



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 12, 2020

Superintendent's Message: Tentative Agreement Regarding Reopening of Schools and Distance Learning

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) and the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association (SMMCTA) (“the Parties”) reached a Tentative Agreement on August 7, 2020, on a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) regarding the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Subsequently, on August 10, 2020, the MOU was ratified by the SMMCTA Executive Board on behalf of the unit members. The MOU is on the August 13, 2020, Board of Education’s [agenda](#) for approval.

As it was previously announced that students shall begin the 2020–2021 school year in distance learning, the Parties agreed teachers will implement the elementary, middle and high school distance learning agreements established by the Teaching and Learning Working group. Members of the collaborative group included teachers and administrators from throughout the District and from every grade span.

The agreements include a commitment that teachers will provide live instruction for 230–240 minutes daily, except for the secondary compressed day. Students’ experience with live instruction will vary as “live time” will include whole class and small group instruction, both delivered synchronously and asynchronously, as well as independent work. Classroom teachers will provide specific schedules prior to the first day of school. Additionally, the agreements include a commitment that teachers will communicate weekly what students can expect in the upcoming week.

The MOU includes agreements to add two days for professional development and planning for teachers, to move the first day for students to August 24, 2020 and to extend the school year by two days.

The MOU addresses several other areas including:

- a commitment by the District to fulfill public health protocol requirements before re-opening for in-person instruction,
- allowing teachers to work remotely or at their assigned site,
- the opportunity to reschedule calendared Back to School Nights,
- training for substitute teachers,
- selection criteria in the event the District offers a Virtual Learning Academy option,
- leaves of absences, and
- teacher evaluation for 2020–2021, and resolving previously paused evaluations.



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

I express gratitude to all the educators who worked throughout the summer to develop the distance learning agreements. We all look forward to implementation of the MOU and welcoming back our students on August 24.

Please watch for a more detailed description of distance learning expectations in our forthcoming parent guide, that will be emailed and posted next week.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent