



**June 18, 2020**

Hello, Scottsdale Unified Families!

We thank you so much for your feedback on our planning to reopen schools. We have heard from more than 10,000 parents so far through our [back-to-school survey](#) – which is open through Saturday, June 20, in case you haven't filled it out yet. We are also surveying students – so be sure your student has filled out the [student survey](#) so we include their views in our planning.

### **Back-to-School Planning Update**

On June 17, 2020, [Governor Ducey provided guidance](#) to local municipalities (mayors and county supervisors) to consider mandating face masks in public. With the recommendation from medical experts, combined with the increased concern about the spike in COVID-19 cases being reported across the state, Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has been preparing to comply with such an order, but no decision has been made yet about masks for students. We have an active survey (all survey links are listed at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19)) that includes a question on mask use, and we will take into account that feedback in any future decisions on this topic.

SUSD schools are located in three municipalities: Scottsdale, Phoenix and Paradise Valley. Since these city and town leaders each have the authority to create their own mandates, we feel it is necessary to have one, clear direction for all of our SUSD schools.

To that end, SUSD is preparing to do its part to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and our Scottsdale community, which remains our number one priority.

- Beginning July 6, 2020, our District Offices and Middle and High School offices will reopen to the public, by appointment only, with appropriate physical distancing and sanitization standards in place.
- While visiting any District or school facility, all individuals (over the age of 2 years) will be required to wear a face mask and adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- SUSD employees interfacing with the public will also be required to wear a mask and adhere to the same distancing requirements.

Since some of our schools are under construction, and elementary schools are not open in the summer, we recommend that you contact the school in advance and schedule an appointment. A listing of all schools and their contact information can be found at [www.susd.org/Schools](http://www.susd.org/Schools).

### **Timeline for Back-to-School Plan Announcements**

The subcommittees working on SUSD's reopening plans are continuing to work out the details and recommendations for reopening our schools. These recommendations are expected to be presented to the Incident Command Team at the end of June 2020. These recommendations will be synthesized into a single, comprehensive plan that will be presented and discussed at a July 7, 2020 Governing Board meeting that you can watch live (or catch the recording) on the SUSD YouTube channel at: <http://bit.ly/0623MTG>. The agendas for the Governing Board meetings are posted at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting at [www.susd.org/Board](http://www.susd.org/Board).

The District Office will continue to provide regular updates to families and employees, all of which are posted publicly at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19).

We anticipate that the July 9 version of this update will include the details for what your family and student(s) can expect this August about coming back to school.

The recommendations of the subcommittees and the plan presented to the SUSD Governing Board are taking into account recommendations from the CDC and other leading experts with whom we have been working diligently, as well as stakeholder feedback, including a survey that is available for students, parents and employees at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19).

If you have specific feedback you would like to provide outside of the survey, please direct your comments to these liaisons to our planning subcommittees:

- Teaching and Learning: JoAnn Cano, [jcano@susd.org](mailto:jcano@susd.org)
- Social Emotional Learning: Melissa Tornquist, [mtornquist@susd.org](mailto:mtornquist@susd.org)
- Operations and Logistics: Alice Rix Sipos, [arixsipos@susd.org](mailto:arixsipos@susd.org)

### **Summer In-Person Graduation Activities**

District and high school leadership have continued to work with our student body on plans for graduation ceremonies and summer celebrations. Our number one priority has, and will continue to be, the safety of our students, staff and community. Due to rising COVID-19 cases in Arizona, SUSD high schools will not be able to offer any in-person celebrations this summer. This decision was reached after lengthy dialogue between district and site administration, as well as members of the district's Student Advisory Board and other members of the Class of 2020's graduates from all five high schools. High School principals will remain in contact with their respective Class of 2020 student representatives to consider the possibility of a celebration at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. This will be done without interfering or distracting from the Class of 2021. We are proud of the Class of 2020 and wish you all the best!

### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update**

As a follow up to [Dr. Kriekard's statement](#) regarding SUSD's position on working together to promote equity, inclusion and fair treatment of all people, we kicked off our committee work on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Our first meeting included a guest speaker, [Don Logan](#), to help lay the groundwork for this important work. Committee members are in the process of identifying goals, desired outcomes and immediate next steps, including review of data to inform decisions. Information on the progress of the committee's work will soon be available on the District's website.

### **Operations and Logistics Subcommittee Update**

Planning and preparation is underway specific to procedures for cleaning, transportation, nutritional services and health services. As a reminder, the subcommittee is guided by the recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Maricopa County Department of Public Health \(MCDPH\)](#) and medical experts.

### **Back-to-School Immunizations**

View the immunization requirements of the State of Arizona in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). While we are doing all we can to stop the spread of COVID-19, it is also critical that our students are also protected against other preventable illnesses through these immunizations.

