

**United Way
of Santa Barbara County**

320 East Gutierrez Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
tel 805-965-8591
fax 805-962-3461
www.unitedwaysb.org



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Laura Finlay
Phone: 805-965-8591
Email: lfinlayci@unitedwaysb.org

Hope School District Virtual Summer School

United For Literacy: United Way of Santa Barbara County partnership initiative to significantly improve education results.

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United Way of Santa Barbara County and Hope School District are partnering this summer in a Virtual Reading Summer School – possibly the only summer school being offered this summer in Santa Barbara County.

Hope School District is comprised of Monte Vista, Vieja Valley and Hope Elementary schools. Students and their parents have enrolled to enrich and improve their reading skills during the 10 week session which began on June 13th and concludes on August 19th. Incentive awards will be presented at individual school assemblies in September to the student and parent/student teams that participate for a minimum of 30 sessions during the 10 week program. With short notice more than 200 “students” to date have enrolled, which includes 60 parent students.

The Hope School District recently completed a Reading Plus pilot this past Spring with United Way and achieved some astounding results. All three of the multi-grade pilots showed an increase of +2 grade levels over the 14 week pilot. The sixth graders at Monte Vista also conducted their own pilot class and their results were an amazing +3 grade level increase.

Two years ago as part of the Power of Partnership Initiative (POPI), thousands of Santa Barbara community members identified their hopes and desired goals for the future. One key area of agreement was Education Improvement. United Way of Santa Barbara County has set as part of its Ten Year Community Goals to increase the on-time graduation rate in the county by 50% and also to increase the number of students who read at or above grade level by 50% in every grade. As a result, United For Literacy was developed, which is comprised of “bornlearning”, “Dolly Parton Imagination Library” and “Reading Plus” which covers reading development components from birth through adulthood. For more information, please contact Laura Finlay at (805) 965-8591 or lfinlayci@unitedwaysb.org or visit our website at www.unitedforliteracysb.org.

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