



March 19, 2021

Good afternoon, SUSD Families,

It has been a great first week back from Spring Break and so wonderful to be able to spend full school days with both our in-person and Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) middle and high school learners again! Lunchtime rules were followed and evolved as they went into practice, and Nutrition Services' upgraded Grab-and-Go bagged lunches were a big hit.

This gives us the opportunity to remind you that we do not permit food to be delivered to our school campuses by parents, guardians or food delivery services, pandemic or not. You may, however, drop off education-related equipment for your students and student medical supplies to be kept by the school nurse. At this point, visitors without campus appointments or events to attend are still not permitted on District property, so if you will be dropping something off for your student, please notify the school in advance. Also, please note that face masks are still required while on campus or attending SUSD-hosted athletic events.

With secondary in-person learners being on campus all day now and the state testing season underway, please remind your students to bring fully charged laptops and device chargers to school with them each day.

This week has seen some big changes, not the least of which is the adjustment by our at-home EDL students to being online for full school days.

Strategies to Manage Screen Time for At-Home Learners

The following strategies have been provided to SUSD teachers to support students learning at-home when they stream into classrooms for synchronous instruction:

- Allow students the option of turning off their cameras during independent learning and practice.
- Allow students to handwrite some assignments and turn them in by providing screenshots of the finished work.
- Prepare a consistent schedule to provide students with time for direct instruction and discussion time when cameras must be turned on, and time for practice or breaks when screens can be turned off. If a schedule is consistent and pre-planned, students at home can plan and balance screen time.
- All screen time is not equal - optimize engaging learning activities that actively involve at-home students.
- Consider the creation of choice boards to allow at-home students the ability to select options that do not involve the use of technology to complete an assignment.

Read [this article](#) from *Education Week* about increased screen time.

School Attendance

We are noticing that a small number of in-person families have held their students home one or more days, not for illness, but for convenience. While operating in dual modality offers flexibility when

necessary, it is a significant stress on our teachers and staff when student attendance is inconsistent. We hold student safety and accountability in the highest regard and for this reason, we need your help. If you are a family with a student attending in person, please make every effort to have your student attend consistently. The exception to this is if a student is noted in the student information system as having a COVID-like illness or is quarantined, in which case they may participate in their classes virtually.

Weekly COVID-19 Update from Supt. Menzel

The COVID-related data this week reflects a positivity rate of 4.25% for our 15 zip codes and 51.64 cases/100,000 people. While the overall rating still puts us in the ‘Substantial’ community-transmission category, we are on the cusp of being in the ‘Moderate’ range, given the new CDC metrics. The number of confirmed, active COVID cases in our schools remains at a low level, with many buildings continuing to show zero cases. I was pleased to learn today that the CDC is revising its guidelines to recommend 3 feet, rather than 6 feet, of social distancing space between students in classroom settings, as long as masks continue to be worn and other prevention measures are in place. I remain optimistic that SUSD will be able to finish the school year strong, and am so appreciative of all the efforts to continue following the mitigation strategies that have resulted in our schools remaining open for in-person learning.

Strategic Planning

This week, the Strategic Planning Design Team held its third meeting. We are continuing to work on articulating an aspirational and inspirational vision for SUSD’s future. As promised, we are casting a wider net to get feedback from our community and staff. Please take some time during the next week to participate in our newest [ThoughtExchange](#), in which we seek your input on words and phrases that resonate with respect to the District’s Vision and Mission statements. Thank you.

Virtual Learning Models for 2021-2022

Grades K-5 Virtual Learning

Next school year, all virtual learning instruction and students will be served through Scottsdale Online Learning. Grades K-5 Scottsdale Online Learning (SOL) will be a combination of the best components from Enhanced District Learning (EDL) at Echo Canyon and the best of the current SOL K-5 model. K-5 Scottsdale Online Learning next fall will be a combination of teacher-led instruction and independent student work. Special areas (P.E., Music, Art) will be offered asynchronously.

Individual campuses will not offer EDL instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that special programs, such as the Comprehensive Gifted Program (CGP), Dual Language Immersion (DLI), and the Cheyenne Traditional and Pima Traditional school programs will only be available to in-person students in the 2021-2022 school year. Resources for Special Education students will be available through Scottsdale Online Learning. Online learning is a year-long commitment unless there are extenuating circumstances and space is available.

Grades 6-12 Virtual Learning

All virtual learning instruction and students will be served through Scottsdale Online Learning next school year. Classes for these grade levels will consist of independent student work with support from teachers. Individual campuses will not offer Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) during the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that special programs, such as International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Language Immersion (DLI), Pre-AP (Advanced Placement), and the Math and Science Academy will only be available to in-person students. Resources for Special Education students will

be available through Scottsdale Online Learning. Online learning is a year-long commitment unless there are extenuating circumstances and space is available.

Athletics

Spring sports are up and running, and we are excited for baseball, softball, track, tennis and beach volleyball at the high school level, as well as track and field at the middle school level. If you attend a home athletic event, please observe our request that you wear a mask at all times and appropriately social distance from others while you are on school grounds. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your school athletic director. Enjoy this beautiful weather while you support our student athletes!

Nutrition Services

As we return for the last quarter, we want share a friendly reminder that all SUSD cafeterias continue to serve breakfast and lunch to ALL students FREE of charge and will to do so through the end of the school year. There's no need to pack a lunch for your in-person learners: they can simply pick up a FREE meal at our cafeterias and café carts during their schools' designated meal service times. Nutrition Services' "Team Awesome" powers Grab-and-Go student meals with a hot entrée that includes a protein and whole grain, as well as side options of fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, juice and more. Each meal also includes a bottle of water.

Our weekly, curbside meal pick-ups for remote-learning students and non-school aged children continue on Wednesdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. at SUSD's Oak Learning Academy, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale. Weekly meal packs contain 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 snacks and 7 suppers per child.

Visit <https://scottsdale.nutrislice.com/> and select your child's specific school to view menus. For the weekly curbside menu, please select "Oak."

If you need any assistance or have any questions, please call Nutrition Services at 480-484-6234.

Thank you, and have a great weekend, SUSD!

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