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Mrs. Stephanie Silman, Principal  
Mr. Robert Beachy, Assistant Principal**



June 30, 2022

Dear SMS Students and Families,

Summer vacation is ending in about a month, and it will soon be time for the opening of school. Mr. Beachy and I are looking forward to an exciting and productive year of teaching and learning for our SMS students and can't wait to see everyone on campus on Monday, August 8, for the first day of school. Included in this letter is information we hope you find useful and will keep for future reference.

### **Student Class Schedules and Schedule Change Requests**

Student class schedules will be available online via the District's PowerSchool student and parent portal in late July, prior to the first day of school. We encourage parents to create a free PowerSchool parent portal account if they do not already have one, which is the District's system for checking student grades. Account set up information is on our District website at: <https://susd30.us/parents/powerschool/>. Please contact Mrs. Kathlene Davis, SMS administrative assistant, at [kathlene.davis@sahuarita.net](mailto:kathlene.davis@sahuarita.net) or 520-625-3502, ext. 1446, if you need assistance with the parent portal setup or login information.

If you believe that your child is misplaced in a particular class or if you wish to change a class for a particular reason, please complete the online schedule change request form on the SMS Counseling website at: <https://susd30.us/schools/sahuarita-middle-school/student-life/counseling/>. This online form will be open in late July once the PowerSchool portal is open, and requests will go directly to the SMS Counselor, Mrs. Nikki DeSouza. Please only submit your online request once to this link.

Schedule changes will be granted in situations related to a student being misplaced in an inappropriate grade level or course. Requests for schedule changes for any other reason, whether initiated by the student, parent/guardian, or teacher, will require the approval of the counselor and/or an administrator.

### **The First Day of School and SMS Bell Schedules**

The **first day of school is Monday, August 8**. It will be a full day beginning with the first bell at **8:00 AM** and ending with the dismissal bell at **2:50 PM**. Wednesday, August 10, will be the first early-release Wednesday with dismissal at 1:50 PM. The only two Wednesdays that are not early release are the last Wednesdays of each semester, December 14 and May 17, due to final exams week. The school bell schedules are included as an attachment to this letter.

The regular day bell schedule consists of 60-minute classes, a 15-minute Daily Math Skills (DMS) period, and a 36-minute Reteach/Enrich (R/E) period. The 60-minute periods will allow teachers time to follow the instructional framework and pacing of Beyond Textbooks curriculum maps and calendars. Beyond Textbooks is a curricular resource that supports district-wide curricular alignment to the Arizona Standards and helps all SUSD teachers to plan, teach, and collaborate.

The 15-minute Daily Math Skills period is a part of the school day for all SUSD K-8 students. Daily Math Skills is a component of the Beyond Textbooks framework that helps all students to develop their math fact fluency and track their growth and proficiency over time. Each student will be challenged at his or her mathematical fluency level to ensure that they are increasing their mathematical proficiency as they progress from elementary through middle school.

Reteach/Enrich is a dedicated 36-minute period in the school day for students to receive a quarterly enrichment class where they will engage in enrichment lessons and activities aligned to the Arizona Standards in Science, Social Studies, and the Electives. Based on student performance on brief, weekly formative assessments in their Math class, students can be scheduled for a week-long Reteach by their Math teacher during this period. Students will receive personalized, targeted intervention in concepts taught on a weekly basis in their Math class for that week only. You can find out more about the Beyond Textbooks program, Daily Math Skills, Reteach and Enrich, and other parent and resources at the Beyond Textbooks Parent Portal at: [https://www.beyondtextbooks.org/Parent\\_Portal](https://www.beyondtextbooks.org/Parent_Portal)

### **Teacher Syllabus, Supply List, and Homework Log**

Teachers will distribute their syllabus and supply list to students at Open House and send home copies with the students for parents to review on the first day of school. Regular school supplies (paper, pencils, etc.) should be all that students need for the first week of school, and ample time will be provided for students to get their class-specific supplies. If you need assistance with supplies, please contact the SMS Front Office at 520-625-3502, ext. 1400.

You will see your child carrying a two-pocket homework folder this year, which will be provided by the school and contain a weekly homework log. We appreciate your help in checking your child's homework log nightly and ensuring that he/she completes his/her homework and puts it in the folder to turn in the next day to his/her teachers. You do not need to sign it. We hope this process increases home/school communication, student organization, and homework completion.

### **Open House**

We invite all students and parents to attend our "Meet and Greet-style" Open House on Thursday, August 4.

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will pick up their class schedule in the **auditorium lobby from 4:30-5:00 PM** and then attend a brief welcome introductory presentation by the administrators and counselor in the auditorium from 5:00-5:30 PM. From 5:30-6:30 PM, 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to visit their classrooms to meet the teachers and pick up a copy of their syllabi and supply lists. There is no set bell schedule or classroom rotation schedule, as this is a "Meet and Greet-style" Open House.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will pick up their class schedule in **the gym from 5:00-5:30 PM**. From 5:30-6:30 PM, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to visit their classrooms to meet the teachers and pick up a copy of their syllabi and supply lists. There is no set bell schedule or classroom rotation schedule, as this is a "Meet and Greet-style" Open House.

SMS teachers will be available in their classrooms to introduce themselves to you and your child and pass out their syllabus and supply list. They will also have some interesting information about themselves as individuals projected at the front of their classroom. If you need to meet with a teacher

one-on-one about your child, please schedule a phone call or conference (virtual or in-person) for a future date.

A map of the campus is included as an attachment to this letter, and copies will be passed out at the front gate at Open House. The administrators, counselor, and other staff members will be available throughout the campus to help direct families to classrooms as needed.

