



July 14, 2014

Dear Families:

The dawning of a new school year is always a time of excitement and anticipation. As we approach the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, there are many indicators that this year promises to be one which we approach with extraordinary optimism.

- **SUSD 2020** – After a year-long inclusive process of identifying key attributes that define our focus and commitment to excellence, the Governing Board has adopted the SUSD 2020 Plan of Excellence. This provides intentional and directional points of reference and guidance as we take active steps to actualize our Vision of Excellence and Mission: “Working as a team to help every student succeed.”
- **National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI)** – We are launching the first of its kind, comprehensive initiative both at Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools. The objective is to systematically increase access, program growth, and student success in regards to college level Advanced Placement (AP) Programs.
- **Industrial Technologies Program Development** – In partnership with Pima County JTED and the numerous business partners in the area, we are initiating a new Career and Technological Education (CTE) Program in the area of Industrial Technology. This program is designed to promote economic development and workforce investment by providing students with high level training in the technical and highly demanding fields of the current and future business sector.
- **Sahuarita Wins** – Our business and education community partnership continues to grow and provide multiple and ongoing opportunities for finding common ground, and investing in our shared expertise and resources for the development of a shared vision that advances the best interests of all sectors of our community.
- **Legendary Service** – We are striving to continuously deliver the highest level of service to our community. For example, this year there will be a new function at all offices which will allow for the payment of fees through electronic debit cards. This will give families an efficient and timely option for the payment of various fees.
- **Beyond Textbooks** – This will provide a consistent and systematic instructional plan which will define a skeleton of scope and sequence for the instruction of the articulated Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards. This partnership with the respected Vail Unified School District will further support our systematic efforts to implement a

total quality curriculum in support of high academic achievement and individualized instruction.

- **Staff Development** – Our mission is to identify the most highly qualified professional educators for every classroom and to support their continued development. The Staff Development program continues to advance, as we further invest in quality continuing education programs for our professional staff.
- **Excellence in Communications** – The SUSD 2020 Plan contains specific commitments to deliver regular, multimodal, and significant information about relevant topics to our families. Mrs. Amber Woods, Communications and Community Outreach Director, will be working with a comprehensive communication plan in support of this goal and will contribute an enhanced level of service to our community.
- **Extended Summer and After School Programs** – The partnership with Pima Community College, Rancho Sahuarita Company, the Town of Sahuarita, and the YMCA are continuing to provide a variety of learning options and opportunities right here in our Sahuarita community for our families.
- **Continued Facility Enhancement** – Through the support of your bond dollars, we are completing various building enhancements including needed upgrades to the Transportation Services Complex, and a training room/locker area for Sahuarita Park. Additionally, the Culinary Arts Program is also being remodeled, to further update its capacity and equipment to meet the needs of our Culinary Arts students in the 21st Century.

As you can see, there is much to be excited about. I look forward to working as a team, with staff, parents, and community to further advance our mission of promoting the maximum level of growth and success for every student. Together we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent