



January 7, 2022

Hello, and Happy New Year, SUSD Parents and Guardians,

We hope you were able to share meaningful time with your families and friends during our two-week winter break! While it was good to get away, it was also good to come back this week and reconnect with your students and our colleagues.

We know you are concerned, as are we, about this latest evolution of the pandemic. Our goal continues to be to keep our schools open and as safe as possible, with students learning in their classrooms. As new COVID variants emerge and more is understood about their transmission, we continue to update our mitigation protocols. In light of the recent Arizona Attorney General opinion regarding quarantining and the new CDC recommendations for those who test positive for COVID-19 or are close contacts of a positive case, these revisions have been made to our [SUSD COVID-19 Return to School/Work Guidelines](#):

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school AFTER:

- 5 or more full days of isolation **AND**
- Improving symptoms (without fever for 24 hours) **AND**
- Wear a mask 5 additional days

If a student is a close contact but is without symptoms:

- Recommend remaining home for full 5 days (return on Day 6) and wear a mask for 5 additional days **OR**
- If unable to remain home, student is required to wear a mask in school for 10 days **OR**
- Student is required to wear a mask in school for 5 days, provide negative COVID test collected after Day 5. With a negative test, a mask will no longer be required, but will be strongly recommended.

If a student is a close contact and has symptoms, they may return AFTER:

- Negative COVID test is provided **AND**
- Improving symptoms (without fever for 24 hours)

All of our strategies are part of a multi-layered approach to mitigating the risk, and they all start with you. ***We continue to ask students and staff to remain vigilant about their health, to stay home if they feel unwell and to consider being tested for the COVID virus.*** We also strongly recommend that eligible students and staff get vaccinated and socially distance when possible. Find a list of local testing and vaccination sites posted on the SUSD website [here](#).

While we continue to weather the COVID storm, it is important for students to remain connected to their learning and their teachers. In an effort to keep that learning happening, additional supports are available for those students who are unable to attend class due to COVID restrictions. The [SUSD Learning From Home Support](#) system provides students and parents immediate access to learning resources.

Elementary resources now include:

- Asynchronous learning, paired with tutoring
- ASU-supported learning continuity (joining an ASU digital classroom for synchronous and asynchronous instruction)

Middle and High School resources now include:

- Synchronous SUSD classroom teachers (tutoring or live streaming)
- Scheduling time with an SUSD content expert
- Synchronous Varsity Tutor learning support

Find a summary of these services and how to access them [here](#). We are confident that this variety of learning opportunities will enable our students who must learn from home for a time to stay on top of their studies while they are out and be fully ready to succeed in the classroom when they return.

### ***Academics***

Congratulations to Desert Mountain High School senior Yeju Srivastava, who has been named one of 39 finalists for a [2022 Flinn Foundation Scholarship](#)! He now moves forward to a March interview process, from which 20 Flinn Scholars will be selected. Good luck, Yeju! To read more about this outstanding SUSD student who, someday, wants to solve the problem of access to affordable healthcare, go to page 20 of this week's [Scottsdale Progress](#).

### ***2022-2023 School Year***

Enrollment for next school year's **SUSD's Early Learning Programs** – Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten – began today online. Our district has amazing teachers who will make your littlest learners – and you – feel right at home in their energized, engaging and fun-filled classrooms. Learn more about it and begin the enrollment process [here](#).

It's also none too early to be thinking about enrolling your soon-to-be kindergartener for August. Next week, **SUSD's elementary and K-8 school Kindergarten classrooms** will be open to welcome you, either in person or virtually. Kindergarten enrollment is also underway. Find the schedule of next week's events at [www.susd.org/Kindergarten](http://www.susd.org/Kindergarten). Links for virtual events can be obtained by calling the school office.

### ***SUSD in the Community***

While most of us were away from our usual routines the last two weeks, the Desert Canyon Middle School marching band took to Phoenix's Central Avenue to take part in the December 18 Fiesta Bowl Parade. Our marching Mountain Lions received a warm welcome on a beautiful, Valley winter day. [Watch their awesome performance](#) at the 30:52 time code!

Thank you for making this first week of the new semester a success. Remember that next Wednesday, January 12, is an early release day for all grades.

Best regards,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)