



Mohave District Annex
8500 E. Jackrabbit Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

Telephone: 480-484-6100
Website: www.susd.org

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Dear Scottsdale Unified School District Families,

It is hard to believe, but we have just completed the first half of the 2018-19 school year! And a great half it has been, with your outstanding students receiving recognition for their academic, athletic and community achievements, and SUSD teachers being recognized as leaders in their profession by state and national education organizations. I am incredibly proud of our district and of what we accomplish every day. It is an honor for SUSD to be responsible for the education and development of your children.

Before we go on break for two weeks, I want to update you on some ongoing District work:

Cherokee Elementary School – This week, roughly 50 parents, neighbors and staff attended the first community meeting on the Cherokee redevelopment project. They were able to meet and work with representatives of Orcutt Winslow, the architects selected by our Governing Board to design and oversee the project. I am confident that the Cherokee community will be pleased with the collaborative process Orcutt Winslow uses to elicit priorities for the school's new design. The next meeting is set for 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7 at Cherokee, 8801 N. 56th Street, Paradise Valley. To read more about this project and sign up for regular updates, go to susd.org/Cherokeeproject and fill out the subscription form.

Superintendent Search – After reviewing the applications of six candidates for the Superintendent's position, the Governing Board this week deferred the matter to the new Governing Board that will be seated next month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Governing Board Vice President Kim Hartmann and Board Member Pam Kirby for their respective four and eight years of service to the district. Serving on a school district governing body is, in my opinion, the ultimate in community service. I look forward to working with new Board members Patty Beckman and Jann-Michael Greenburg. The new Governing Board convenes for the first time on Jan. 10, 2019. You can view the meeting schedule, location and agendas, and watch Governing Board meetings by visiting susd.org/board.

Tax Credits – Although law has changed in recent years regarding the deadline for making tax credit contributions to educational and charitable organizations (*you now have until April 15 of each year to receive credit on either your previous or current year's income taxes*), tax credits provide invaluable support for SUSD school programs and student activities. From fine arts, robotics tournaments and field trips, to AP and CTE test fees, athletics and being able to send the Desert Mountain High School orchestra and marching band to London next week, tax credits allow us to expand your students' educational opportunities. Whenever it is that you plan to do your 2018 taxes, I would respectfully suggest that you consider making a tax credit contribution to your SUSD student or school. Find out more at taxcredit.susd.org. It's a great investment!

Happy holidays to you and yours; we look forward to seeing your students again on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019!

Dr. John A. Kriekard
Acting Superintendent