



Mohave District Annex  
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Dear Scottsdale Unified School District Parents and Guardians,

We were excited to see your students walk through our doors last week for what is going to be a wonderful school year! They looked happy to be there and pleased to meet the teachers who will guide their studies during the next nine-and-a-half months, greet old friends, meet new classmates and relieved to get over those initial, first-day jitters. I am sure we all have memories of what that was like!

You are on the other end of that now as your family's guiding force. We well recognize that it is no small task to ensure that children are well rested, eat a good breakfast, have a packed lunch or lunch money, and get off to school on time with all of their belongings and your expectations for the day. The education we provide in the classroom does not succeed nearly as well without the work you perform the other hours of the day for your children, our students. Truly, we are all in this together!

Although I am new to this position, I am not new to SUSD: I opened Mountainside Middle School and served as principal at Ingleside Middle School and Chaparral High School. The welcome I have received upon my return to the district has been heartwarming.

I return to a district that has navigated some rough waters in recent times, I know. It is why I wanted to come back, to help restore your and other stakeholders' confidence in SUSD and in each other. It is my fervent hope that with many lessons learned, we move our district forward and do so in a spirit of good faith and, eventually, trust.

We have much to celebrate already, including:

- a new leadership team that is focused on your students' academic growth and success
- a teaching staff that understands that the district, Governing Board, parents and citizens statewide value what they do
- the opening last week of two, new elementary schools that provide our students the state-of-the-art learning opportunities they deserve
- the expansion of the Self-Contained Gifted program to Kiva Elementary School's 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- year two of the Pre-K Gifted Academy at Redfield Elementary
- the continuation of the groundwork to bring the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme to Mountainside Middle School and Desert Mountain High School, and
- the dedication later this week of Arcadia High School's new football field. Go, Titans!

There is much more to come. We will succeed because we treat your students with respect, we treat staff as professional colleagues and we treat you as partners in your students' education. I look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Dr. John A. Kriekard  
Acting Superintendent