



Monterey County Office of Education

Leadership, Support, and Service to Prepare All Students for Success

Dr. Deneen Guss

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

My name is Cheryl Provost, and I am the Special Education Principal supervising programs serving students in preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school special day classes located in Salinas. I am excited to be in my 18th 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:

Preschool Programs at 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.

Kindergarten Programs at 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.

Primary (grades 1-3) Programs at Fremont and Ruth Andresen Schools: MCOE operates 2 classes for students in primary grades 1-3 located at Fremont Elementary School and 2 classes at Ruth Andresen School, that support students on the autism spectrum who require a small, highly specialized and individualized educational setting in order to benefit from their education and learn the essential academic, social and behavioral skills necessary to progress in their education. These classes work closely with the Behavior Assistance Support Program, providing highly trained specialists who can safely and effectively support the students as well as the classroom staff.

Elementary (grades 4-6) Programs at Boronda Meadows Elementary School: These classes support students on the autism spectrum in grades 4-6 who also require a small, highly specialized and individualized educational setting in order to benefit from their education and build on the essential academic, social and behavioral skills necessary to progress in their education, and prepare for a move to middle school. These classes also work closely with 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