



Monterey County Office of Education

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

*Dr. Deneen Guss
County Superintendent of School*

Welcome! My name is Elizabeth Swain, and I am excited to welcome you and your child to our Deaf/Hard of Hearing, or Functional Academic/Life Skills or Infant Programs.

Our Infant Program provides developmentally appropriate educational intervention and parent/care giver training to infants and toddlers ages 0 through 3 who are: blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, orthopedically impaired, or have global developmental delays.

We offer classes covering pre-school through high school in our Regional D/HH Program. Our Regional D/HH Program is a Total Communication Program. Our staff provides the acquisition of language skills, as well as exposure to natural languages, which may include instruction in American Sign Language, spoken English, Signing Exact English, and other manual-gestural communication tools depending upon the unique needs of the students. In addition to language acquisition, our D/HH Program supports each child's individual academic needs. Students that require D/HH services within their home school receive those supports through our D/HH of Itinerant program.

Our Regional Functional Academic/Life Skills Program serves students in the first through fifth grades. This class is designed to meet the unique needs of students who require alternate achievement standards and who participate in the alternate assessment. The emphasis in these programs is on the acquisition of skills aligned to the grade level state standards that have real life meaning for our students. Some of the students served in these programs have profound, multiple disabilities and may also require a variety of specialized physical health care services provided by our trained health care aides and overseen by our credentialed school nurse.

We are pleased to have had the chance to add to our staff family this year in each of our programs. I would like to say welcome to all of these wonderful additions to our staff and thank you to all of our returning staff who continue to support all of our students with their expertise and experience.

Although I have spent many years in Salinas as an educator in the general education and special education fields, this is my sixth year working as a principal for the Monterey County Office of Education. I look forward to working with our staff and you to ensure that your child makes academic progress. Please feel free to contact me or our Program Secretary, Daniela Solorzano, at our Toro School for the Deaf Office at (831) 484-9897.