



March 11, 2022

Hello, SUSD Parents and Guardians,

Next week marks the second anniversary of your having begun to receive weekly (and, for a time, daily) communications from Scottsdale Unified School District. Their initial purpose was to share rapidly changing information regarding the global pandemic that had just begun to beset us and our plans for continuing your students' learning. In fact, it was on this day – the last school day before spring break two years ago – that your students last saw their teachers and classmates in person during the 2019-2020 school year. We have shared a long, hard road with you these past two years.

More recently, as we have at last turned the COVID corner and educating finally looks 'normal,' we have enjoyed communicating happier news with you – that of your students' and their teachers' accomplishments and SUSD points of pride.

This is all our way of letting you know that today's weekly parent newsletter is our last. On April 1, and appearing thereafter on the first of each month, *The SUSD Source* will make its debut as the district's official, monthly communication platform. In it, you will find the latest information on SUSD academics, arts, athletics, bond projects, Governing Board action and more. Content will be presented in a visually engaging way to provide you with a better sense and scope of what we do. We think you will find it informative and refreshing!

Some have used the weekly letters to alert us to particular questions and concerns. We want you to continue sharing those with us, and encourage you to make use of the district's [Let's Talk](#) platform. Let's Talk enables you to write directly to not only your school's administration, but also to SUSD departments and Superintendent Menzel. You will find it to be user-friendly and an efficient communications tool for letting us know what's on your mind.

This week, during National School Social Work Week, we celebrated the work of our school social workers. Thanks to a 2021 grant from the Arizona Department of Education, SUSD has been able to place social workers at each of our schools. These professionals play an important role in supporting students and staff in navigating a myriad of social and emotional learning needs, and have been particularly helpful to students struggling with the impact of the pandemic. We are grateful for their commitment and support of our students.

### ***Academics***

As we conclude the third quarter, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will have completed their second ACT practice test. In addition to the practice tests, SUSD will administer the ACT to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for free on Tuesday, April 5. Students not testing will have an asynchronous day of learning to ensure an optimal testing environment for those who are on campus. Schedule details can be found [here](#).

In the meantime, high school students can access their practice test results on School City. Login instructions are [here](#). As parents, we encourage you to have your student share their results with you. Students wanting further practice can find additional resources at [ACT Test Prep](#).

## ***Summer School***

### **High School**

Big changes are ahead for SUSD's 2022 Summer School program for high school students. Both sessions will take place during the month of June and will run five days a week. In-person and virtual options will be offered. Registration begins the Monday we return from Spring Break, March 21. You can read more about it at <https://www.susd.org/summerschool>, but please make note of the following important dates:

- Session 1 runs from May 31 to June 14. The deadline to register is May 24.
- Session 2 runs from June 16 to June 30. The deadline to register is June 8.

In-person summer school will take place at Coronado High School, 7601 E. Virginia Ave., Scottsdale, Monday through Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Transportation to and from Coronado will be available at the Arcadia, Chaparral, Desert Mountain and Saguaro High School campuses.

We are grateful to be able to offer high school summer school at a greatly reduced fee of \$25 per course. Please email Christine Bonow, Director of Community Education, [cbonow@susd.org](mailto:cbonow@susd.org), or [summerschool@susd.org](mailto:summerschool@susd.org) with your questions.

### **Elementary and Middle School**

As a district, we will offer academic summer programming for all elementary and middle grade levels, such as Boost at Pima Traditional School and Redfield Elementary for our K-5 students showing academic risk factors in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. Locations are still being determined for the Bridge program that focuses on math for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Specialized areas for English Language Development (ELD), Title I, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as well as a return of Gifted Enrichment, Beyond Move On When Reading and more, also will be offered. Depending on the program, participation will be available in-person and/or online.

District summer programs are primarily funded by grants such as ESSER, with most being free-of-cost for students. In addition, some schools will host their own niche summer programs. Information and invitations for participation in summer programming will be sent after Spring Break. Based on enrollment numbers from last year and projections based on achievement data, we expect to host more than 1,000 students this summer.

### ***Athletics***

The SUSD All-District Athletics Awards banquet for high school winter sports was held Monday. Congratulations to Charro Foundation Scholarship winners Paige Christakos, Chaparral High School soccer, and Jose Rios Garcia, Coronado High School soccer. We also want to take this opportunity to thank our banquet sponsors, the Scottsdale Charros, the SUSD Foundation and Arizona Sports Medicine.

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

#### **American Dream Academy**

ASU's 8-week [American Dream Academy](#) program helps families gain the tools and confidence to join forces with schools and communities to make sure their children have successful academic careers and prepare for a university experience. The eight-week academy culminates in a graduation ceremony for Coronado Learning Community parents and students. Class topics include why parents make the difference in the success of every student and high-yield strategies on how parents can best partner with their child's school. The program helps families and students prepare for college, career and beyond.

### Empty Bowls

SUSD has been a longtime supporter of the annual [Alli Ortega Empty Bowls](#) event that raises funds for Scottsdale Community Partners and City of Scottsdale Human Services programs. This year's event was held the last week of February and raised nearly \$31,000 that will go to support struggling Scottsdale families. Chaparral High School Sculpture/3-D Design students Faith Secrest and Myra Duncan, taught by Jordan Ray, created bowls for the online auction, as did a group of about 60 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade art elective students of teacher Karen Snow at Laguna Elementary. The youngsters' bowl is prominently featured in the [Scottsdale Independent](#).

### Looking Back

Before there were 30 schools in 2022, there were just two Scottsdale schools in 1928. One of them, the beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival-styled Scottsdale Grammar School #2, later known as Loloma Elementary School, located at the corner of Marshall Way and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, was honored this week by the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with a historic marker. While the school closed in 1981, the teaching and learning inside has never stopped. Now home to the Scottsdale Artists School, Loloma is where budding and professional artists alike come to be inspired and continue their education. The former school is also listed on the City of Scottsdale's Historic Register.

### Four-legged Support

This week, comforting and cuddly Captain, a 10-month old golden doodle, was formally introduced as the newest member of the Scottsdale Police force, serving alongside School Resource Officer Alvin Pease. The pair is based at Coronado High School, but will travel to other SUSD schools to help students with behavioral health-related issues. This is the department's second, school-assigned Crisis Response K9, with a third set to arrive in August. Community funding for the program comes from our partners at the [Scottsdale Unified School District Foundation](#). Fox 10 [covered the story](#) this week.

### ***Tax Credit***

If your spring break project list includes doing your taxes, SUSD is an excellent choice for a tax credit contribution! You can direct your contribution to a program at your student's school or to a general district fund that supports all students. Read more about this win-win program at <https://www.susd.org/Support>.

Safe travels to those of you hitting the road next week, and great times to all, wherever Spring Break takes you, even if it's just to a spring training baseball game! We look forward to kicking off the final quarter of the 2021-2022 school year with your students on Monday, March 21. See you then!

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