

News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

June 2021

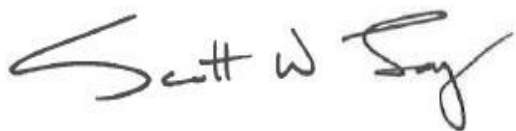
A message from Superintendent Scott W. Lay:

As we close the chapter on the 2020/21 school year it is difficult to put into words what we have all experienced and felt the last 16 months. Words and phrases such as “unprecedented” and “new normal” have become such a part of our everyday vocabulary that they have lost most of their meaning. What hasn’t been lost is the amazing collaboration and resilience amongst our Nevada County schools and agencies. As a person who views the world as “half full” over “half empty”, I wanted to reflect on positives from the 20/21 school. Here are but a few:

- Strengthened collaboration between the school districts and the charter schools. We have had continuing dialog over every aspect of this pandemic as we worked together and supported each of our site’s needs.
- Vaccination clinics for staff and students. Ground breaking collaboration between our Nevada County Public Health, NJUHSD, GVSD, our school nurses and my office to get our county ahead in vaccinations.
- Opportunities to work with our Public Health Department, Probation Department, and Behavioral Health Department on new programs that benefit our students and families. We have developed several new positions in the areas of health data collection for COVID, social workers, and cross agency programs.

Thank you to all our educators in Nevada County who made this year work for our students. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Who knows what protocols and guidelines we will need to follow in August. I do know we are up for that challenge (after a summer of well-deserved rest!).

Take care and take care of yourself.



Scott W. Lay



School Safety

Wildfire Season is Upon Us – Are you Ready?

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office has been proactive in collaborating with Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, and local fire and law enforcement agencies in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season. **PLEASE have your plan in place** for evacuations if the notice is given at home, at school, or at your place of business. What is your plan for yourself, your children, and your pets. Consider the time of day (morning, afternoon, evening). Consider your location and that of your family (work, bus stop, school, social outings). Your plan must include many variables and your plan must be shared with your family. The Ready Nevada County website ([Ready | Nevada County, CA \(mynevadacounty.com\)](http://mynevadacounty.com)) is a wealth of information to prepare you and your family for emergencies.

The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services officially launched a new zone-based evacuation technology to complement the ongoing Ready Nevada County tools and strategy. **It is important that you KNOW YOUR ZONE for your school site**, home, business or residence of a loved one. Please go to <http://community.zonehaven.com/> to **search your address and see what zone you are in. Record it, remember it, share it with your family and friends** and encourage them to do the same for their home, work, or the residence of a loved one. In the event of a wildfire or other emergency situation, law enforcement and fire agencies will issue evacuation warnings or evacuation orders nothing the zone of the impacted area. Authorities will use zone names in CodeRED and Nixle Emergency Alerts, media releases, and social media to quickly notify residents which areas are affected.

The Nevada County Sheriff, as well as the Grass Valley and Nevada City Police Departments, have all installed new sirens on their patrol cars and will only use them for evacuations. Go to [Hi-Lo Siren | Nevada County, CA \(mynevadacounty.com\)](http://mynevadacounty.com) to familiarize yourself with the sound. Have your evacuation plan and go bag ready ([Go Bags & Back-Up Plan | Nevada County, CA \(mynevadacounty.com\)](http://mynevadacounty.com)) to immediately evacuate if you hear it.

As a reminder, if you have not signed up for Code Red, it's time to do so. Register at: [ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Emergency Alerts](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EmergencyAlerts) or call 211 for assistance.

An additional important resource to become familiar with is www.ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Dashboard. This site provides current and updated information on weather, wildfires, Covid19, burn days, evacuations, PSPS and more. Check it out, you will be glad you did.

Always take the following precautions on a Red Flag Warning day:

- Be prepared for the possibility of a public utility power shut off. Have food, lighting, water, and charged batteries that will last for several days.
- Prepare for quick evacuation.
- Park your vehicle towards the roadway and load your Go Bag.
- Know how to open your garage if power is unavailable.
- Be sure you have a full tank of gas.
- Keep pets nearby.
- Have a plan to transport large animals and livestock.
- Always check towing equipment and eliminate dragging hazards.
- Do not mow or trim dry grass.
- Do not use equipment outdoors that may create a spark.
- Never park on dry grass.
- Never burn on a Red Flag Warning day.

WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

- Strong winds**
25MPH+
- High Temperatures**
- Low humidity levels**
20% and below
- Dry Fuels**
- Possibility of Dry Lightning Strikes**
Any combination of these conditions

Download a weather app to receive Red Flag Warning notices on your phone or tablet. For a full list of email and text weather alert services visit: Weather.gov/subscribe

Forest Projects

Community and citizen science happening in Nevada County schools!

Learning about our forests—how they cycle carbon and water, provide habitat for diverse species, and change with seasonal and human impacts are central to understanding the health of our local forests. Our Forests project, is a collaborative effort between NCSOS, Sierra Streams Institute and the Center for Community & Citizen Science at UC Davis. It is designed to take 3rd-5th grade students outside to explore and collect environmental data. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation where students monitor different aspects of forest health and then share their data and findings with community stakeholders, such as local landowners and/or forest ecologists. This approach to doing science—in which members of the public participates and contributes to science is called *community and citizen science*. After receiving the funding for this exciting program two years ago, efforts began to design NGSS-aligned lessons and materials in collaboration with partner teachers from Nevada County schools. Part of this project is discovering how young people benefit from place-based, hands-on, community and citizen science projects. While Covid-19 restrictions limited what could be done this year, partner teachers from Cottage Hill, Williams Ranch, Grizzly Hill and Nevada City School of the Arts were able to bring Our Forests to their students through distance-learning and hybrid-learning contexts.

This Spring, students participated in a case study focused on the forest at the Woolman Outdoor School campus. The August 2020 Jones Fire burned some parts of the Woolman forests, homes as well as the Sierra Stream Institute office. It provided a unique opportunity for students to explore the role of fire and differing fire severity on the health of our forests. Even though students were unable to visit the Woolman Outdoor School campus, students analyzed forest data and photographic evidence, and shared their results, interpretations and questions with staff at Woolman.

As we look forward to the 2021-2022 academic year, we are excited to get students outside, asking questions, collecting and analyzing data about the health of their local forests and sharing their findings in meaningful ways in their community. We are expanding *Our Forests* to two more school sites where we will train participating teachers, provide lessons, and help to set up and run field experiences at environmental investigation zones or forest sites within walking distance of the school. If you would like to know more information and/or about how your students could be part of this project, contact April Griffin at agriffin@nevco.org.

Expressing Grief through Art

Expressing Grief Through Art - A great art project for Nevada County students and young adults (up to age 25) who have experienced loss due to the opioid crisis - this art project lasts through the end of the school year. Please contact nevcoharmreduction@gmail.com or call or text 530-388-6364 for more information.



We invite you to join us in creating a virtual art project addressing the recent opioid overdose crisis in our county.

If you have been affected in any way, here is a way to express yourself and share a message with your community.

youth driven, for young people up to 25

CONTACT

call or text: 530-388-6364

nevcoharmreduction@gmail.com

all kinds of visual art, music, dance, or writing are welcome
can be completely anonymous

Professional Development

Math Matters - Developing Mathematical Mindsets **2021-22 NCSOS Professional Development Workshop Series**

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office is excited to connect with our colleagues throughout Nevada County around instructional strategies to improve mathematical instruction in our classrooms. In this on-going series participants will discuss the current research-based strategies to improve mathematical assessment, mathematical literacy skills, and mathematical inquiry strategies. **All TK-12th grade Nevada County mathematics teachers are welcome to attend this FREE workshop series. Please mark your calendars for now!**

Thursday, October 7th, 2021 from 8:30-3:00pm - Assessment & Student Feedback

Part 1: Current Classroom Challenges, Formative VS Summative Assessment Tasks, Rubrics to Monitor Progress on Mathematical Tasks, Collaborative Learning w/ Unstructured Problems ([3-Act Tasks](#)), [TRU Math Tools Suite](#) & [Equity Based Grading](#). BONUS: Math Framework Rollout

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Oct/Nov

Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 from 8:30-3:00pm - Mathematical Literacy Skills

Part 1: Developing the ability to read and understand [mathematical language and representations through scaffolding techniques](#). Using mathematical language and representations to understand problems and communicate solutions. Using mathematics in a range of contexts. Assessing student responses and designing collaborative learning projects. BONUS: Advanced Problem Solving Challenges for Teams.

