



# NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1015 SEVENTH ST. • NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94945 • TEL: (415) 897-4259 • FAX: (415) 897-4221

Leslie Benjamin  
Public Information Officer

Shalee Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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CONTACT: Justin Mori, Principal  
San Jose Middle School  
415-883-7831  
jmori@nUSD.org

## **San Jose Middle School Brings Higher Education to its Students**

(Novato, CA)... If you can't bring the students to the college, bring the college to the students! That's what San Jose Middle School is doing next week as part of their No Excuses College Prep program. Next Wednesday, March 19, San Jose Middle School will host its first ever "College Day", a full day of fun activities for students to enjoy and participate in that will raise their excitement and awareness of the college experience.

In prior years, San Jose staff has taken all sixth through eighth grade students on a field trip to a college campus, thanks to the generosity of the school PTA. However, due to increased enrollment at the school this year and budget reductions at the colleges reducing their ability to provide tours to middle schools, San Jose staff decided to bring the colleges to their campus with a career twist.

"Our focus is college and career readiness and we want to give our students the tools and resources they need as they move into high school and beyond. Exploring their talents and interests and learning about opportunities beyond high school is one more way we can support students," commented Justin Mori, Principal at San Jose Middle School.

Three SJMS teachers, Amy Brasil, Gina Thompson, and Kim Velasquez, spearheaded the effort to make College Day a reality. They planned a full day for the students that includes a Career Fair and virtual college tours. Lesson plans are prepared that include options to pay for college and an online test where students can determine which jobs suit their talents and interests. Parent volunteers will be helping with the Career Fair along with a number of local professionals to represent their fields of interest. For more information [www.sanjosecollegeday.weebly.com](http://www.sanjosecollegeday.weebly.com).

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