



February 19, 2021

Hello, SUSD Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for another great week of supporting your students, whether you ensured studies were getting completed, supported your high school student athlete at a game or sat down to share a family meal with them and listened to them talk about their school day, how their friends are doing and what's on their mind.

Weekly COVID-19 Update from Supt. Menzel

The data continues to trend in a positive direction, both in [our district](#) and across the state. In January, Arizona led the country in the rate of COVID spread; as of Wednesday, we were 20th for the 7-day average number of cases. The number of confirmed, [active cases at our buildings](#) also continues to be relatively low. This is no time to be complacent, however, or to relax what we have been doing that has allowed us to continue having students on our campuses. Despite the increasing availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in our community, it is still critically important that any student who is exhibiting illness symptoms or who has an ill family member at home not attend school and to be in contact with the school nurse.

4th Quarter Planning Update

As we rapidly approach the end of the third quarter, we are finalizing plans for what happens after we return from Spring Break. The Governing Board this week engaged in a discussion about the relevant data it needs to inform its decision about what fourth quarter learning looks like at our middle schools and high schools. A number of key factors will contribute to that decision. They include, but are not limited to:

- Updated guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health connected to the latest CDC recommendations
- Rate of community COVID transmission and evidence of its spread in our school buildings
- Potential for additional surveillance measures
- Impact on students from an academic and social-emotional perspective
- Benefits vs. risks analysis
- Student and staff requests for continuity in a year of disruption
- Survey of middle school and high school parents
- Information from schools in neighboring districts that operate full days at the secondary level
- Lunch mitigation strategies at each campus
- Insights from the Mountainside Middle School pilot project that begins next week
- Most staff who wanted to be vaccinated have secured both doses
- Concerns about Spring Break

We encourage you to add to the conversation through our [Let's Talk](#) platform. Hearing diverse opinions is important as we consider the next steps. Our ability to continue providing in-person instruction for our students is critically important as we work to finish this school year on a solid note. Thank you.

Athletics Update

High Schools

This past week, the AIA Executive Board gave school districts the ability to make their own decisions regarding spectators at high school sporting events, based on their community COVID metrics. SUSD's metrics continue to improve; however, out of an abundance of caution, we will continue with our current practice of allowing two parents/guardians per participant for home games and allow visiting teams the same. This is consistent with the practice of several of our neighboring districts.

U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidates

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate four members of the SUSD Class of 2021 who have been named candidates in the U.S. Department of Education's annual U.S. Presidential Scholars program. Established in 1964 by presidential executive order, the recognition program honors up to 161 of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors each year based on their academic record, exceptional talent in visual, creative and performing arts, or ability and accomplishment in career and technical education. Nicolas Bonfiglio and Alexandra Meng from Chaparral High School and Joongho Auh and Danielle Sherman from Desert Mountain High School will find out in April whether they are semifinalists. We are proud of you, Seniors!

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

Community COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Information

- [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) –
 - [Vaccinations](#), including an increasing number of Scottsdale Albertsons, Fry's, Safeway and Walgreens pharmacies
 - [Testing](#)
- Maricopa County Department of Health Services –
 - [Vaccinations](#), [Vaccination Locations](#)
 - [Testing](#)
- [City of Phoenix Mobile Testing Sites](#)
- CVS Pharmacy Testing Sites
 - [Drive-Thru Testing Sites](#)
 - [Vaccination Information](#)
- [Embry Women's Health Testing Sites](#)
- Walgreens Pharmacy
 - [Drive-Thru Testing Sites](#)
 - [Vaccination Information](#)