



Dear Families,

Although, the warm rays of the sun are still shining brightly in our community, the fall season is here and the first quarter of the year is behind us. By many accounts, it has been a successful first quarter of the year, and I am proud to report multiple indicators of success at this point in the school year.

- Initiation of the 21st Century Community Center Learning Grant. This program provides academic and enrichment programs for students at Sopori Elementary School and Sahuarita High School.
- Sahuarita Intermediate School teacher, Angela Guerra, was selected as a Top Ten (10) Finalist for Arizona Teacher of the Year.
- The implementation of the National Math and Science Initiative NMSI. This program has significantly increased the number of college level Advanced Placement (AP) courses at both high schools, and the number of students who are enrolled in them.
- Initiation of a collaborative partnership with the University of Arizona and the NASA sponsored OSIRIS REx Space Mission. We are working with the principal investigator, Dr. Dante Lauretta, in the development and implementation of an educational STEM program associated with this mission.
- Implementation of a new Standards-Based Report Card for the elementary grades.
- Full initiation of the Beyond Textbooks Instructional Planning Program. This provides a quality focused, consistent instructional map, which supports fidelity and personalization of instruction.
- Initiation and continued development of the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Industrial Technologies Program. In partnership with Pima JTED and many area businesses, this program is providing high level, rigorous education in high demand, high skill fields, including electric power transmission, heavy diesel mechanics, heavy equipment operation, construction technologies and precision manufacturing.
- Continued development of the Sahuarita WINS! business education partnership. This effort continues to grow and yield significant proactive impact, as we work to identify common goals and share our abilities and resources to advance a regional vision and the greater good of our community.
- Expansion of the staff development program. The greatest effects upon student learning that are within the school's control are the abilities of the teacher. In that effort, we have expanded the number and quality of meaningful, rigorous, and congruent professional development offerings for our staff, at all levels of their professional careers. Additionally, we have added new program offerings to support the professional growth of our dedicated support staff team members, as well.

In summary, the school year is off to a fast and successful start. The SUSD 2020 Directional Plan is providing us with meaningful targets and action plans that support intentional excellence and continued improvement. We are committed to providing premier educational services for the families in our community and we will continue working tirelessly to advance that vision. Together we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Manuel O. Valenzuela". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent