



May 22, 2021

Good morning, Scottsdale Unified Families,

We held the first of a week's worth of celebrations Thursday night for the Class of 2021 as graduates of our [Scottsdale Math & Science Academy](#) were feted by their teachers, family and friends. Next week, formal graduation ceremonies start Wednesday evening, May 26. It is truly wonderful that this year's festivities culminating our seniors' high school careers will be conducted in person. They will also be streamed virtually. See the entire schedule and links to watch them at [www.susd.org/Graduation](http://www.susd.org/Graduation).

### **Weekly Report from Superintendent Menzel**

#### **COVID Update**

For the first time since October, our COVID transmission data has returned to the [Moderate level](#) when aggregating the totals for all SUSD zip codes. This coincides with a recent report of a high percentage of [Scottsdale residents](#) who have already been fully vaccinated. As we head into the final week of the school year, I want to celebrate the fact that we were able to get through this pandemic together, without having to close any school as a result of the spread of COVID cases in that school. Not every district has been as fortunate, and it is a testament to the mitigation strategies we had in place, coupled with the partnership of our students, staff and families to comply with those expectations. I am so grateful for your resilience and deep commitment to our students and Scottsdale Unified School District.

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#### **Community COVID-19 Vaccination Opportunities**

Some of you have shared with us that you believe SUSD is “pushing” unapproved, untested vaccines. What we are “pushing” is information about where you and your age-eligible students can be vaccinated **if you wish to be** and where to find information about the three, emergency-use authorized COVID-19 vaccines. We do not claim to be medical experts, and understand that there are differences of opinion in our community regarding the vaccines' safety, efficacy and need for them. The decision of whether to have your student vaccinated rests with **you**, as your student's parent.

Should you wish to find a vaccination clinic in your area, the [Maricopa County Department of Health Services map](#) has this useful tool. We also learned this week of a new state location in the heart of the Desert Mountain Learning Community, at the former Safeway store at Via Linda and Frank Lloyd Wright. It is operated by Cigna. For more information about the vaccines themselves and how they were developed, you may wish to consult [this county website](#) and/or consult with your child's pediatrician or your family doctor regarding questions or concerns you may have about them.

#### **Governing Board Meeting Resumption**

In consultation with the Scottsdale Police Department (SPD), the recessed May 18 meeting of the SUSD Governing Board will reconvene virtually on Monday, May 24 at 6 p.m. While it is not our preference to conduct school district business in this manner, ensuring the safety of the staff, attendees and law enforcement is a top priority, and online activity is signaling larger numbers coming out to disrupt the resumed meeting, were it to be held in person. Supt. Menzel and SPD

Chief Jeff Walther addressed the matter at a [news conference yesterday](#). Those who had submitted cards requesting to speak at the Tuesday meeting are being invited to make those remarks virtually on Monday. We look forward to resuming our usual, in-person Governing Board meetings.

### **Summer Tutoring Opportunity for K-12 Students**

Learning never ends in SUSD! Some of our students will participate in summer programs aimed specifically at making sure they are ready to take on their next grade level, come August. High school [Summer School](#), both in-person and online, is offered through Scottsdale Online Learning.

SUSD will also offer free summer tutoring sessions to all K-12 SUSD students in the areas of Math and English Language Arts this summer.

#### ***6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students***

In-person tutoring will be housed at Coronado High School and Chaparral High School. Drop-in tutoring will be provided by our very own National Honor Society and Math and Science Academy high school students. Certified teachers are available for scheduled tutoring sessions.

Middle school and high school students can drop in for in-person tutoring between 7 and 8 a.m. and between 12:30 and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, beginning June 8. Find the June calendar [here](#). Find the July calendar [here](#). A virtual tutoring option will be offered online, on a sign-up, first-come, first-serve basis. To sign up your grade 6-12 student for either in-person or virtual tutoring, please complete and submit [this form](#) to us.

#### ***K-6 Students***

To ensure that appropriate lessons and resources are pre-planned for your students, please fill out this [sign up form](#) to request either in-person or virtual tutoring.

### **End-of-Year/Beginning-of-Year Student Device Collection/Distribution Procedures**

As we close out the school year, Chromebooks and Surface GOs issued to SUSD students will only be collected from seniors, students who know they are not returning to an SUSD school in August and students whose parents request that the devices be collected. For all other students, the devices will remain checked out to them and they can take them home for the summer with the expectation that they return with them on the first day of school August 4.

Fifth graders moving on to middle school will take their Chromebooks with them and begin sixth grade ready to go. For those fifth graders going to Desert Canyon Middle School (DCMS) and Cocopah Middle School (CMS), our middle schools that use Surface GOs, they will bring their Chromebooks with them on the first day of school, the devices will be checked in and swapped out for Surface GOs at the schools' convenience at the beginning of the new school year.

Similarly, eighth grade students with Chromebooks will take them home over the summer and begin high school with their Chromebooks in August. They will check in their Chromebooks and check out Surface GOs at the beginning of the next school year at their high school. For current DCMS and CMS eighth graders, they will be all ready to go when they bring their Surface GOs to school.

Surface GOs checked out to seniors will be collected and checked in by high school bookstore managers next week. It is important that the devices are returned with their power cord and case. Any device damage will be noted at that time.

**ALL Verizon hotspots** will be collected and checked in next week.

### **Optional Device Protection Plan**

All parents of SUSD students can sign up for the Optional Device Protection Plan offered by the District to mitigate the costs of damage to their student's District-issued Chromebook or Surface GO. Parents can learn more about the plan and enroll [here](#).

### **Nutrition Services**

Our "Team Awesome" will continue providing meals this summer to our families in need. Beginning Wednesday, June 2, SUSD's Summer 2021 Curbside Meal Pick-up location will be based at Pima Traditional School, 8330 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale. The drive-thru pick-up time will run from 7 to 9:30 a.m. and will take place each Wednesday.

Please note that per USDA meal service regulations, families will no longer receive a snack and supper after May 27, the last day of the regular school year, but *will* continue to receive 7 days' worth of breakfasts and lunches at the Wednesday weekly pick-ups at Pima.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

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