



May 7, 2021

Greetings, Scottsdale Unified Families,

We are so pleased that the 2020-2021 school year is able to draw to a close with many traditional activities and rites of passage reinstated. Even though events may look slightly different this year, the public health strategies and mitigation plans the district implemented eight months ago to permit in-person learning to resume safely have helped bring us to this point, where we can celebrate our students' successes together and enjoy such events as final concerts, athletics banquets, promotion events and in-person commencement exercises.

Key members of the SUSD team through it all have been our school nurses. In addition to their usual tasks of administering student medication and tending to the occasional bumps and bruises, school nurses and their health assistants have been called on this school year to monitor active, positive COVID cases among students and staff, conduct contact tracing and inform families of next steps. Their role during this pandemic has taken on new meaning and importance. We hope you will join us on **May 12** when we thank them for their service and celebrate **National School Nurse Day!**

This week, we have observed **Teacher Appreciation Week** and the dedication of our 1,300 classroom educators to your students. Invested in doing what is best for students, our teachers have done whatever it took to provide students with that connection to consistency that they so needed in troubling times, becoming students themselves to learn new technologies to extend their classroom walls beyond school buildings. We are grateful, as well, to our nearly 500 substitute teachers who added to our flexibility in a time of uncertainty and continuous change. During this most challenging of years, all of our teachers have responded with amazing resolve, professionalism and courage, and we are indebted to them.

Virtual Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year

All virtual learning instruction and students next school year will be served through Scottsdale Online Learning (SOL). At the elementary level, the kindergarten through fifth grade SOL will be a combination of the best components from EDL (Enhanced Distance Learning) at Echo Canyon School and the best of the current SOL K-5 model. SOL for elementary school next fall will be a combination of teacher-led instruction and independent student work. Special areas (P.E., Music and Art) will be offered asynchronously through independent student work. At the secondary level, classes will be independent student work with support from teachers.

Individual campuses will not offer EDL during the 2021-2022 school year. Please note, special programs such as the Comprehensive Gifted Program, Dual Language Immersion, Cheyenne Traditional program, Pima Traditional program, International Baccalaureate, Pre-Advanced Placement, and the Math and Science Academy will only be available to in-person students next school year. Resources for Special Education students will be available through SOL. Online learning is a year-long commitment unless there are extenuating circumstances and space is available.

If you'd like to enroll your student in Scottsdale Online Learning for the 2021-2022 school year,

please go to <https://www.susd.org/page/601> and click “Enroll Online.” Need assistance? Please call 484-HELP (4357) and choose Option 1.

New Volunteer Opportunities

We are often asked by parents and community members how they can contribute their skills and knowledge to SUSD, and we have two new opportunities for your consideration this week. The first, to serve on the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge Instructional Material Adoption Committee, is a relatively short commitment of time during the next month or so. Read more about its work and timeline [here](#). The second, to become a member of the SUSD Self-Insurance Trust Board, can be a multi-year commitment. This panel is responsible for overseeing the administration of the district’s property insurance, liability insurance and worker’s compensation programs, as well as employee medical, dental, disability and life insurance programs. Read more about the board [here](#). There is currently one vacancy, and two more positions that must be filled by July 1. All of our current committee needs can be found at www.susd.org/Committees. Each committee’s page has a form linked to it through which you can express your interest to serve.

Weekly Report from Supt. Menzel

COVID Update

The [latest COVID numbers](#) reflect a slow decline in the cases per 100,000 and positivity rate, which is a trend I hope we see continue for the remainder of the school year and into the summer. However, the community transmission level remains Substantial, which is why it is necessary to continue implementing the mitigation strategies that have allowed our schools to remain open this school year. Reports this week indicate approval of the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds could come as early as next week. The combination of lower community transmission and increased numbers of vaccinated individuals will accelerate our return to normal - something I know we are all looking forward to!

COVID-19 vaccinations are easy to find in our community. Many Walgreens, Fry’s and Safeway pharmacies offer them, as well Costco. Find a location near you at this county website, <https://gis.maricopa.gov/covid19/vaccine/locations/>, and get your vaccine questions answered here, <https://www.flowcode.com/page/takecaremaricopa>

In closing, we want to remind you of two events next week to which you are invited. The first is a community meeting at which you can learn about Phoenix Rising FC’s proposal for the former Tonalea Elementary School property at 68th Street and Oak. That meeting takes place **Thursday, May 13 at 6 p.m.** at **Coronado High School** and virtually at <http://bit.ly/68thStMeetingMay13>. Find more meeting details [here](#).

And at **5 p.m., Tuesday, May 11**, SUSD community partners the **Scottsdale Charros** will present their 2021 Education Awards [virtually](#). Find out who your school’s recipients are [here](#). Congratulations, 2021 Honorees!

Wishing all of our SUSD moms a Happy Mother’s Day on Sunday!

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