



April 16, 2021

Hello, Scottsdale Unified School District Families,

It's been another busy week in the district, and there is much to share with you!

First off, we want to congratulate Anasazi Elementary School physical education teacher Kyle Bragg, who was named this week as the National Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year by SHAPE America, the nation's leading association of health and physical education professionals. Mr. Bragg has been leading Anasazi's P.E. classes since 2016. Congratulations on this honor, Mr. Bragg!

We also want to congratulate Cherokee Elementary first grade teacher Anne Waddington and Chaparral High School mathematics teacher Claren Gustkey for joining the ranks of Scottsdale Unified's nearly 100 National Board Certified teachers. Certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is a voluntary and rigorous undertaking of up to five years and is the most respected professional development program available to classroom teachers in the U.S.

The SUSD Governing Board will celebrate all three teachers' accomplishments at its meeting Tuesday, April 20 at 6 p.m. Next week's meeting will mark the first time in more than a year that the Board has conducted a Regular meeting in its home Board Room at Coronado High School. If you plan to attend, please note that facemasks are required. Governing Board meetings can also be viewed live, or later, on SUSD's [YouTube Channel](#).

### **Weekly Report from Supt. Menzel**

#### **COVID Update**

The numbers for the past week reflect a slight uptick in cases and positivity rate. Our [15 zip codes](#) remain in the Substantial transmission category, which is where we've been for more than a month now. We had [one building](#) with an elevated number of cases, but we were able to confirm that the cases were connected to families gathering outside of school and not the result of spread within the building. It is an important reminder that COVID is still present within our community and that while many people have been vaccinated, mitigation measures are still necessary to slow transmission and ensure we don't see greater increases of active cases in our schools. I am hopeful that many of our residents will take advantage of the vaccination location at WestWorld over the coming weeks.

Many people have been asking what next year will look like. It is a common question at the Town Hall meetings and in Let's Talk submissions. I want to share my response here, so everyone is receiving the same message. First, it is impossible to predict with certainty how things will look when school resumes in August. However, I am truly hopeful that the combination of vaccinations and individuals who have developed natural immunity through contracting COVID will result in reaching herd immunity. The Governor's Executive Order 2020-51 requires districts to have a face-covering policy until such time as the Arizona Department of Health Services deems it no longer necessary. It is possible they could make that determination before school starts and/or the Governor could rescind the Executive Order. We will continue to work closely with public health officials as we close out this school year and prepare for the next.

Within those parameters, I have also been telling people that I hope we don't have to require masks. Starting the new school year in a way that is as close to "normal" as possible is the goal. There are some things we've implemented during our COVID response that shouldn't go away, like frequent handwashing and people staying home when sick, but other aspects of our daily lives should resume as much as possible, provided there isn't a new variant or change in conditions that is unanticipated at the present time. While some people have been pressing for further choice related to masks during the current school year, we are following the Governor's Executive Order, which has the force of law. Additionally, since the U.K. variant spreads more easily and impacts younger people in greater numbers, continuing with the mask requirement with the exceptions we've already put in place is critical to ensuring we can finish the year strong and in-person. I am proud of the way our students, staff and community have come together to take the mitigation steps necessary to keep our schools open. It hasn't always been easy, but we are 40 calendar days from the end of the school year, and I believe we can do this!

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### ***Focus on the Future Town Halls***

The final in the current series of Town Hall conversations takes place a week from tonight at Chaparral High School. If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Town Hall, we encourage you to join Dr. Menzel next Friday at 6 p.m. Parents, students, teachers, staff and community members are invited! You need not be a member of the Chaparral Learning Community to contribute your thoughts about where you think SUSD stands and where it should head in the future. There are two ways you can participate:

#### ***Chaparral High School:***

***Friday, April 23, 6 p.m.***

In person at 6935 E. Gold Dust Ave., Scottsdale

Virtually at <https://bit.ly/3cD8UQo>

You are also invited to watch any or all of the video recordings of the Town Halls that have already taken place at Arcadia, Coronado, Desert Mountain and Saguaro during the last two weeks on SUSD's [YouTube channel](#).

### **Classroom Relay**

In response to several requests from principals and teachers for solutions to monitoring and managing student laptops, particularly for testing integrity, we are piloting a solution called Lightspeed Classroom Management, also called Classroom Relay. It allows teachers to essentially lockdown a browser during testing sessions, and monitor and manage online activities during regular instructional periods, including when students are logged into their susdgapps.org accounts remotely. Currently being piloted at Hopi Elementary, Mohave Middle and Saguaro High schools, we expect Classroom Relay to be available to all district teachers by the beginning of May.

As a district in which a computing device is available for every student, it is important that all students adhere to the Technology and Network Resource Policy and the Technology Responsible Use Agreement found on pages 17 – 19 of [SUSD's 2020-2021 Uniform Code of Conduct](#). We also encourage all parents to have ongoing conversations with their students regarding Digital Citizenship. Visit this site to learn more: [Digital Citizenship Curriculum | Common Sense Education](#). We appreciate your support as we continue to improve the experiences of our students, both in and out of our classrooms.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

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