### **Free and Reduced-Price Breakfast and Lunch Application**

The National School Lunch Program provided free meals for both breakfast and lunch for all students for the last two years. That program has ended, and families **will** need to submit applications for free or reduced-price meals this year during the month of August. Applications will be available online on the district website when they become available.

Middle school and high school students will be required to present their school ID card when getting a school breakfast or lunch. For new students, there will be a grace period of two weeks after school starts to get their school ID. Returning students can use their old school ID from last year during this grace period. The SMS Front Office will distribute new, current year school ID cards in the first two weeks of school.

Families interested in P-EBT, please contact Ms. Sandra Ortega in the District Business Office at [sandra.ortega@sahuarita.net](mailto:sandra.ortega@sahuarita.net) or at 520-625-3502, ext. 1167.

### **Student Dress Code Guidelines**

A copy of the student dress code guidelines is attached to this letter for your reference. Please keep the dress code in mind as you shop for school clothes. The dress code is required for all K-8 students in the District, and we encourage you to contact the SMS Front Office if you need assistance with school clothes. Any SUSD school spirit shirt is allowed to be worn on any day of the week in lieu of a collared dress code shirt, and SMS is proud to offer five new spirit shirts with unique designs this year. They are available in the front office for \$10 each and will be posted on the SMS Facebook page. K-8 students are not required to wear their school ID on a lanyard. They simply need to carry it with them. Also, since there are no lockers at SMS, it is recommended that your child bring a backpack daily.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

SMS allows students who choose to bring their personal cell phone or electronic device to campus to use them during breakfast (7:30-8:00 AM) before the school day and during the student lunch period. Cell phones and electronic devices will not be permitted during class time or during the four-minute passing periods during the school day, and we ask that, during these times, cell phones are kept on silent or turned off in order to minimize disruption to class time. SMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal cell phones or electronic devices that are brought to campus. Students are expected to exercise responsible use of cell phones and electronic devices at breakfast and lunch, including, but not limited to, viewing school-appropriate videos and websites, not engaging in cyberbullying, and not taking pictures or videos of other students or staff without their consent. Cell phones and electronic devices are a ubiquitous part of our society, and students benefit from opportunities to practice the responsible use of these devices.

## **Physical Education (PE)**

If your student has PE, a PE locker will be assigned, including a lock. If the lock is lost or damaged, a \$5.00 fee will be charged. Students must wear tennis/gym shoes, navy blue or black shorts with no designs (must be longer than the fingertips held to the side of the leg), and a plain gray or white shirt with short sleeves and no writing. To make it more convenient for parents, a PE uniform will be available for purchase in the SMS Front Office throughout the school year. Navy blue shorts and a gray shirt with the SMS logo cost \$20.00. Additionally, an optional SMS logo navy blue carry bag cost \$5.00. Parents may also buy clothing that follows the PE uniform standards at a store of their choice. More than one set of PE clothing is recommended so that students can have a clean set at school if one set is at home to be washed. If you need assistance with the PE uniform, please call the Front Office at 520-625-3502, ext. 1400.

## **Athletics, Sports Physicals, and Clubs**

Information about clubs, sports, and other campus events is shared via our daily school video announcements shown to students at the start of the school day and on our school website.

If your child is thinking of trying out for a sport this school year and has not had a physical dated March 1, 2022, or more recently, please consider getting him/her a sports physical prior to the start of the school year. The forms are on the SMS website at the bottom of the Athletics page under Sports Physicals at: <https://susd30.us/schools/sahuarita-middle-school/student-life/athletics/>. Tryouts for Quarter 1 sports (football, cheerleading, volleyball, and cross-country) will be held during the second week of school, August 15-19, from 3:00-4:40 PM. **Students must have a current sports physical and emergency form on file in the health office in order to try out.** Students may ride the activity bus home or be picked up at 4:40 PM.

## **Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up and Bus Transportation**

Supervision on campus for students riding the bus or being dropped off by parents begins at 7:30 AM. Please be prepared for bus transportation and parent drop-off and pick-up to take longer during the first week or two of school. Students are learning their bus route assignments, and we have many new students who are picked up and dropped off for the first few days. Your patience and understanding are appreciated. Please help us to keep the parent drop off/pick-up loop moving quickly by pulling around to the most forward section of the curb, rather than stopping in front of the school arches. More students can safely unload/load into their cars when the full curb space is being utilized. Bus route information and the current Bus Compact for Success will be available online in late July at <http://www.susd30.us/district/transportation/>. We ask that your child know his/her full street address and bus route number so that we can ensure that he/she gets on the correct bus and so that the buses can load efficiently.

## **Online Registration Update Information**

Instead of requiring parents of returning students to come to the school for summer processing to complete annual forms and update student information, the district has implemented a paperless PowerSchool registration process. Information was sent home last spring regarding the online portal web address and instructions on how to update registration information. If you need assistance, please contact Ms. Isabel Correll, SMS attendance clerk/registrar, at [icorrell@sahuarita.net](mailto:icorrell@sahuarita.net) or at 520-625-3502, ext. 1407.

I look forward to serving you and your child this school year. As your principal, I encourage you to contact me anytime if you have questions, suggestions, concerns, or wish to set up a time to speak. My email and phone contact information are listed below my signature in this letter. I will send out regular communication via parent/guardian emails as well as updates on our SMS website at <https://susd30.us/schools/sahuarita-middle-school/> and our SMS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Sahuarita-Middle-School-192011690813439/>.

As Sahuarita Middle School Jaguars, we GROWL and model the *Six Pillars of Character*:

**Get there**  
**Respect**  
**Own up**  
**Watch out**  
**Learn**

*Trustworthiness*  
*Respect*  
*Responsibility*  
*Fairness*  
*Caring*  
*Citizenship*

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Silman*

*Robert Beachy*

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