



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 31, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. The purpose of this letter is to introduce new staff at our school and to inform you about the curriculum and learning platform we will be using for the 2020-2021 school year. I will also address questions some of you have had around creating social bubbles and learning pods.

Welcome New George Hall Staff

Laura Thorpe, District Program Specialist
Kristen Crawford, our 2nd/3rd grade SDC Teacher
Alysha Gillman, also one of our 1st grade Teachers
Audrey Manalang, Speech and Language Pathologist

Devon Zaky, our new site Inclusion Specialist
Pam Yee, one of our 1st grade Teachers
William Belton, our PE Teacher
Suen Yan Leung, joins our Counseling Team

Learning Management System (LMS)

A learning management system (LMS) is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs. Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten will be using the Seesaw Learning Management System. First-Fifth grades will continue to use Google Classroom as their Learning Management System. The LMS for all students will be used to facilitate all assignments, links to meets and resources for students and families.

SMFCSD Curriculum

All grades will continue to use [Benchmark Universe](#) for Language Arts. Newly adopted, [Zearn Math](#) is a K-5th paper and software based curriculum that our teachers will be using. TK will use district created lessons for their math curriculum. [TWIG Science](#) is our new and exciting science curriculum that is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, (NGSS). Many teachers have been working over the summer to learn about our new curriculum. Additional professional development will be provided for teachers starting August 3rd.

Social Bubbles/Learning Pods

Some families have asked if we can create class lists that follow social bubbles or learning pods for the upcoming school year. At this time, we are currently focusing on starting our school year with a strong Distance Learning program. Once we have information about when we will start in person teaching, we will be better equipped to address these types of questions.

Upcoming Events

On August 12th, I will host a virtual Principal's Back To School Night/Coffee Chat. This event will be to share our distance learning model and answer questions you may have. Teachers will host their class Back To School Night on the 18th, and the PTA will host an Association meeting on the 19th, please plan to join. Please continue to follow our district/school emails, [SMFCSD web page](#) and our [GH Webpage](#) for the most up to date information.

Sincerely,
Annaben Kazemi, Principal