

News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

December 2020

Scott W. Lay, Superintendent

A message from Superintendent Scott W. Lay:

December is here and 2020 is almost at a close. As we look back on the past year most of us will shake our heads in wonder of what we have dealt with and will continue to deal with in the coming months. I don't want to look on the negative side of things but rather the positives that have been realized.

First, the fortitude and resourcefulness of the Nevada County educational community has been incredibly inspiring. We have faced the first true worldwide pandemic in our lives combined with changing regulations and guidance and remained optimistic and up to the task of serving all our students. We have learned new formats to reach our students, learned to teach and interact with a mask while staying physically distanced, used more hand sanitizer than we ever thought would be needed, and become acutely aware of the many steps for symptom checking. All these did not exist before March 13th in our world.

In my physically distanced, mask wearing visits to campuses this past year I have only seen hope and the desire to make things better for our students and staff. I believe students realized the joy of actually attending school in person, teachers thrilled to be able to teach their students in person, and staff working tirelessly to support each other. These are things we may have taken for granted in the past but now know the simple joy of being able to carry them out.

Collaboration within districts, amongst all of our schools, and between agencies is at an all time high. We may not always exactly agree upon specifics, but our desire to provide the best service to our community is unquestionable. I truly see this more in-depth collaboration continuing in the way we operate in the future for the benefit of our schools and students.

As we work our way through the holidays I don't know what may come our way in terms of COVID exposures in our county or new guidelines from the state and our county agencies. I truly hope we can keep our guard up, keep our schools open to the best of our ability, and most importantly, stay safe. I believe our schools will look different in a better way for students and staff on the other side of this pandemic. You are all amazing people doing amazing jobs under the most stressful of times.



Professional Development

NCSOS Science & Math Community of Practice Teams Up with Exploratorium

This year, the NCSOS Math & Science Community of Practice teacher leaders are teaming up with the Exploratorium and the Region 3 Math & Science Community of Practice in an ongoing effort to promote the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards and exemplar NGSS aligned instructional practices.

Teachers from three school districts (Twin Ridges Elementary School District, Grass Valley School District, and Pleasant Ridge Union School District) and two charter schools (Forest Charter and Nevada City School of the Arts) make up the Nevada County team. They participated in a statewide teacher leader professional learning experience using Lesson Study to investigate student learning models within NGSS instruction.

The purpose of this ongoing work is to further the lesson resources and materials that support the NGSS learning goals. If you teach math or science and are interested in joining our local Community of Practice in Math and Science, please contact [Carrie Ferrero](#), Instructional Coach.



NCSOS would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and wonderful holiday season!

California Health Education Framework (HEF) Rollout Project

We are excited to announce the California Health Education Framework Training coming this January 2021.

The California Health Education Framework was created to offer up-to-date, relevant guidance on how to effectively implement the Health Content Standards in K-12 classrooms.

What: A five-session training that prepares educators to simply and effectively implement the new California Health Education Framework in the classroom.

Where: All sessions will be offered via Zoom and will include both asynchronous and synchronous modules.

Who: This training is not just for health teachers. All K-12 teachers are encouraged to attend as well as school nurses, counselors and administrators.

To learn more, watch: [Should I attend the Health Education Framework Training?](#)

Registration information will be released to school administrators on December 2nd. Please contact [Andrea Marks](#) for more information.



Distance Learning Resources can be located on the [NCSOS Distance Learning Webpage](#)

Student Enrichment

THP+ Class Opportunities for Foster Youth

Our Transitional Housing Plus Program (THP+) continues to work with our local Alliance for Work Force Development on resumes and employment services as well as Helping Hands Nurturing Center for parenting classes. We continue to remain focused on removing barriers for our former foster youth and provided Thanksgiving dinners from SPD as needed from any participants.

ILP Pumpkin Decorating Contest Winner

Featuring the winning pumpkin for the First Annual Independent Living Program (ILP) pumpkin decorating contest. Our talented winner received a \$20 gift card and a dozen donuts.



Foster Youth Services

Our Foster Youth Services (FYS) department has been finalizing our data collection for services provided in Nevada County for 2020 and will present to the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) later this month. This is always an exciting time since we get to hear from focus groups, our community, and our schools. We are particularly grateful for opportunities to learn, progress, and grow.

Stay tuned for December's Foster Youth Gingerbread House contest!



Cooking and Teen Talk

Our Foster Youth Independent Living Program is re focusing on cooking and "Teen Talk". Our very own Educational Liaison, Ben Brown, created and demonstrated a [Ramen recipe video](#). We then offered an additional raffle incentive for our students if they created their own version of a Ramen dish and over 5 students and staff participated. Wow!! We even had a ramen burrito make a special appearance. We will have a roasted chicken 3 ways for the rest of the month so we can teach cheap and healthy ways to provide for self and family. November is often known for family holidays and gatherings but children and young adults in foster care can often feel isolated and alone during these times. We at ILP try to focus on ways the students can participate and be involved with others. We also collaborate with our local Children's Behavioral Health office to provide a monthly "Teen Talk" class. One or more of the wonderful staff at CBH offers therapeutic services and a framework for open discussion which is vital to our teens especially during the holidays.

Artists in School Lesson Plans

You can now keep track of a series of beautifully filmed art lessons developed by Nevada County Arts Council in partnership with Nevada County Media and Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. With partial support from the California Arts Council's Artists in Schools Program, Nevada County Arts Council wants to ensure that every 1st – 5th Grade teacher has access to curriculum-bound arts tuition throughout the county during the pandemic.

[Artists in Schools Program lessons can be found here.](#)

Quick Reference Calendar

December Dates to Remember

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Tuesday, December 1, 2020	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: Bright Futures for Youth	6:30PM
Tuesday, December 15, 2020	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: ACME Robotics Team	6:30PM
Thursday –Friday, December 24-25, 2020	NCSOS Office will be closed in Observance of the Christmas Holiday	8AM-5PM
Thursday-Friday, December 31, 2020- January 1, 2021	NCSOS Office will be closed in Observance of the New Years Holiday	8AM-5PM

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- * **Monday, January 11, 2021 1:00-2:30pm:** McKinney Vento Quarterly Meeting
- * **Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:30-4:30:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- * **Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- * **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:30-4:30:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- * **Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

- * **Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- * **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:30-4:30:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- * **Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

- * **Monday, March 8, 2021 1:00-2:30pm:** McKinney Vento Quarterly Meeting
- * **Tuesday, March 23, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- * **Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:30-4:30:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- * **Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

- * **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- * **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:30-4:30:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- * **Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

- * **Monday, May 10, 2021 1:00-2:30pm:** McKinney Vento Quarterly Meeting
- * **Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- * **Thursday, May 27, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

Submissions for future Nugget issues:

Have an article for the Nugget or KVMR radio show topics you would like submitted?

Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month for inclusion in the following issue.

Email: sromriell@nevco.org Back issues of *The Nugget* be found at [The Nugget Newsletter](#).