



September 25, 2020

Hello again, Scottsdale Unified Families,

It has been wonderful this week to greet those of your kindergarten, first and second grade students who returned to our campuses - and for them to meet their teachers in person for the first time this school year! Following this three-day weekend, we look forward to welcoming returning third, fourth and fifth graders on Tuesday, September 29.

As with any new set of circumstances an organization takes on, we are learning which practices and procedures work best on our elementary campuses and are making thoughtful modifications as we go. Students are seeing some changes to their school's facilities and daily procedures. White stripes separating directions of sidewalk traffic, hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations, healthy habits signage on floors and walls, and classroom desks separated into forward-facing rows are just some of the many mitigation measures the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has undertaken to make our schools as safe as possible for students and staff. Principals report that their students are adjusting well to the changes and are keen to comply with our new practices.

Current Metrics

We are pleased to report that the SUSD community at large continues to inch toward improved COVID-19 public health metrics. You can check on our current metrics at www.susd.org/Metrics and on Maricopa County's at <https://www.maricopa.gov/5594/School-Metrics>. We deeply appreciate your conscientious contributions to these bettering numbers. It is your attentiveness to the recognized public health recommendations that have allowed us to open our schools to in-person learning – *and will be a key factor in their being able to remain open.*

Masks Still Required

You may have heard this week that the mayor of Scottsdale has rescinded the [city's face mask order](#). While that decision covers most Scottsdale public places, SUSD students and staff continue to be expected to wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth any time they are on campus, on a school bus or on other District property. We also expect parents and family members to wear a mask if they exit their vehicle or walk on to school property, and encourage them to remain in their vehicles when dropping off and picking up their students. Please also note that the [Maricopa County regulation](#) requiring face coverings remains in effect.

Free Masks

To help make your school mornings run more smoothly, we encourage families to have a supply of clean masks on hand for their student(s) each day. The Arizona Department of Health Services is offering a free package of five washable, reusable cloth face masks to qualifying families. To find out more about the program and place an order for your household, please visit:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-order-masks>

County Health Department

SUSD is collaborating closely with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) to prepare for the appearance of COVID-19 cases in our schools. Our school nurses have undergone extensive training to recognize virus symptoms and initiate isolation practices. They are also responsible for reporting possible cases to MCDPH and the District. Read about SUSD's detailed COVID-19 response plan [here](#).

We are counting on you to be vigilant about your student's health and to keep your student home from school if s/he is exhibiting any sign of illness. You can refresh yourself on the widely recognized symptoms of COVID-19 [here](#).

What's Next

- *September 28: District Recess | All SUSD Campuses, Offices and Facilities Closed*
- **September 29: We Welcome Back Grades 3 – 5**
 - *October 5 -9: Fall Break Week | All SUSD Campuses, Offices and Facilities Closed*
- **October 12: We Welcome Back Grades 6 – 12**

To find your student's bus route, check out our [bus route finder](#). We have also updated answers to your most frequently asked questions about the new school year, which you can find at www.susd.org/FAQ.

Middle Schools and High Schools

We continue to plan for the return of middle school and high school students following Fall Break. Parents will receive commitment forms from their student's principal today, along with information on the learning plan that has been developed by the District to accommodate both those who intend to remain in Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) for the remainder of the first semester and those who plan to return in person to their school campus on October 12. **Commitment forms are due by 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 30.**

ParentVue Acknowledgment

If your student will be returning to in-person learning next week or after Fall Break, we need your action to help us ensure campuses can remain open and to safeguard everyone's health.

- Log into [ParentVue](#) and complete the COVID-19 Parental Acknowledgment and Disclosure portion of the Uniform Code of Conduct. This acknowledgement must be completed before students can attend class on campus. **You can also print the acknowledgement form and have your student bring it to school, if needed.** Find the form in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).
- Submit an updated Immunization Record for your student to your school nurse's office. Students without this record on file or in hand the first day of school will not be permitted on campus. See the Arizona Department of Health Services school attendance immunization requirements [here](#). If you need assistance with obtaining immunizations, Maricopa County Department of Public Health offers immunizations free of charge. Visit <https://www.maricopa.gov/1809/Locations> or call 602-506-6767 for more information.

** It is also extremely important that you have supplied your school office with your current contact information, should we need to reach you urgently.*

Athletics Update

High school home football and volleyball games season tickets will be limited to two family members per participant for safety reasons. Band and pom/cheer/spiritline participants will also have an opportunity to purchase season tickets for the events at which they perform. To purchase those season tickets, you will need an account in [Touchbase](#). Athletic fees must be paid in order to purchase these season tickets.

With limited spectators due to COVID-19, home games will be live-streamed by the NFHS Network, allowing those who cannot attend to watch games remotely. [Find NFHS subscription information here](#).

For those who are able to attend home games, the following safety protocols will be in place:

- Pre-sale tickets will not be sold and tickets will not be available at the gate or door for football games or volleyball matches.
- Masks are mandatory for everyone as soon as they exit a vehicle and must be worn until they re-enter a vehicle.
- Social distancing needs to be observed, with space on all sides and in front/back of all spectators.

- Bring plenty of water, as drinks and food cannot be brought into game sites and concession stands will not be open.
- Spectators must stay in the stands unless they need to use the restroom and they must exit the facility immediately after the game.

Middle School Athletics remain paused. We hope to resume middle school sports when students are scheduled to return to campus on October 12. We appreciate your understanding while we navigate the ongoing challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presents to student athletics. If you have athletics-related questions, please reach out to your site coach and/or athletic director.

September 29 Governing Board Meeting

We are happy to announce that next week's regularly scheduled Governing Board special meeting will be open to a limited number of the public. Total meeting participants will be limited to 50. Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The September 29 meeting gets underway at 5 p.m. at the Mohave District Annex, 8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale. You can also watch the meeting live, or later, on the District's [YouTube channel](#).

Updated SUSD COVID-19 Resource

We invite you to visit our newly reorganized COVID-19 website page, www.susd.org/COVID-19. There, you will find everything you need to know about SUSD's pandemic response, with links to both District and outside resources of information, answers to your most frequently asked questions and details regarding our virus mitigation strategy.

We continue to be grateful for your amazing support of your students, their schools and SUSD, and look forward to corresponding with you again next week.

Respectfully,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)