

## San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
016-019: **one**.Cruikshank Library Opening

Dec. 17, 2015  
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### **The Book Nook Opens for Students in Juvenile Hall**

*New library will improve literacy of students at **one**.John F. Cruikshank Jr. School*

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) and San Joaquin County Probation celebrated the opening of a new library for students of **one**.John F Cruikshank Jr. School on Dec. 17.

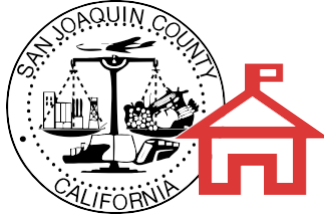
The new library is part of a push to increase literacy at the school and is one more tool to help students become better readers. The SJCOE operates the school located inside Juvenile Hall. Juvenile Hall is operated by Probation.

“This new library is the result of a strong partnership between the San Joaquin County Office of Education and San Joaquin County Probation, two organizations dedicated to building a stronger San Joaquin County by preparing our youth in the juvenile justice system for a brighter future,” County Superintendent of Schools James A. Mousalimas said.

Mousalimas was joined by Chief Probation Officer Stephanie L. James and other community members who came together for a ribbon cutting and tour of the new library. Brandon De Shaun Cotton, a **one**.John F. Cruikshank Jr. graduate gave the new library its name: The Book Nook.

On average, students entering the school read at a fifth-grade level, even though most of the students are high school age. Strengthening literacy increases a student’s ability to be successful in their education and become better prepared to work when leaving school, said Brandy Thurman, **one**.John F. Cruikshank Jr. administrator. “Literacy is the key that unlocks the door to everything else.” The school has also started a new program that invites authors to come to the school to speak to the students.

The **one**.John F. Cruikshank Jr. School is an SJCOE Court School and part of the SJCOE **one**.Program. Students at the school are adjudicated youth located at the San Joaquin County Juvenile Justice Center. The curriculum is designed to help students develop an appreciation of themselves and others in an environment that is balanced between state standards and individual



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needs. The focus is on problem solving, critical thinking and successful transition skills.

The school is named after the late Judge John F. Cruikshank Jr., San Joaquin County's first African-American judge. A juvenile court judge, Cruikshank believed that every young person has the potential to succeed.

### ***About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:***

*San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJC OE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org).*