



8500 E. Jackrabbit Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

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

September 2019

Hello, Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to read about all of the exciting news, events and initiatives that are happening in the Scottsdale Unified School District this month. One of our ongoing initiatives involves student wellness and training our staff on the latest techniques to best recognize, intervene and assist students.

We understand that providing a quality education extends beyond textbooks and lesson plans, and encompasses the social, emotional and behavioral well-being of every student. In support of those goals, the District's Wellness Committee, comprised of SUSD parents and staff, continues its work to revise our Wellness Guidelines and identify more resources to support the social and emotional health needs of our more than 22,000 students.

When it comes to the classroom, our curriculum specialists continue to meet often with content-area teachers to expand their teaching skills and determine how to best implement new state standards. We also continue to look for opportunities to expand our offerings, and were happy to find out recently that the District will receive additional state funding to support gifted learners. We are already looking toward next school year, too, and have begun building the 2020-2021 middle and high school *Planning Guides*.

Earlier this month, I was pleased to host the school-selected representatives of our 28 school sites at the first of four Superintendent/Teacher Liaison Committee meetings. I appreciate the unique insight of our teacher leaders, and value being able to listen to their concerns and answer them directly regarding District and Governing Board initiatives.

Since my August letter, the first "Coffee with Kriekard" meeting has taken place, with more than 30 parents and neighbors from around the District coming together at Saguaro High School to share what was on their minds about SUSD. The questions were wide-ranging and thoughtful, allowing us an opportunity to have a meaningful, impactful dialogue.

If you would like to participate in the next community conversation over coffee, Arcadia High School will host the next Coffee event on Oct. 23. You need not be a member of the Arcadia Learning Community (Hopi, Tavan, Echo Canyon, Ingleside and Arcadia) to attend, but a portion of that meeting will be devoted to talking about those schools specifically. For a full list of these events, visit susd.org/Superintendent and click on the "Coffee with Kriekard" button.

Lastly, the fall/winter edition of *SUSD Showcase* magazine will be available online at susd.org/Showcase in early October! In it, you will find the District's Annual Report, an update on current bond projects, and articles about our unique middle school sports program and the role high school clubs play in student engagement and achievement. The magazine features a handy directory of all SUSD schools, as well as the current school year calendar. We hope you find it an informative and enjoyable read.

To keep up on the latest District news and events, be sure to check our news release page at susd.org/News and connect with our more than five dozen social media accounts at susd.org/Connect.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kriekard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Dr. John Kriekard
Superintendent