

November 2016

Message from the Superintendent of Schools,

The autumn season in Amador County is beautiful with its rolling hillsides, crisp and clean air, and vivid colors. During my first 5 weeks in the county, I commuted daily from Sacramento County and very much enjoyed the scenery along the way. Now, I am happy to share we have made a home in Jackson with a much shorter commute time but still with a lovely view!

Our students are just as bright as the vivid colors of the fall season. As I have visited all of our schools and many of our classrooms, I have noticed students who are enthusiastic, inquisitive, ready-to-learn, and joyful about their school experiences. I am eager to continue learning about our schools and working alongside our teachers, principals and staff to further develop our schools and classrooms into even stronger learning environments that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to a community group about work that is happening in our schools. We talked about a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as one way to fully implement the CCSS. I also shared a message about ***integrity, inspiration, and inquiry***. As we fully engage with our students in a way that is honest, respectful, and true to oneself, we will model for them a life that is based on integrity. As we respond with enthusiasm and a can-do spirit, we will inspire, motivate, and empower others to do the same. As we ask thoughtful, open-ended questions of students and colleagues to elicit their thinking and coach them to higher levels of success, we will model the power of inquiry, creativity, and collaboration. I challenge you to join me on the exciting and productive journey of demonstrating ***integrity, inspiration, and inquiry!***

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy and peaceful Thanksgiving holiday. During this holiday season, take time to read a special book or poem with a loved one ... take a long walk and breathe deeply the crisp beautiful fall air ... and take time to express gratitude to someone who may need to hear a kind word. I am thankful for each of you and the dedication and joy you bring to your work and families. Be safe and have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Amador County Unified School District