



Navajo Elementary School
7501 E. Oak Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Engage, educate and empower every student, every day
Telephone: 480-484-2600

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL PATZLAFF
August 30, 2018

It was good to see many of you last night at our new campus! As you become familiar with the 'new' Navajo, you will see the results of the phenomenal and ongoing efforts to transform Oak into the school that is our new home through fall of 2019.

Now that we are a week into our move, I am pleased to report - and I welcome you to see for yourself - that things are getting better every day: Classrooms look like classrooms, students are happy to be here and our outstanding teachers are delivering their usual creative instructional content.

Our Acting Superintendent, Dr. John Kriekard, was here last evening to talk with us about what lies ahead for Navajo. To summarize his remarks:

- The cause of the August 22 fire at Navajo has not yet been determined. There is no speculation that arson was the cause.
- District building services officials estimate it will cost at least \$3,500,000 to repair the three classroom buildings that suffered fire, smoke and water damage.
- The fire resulted in the release of asbestos into the air and onto surfaces of the affected buildings.
- Asbestos abatement is underway. Random samples taken from the three buildings show an unsafe level for occupancy.
- The decision whether to repair the damaged buildings will be up to the school district's Governing Board. Dr. Kriekard will brief the Board at its 3 p.m. study session at the Mohave District Annex (MDA). *No decisions on Navajo will be made today.*
- The future of the Navajo campus will be part of an overall discussion the Governing Board will undertake this fall as it considers which schools will be the next to be rebuilt with the 2016 bond.
- Another part of that conversation will be the district's changing demographics and where future students are likely to live. Consolidation of schools with enrollments of less than 500 students will be discussed. Consultants are due to report to the Board on these matters in early October.
- If the Board decides to rebuild Navajo, the new school would take about 18 months to be built from the time an architect is hired.
- Neither the architectural firm nor the purchasing consortium that were part of the recent controversies surrounding other SUSD school rebuilds will be part of any future Navajo project.
- Getting Navajo back to its previous technology level is a priority.

Your input on Navajo's future is important. To participate and follow the public process, please visit sUSD.org for Governing Board meeting schedules and agendas, and to view meetings.

Lastly, we continue to fine-tune bus routes to give you options on how to get your children to and from Oak every day. Thank you for your continued patience as we settle into our new home.

WE ARE NAVAJO!

