



Monterey County Office of Education

Dr. Nancy Kotowski
County Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!

My name is Cheryl Provost, and I am the Special Education Principal supervising programs serving infants, students in preschool, kindergarten, elementary and middle school special classes located in Salinas. I am excited to be in my 16th year with the Monterey County Office of Education, after many years working in this field in Santa Clara County. My experience over these years working with students from infant into adulthood, as a special day class teacher, and then as a Special Education Principal, has been fulfilling, invigorating and joyful.

The programs under my supervision include:

Infant Program: The MCOE Infant Program provides services to families of infants throughout Monterey County with vision, hearing and severe orthopedic disabilities in a natural environment, including home, community areas and play groups. Specialists work with infants and their families to provide support, training and modeling in order to promote the development of each child, and empower the family to engage and include their child in the activities of the home and community to the fullest extent possible.

Bard Blades School: Four preschool (ages 3-5) special day classes. These classes provide a student with their first school experience, and are designed to target each student's areas of learning need in a structured, carefully designed classroom that is also a fun environment. Students receive their related services within their school day, and learn essential school/life skills including language/communication, social skills, beginning pre-academics and motor development. Students have access to typically developing peers among the 3 Head Start classes that are present on this campus, and provide mainstreaming opportunities for those students for whom it is appropriate, as agreed upon by the IEP Team.

University Park Elementary School: Two Kindergarten special day classes. This is a one-year program designed to give students a step in-between preschool and a full-day elementary class. The academic, language, behavioral and motor skills expectations are increased according to the ability of the students, with additional focus on increased independence and self-care skills.

Therapeutic Intervention Classes: Elementary and Middle School: MCOE operates 2 elementary classes located at La Joya Elementary School and 1 middle school class located at Bolsa Knolls Middle School that support students with emotional disturbance who require a therapeutic educational setting in order to benefit from their education and learn the social and behavioral skills necessary to participate with their general education peers. This program is also supported by the Behavior Assistance Support Program, providing highly trained specialists who can safely and effectively support the students as well as the teacher.

Working with students and their families is a privilege and a special trust that is taken seriously and respectfully, and I greatly look forward to another year with the wonderful students, families and professionals.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Provost, Principal

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