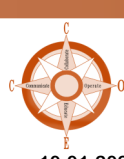


COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

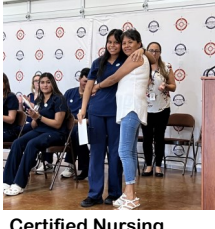
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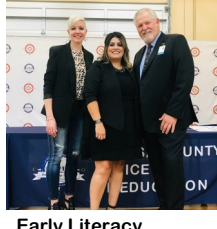
Top stories in this newsletter



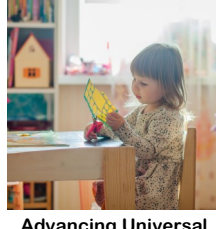
Certified Nursing Assistant Program Graduation



New Mental Health Initiative for Students



Early Literacy Certification Program Graduation



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Superintendent's Message



Hello Colusa County families! I'm pleased to welcome you to a new school year. I would like to take a moment to send my warmest appreciation to our county's dedicated teachers and educational staff. You are the backbone of education for our county's students. Your enthusiasm for your students and the superlative learning experiences you provide create an atmosphere of academic connectedness and camaraderie, leading to scholastic successes year after year. I thank you for your steadfast commitment to providing first-rate support and educational opportunities for our county's children. As we move into this new school year, and pathways for academic accomplishments and growth are created, please remember to also take time to rest and rejuvenate. It is just as important to take care of your own well-being, as it is your students'. Know the Colusa County Office of Education is here should you need anything; we are here to support you! Let's make this the best school year yet!

-Michael P. West, Colusa County Superintendent of Schools

Certified Nursing Assistant Program Graduation



Congratulations to the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program Class of 2022! Oscar Ambriz, Natasha Carl-Rutherford, Xochitl Hernandez Duran, Juliana Hernandez, Leslie Hernandez Camarena, Perla Herrera, Yahaira Martinez, Blanca Olmedo-Villaseñor, Eduardo Ramirez, Maria Reyes Figueroa, Carina Ruiz Hernandez graduated from the Colusa County Adult School's CNA Program on August 26.

The CNA Program provides students Basic Patient Care information and training. This program is designed to prepare students for employment as a Nurse Assistant. Students learn basic patient care, observation, and communication skills. In addition, skills such as problem-solving, safety, and interpersonal skills are embedded into the program. Basic Patient Care prepares students to take the State Competency Exam required for certification. Clinical hours are a required part of this program. To be added to the 2023 Interest List, [click here](#).

BEST for Students Program



The Colusa County Office of Education (CCOE), in collaboration with Colusa County Behavioral Health (CCBH) and the four Colusa County school districts, is pleased to announce a brand-new mental health initiative available for Colusa County students and their families: the BEST for Students Program. The BEST, or Behavioral Emotional Support Team, has created four mental health wellness centers with the aim of assisting Colusa County school districts by reducing behavioral and emotional issues students are facing, with the goal of stable mental health overall.

"Establishing the BEST for Students Program has been a collaborative effort from all the agencies involved," stated Chuck Wayman, CCOE's Deputy Superintendent of Student Services. "We are excited to be able to provide these services to students and families within their school communities."

BEST wellness centers are located at Burchfield Primary School, Johnson Junior High School, Williams Lower Elementary School, and Maxwell Elementary School, and involve three tiers of service. Tiers 1 & 2 offer on-campus support through the assistance of Mental Health Specialists and Therapists. Various interventions by BEST clinically trained staff are geared to improve students' social, academic, and family functioning, and can occur individually or in a group setting. If a student requires a more intensive form of aid, BEST staff will refer the student to CCBH (Tier 3) and conduct a follow-up meeting with the family.

"We are committed to promoting the mental wellness of the students and families of Colusa County, and to be a resource to faculty and staff in each school district," said Behavioral Health Director Anthony Hobson, Ph.D.

