



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

FALL 2020

LEARNING TOGETHER REMOTELY



REMOTE LEARNING
THE ACADEMY FOR SUCCESS
WOMEN'S FUND

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS ROLL WITH REMOTE LEARNING

Our schools will look a bit different than they did at the beginning of last school year. In March, SB Unified quickly adapted to the Stay at Home Order by rolling out remote learning. With the help of technology, students could keep learning and maintain a sense of normalcy.



Teachers create videos using visual displays and tools that they would typically use in the classroom.

Although we all hoped that schools would return to in-person instruction this fall, SB Unified is continuing to adapt to the times by preparing for remote learning in the upcoming school year. So what does remote learning look like? Let's look at a few examples.

Just like any school day, students have a schedule to keep and start their day together. Although they are not physically in a classroom, they use Zoom to “meet” and start their day.

Teachers supplement live Zoom lessons with videos with visual displays and tools that they would typically use in the classroom. Students can then practice along with their teacher just as they would in person. These videos are available after school hours and allow students to replay them as needed.

And what about music and other electives? How do our aspiring musicians continue their studies? Franklin Elementary's Ms. Pascoe created grade-appropriate and interactive lessons and posted them weekly on YouTube. For example, 2nd and 3rd graders learned about African step dancing by watching an example, and then learning the dance steps of the song with an easy to follow tutorial.



Franklin Elementary teacher Joanna Pascoe teaches students step dancing through a video tutorial.

Meanwhile, 4th through 6th grade students learning an instrument used SmartMusic to access assignments and submit recordings of themselves playing for review. Pascoe has even offered free individual lessons to her more experienced students.



Franklin Elementary teacher Brendan Carroll helps students explore the world of STEAM remotely.

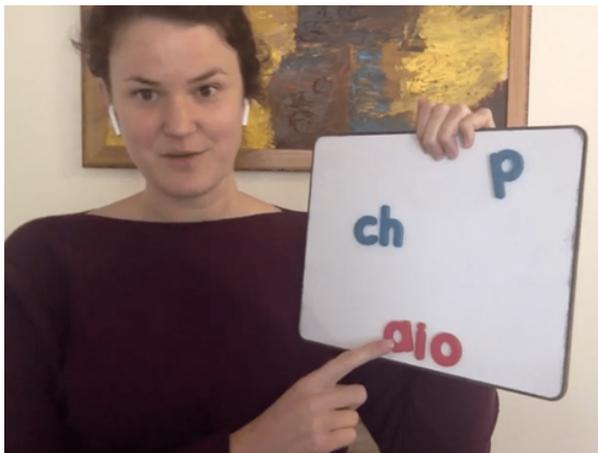
Move over Bill Nye, Franklin Elementary's Mr. Carroll is here! Along with his robot friends, Frank and Lin, Carroll takes students on a journey exploring the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) through fun science-packed episodic adventures. Each of the weekly episodes is jam-packed with real world science. We can't wait to tune in to see where the adventure leads this school year.

Last spring's school closures were in response to a crisis. This year, teachers will have time to prepare and train to strengthen remote learning delivery to their students. Although SBEF looks forward to students returning to school safely, we are also supporting teachers in their needs to create valuable remote learning opportunities.

For more information on how you can help teachers this school year, visit sbefoundation.org/learning-together-remotely.

HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT STRUGGLING READERS REMOTELY?

Santa Barbara Unified School District has identified literacy as one of its top priorities. The Literacy Project targets students who display characteristics of dyslexia and delivers research-based



Harding Elementary Reading Instructor Mrs. Burkett delivers a lesson on the "ch" sound via YouTube.

intervention in a small group setting to help students improve reading skills to grade level. So, how does the Literacy Project continue to give struggling readers the additional support they need remotely?

Struggling readers that typically receive reading intervention in small groups still need a little extra help. The Literacy Project team has been incredibly thoughtful in providing new supports that include a combination of work packets and videos. Reading Specialists create two different types of videos to share with students. They will consist of either phonics review lessons or read-alouds. The specialists Zoomed with students twice a week and created

video to supplement the individualized fluency work packets sent to the students' homes.

Reading Specialists also created supplemental videos for classroom teachers to share with their students. Teachers send out slides each day after their class Zoom meeting and include links to the related videos including Read Alouds and Word Work.