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

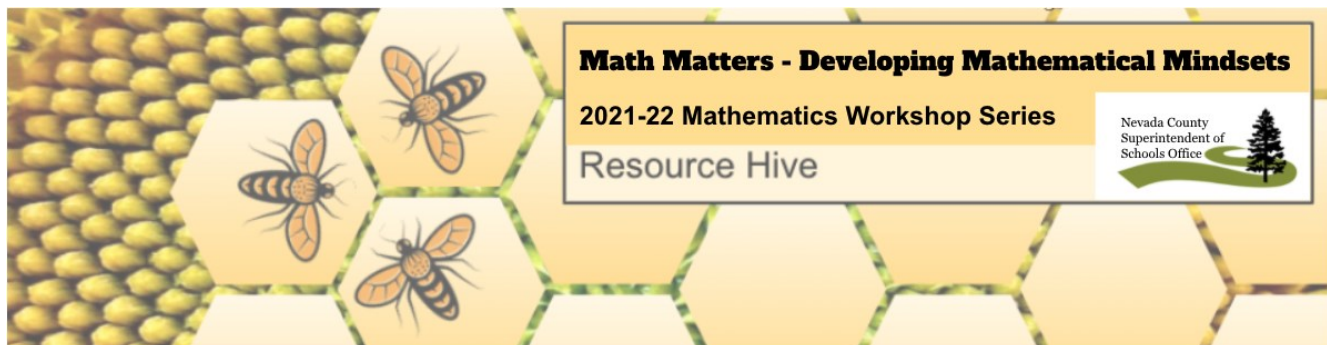
Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Dec/Jan

Thursday, February 3rd, 2022 from 8:30-3:00pm - Mathematical Inquiry Skills

*Part 1: Introduction to [Inquiry Mathematics and Project-Based Learning NCTM](#), [Exploring Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships: Making Math Matter NCTM](#), [Mathematical Mindset Shifts](#)
BONUS: Preparing for the CAASPP through Focused IABs & STEAM Expo Math Competitions*

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Feb/Mar



Professional Development

Science Symposium 2021-22 Professional Learning Series for Teachers

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office is pleased to offer this professional learning series focused on improving instructional strategies and assessment techniques in science instruction. This symposium series will focus on assessing student understanding, building scientific literacy skills, and supporting students on the CA Science Test and STEAM Expo Sharecase. *Series 1 will focus on teachers administering the CAST and is primarily geared for teachers in Grades 5, 7, and HS. Series 2 & 3 will focus on instructional strategies and best practices for all students. Nevada County science teachers are welcome to attend this FREE workshop series. Please mark your calendars for now!*

Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 8:30-3:00pm - Series 1 - Supporting 5th, 7th & High School Students on the CAST through Accelerated Learning Techniques

Part 1: Current Classroom Challenges, Formative VS Summative Assessment Tasks, [Identifying & Assessing Essential Science Skills](#), [CAST Assessment Support](#), Accessing Science Content through [Accelerated Learning](#)

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Sept/Oct

Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 8:30-3:00pm - Series 2 - Building Scientific Literacy Skills through Scientific Inquiry - Science and English Language Arts Integration

Part 1: Developing the ability to read and understand [language and representations through scaffolding techniques](#). Building [conceptual and procedural vocabulary](#). Using [scientific writing to develop language skills](#). Assessing student responses and collaborative learning. BONUS: Advanced Prototype Design Challenges for Teams

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Nov/Dec

Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 8:30-3:00pm - Series 3 - Assessing Student Learning through Modeling for Sense-Making - Science and Visual Arts Integration

Part 1: Introduction the [Modeling for Sense-Making](#), [Developing & Using Models](#), Assessing [Student Learning](#)
BONUS: [Preparing for the CAST](#) & STEAM Expo Science Competitions

Part 2: Planning Period for Lesson Design & Concept Integration

Optional Monthly Huddle by Grade Span (schedule TBD by participants) - Jan/Feb



Quick Reference Calendar

June Dates to Remember

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: local principals and superintendents about this June's graduation plans for students	6:30PM
Tuesday, June 15, 2021	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: TBD	6:30PM

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:30-3PM Supporting 5th, 7th & High School Students on the CAST through Accelerated Learning Techniques; Professional Development

OCTOBER

- Thursday, October 7th, 2021 8:30-3PM Assessment and Student Feedback; Professional Development

NOVEMBER

- Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:30-3PM Building Scientific Literacy Skills through Scientific Inquiry - Science and English Language Arts Integration; Professional Development

DECEMBER

- Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:30-3PM Mathematical Literacy Skills; Professional Development

JANUARY

- Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:30-3PM Assessing Student Learning through Modeling for Sense-Making - Science and Visual Arts Integration; Professional Development

FEBRUARY

- Thursday, February 3, 2022 9:30-3PM Mathematical Inquiry Skills; Professional Development

There will be no issue of the Nugget in the month of July.