



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBABH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

K-12 Computer Science and Information Technology Initiative Newsletter



August 2021

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Welcome Back!

The Santa Cruz County Office is excited about the new school year ahead with a great number of initiatives being offered throughout the year. With our goal of providing students and educators accessible, equitable and robust Computer Science and Information Technology support and resources, we are planning to

offer even more exciting opportunities this year. Here are some of the highlights that our team is working on:

- Computer Science and Information Technology Personal Learning Community 3 Year Pilot Program
- [Expansion of our Network/Cybersecurity Career Pathway](#)
- [Two Think Big! Series per school year](#)
- Development of a Regional Computer Science Partnership with nearby counties
- Spring Cyberseurty Camp 2022
- Partnership with local businesses to develop AI Robotics program
- **FREE Membership** access to [Tech Event Webinars with Santa Cruz Works](#)
- Computer Science Education Week in December
- Student contributions to the [Santa Cruz Works Student Corner Newsletter](#)
- Development of more single day Computer Science, Information Technology and Cybersecurity events for students

Look for more updates on many of these items throughout the year.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Think Big!Series- Design the Life You Want

October 14th, 2021

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Santa Cruz Works invites students and staff to register for our newest event led by the co-founder of the [Stanford Design Lab](#), [Electronic Arts](#) and entrepreneur who led the introduction of Apple Computer's first mouse and laser printers, Dave Evans!

During this two-hour **FREE event**, Dave Evans will introduce students (grades 7-12) and educators on how to utilize the Design Thinking Process to plan your future. As students progress through their K-12 education, the challenge of deciding on a career path and how to get there can be

overwhelming. Dave Evans will help students figure out what they want to be next by "calibrating your compass" through the adoption of the six Design Thinking mindsets and his simple four-step life design process. By using these problem-solving skills, students will be able to face challenges with a readily doable approach that has helped hundreds of thousands of people already. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the Designing Thinking process and ask questions about how it can be applied to their own life journeys.

During the last 30 minutes of the event, dynamic local Santa Cruz technology leaders will join in and share how they approached their career path decisions and why reflection at an early age can be powerful.

[HOW TO REGISTER](#)



Cybersecurity and Networking Career Pathway Starting August 18th

After a year of planning and development, the Santa Cruz County Office of education is excited to announce the start of the Cybersecurity and Network Career Path!

This [Career Technology Education Pathway](#) will provide students the opportunity to learn the necessary skills for a future career in the growing field of Cybersecurity and Networking by developing both technical and 21st-century skills. Leading the new IT Essentials course will be our new CTEP instructor, Elizabeth Shaw. Elizabeth is a dedicated educator, who's experience in both the past spring and summer Cybersecurity camps, will bring a high level of expertise and fun to the course. The first course in the Cybersecurity and Networking Pathway progress will take place both at the Cabrillo College Watsonville site and Star Community School Santa Cruz site.

Students interested in joining this pathway for the 2022-2023 will have an opportunity to complete a Student Interest form that will be made available in the Fall.

Protect Tech with Care!

[LEARN MORE](#)



PLC Computer Science and Information Technology Pilot Program Registration Open until August 27th.

After last year's successful launch of the new Computer Science and Information Technology Personal Learning Community, the team is excited to announce that we

have expanded the program with the development of a **three year Pilot Program** that will provide educators the opportunity to build, share and develop connections to computer science and computational thinking. Teachers participating will have access to professional development, guest speakers, team collaboration and the opportunity to implement computer science lessons that fit best with their curriculum.

If you are a Santa Cruz County Educator looking to learn, implement, improve or collaborate about computer science education, we highly encourage you to join our effort. Our first meeting will be on September 2nd, from 3:00- 4:30 p.m. (this will be a Zoom meeting). Registration will be open until the end of August, so make sure to register soon!

[REGISTER FOR PLC](#)



Free Webinars are available all year!

Have you signed up for your **FREE** Santa Cruz Membership yet?

During the 2021-2022 school year, students and educators have the unique opportunity to participate in a series of free tech webinar events that promote technology readiness, career development, and insight into current trends in the technology industry. These

events are led by professionals within many different career sectors and will provide outstanding information concerning the career needs and opportunities within Santa Cruz County.

Search Future Events - [2021-2022 Santa Cruz Works Events](#)

[HOW TO REGISTER](#)



Region 5 Computer Science Team

In an effort to build collaboration across local regions, the Santa Cruz County Office is excited to announce the development of the new Computer Science Region 5 team. This team, which includes the Monterey County

Office of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education will be working on developing a three year plan with the effort of providing educators, students and community members more access to computer science education, resources and events. We are very excited about this new partnership and will be providing details throughout the year.

For more information about the K-12 Computer Science Initiative, please visit our website at:

<https://cs.santacruzcoe.org/>

