



December 18, 2020

Greetings of the season to you, Scottsdale Unified Families.

We have reached the close of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, a semester unlike any other our district, our state and our nation have ever witnessed. We have tried the very best we could to weather storm after storm laid at our doorstep by the coronavirus pandemic, always focused on making the best decisions possible for students' education and safety. In our final weekly update of 2020, we offer the following updates and our wishes for a joyous and happy holiday season to you and your family.

### **COVID Update from Dr. Menzel**

The winter break is coming at a critical time for all of us. The latest school [metrics](#) confirm what I shared with the Governing Board on Tuesday evening, related to the district being in the red in all three categories for the first time since this summer. Public health officials continue to express concerns about rising cases and the potential for additional cases that result from families traveling for the holidays.

*As a result of these concerns, the district is again asking families of our elementary students who choose to travel to voluntarily quarantine their students for the scheduled first week of our return to learn in person.* Recently revised quarantine parameters now allow for a 10 day quarantine, rather than 14 days, which means that students who traveled or may have otherwise been exposed to COVID during the upcoming break would be learning remotely for one week, before returning to the classroom on January 11.

Additionally, we are asking staff and students who may contract COVID during the break to share that information in the same manner as if school was in session. Having accurate data is critical to our mitigation strategies. Students who previously contracted COVID within the last 3 months are not required to quarantine if they are a close contact with a new active case, which is one of the reasons we are asking for this information. Please complete this [form](#) to report a positive COVID-19 case. We are making the same request of our staff.

### ***Second Semester Plans***

As shared in the special communication on Wednesday, December 16, the Governing Board approved the following schedule for a phased-in return to in-person learning next month:

January 4: Pre-K, Elementary, Special Education self-contained classrooms  
January 11: Middle School  
January 19: High School

### ***Contingency Planning***

This phased-in, return-to-learn plan is based on updated guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health that was available when the Governing Board met on December 15. During the course of the winter break, I will be reaching out to public health officials, while also monitoring COVID data to ensure they still support implementation of the Board-approved plan as proposed. If anything changes substantively, we will communicate with you as soon as that information is available.

**Elementary, Middle and High School January 2021 Return-to-Learn Timeline**

**January 2021 Learning Plan Timeline**

\*Each principal will share site-specific information, including bell schedule.

Plans	Pre-K - 5th Special Ed. Self-Contained Plan A: In-Person	Middle School and High School Plan C: All At-Home Learning
January 4	<p>Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p>	<p>A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students.</p> <p>SUSD will provide "Learning Labs," a safe place for 6th - 12th grade students who need it. The time will be used for students to complete their asynchronous work when in-person opportunities are not available during regular school hours. Families need to pre-register at the school site.</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth, career pathway planning, and academic skills support.</p>

*\* Transportation for EVIT students will be available at the normal times the weeks of January 4 and 11.*

**January 2021 Learning Plan Timeline**

\*Each principal will share site-specific information, including bell schedule.

Plans	Pre-K - 5th Special Ed Self-Contained Plan A: In-Person	Middle School Plan B: 2/3 In-Person	High School Plan C: All At-Home Learning
January 11	<p>Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p>	<p>A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students. Students attend in-person for 2/3 of the day, leaving campus before lunch.</p> <p>An afternoon schedule of extended learning time is available for students while at home (except for Wednesdays).</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth, career pathway planning, and academic skills support.</p> <p>Some Fine Arts and PE classes will have asynchronous work</p>	<p>A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students</p> <p>SUSD will provide "Learning Labs," a safe place for 6th - 12th grade students who need it. The time will be used for students to complete their asynchronous work when in-person opportunities are not available during regular school hours. Families need to pre-register at the school site.</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth, career pathway planning, and academic skills support.</p>

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## January 2021 Learning Plan Timeline

\*Each principal will share site-specific information, including bell schedule.

Plans	Pre-K - 5th Special Education Self-Contained Plan A: In-Person	Middle School and High School Plan B: $\frac{2}{3}$ In-Person
January 19	<p>Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p>	<p>A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students. Students attend in-person for <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> of the day, leaving campus before lunch.</p> <p>An afternoon schedule of extended learning time is available for students while at home (except for Wednesdays).</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth, career pathway planning, and academic skills support.</p> <p>Some Fine Arts and PE classes will have asynchronous work</p>

## K-8 January 2021 Return-to-Learn Timeline

### K-8 January 2021 Learning Plan Timeline

\*Each principal will share site-specific information, including bell schedule.