Can you find all the **or** words in this book?

(Top) Anne Darga of McKinley Elementary leads students through Star Word practice remotely. (Bottom) Harding Elementary Reading Instructor Mrs. Burkett delivers a supplemental lesson on the Bossy R sound.

Although this is a difficult and uncertain time for all students, it's especially important to support our most vulnerable struggling students. With these additional supports our struggling readers can continue their reading journey successfully.

To learn more about The Literacy Project, visit sbefoundation.org/the-literacy-project.

THE ACADEMY FOR SUCCESS



Kelly Choi, Director of The Academy for Success works with a Dos Pueblos High School student.

mentors, and attend group and personal counseling to help develop healthy behaviors.

The Academy for Success is a life-changing program for students who self-identify as high school dropouts. Participating students are placed in a cohort to work with Academy teachers and

Back in March, when Kelly Choi, Director of the Academy for Success, announced to students that they would be moving to remote learning, she initially thought the students could at least have some time at school. The students needed to have access to the support staff, get help with school work, and maintain their relationships even if it was just a few hours a week.

THE ACADEMY AT A GLANCE:

- In 2019, 98% of the seniors in the program graduated from high school and 92% enrolled in post-secondary education.
- Maintained 100% connection with all Academy students during the emergency remote learning period.

Luckily, the relationships between the students, teachers, and support staff were already firmly established. According to Choi, “They’re so strong that we were able to reach out to the kids immediately. We were able to tell them what was going on, check in with them, see how they were doing, and just reassure them that they were not alone and that we would be helping them step-by-step.” The support system students had before remote learning still plays an active role in their lives. The Academy provides the same counselors, therapists, life coaches, mentors, and academic help they were before, now virtually.

Teachers have put their creativity to work and have come up with new ways of keeping students connected and having fun with each other. However, it’s not just the Academy’s staff that’s been resourceful during the transition. There are still many who are checking in on the Academy to make sure it’s still providing the best support possible for students. Some even delivered food to the students’ families whose parents have lost their jobs. “In this way, I would say the community is giving more to the kids than the kids can give to the community right now,” said Choi.

The Academy has always promoted student choice as a driver for school content and learning methods. Remote learning has allowed them to exercise this now more than ever for developing students’ life skills, social-emotional standards, and post-graduation plans. According to Choi, “We’ve already been on a journey of changing academics. We really believe that it’s time for education to change, and in a strange way this is giving us our opportunity to do so.”

WOMEN'S FUND AWARDS \$90,000 TO SBEF FOR TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Teen suicide is one of the most devastating outcomes of depression and mental illness, claiming over 6,000 lives each year and standing as the second leading cause of death for that age group.

Santa Barbara Unified School District has reported improved mental health for its students thanks to health and counseling services. Yet 12% of students in 7th through 12th in SBUSD schools have reportedly considered suicide within the past year.



The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara presented the \$90,000 award at their 2020 Virtual Celebration of Grants.

Luckily, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation is actively working to support SBUSD's efforts to combat this and happy to announce an award of \$90,000 from the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara. The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara is a collective donor organization offering over \$500,000 in grants each year to address the needs of women, children, and families in Santa Barbara County.

With this partnership, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation will promote both organization's goals of bringing the Sources of Strength suicide prevention program to all three high schools in the District.

This strength-based wellness program has proven to be successful in reducing suicide, bullying, substance abuse, and violence in schools. The program aims to change school culture and social norms by implementing peer leaders and strength messaging. It will be integrated with the existing Youth Wellness Connection Clubs and work to promote community bonding, peer-adult connections, and help-seeking behaviors.

With Sources of Strength present in our high schools, the District expects students to become more open about mental health and to reach out to peers and teachers for help.

SBEF is excited to witness the positive effects this program will have over the years and will continue working to bring teen suicide in the Santa Barbara Unified School District down to zero.

You can help SB students SOAR this school year!



SB UNIFIED STUDENTS NEED YOUR HELP!

There are an estimated 1,000 families in SB Unified without internet access. This means potentially 2,000 students, cannot access online coursework this school year.

Student Online Access Relief (SOAR) gives these students the internet access and tools they need to continue learning during this difficult time!

**To donate, text SBSOAR to 44-321
or return the envelope in this newsletter.**



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