



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Update on Fall Reopening: All SMFCSD Schools Will Begin in Distance Learning

Saturday, July 18, 2020

Dear SMFCSD Staff & Families,

At the July 16, 2020 Board meeting, Trustees directed staff to begin the year in Distance Learning due to the recent escalation of COVID 19 cases and to continue in that mode through the October intercession at which time we will reevaluate health conditions. As you may have heard, on Friday, July 17, Governor Newsom also presented [guidance for reopening schools](#) this fall.

While we are disappointed that we will not return to in-classroom learning at this time, we believe our plan, a Continuum of Learning Options, recognizes that COVID-19 conditions are unpredictable. This plan allows us to move, in a phased approach, from Full Time Distance Learning to Full Return to Campus as the virus continues its course.

Below is an update of the Thursday, July 16, Board of Trustees meeting, including our next steps. As you read this update, please know that while we will open in Full Time Distance Learning, we will also continue our preparations for a progressive, staggered reentry for a safe return to campus.

We Need Your Selection

When we return to our elementary (TK-5) school sites, the **Elementary School Paired Days Hybrid Model** is the adopted plan. Even though we are starting in Distance Learning, in order to effectively prepare for fall, we need input from you now. On Tuesday, July 21, you will receive a SchoolMessenger email request from the District. It will ask whether your child will return to school in a Paired Days Hybrid Model when possible or whether your child will remain on Distance Learning even as schools reopen. Further program details will be shared in the SchoolMessenger email and instructions provided for how to make your selection for your child in the Parent Portal in the AERIES Student Data System.

Please note that we are asking you to select a model for placement of your child that would last until the mid-January semester break when we will reassess health conditions and your readiness to have your child return to campus or not.



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We must have a 100% response rate as this information allows us to match our teachers and students, and build classrooms. To the greatest extent possible, we will match students in Full Time Distance Learning with teachers from their home school, however, this is not a guarantee. It will depend upon the ratio of both students and teachers who are unable to return to campus.

The **Middle School Hybrid Model** is predominantly a Distance Learning Model with opportunities for students to return to the campus in small selected groups. In the upcoming weeks, we will send more information to those of you with students in grades 6-8 regarding on-site opportunities at your school and your interest in engaging in this on-site programming when it is deemed safe to return. (Please note, Bayside Academy and North Shoreview Montessori middle school families are receiving this Elementary SchoolMessenger email due to the fact that your school cannot be separated between the grade K-5 and 6-8 models. Families of students in grades 6-8 are not expected to choose a model at this time. We apologize for this technical glitch in the system.)

Other Board Decisions

The following curricula were approved by the Trustees for adoption in the upcoming school year:

- Elementary School Math: Zearn Math; Zearn.org; c. 2020
- Middle School Math: Math Nation/Algebra Nation; University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning/Study Edge; c. 2020
- Middle School Science: STEMscopes; Accelerated Learning; c. 2020
- Middle School English Language Development: RIGOR; Benchmark Education

Additionally, the following Reopening Task Force Team Leaders presented plans to the Trustees.

- [Staffing](#)
- [Health & Hygiene](#)
- [Physical Distancing](#)
- [Annex Program](#)

Calendar

It is important to note that staff is proposing a change in the adopted school calendar for 2020-2021. In order to provide professional development and staff preparation for implementing the newly adopted curricula, it is requested that all professional development days (September 18, January 4 and March 12) be moved to the beginning of the school year. This would mean that professional development and staff preparation would occur on August 12, 13 and 14, 2020. Students would begin instruction on August 17, 2020 and would engage in the required 180 days of instruction throughout the 2020-2021 year which would include September 18, January 4 and March 12. The revised calendar is expected to



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be presented to the Board at their Special Meeting on July 23 and we wanted you to be aware of this proposal.

What's Next?

Even with all the work that has been completed and the decision that the District will start the year in Distance Learning, there are still many questions to answer. We will continue our work on ways to acclimate our students to their new schools (TK/K and sixth graders for example). We have further work to do with our magnet programs, special education programs, preschool options, including special education preschool programs, child care options and much more, so please watch for further informational emails over the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent