environment however the CA Alternate Assessments (CAA) are given in person, in a one on one setting. Only a small percentage of students take the CAA's, decided on by the IEP team. Stay tuned for more information from your student's case manager.

California Healthy Kids Survey

This spring, students in grades 7, 9 and 11 will participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey. The CHKS is an anonymous, confidential survey of school climate and safety, student wellness, and youth resiliency. It enables schools and communities to collect and analyze data regarding local youth health risks and behaviors, school connectedness, school climate, protective factors, and school violence. The CHKS is part of a comprehensive data-driven decision-making process on improving school climate and student learning environment for overall school improvements. Parents also participate by taking the CA School Parent Survey at the same time. More information will come from your child's school in March 2021.

[Special Education Parent Handbook](#)

Our team has developed a handbook for parents to serve as a guide to and through the special education referral process. Special Education services are a group of specialized services for students who are identified through an educational assessment as having an educational disability. The Special Education parent Handbook can be found in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the [District's Special Education website](#).

[Teacher Feature!](#)

Torrey Pines High School - Katie Grubert

Katie is a dedicated, compassionate teacher at Torrey Pines High School. She is always willing to help out the team and provides invaluable support to staff and students. She is a pertinent member of the TPHS team and loved by all who have the privilege of working with her. In her role as an Education Specialist, she supports the Learning Academy and also co-teaches English and Government/Economics. Her contributions to student success are immeasurable. In her free time, Katie enjoys traveling, cooking, going to the beach, working out, and spending time with family and friends.



Earl Warren Middle School - Diane Dekker

Diane Dekker department chair and supports the Learning Academy at Earl Warren. Diane is as student centered as it gets! She maintains great relationships with families because of her strong communication skills and expertise. Diane generates trust with those she works with including families, students, and colleagues. Outside of school, Diane enjoys spending time with her family and walking her dog. Students succeed with her because of these attributes!



Strategic Plan Parent Forum

The SDUHSD Strategic Plan Parent Forum met in January to review progress on the six priorities and district's goals that compose the backbone of a highly effective special education program. Each of the priorities is aligned to the SDUHSD [Local Control and Accountability Plan \(LCAP\)](#), and contains specific action tasks to ensure each goal is implemented in a specific and consistent manner. The team also provided feedback for

the LCAP currently under development. The [Strategic Plan](#), notes, agendas and [Summary](#) information are located on the District’s Special Education website, under Administrative Services. The next meeting is March 25, 2021.

Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Seeking Parent Member

The San Dieguito Union High School District is seeking applicants for appointment to its Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC). We would like your help in finding people who would be interested in serving on this important committee.

Members of the ICOC will provide oversight of the District’s use of Proposition AA bond proceeds and report to the Board and public on their findings. Specifically, the ICOC will ensure that all funds are used in support of the projects included in the bond measure and not for unspecified projects, general operating expenses, or teacher salaries. The ICOC will also inspect facilities and grounds, review cost-saving measures, and review the annual independent audits that are required of general obligation bond funds.

The committee must have no fewer than seven members and is currently recruiting for a parent member. Any parents interested should visit the District website and complete the application on the Facilities page, under the “Facilities Planning and Construction” tab. Applications will be reviewed at the March meeting.

Upcoming Events

NCCSE Event: Limited Conservatorship from Start to Finish* (link on www.nccse.org ; virtual)	February 5, 2021 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
President’s Weekend - No School	February 12- 15, 2021

Events presented in English offer simultaneous translation. Please request translation 48 hours in advance with: Fabiola Vasquez, (760) 307-1567 fvasquez@sdcoe.net



Who Should I Call?

SDUHSD has updated the “Who to Contact” guide for the district. The guide contains contact information for each school as well as the contact matrix for the district. Please visit the [District’s Special Education website](#) (under Administrative Services) and click on “Who To Contact” for [middle school](#) or [high school](#).