



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 5, 2020

Good evening, John Muir Families-

Happy August! Welcome to our new Muir Families :) I hope that this email finds you and your family safe, healthy, and enjoying the summer vacation. I want to take a moment to update you briefly on plans for the upcoming 2020-21 school year.

-->As you know, due to the current conditions surrounding COVID-19, the school year will start in a distance learning format. Details on the Distance Learning plan, schedules, and class placements are being diligently worked on, and will be made available as soon as they are ready over the next week or so. Please stay tuned! In general, the Distance Learning model will consist of daily synchronous and asynchronous instruction in ELA, math, science/social studies and social-emotional learning delivered through whole- and multiple small-group opportunities with the teacher. Additionally, office hours where kids (and parents) can meet individually with the teacher, will be available as needed/scheduled.

-->In the meantime, you can be preparing to receive important beginning of the year information from John Muir and SMMUSD by making sure that we have **your correct email address on file**. If you have received this communication, then you are all set. If someone had to forward it to you in order for you to read it, please take a moment to update your email address by sending an email to [nnavarro@smmusd.org](mailto:nnavarro@smmusd.org)

-->In a letter from Dr. Drati sent earlier today, it states that one component of the agreement being finalized between SMMUSD and the teachers' union 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. Action will be taken on and a final decision on the school start date will be made by our Board at the August 13 meeting.

-->Also, we know that the combined challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, social unrest due to racial injustice, social distancing measures and returning to distance learning can cause added stress for students and families. Teachers will be providing opportunities for social and emotional learning through distance learning class time as a way to build community and strengthen social and emotional wellness, and virtual support/counseling groups will be offered through school sites on various wellness topics. Individual mental health counseling support continues to be available for SMMUSD students through partnerships with community agencies as well as school social work interns at many of our sites. If you feel your child is in need of additional emotional support, contact me [plytz@smmusd.org](mailto:plytz@smmusd.org) to get more information about how to get referred and connected.

-->Check your school-issued devices (if you borrowed a Chromebook last spring) to be sure that they are ready for the new year. If you need tech support, please email [muirsupport@smmusd.org](mailto:muirsupport@smmusd.org)

Please continue to enjoy the last weeks of summer vacation!

Sincerely-

Paula Lytz, Principal John Muir Elementary

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