## **Social and Emotional Learning Update**

The Social Emotional subcommittee of the Incident Command Team continues its planning and work on recommendations on a variety of strategies to support re-engagement activities and community-building. Relevant professional development for SUSD teachers will include trauma-informed practices and self-care, with a focus on increasing protective factors to meet the social emotional needs of students. Regardless of the learning model for the 2020-2021 school year, our staff, students and families will have access to support services, including information provided during the school year.

If you need assistance this summer, please contact Shannon Cronn, Clinical Services Coordinator, at [scronn@susd.org](mailto:scronn@susd.org), or Karey Trusler, Social Worker, at [ktrusler@susd.org](mailto:ktrusler@susd.org).

Additionally, you will find a list of community resources below:

- Teen Lifeline: Call 24/7 or Text 602-248-8336
- Crisis Text Line: Text "Home" to 742741
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- Crisis Response Network: 602-222-9444
- Scottsdale Police Crisis Team: 480-312-5055
- The Disaster Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990 or Text TalkWithUs to 66746
- National Parent Helpline: 1-855-4-A-PARENT (1-855-427-2736)
- Vista Del Camino (City of Scottsdale Food Bank): 480-312-2323
- UMOM: <https://umom.org/find-help/>
- Family Housing Hub: 602-595-8700
- Youth Resource Center (For People Aged 18-24 Years Old): 480-868-7527
- Arizona 211: Call 2-1-1 or visit <https://211arizona.org/>
- Arizona Food Bank Network: [www.azfoodbanks.org](http://www.azfoodbanks.org)
- Find Help Phoenix: [www.findhelpphx.org](http://www.findhelpphx.org) or [www.encuentraayudaphx.org](http://www.encuentraayudaphx.org)

## **Kids Club Summer Camp - Register Now!**

Kids Club Summer Camp locations include Hopi, Pima and Redfield Elementary schools. For questions about Kids Club Summer Camp, please contact Executive Director of Community Education Debbie Ybarra at [dybarra@susd.org](mailto:dybarra@susd.org). For more information on Kids Club Summer Camps, visit [www.susd.org/SummerCamp](http://www.susd.org/SummerCamp). Parents and students will be provided guidance upon enrollment relating to our procedures, enhanced cleaning protocols and increased safety measures.

## **Pre-K and Preschool Update**

SUSD's Pre-K and Preschool programs will follow the recommended SUSD reopening model presented to the Governing Board on July 7, 2020. Please email Community Education with any questions at [earlylearning@susd.org](mailto:earlylearning@susd.org).

## **FREE Summer School for SUSD High School Students**

Scottsdale Unified is offering FREE, online summer school for all currently enrolled high school students. The first session is well underway, but we are enrolling for session II starting in July. Please contact Executive Director of Community Education Debbie Ybarra at [dybarra@susd.org](mailto:dybarra@susd.org) with questions. For more information and registration details and deadlines, visit: [www.susd.org/SummerSchool](http://www.susd.org/SummerSchool).

## **Free Meals for Children**

This week, SUSD Nutrition Services distributed 19,642 meals to local children. This free meal distribution will end with the Wednesday, June 24, 2020 service. If you or a family you know is in need of food assistance, please visit [www.azhealthzone.org/summerfood](http://www.azhealthzone.org/summerfood) to find the closest sites offering meals.

Free meals are available to families in need for their children ages 1 – 18 in a drive-up style service at the six SUSD school sites listed below every Wednesday from 8 – 10 a.m. through June 24. Adults can pick up seven breakfasts and seven lunches for each child at:

- Mohave Middle School, 8490 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale
- Navajo Elementary Oak Campus, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale
- Redfield Elementary School, 9181 E. Redfield Rd., Scottsdale
- Tavan Elementary, 4610 E. Osborn Rd., Phoenix
- Tonalea K-8, 6720 E. Continental Dr., Scottsdale
- Yavapai Elementary, 701 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale

To ensure that we continue to have enough meals for children in need, we ask that patrons only come through the line one time. We appreciate your cooperation in making sure that our food supply gets to as many families as possible. For more information, please call Scottsdale Unified's Nutrition Services Department at 480-484-6234 and visit [www.susd.org/Meals](http://www.susd.org/Meals).

### **Stay Up-to-Date All Summer**

No matter where your summer plans take you, news from your school and the District Office is always just a click away. Sign up for our social media accounts listed and linked at [www.susd.org/Connect](http://www.susd.org/Connect) and view all of our District news at [www.susd.org/News](http://www.susd.org/News).

We hope each of you are continuing to stay safe, healthy, and are enjoying summer break. Our next scheduled update is set for Thursday, June 25, 2020.

In appreciation of your support,

Scottsdale Unified School District Cabinet