

December 25, 2016

Dear Families:

The mid-point of any year is a convenient time to reflect upon the past, and look to the future.

The 2016-17 School Year has yielded multiple indicators of progress regarding our alignment with the SUSD 2020 Plan of Excellence. First, you may have seen the recently published article in the Arizona Daily Star, about our partnership with the University of Arizona, in the development of Sahuarita Teaching Fellows (http://tucson.com/news/local/education/sahuarita-ua-fellowships-focus-on-grooming-locals-for-teaching-jobs/article_620bba9a-2f16-5d6f-a95c-5fb834e5c609.html). Through our collective efforts we are creatively building our professional pipeline of staff who will deliver excellence in our mission to our students (**Direction 3 – Highly Qualified Faculty and Staff**).

This past October, we recognized 151 students for achieving qualifying scores on the College Board Advanced Placement Program, as part of our ongoing National Math and Science Initiative. This was a 21 percent increase in qualifying scores just from the previous year (**Direction 2 – College and Career Readiness**).

In the area of student health and wellness, we are continuing to develop and implement an innovative and comprehensive concussion management protocol, called CoRTE_x. Thus far, over 150 students have received individualized intervention and support in regards to reported head injuries (**Direction 1 – Safe and Supportive Environments**).

There are many other encouraging indicators as well. We have continued to expand the number of Advanced Placement course offerings, now numbering at 15. Additionally, there is an expansion of other individualized opportunities including the development of

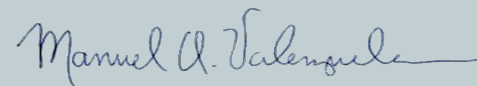
a hybrid, blended program, and the current expansion initiative for alternative education programs and gifted education programs.

All SUSD elementary teachers are being trained in the Sahuarita Foundations of Reading Instruction, further advancing quality and fidelity of instruction. Furthermore, our Staff Development Program, as a whole, has expanded to offering over 36 quality professional training experiences (**Direction 3 – Highly Qualified Faculty and Staff**).

We have received a new 21st Century Grant to provide extended day learning and enrichment opportunities, specifically at Sahuarita Middle School. This is our third 21st Century Learning Center in SUSD (**Direction 5 & 6 – Accountability/Personalized Experience for every student**).

Finally, I would be remiss in overlooking the tremendous accomplishments in the passage of Propositions 451 & 452. These ballot measures are providing local investment, in the relentless pursuit of excellence in education for every student. Steps are already beginning in regards to the many elements associated with constructing a new school and replacing the identified modular buildings. Furthermore, the Capital Outlay Override is offsetting large state budget cuts in capital and allowing us to provide the instruction materials and operational resources needed to deliver our vision of excellence and mission of student success. I extend my sincere gratitude to our entire community for your shared sacrifice and investment. Together we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,



Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent