



March 5, 2021

Hello, SUSD Families!

It is hard to believe that this same day a year ago – the final day of the third quarter of the 2019-2020 school year – was the last time our middle and high school students sat in their classes for a full day of learning. As you well know, much has happened since then that has affected almost every aspect of our lives.

A year later, SUSD is poised to welcome those students back for regular, full school days, beginning March 15. We are excited to be able to do what we do best for all of our students all day!

At the same time, we recognize that this extension of the in-person learning day for Grade 6-12 students may be of concern to some. If you wish to request a change in your student's learning model for the fourth quarter that begins March 15, your request must be submitted to your school **no later than Tuesday, March 16**, the day after we come back from Spring Break.

We would like to refresh you on some campus practices that are in place to ensure everyone's safety while at school:

- Properly worn face masks are required of students and staff at all times while on SUSD property.
- No visitors without appointments or events to attend are permitted on District property.
- No food may be dropped off at schools for students.

As we have requested going into previous school breaks, if you are planning to travel out of your regular circles during Spring Break, we ask that you voluntarily quarantine your student for 10 days upon your return. We appreciate the many families that have honored this request in the past. Also, if your student has any COVID symptoms or any other illness, please do not send them back to school on March 15 and consult with your school nurse. To report a positive COVID-19 case, please use this [form](#).

The Governing Board continues to explore new COVID-19 mitigation measures to add to the District's ongoing efforts to keep students and staff safe and to be able to continue offering in-person learning. One such measure is voluntary virus surveillance testing in order to monitor COVID-19 spread within our schools, per CDC recommendations. Under this proposal, your child may be randomly selected to undertake a COVID test. Permission for your student's participation will be sought in advance through a voluntary waiver. We will have more details for you the week that we return from Spring Break.

Weekly COVID-19 Update from Supt. Menzel

This week, the Arizona Department of Health Services rolled out a new [dashboard color-coding system](#) based on the revised CDC guidelines. Maricopa County has not been able to customize this at the zip code or school district level yet, so we only have the county data for this week. Overall, Maricopa County is in the orange, substantial transmission category, although the percent positivity is in the moderate range. The downward trend of cases continues and Arizona is now below the

national average for new cases. On Wednesday, Governor Ducey issued [Executive Order 2021-04](#) which requires schools to provide in-person instruction immediately following their spring break or by March 15.

4th Quarter Decision

On Tuesday this week, the Governing Board voted 3-2 to resume full-day instruction at our middle schools and high schools following spring break. I've heard from staff, students, and parents on this topic, both before the Governing Board decision and after. As with most issues during the pandemic, there is a diversity of thought and opinion on how best to proceed. I am hopeful we can take the long view as we inch closer to returning to a sense of normalcy at all levels. While the virus isn't going away any time soon, we continue to see positive developments in reducing the severity of illness, which opens up opportunities for taking next steps.

Nothing about this school year has been normal or easy. The COVID pandemic has continued to be a disruptive force. We have been adapting and modifying our approach based on new information and an unwavering commitment to provide our students with the education they need and deserve. I am proud to say that SUSD has provided more options for our families and our staff than virtually any other district in the Valley. Our goal has been, and continues to be, to meet the needs of as many students, families, and staff as possible while we work our way through these challenges.

Tech Request

Middle and high school students are requested to change their passwords on their SUSD-issued device before March 21. Please follow these instructions:

1. Go to password.susd.org.
2. Click on Enroll (this is a one-time step that helps for resetting passwords in the future)
3. Enter username (student ID number) and current password.
4. Answer a few questions.
5. Click OK to close
6. Click on Change Password
7. Enter username (student ID number) and current password.
8. Enter and confirm new password (must be at least 8 characters)
9. Click OK to confirm and close.

Important: The first time a student logs into their Chromebook after changing their password, a message will pop up on their screen that reads as follows: "Your PIN or password still couldn't be verified. Note: If you recently changed your password, use your old password. Your new password will be applied once you sign out." This will not happen on Surface Go devices.

Wishing you a safe and relaxing Spring Break, and we will see you again on March 15!

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