

August 7, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you all are enjoying the final weeks of summer. This week I would like to share information about Distance Learning, technology distribution and digital citizenship. Additionally, I will share how teachers and staff are preparing for the start of the school year. I know this can feel overwhelming. While we are still operating in a pandemic, we can work together to make this great year.

Distance Learning – What will the day look like?

Distance Learning will be asynchronous and synchronous. Students will receive live instruction in whole group, small group and/or one on one. The core four-hour morning block includes a Morning Meeting, ELA, Math, Science/Social Studies and a Community Meeting. After lunch, students may engage in enrichment classes or small group instruction. We plan to follow our traditional bell schedule as much as possible. You can expect more specific grade level schedules to be shared by your classroom teacher.

Technology Distribution (Chromebooks & Hotspots)

Last spring, to support student access to distance learning, the district provided approximately 3400 Chromebooks and 1000 hotspots to families who declared their need. While we are working to provide every 3rd-8th grader with a Chromebook, we are not able to start this year with that level of distribution. We recognize there are many families that have the need for devices. We are working diligently to find and purchase (there is a HUGE global demand for Chromebooks) additional Chromebooks and get them in the hands of students who need them. We thank you in advance for your patience. Some families have asked what technology their children should have to connect with teachers during Distance Learning. Please review [Dr. Rosas' communication from August 4th](#) for further details regarding technology recommendations.

Digital Citizenship

The first two weeks of school teachers spend much of their time teaching students routines and expectations that ensure our students are safe, respectful, responsible and engaged learners. Your child's online safety is our priority. As we launch our virtual classrooms, teachers will dedicate time to intentionally address students' digital citizenship. They will use Common Sense Media to teach, model and practice Digital Citizenship skills the first two weeks of school and revisit topics throughout the school year. Check out [Common Sense Media](#) and see the many resources and tools it has to offer educators, parents and students. It is a fantastic resource.

Preparing for the Start of the School Year

This week many teachers participated in professional development opportunities to prepare for Distance Learning. This week staff will continue to engage in learning our new curriculum and learning platforms: [Zearn](#) for mathematics and [Twig](#) for science, as well as Seesaw and Google

Classroom. Teachers are super excited to welcome students to a new school year and engage with them with these new tools.

Back to School Night with Principal

I look forward to seeing you virtually on Wednesday, August 12th for the Principal's BTSN. The links will be shared on Monday, August 10th. Please continue to follow our district/school emails, as well as [SMFCSD web page](#) and our [George Hall school website](#) for the most up to date information. Your continued flexibility and partnership is appreciated.

Be well,
Annaben Kazemi
Principal