Referrals to the BEST Program can be made by a teacher, school staff member, a family member, or a student. Referrals can be made during and after school hours, with all consultations occurring at the end of a school day. For more information, contact CCOE's Student Support Services Manager Kevin Douglas at (530) 473-1350 or CCBH's BEST for Students Program Supervisor Chelsea McGowan at (530) 393-6898.

Early Literacy Certification Graduation



The Colusa County Office of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) initiative is pleased to announce the graduation of Early Literacy Recipients from its second annual "Early Literacy Certification Program." Under the tutelage of Dr. Danielle Thomas, Ed.D. and IAL's Project Director, Stefani Santana, 17 Colusa County early literacy providers received CCOE's Early Literacy Certification on September 16. To achieve the Early Literacy Certification, community daycare providers and preschool teachers were invited to attend two all-day trainings with Dr. Thomas and IAL, in addition to site visits, monthly check-ins, and virtual meetings. Participants also created and implemented an Early Literacy Plan comprised of 6 components of literacy and 5 areas of reading at their sites.

Daycare providers who received their certification include Leticia Jauregui, Margarita Becerra, Maria Cortez, Angelica Rivera, Maria E. Medina, Maria C. Torres, Evelia Rico, Maria Y. Moreno, Araceli Rivera, Irene Munoz, Evelia Salcedo, and Ana Rivera. Martha L. Espinoza, Maria Aceves, Josefina Cano, and Maria Paiz from the Arbuckle E-Center, and Yesenia Moreno of First 5 Colusa's Williams Family Action Center, also received their certifications. For more information about this program, contact IAL at (530) 458-0350 ext. 10326.

Advancing Universal Pre-K in Colusa County

The Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) implementation set forth by the California Department of Education, is a mixed-delivery model designed to increase prekindergarten access and expand early learning. The UPK advancement includes Transitional Kindergarten (TK), the California State Preschool Program, Head Start, community-based organizations, private preschools, and family childcare to ensure all four-year-olds have access to learning before entering kindergarten.



"Decades of research demonstrates that an early and solid foundation for learning matters," stated Vicki Markss, CCOE's Director of Children's Services. "Children who receive ongoing learning experiences before Kindergarten are better prepared in school in areas of early language and literacy, social-emotional development, cognition, and mathematics."

CCOE has been a leader in high quality early learning programs, and supports countywide UPK planning and capacity-building efforts. CCOE's leadership in UPK focuses on Vision and Coherence; Community Engagement and Partnerships; Workforce Recruitment and Professional Learning; Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; and LEA Facilities, Services, and Operations.

"Collaboration between our educational partners is essential to ensure a clear focus from the preschool through third grade continuum for early education," Markss continued, "and to improve outcomes for young learners across Colusa County."

For information about participating in a collaborative UPK workgroup, please contact Vicki Markss [here](#).

Welcome CCOE New Hires!

Rebecca Banuelos, *Speech & Language Specialist*
Bridget Beaton, *Speech & Language Specialist Intern*
Rose Ann Bidia, *Speech & Language Specialist Intern*
Marlene Gutierrez Leon, *Paraeducator*
Cindy Hernandez Contreras, *Paraeducator*
Douglas Horton, *Alternative Education Teacher*
John Ithurburn, *Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services*
Corwin Lowe, *Accounting Specialist II*
Katie Mathis, *Mathematics Implementation Specialist*
Nohemi Ornelas, *Paraeducator*
Brenda Ramirez Ramirez, *Teacher*
Kelli Randolph, *Paraeducator*
Macy Rose, *Paraeducator*
Sophia Stocks, *Substitute Paraeducator*
Mikayla Thompson, *Paraeducator*
Lidia Vazquez Plaza, *Translator Interpreter*
Gemma Velazquez Velazquez, *Mental Health Clinician*
Cory Weigel, *Educational Behavior Analyst*
Becky Wolf, *Paraeducator*
Hatti Wolf, *Transportation Assistant*
June Yang, *Occupational Therapist*
Brianna Zoller, *Speech & Language Specialist*
Maria Zuniga Sierra, *Custodian*

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