



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 18, 2020

Dear Sahuarita Family:

During the American Revolution, the philosopher and author Thomas Paine wrote, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” Indeed, those words have some relevance to our experiences in the current time. We face a situation and an enemy that is changing every day, and we cannot even see it, but we must pursue the coronavirus crisis with resolve, sacrifice, and support for one another.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a basic update, and additional clarity, in regards to the Sahuarita Unified School District’s action plan pertaining to the current operating environment. The objective of this plan is to support the health and safety of our students, staff, and families, and to support the broader effort in battling the current public health crisis while advancing our educational mission to the greatest extent possible.

Please keep in mind that information is subject to change over time, and further updates will be provided.

- During the State closure, all schools, facilities, programs, and offices will remain closed. This includes extracurricular programs, preschool, and afterschool programs.
- Modified educational programming will continue through available online resources and communication by individual classroom teachers. These services are expected to commence on Monday, March 23, and students will receive communication from their respective teacher(s).
- Our District foodservice partners, SFE, will offer a daily breakfast and lunch program, starting Monday, March 23, 2020. The format will be a “grab and go” offering at Wrightson Ridge K-8 and Sopori Elementary School. The program is open to all children, ages 1-18 years old.
- Our employee team members will be officially working from home, with the exception of identified employees that need to physically come in for specific essential functions. All employees will be eligible and authorized to continue

Office of the Superintendent

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receiving their regular basic compensation. Of course, they will be operating in a different environment, but still supporting their part of our basic mission, although in a remote context.

- During the closure, the school buildings and facilities will be deep cleaned and sanitized.
- Our general services, programs, and operations will take place remotely, to the greatest extent possible. An example of this is the pending parent-teacher conferences. As always, school operations are overseen by the respective school principal.

In summary, we will adapt to the current situation and move with resolve to overcome the current challenges as best we can. The focus will be safety, educational outreach, service, and support of our students, families, and employee team members. Furthermore, we will continue regular communication as developments emerge over time. In the words of Michael Jordan, “If you run into a wall, don’t turn and give up. Figure out how to climb it!” Together, we will climb the current wall and continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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