



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 20, 2020

Dear Sahuarita Family:

I hope that all of you are healthy and well and that the summer days are affording you a little extra time with your families.

In this letter, I would like to provide you with an update on previously communicated events and information. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a major public health concern, and it is still an uncertain, serious, and rapidly changing situation.

There continue to be significant limitations upon public gatherings, size of groups, and needs for social distancing. Additionally, the current infection rates are significant and increasing. After a review of current data and directions, careful consultation with members of our leadership team, and counsel from senior local public health officials, we have made the following cancellation decisions:

- The eighth (8th) grade promotion ceremonies, tentatively scheduled for July 16, 2020, have been canceled. The principal from each respective middle-level serving school will communicate with families in regards to distribution plans for 8th grade promotion certificates.
- The high school proms, tentatively rescheduled for July 2020, have been canceled.
- The high school graduation celebrations, scheduled for August 1, 2020, have been canceled. Our high school principal leadership team will be in touch with the graduates to gather their thoughts regarding possible next steps.

We scheduled these events with sincere desire to adapt to the pandemic, and still provide our students and families with these traditional experiences. I am disappointed that these events will not take place as scheduled. However, I am confident that, in consideration of our health and safety priorities, it is the sound and prudent decision.

This summer is a total team effort, with the primary goal of preparing to safely open schools in August. If you've not already completed the parent survey, please do so. The link is <https://susd30.us/family-survey-the-road-back-2020/>. It is open until June 24, 2020, and provides parents with an opportunity to give important input about cleaning practices, distancing norms, operations, learning plans, and schedules.

Currently, our senior leadership team is meeting with representatives of different stakeholder groups, including teachers, support staff, principals, directors, and parents. By the early part of

Office of the Superintendent

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July, we will share a clear plan regarding programs and operating norms. This is a comprehensive and thoughtful process, and I believe that, together, we will create a sound action plan with the best possible fit to support our safety and educational goals. I can tell all of you that we hear the multiple different and sincere opinions about how school should open. In that commitment to service, we are already moving to be as flexible as possible and to offer families a choice between an in-person school environment and an online/virtual model.

I wish you the very best as these summer days move by, and we prepare to launch the new school year. Please know that we remain relentlessly committed to doing whatever it takes to meet the ideals of our vision of excellence and mission of working as a team to help every student succeed.

Respectfully,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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