



September 14, 2021

Superintendent's Message: Student Information System - Aeries Update

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

Thank you for your continued patience as we finalize the implementation of our new student information system, *Aeries*, to replace *Illuminate* Student Information System, which is no longer in service.

This massive undertaking has taken our team more than a year, while also dealing with the pandemic, virtual learning last year and an increase in technology use upon our return. We appreciate our Educational Technology and Information Services team and their hard work and dedication to multiple critical tasks at hand.

The good news is that we are expecting the Parent and Student Portal to be up and running in the next week. We are rolling this out a few schools at a time to allow for focused troubleshooting, if needed. The invitation email will come from Santamonicamalibu@aeries.net the subject line will read: *SMMUSD Aeries Parent Portal - New Parent/Guardian Account Created*. We understand that this is a critical part of our integration and extremely important for students and parents to stay on top of student assignments and performance. Aeries has a tutorial available for navigating the system. You can find it here <https://bit.ly/AeriesPortal2021>. It will be included in your portal set-up welcome email sent to the email address in the Student Information System. Contact your School Site should you need to change your contact email address. Parents and Students will have the ability to reset their own passwords by clicking on the reset password link.

Once the portals are up and running, your School Site will ask parents to verify contact information in *Aeries*, which will be helpful in learning how to navigate the new system. We will be providing instructions and school site staff will provide support.

We began work on this project more than a year ago, however, throughout the process of integrating multiple modules we faced integration challenges that were addressed as quickly as possible.

We are working on third party integrations with our partners including CLEVER which houses many of our digital textbooks and digital resources, along with various vendors that have unique data sync requirements.

Please keep your eye out for information from your site principal. We are looking forward to this new system that is used by the majority of school districts in the State of California. It is a powerful tool for parents, students and staff.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent