



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 5, 2020

**Superintendent's Message:  
Possible School Start Date Change to Aug. 24th**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Our team is working hard to create a robust distance learning program for all students this fall.

We are in the process of finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association (SMMCTA) that includes expectations regarding various aspects of distance learning. Our school board will discuss and take action on the MOU at the August 13, 2020 meeting.

One component of the MOU is professional learning and the appropriate number of days to fully train and empower our teachers with the necessary skills and tools to successfully teach remotely this fall. In addition to the previously planned three days of professional development, consideration is being given to adding two days, potentially moving the **school start date to Monday, August 24, 2020**. This will add two days to the end of the school year in June. Additionally, this summer, many of our teachers have been engaged in trainings on the various digital platforms and have participated in work groups preparing for the fall. Professional learning will continue during the school year.

We understand that families are anxious for more information regarding distance learning, expectations, potential child care, schedules and more. We are finalizing all details and will have more information for you soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent