

May 8, 2020

Dear SMUSD Community,

Happy early Mother's Day to all SMUSD Mamas!

Thank you for participating in our Distance Learning Check-in survey. We are in the process of analyzing the results--your input, ideas, and suggestions are valued. We plan to continue to communicate regularly and to seek your input that will help shape our planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Governor Newsom and local public health officials are beginning to ease restrictions for 'low risk workplaces'; these restrictions unfortunately do not include schools. As a result, our physical schools will remain closed indefinitely and Distance Learning will continue to be our means of instruction.

The following are key updates since my last communication:

Our Elementary report card work group finalized the format for the second semester summary report. The summary will be a combination of our student's academic proficiency level in Reading, Writing, and Math as of March 13th and his/her participation and engagement in ELA and Math class instruction and assignments after April 13th. In addition, teachers will prepare brief comments specific to each individual student. This streamlined approach will offer students, parents, and teachers meaningful feedback that will help to inform next year's academic needs.

Beginning next week, many of our high school students will begin their at-home Advanced Placement (AP) testing season between May 11 through May 22. Our AP students will participate in a fully online, modified version of the traditional subject area AP tests during designated testing times throughout the two weeks. If you are a parent of an AP student, please take a moment to review the [exam schedule](#) and the exam day information [here](#). Let us all make sure to send our students positive and uplifting energy. They got this!

This week, we were heartbroken to confirm that we will be unable to hold an in-person traditional graduation. In its place, we will be celebrating our Class of 2020 graduates in two different ways: a pre-recorded Video Commencement Ceremony on June 10th and a drive through graduation the week leading up to the official graduation day. The drive through graduation allows graduates to wear their cap and gowns, walk up and across a small stage, receive their diploma and take official pictures. Family members will be able to accompany graduates, albeit inside the car, during this important milestone. This approach affords us with the opportunity to 'replicate' some of the most cherished moments that graduation bestows while still adhering to state and county physical distancing requirements.

Our middle schools will celebrate eighth grade students promoting to high school with a virtual ceremony that will be arranged by each school. Our elementary schools will celebrate our fifth graders promoting to middle school through a virtual recognition determined by the individual teacher or grade level team and administrator. Each school will send details to their respective families.



Lastly, these past few days we have been celebrating Team SMUSD. We celebrated our Child Nutrition Services on [Lunch Hero](#) Day, [Principals](#) and [Nurses](#) on their national day of recognition, Teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, and announced our [site](#) and [district](#) Employees of the Year! Join us in congratulating and recognizing our team's collective hard work in the pursuit of supporting our students.

Although an official [Distance Learning Parent/Guardian](#) recognition day does not exist, know that we value your partnership and ongoing support! Thank you!

Until next week!

My best,
Dr. Garcia