



In the heart of the Redwoods

FALL 2016-17

School News

Southern Humboldt Unified School District
Newsletter from Superintendent Catherine Scott



Catherine Scott

Daily Attendance is the Key to School Success

KIDS LEARN AND SCHOOLS GET FUNDED

Every single day that students miss school, they fall behind because they must make up missed learning and catch up with new learning at the same time. That's a lot to ask of a child, especially if school doesn't come easily.

Attendance Brings State Money to Our Schools

Fair or not, California bases school funding on each student's daily attendance. This means that when a student misses a day of school, the district loses money that helps pay for everyone's education, and these losses really add up. Every time a student misses school—even for an excused absence—the school loses about \$50 in income. And because of how our small necessary schools are funded, one day of attendance by a single student can mean \$150,000 of funding to the district.

Families Who Qualify for the National School Lunch Program Should Apply

The power of daily attendance to improve our school funding increases when qualifying families complete the National School Lunch Program application. Even if your student never plans to eat a school-prepared meal, completing the application can mean thousands of dollars for his or her school. If you are a family of four and you make less than \$31,590 annually, your students qualify for free meals. If you are a family of four and you make less than \$44,955, your students qualify for reduced-cost meals.

Cool Stuff Happening At Our Schools

The more funding we have, the more we can improve educational options for our students. Right now, we are

implementing new Common Core-aligned math curriculum at all levels. We have adopted a new English Language Arts curriculum for the elementary levels, and at the high school we are offering a classroom-based Advanced Placement course for the first time. We continue to improve access to technology, and thanks to community support, we have bond funds to improve facilities on all campuses.

But our work is not done and we need your help. We want to ensure that every student can make progress and graduate from high school prepared to join the workforce or go on to higher education.

Please support our efforts to make Southern Humboldt Unified School District the best in Humboldt County by helping students attend school every day.

GET IN TOUCH! Call me at (707) 943-1789 or email me at cscott@sohumusd.com. For information about your child's school, visit us online at apps.humboldt.k12.ca.us/sohumwp and click on Schools

ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE A SAFE, CLEAN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Makes an Impact

You may have heard the phrase PBIS being thrown around the last few years in Southern Humboldt. That's because we have embraced the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports program. The underlying theme of PBIS is teaching behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject. Rather than telling students what not to do, we focus on the preferred behaviors. Each school identifies specific behaviors to focus on. Here are some examples:

- Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect Property
- Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful
- Respect Relationships and Respect Responsibilities

The PBIS approach decreases bullying on campus and creates a more positive school climate resulting in fewer absences, decreased dropout rates, and higher academic achievement. Each school is implementing PBIS differently, some schools have tickets to recognize positive behavior with student names then going into a drawing for prizes or whole classrooms receiving a trophy for the week. There are also assemblies to recognize the positive behaviors.

WE SUPPORT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Implementing California State Standards

To improve academic achievement, we have been busy implementing the New California State Standards. Last year, we updated our math curriculum (K-6 began using Envision and 7-12 began using CPM), and this year we're updating language arts at the elementary level to the National Geographic curriculum. In addition to memorizing important facts, students are learning how to collaborate with peers and figure things out on their own. Listening to an explanation about how to solve a problem is helpful, but actually solving a problem, one that requires trial and error or deep consideration, often sticks with us. Creative problem solving can wake up a whole different part of the brain. It is exciting to be able to offer these opportunities for deeper thinking to our students. Thanks to the staff for making these shifts in lesson planning.

Our overall achievement scores on the CAASPP testing increased two percentage points from the year 2015 to 2016. While our overall score needs work, we are moving in the right direction.

At the high school, we're now offering our first seat-based Advance Placement (AP) class. Mr. Gummersall is very enthusiastic about teaching the AP U.S. History course and reports that students are working hard and learning lots!

WE INVITE PARENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING

Getting Involved

One of the most important goals this year is finding ways for more parents to share their input. Parents know what their children need. Many parents help their students manage academic and social struggles; they celebrate their students' successes and help them develop productive habits. At SHUSD, we want to do all we can to support parents as they support their children. One of the best ways for us to do so is to stay connected via regular communication. This newsletter you're reading is part of my outreach. If you have ideas about how we can improve our school district, I'm listening! I truly believe we are a team, parents and educators working together to help our students succeed. Thank you to those parents who attended the LCAP Town Hall Meetings this month. We are still looking for parents to serve on the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee, in case you're interested.

DATES	Nov. 10	Regular Board Meeting	Nov. 28	No School - Teacher Training Day
	Nov. 11	No School - Veteran's Day	Dec. 8	Regular Board Meeting
	Nov. 3-8	Elementary Short Days - Parent/Teacher Conferences	Dec. 19 - Jan. 2	Winter Break
	Nov. 21-25	Thanksgiving Break		