



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 28, 2020

## **Superintendent's Message: First week of distance learning completed**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

We have completed the first week of the most unusual start to the school year in modern history. Our educators were ready to welcome students, and with the support and encouragement of parents, students showed up ready to learn and excited to reconnect with their peers.

I want to thank all of our teachers, administrators and staff for taking on this challenge with a great attitude, passion for student achievement, and determination to provide a smooth and welcoming start to the first days of the new school year.

Even the threat of a Zoom worldwide malfunction in the early morning of our first day could not deter them. Our teachers, administrators, and classified staff were ready and we applauded them for embracing this unique situation and setting a positive tone to start the year.

Were there a few bumps in the road? Yes, and that is the case in a more typical start to the school year. Were some students late to class, unsure where to go, having trouble with technology? Yes, again, this is the case every year. Our support staff, whether working from the school site, district office or remotely, supported parents and students, guiding them in the right direction, answering questions and providing support.

We know this is a challenge for parents and we appreciate your engagement with your school, your commitment to supporting your student and your positive approach to distance learning.

Would we prefer to be in school teaching our students in bustling classrooms, enjoying group activities and learning and playing in person? Absolutely. Unfortunately, we still do not have approval from our guiding agencies as Los Angeles continues on the state's watch list. Things are improving and we are simultaneously working on our reopening protocols so we are ready when approval is given.

In the meantime, we are committed to providing a robust distance learning experience for our students, and after viewing the first week in action, we are confident that our teachers will continue to provide a quality experience for all students. Note that we will be engaging our students, staff, and parents on a regular basis to assess areas of success and improvement.

Teachers, staff, parents and students, keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent

[SMMUSD Distance Learning Parent Guide](#)

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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