



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 23, 2020

Dear Sahuarita Family:

It is hard to believe that the 2019-20 school year has officially come to a close. Forever, in the history books, it will be remembered as the year of the COVID 19 pandemic, and that the curtain closed on the school year as the last act was about to begin. In my mind, it will also be remembered as the year where people rose to a new level of excellence, creative solutions emerged, extra compassion and support were shown for one another, and we came together to make sure we successfully completed the school year in support of our students.

In this last update letter of the academic year, I would like to share a few notes:

- We are planning to begin the physical opening up of our offices on June 8, 2020. The top priority is to do it slowly, methodically, and with the utmost focus upon the safety and health of our dedicated employee team members and community. The first phase protocol, through June 30, 2020, will include flexible in-person staffing, with a telecommuting component during June, and modified hours to the public, 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Monday – Thursday. Office visits will be coordinated by appointment, to further organize for safety. The procedures will also include daily temperature checks for employees, wearing face coverings in common internal spaces, and the opportunity to get a COVID 19 PCR test for all employees who are working this summer.
- Summer programs, like summer LINK, ECC, and athletics, will remain closed for now but continue to be regularly evaluated for possible restart, every two weeks, as conditions change. The next review interval will be by mid-June. Of course, we will continue to provide timely updates.
- The regularly scheduled meeting of the SUSD Governing Board on May 27, 2020 is canceled. The next meeting is scheduled on June 10, 2020. It is hoped that this meeting can be held in person, even if with limited capacity and extra safety and distancing practices in place.
- Throughout the summer, we will regularly be sharing details about the health and hygiene, academic, and operational adjustments being made to support maximum readiness for the start of the new school year. There will be extensive adjustments to cleaning protocol, including frequency, depth, fidelity, and breadth of practice. And, we are striving for significant growth of our online learning program capacity.
- The student report cards for the last semester are being mailed out after the Memorial Day holiday.
- I'd like to share a quick registration update. Thank you so much for taking the time to update your registration for the 2020-21 school year. This is so important for planning, communication, and quality service, which we are committed to delivering to all of you. I'm

Office of the Superintendent

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proud to share that, to date, seventy-three percent (73%) of our families have already completed the returning student registration for 2020-21. Similarly, thanks to families of our new kindergartners, the high school class of 2033, for registering your children. We have one hundred sixty-eight (168) kindergarten registrations to date. If you've not yet registered, please take a moment to do so today!

- Our 100% online high school summer program is ready to launch, and I'm pleased to share that we currently have 190 students registered to take summer classes! It is a great way to keep learning, and get ahead for next year's course schedule.
- I am proud to congratulate each and every graduating senior from the Class of 2020. You've certainly left a legacy upon your respective schools with incredible achievements in academics, fine arts, leadership, service, and athletics. You've once again set new standards of attainment in gaining admission to some of America's most selective universities, and earned over \$10,000,000 in scholarships! You have also finished your high school career unlike any class in our Nation's history, and you've adjusted to this reality with patience, resolve, and perseverance. It is my hope that these last difficulties will serve to make you stronger and prepare you to pursue your personal directions in life. I know that you will make a difference.
- I am pleased to share yet another amazing success story from among our proud Sahuarita alumni. Recently, Robert Medina (SHS '16) graduated from one of America's finest universities, Johns Hopkins University, with a Bachelor's degree in Cognitive Sciences. Congratulations, Robert!

Although the school year has officially ended, I assure you that the work this summer will be especially intentional and focused on doing whatever is necessary to be ready for the opening of school in August. Furthermore, we will be communicating regularly about major developments, as that information emerges over time. Please know that the trust you place in us when you send your children to the schoolhouse gate is one which we take with great responsibility, and that we remain tirelessly committed to honoring that trust in all that we do. Mahatma Gandhi said, "When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength." We will emerge stronger together! Be well.

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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