	Cheyenne Pre K-8 In-Person	Copper Ridge K-8	Echo Canyon PreK-8 In-Person	Tonalea K-8
January 4	<p><b>Pre-K- 8 (7:45 - 2:15) In-Person</b> Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p>	<p><b>K-5 (8:45 - 3:15) In-Person</b> Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p> <p><b>6-8 ( 8:45 - 12:50) <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> In-Person</b> A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students. Students attend in-person for <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> of the day, leaving campus before lunch.</p> <p>An afternoon schedule of extended learning time is available for students while at home. (except for Wednesdays).</p>	<p><b>Pre-K-8 (7:45- 2:20)</b> Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p>	<p><b>Pre-K-5 (7:45 - 2:20)</b> Regular school day, full day in-person</p> <p>Early release every Wednesday: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities centered around social/emotional growth and academic skills support.</p> <p><b>6-8 (7:45 - 11:50) Plan C: At Home Learning</b> A full day of learning is expected, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students. Students attend class virtually for <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> of the day.</p> <p>An afternoon schedule of extended learning time is available for students while at home (except for Wednesdays).</p>

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### Learning Expectations for 2021

[Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

### Spring Learning Model

As you will recall, we recently asked families to commit to a [Spring Learning Model](#). Staffing and scheduling for the second semester that begins on January 4, 2021 have been made, based on those selections. If a family wishes to amend its selection, we continue to accept requests. Please fill out the form linked below and return it to your school registrar. Model changes are granted based on space availability.

→ Download the Model Change form: [English](#); [Spanish](#).

*Please note that all requests will be processed during the week of January 4, 2021 – after Winter Break. Until you are notified that we have been able to accommodate your change request, please send your student to the model you initially selected.*

### **Athletics Update**

**Middle Schools** – At this time, SUSD hopes to resume athletic opportunities for grades 6-8 on January 11, when in-person instruction resumes at our middle schools. The sports offered would be girls basketball, boys flag football, cross country and Spiritline. As always, anyone who chooses to participate needs to be signed up in advance in [Register My Athlete](#). We will continue our COVID-19 safety protocols of temperature checks, mandatory masks and symptoms logs. If we are able to return to competition, we are uncertain at this point whether we will be able to host spectators at the Festival or at games. Thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. If you have specific questions about athletics, please contact your school athletic director.

**High Schools** – The AIA Winter Sports of soccer, basketball and wrestling continue to practice at this time. We are also continuing our COVID-19 safety protocols of symptoms logs, temperature checks and requiring those who do not feel well to stay home. If we are able to begin competing after the winter recess, the AIA, with the input of its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, has determined that no spectators will be permitted at games statewide. We do hope to be able to begin competition next month, but that may be dependent on a metrics review by the AIA. If you have specific questions about athletics, please contact your school coach or athletic director.

### **SUSD School Year Calendar Update**

Stakeholders have been collaborating to develop school calendar options for the next four school years (2021-22; 2022-23; 2023-24; and 2024-25), in order to bring recommendations to the SUSD Governing Board. We are seeking input on what priorities are most important to our community to assist with this process. Please utilize [Thoughtexchange](#) to share your response to this question: “Taking into consideration historically observed breaks (Fall, Spring, Winter and observed holidays), as well as traditional first and last days of school, what is the most important consideration when developing a school calendar?”

### **Cox Communications**

Through the collaboration of state Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman and Cox Communications, thousands of Arizona students in the metro Phoenix area, Pinal County and southern Arizona receive Cox Communications’ Connect2Compete internet service, an innovative solution to support students throughout the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Cox recently began doubling the speed of that service to 50 mbps/download for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. This temporary increase is intended to help provide low-income families and students with the peace of mind necessary to complete schoolwork, communicate with teachers and have the same opportunities to access information as their classmates.

Cox offers a service package particularly geared to students and families receiving government assistance, such as reduced or free school lunch, SNAP benefits or public housing. Families can qualify for Connect2Compete easily by visiting [cox.com/c2c](#). Eligible participants who sign up before December 31, 2020 will receive two months of free service and pay \$9.95 monthly going forward.

### **Nutrition Services Update**

ALL children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive FREE meals from SUSD Nutrition Services through the entire 2020-2021 school year, thanks to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. This means that ALL children, both SUSD students and those not enrolled in SUSD, can participate and receive free meals.

**All SUSD in-person learners can choose their free breakfast and lunch daily at their school.** Meals are available at **no charge** and no qualification is necessary.

Free “7-Day Meal Bundles,” including 7 days’ worth of breakfasts, lunches, snacks and suppers, will continue to be available when school resumes next month, on Wednesdays, from 7 - 9:30 a.m. at SUSD’s Oak Campus, 7501. E. Oak St., Scottsdale.

***We have added Chaparral High School as an additional curbside meal-distribution site for two weeks in January.*** Meal distribution at Chaparral will take place from 7 - 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6 and on Wednesday, January 13 ONLY, and will include 7 days’ worth of free breakfasts, lunches, snacks and suppers per child.

- **EDL and SOL students can pick up 7 days’ worth of breakfasts, lunches, snacks and suppers.** Parents may pick up the meals; students need not be present. Meals are available at no charge and no qualification is necessary. Just drive up and pick up a week’s meal bundle per student.
- **Free meals will also be distributed to any child under the age of 18 in the community.** No qualification is necessary.

Please note that there will be ***no curbside service next week, on Dec. 23, or the following week, on Dec. 30.*** Our cheerful Nutrition Services personnel will be back to serve you with a smile on Wednesday, January 6!

### **COVID-19 Testing**

Maricopa County and Banner Health Urgent Care have teamed up to offer COVID-19 testing at no cost to anyone who may have been exposed to someone who is, or suspected to be, COVID-19 positive. Appointments must be made ahead of time online using this link: <https://urgentcare.bannerhealth.com/>. COVID-19 testing and drive-through flu shots are also being offered at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. Registration is required ahead of time [at this link](#) or by calling 844-549-1851. Insurance information will be requested; however, you will not be asked for any out-of-pocket payment or co-pay.

Other community COVID-19 options include:

- [ASU Saliva Testing](#)
- [City of Phoenix Mobile Testing Sites](#)
- [CVS Pharmacy Retail Testing Sites](#)
- [Walgreens Pharmacy Drive-Thru Sites](#)

### **Maricopa County’s COVID Parent Hotline**

For more questions or concerns about COVID-19, including testing, contact the Maricopa County Department of Health’s parent information center at [COVIDparenthotlione@maricopa.gov](mailto:COVIDparenthotlione@maricopa.gov) or dial 2-1-1, select option 6 (for COVID-19) and then option 3 (for the COVID Parent Hotline).

### **Questions, Comments or Need Assistance? Let’s Talk!**

We appreciate the opportunity to hear directly from you. We also know you appreciate a direct response from the person at SUSD who is best equipped and empowered to provide you with the right information. That’s why we ask that you submit questions, comments and suggestions through the Let’s Talk app on our website at [www.susd.org/LetsTalk](http://www.susd.org/LetsTalk).

Thank you for your support throughout 2020. We wish you a very happy and safe holiday season, and we’ll be back with more updates in January 2021.

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)

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Remember – there is only one official source of SUSD COVID-19 information on the internet: the SUSD website at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19). Here are a few highlights of what is available in that section of our website:

- **Briefings:** The official copies of the District office weekly briefings to SUSD parents. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Briefings](http://www.susd.org/Briefings).

- **Campus Closures:** In the event there is a closure of any SUSD campus, it would be listed on this page immediately. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Closures](http://www.susd.org/Closures).
- **COVID-19 Case Dashboard:** A detailed count of current and past, known, lab-confirmed COVID-19 case counts by building. This data is updated weekly, on Fridays. It is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Dashboard](http://www.susd.org/Dashboard).
- **COVID-19 Response Plan:** A detailed description of how SUSD will respond when a known case of COVID-19 is identified or when contact with a suspected case happens. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/COVIDPlan](http://www.susd.org/COVIDPlan).
- **Metrics:** Health metrics by zip code, updated each week, on Thursdays. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Metrics](http://www.susd.org/Metrics).
- **January 2021 Return to Learn:** The plans and schedule for the second semester, which begins, January 4, 2021. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/ReturntoLearn](http://www.susd.org/ReturntoLearn).