

Webster Weekly 7-31-2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Webster Parents,

I hope you are savoring your summer break with your children and family and that you have discovered some bright spots within your new normal. As you know, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved distance learning to begin the 2020-21 school year. This model was selected as the most health-protective model for students and staff to begin the new year, scheduled for August 20, 2020. As you make plans that fit your individual family needs, I imagine you have many questions. I would encourage you to visit the district page which provides the most recent information regarding the [reopening of schools](#). I may not have all your answers now, but I wanted to send this summer newsletter to tell you what I do know. I kindly ask that you exercise flexibility and patience as our district reimagines education in a digital landscape and I your principal, open a digital school for the first time! The outpouring of support to our staff and teachers thus far has been so welcomed. We are all navigating new waters and the more we can do to support everyone to stay afloat, the more likely we will be able to sail!

When does school start?

We will continue to utilize the district adopted calendar which you can view [2020-2021 Calendar](#).

When will we know the online expectations and schedules for the Distance Learning program?

The district level Teaching and Learning Council has been meeting throughout summer to finalize the grade level/subject matter specific schedules for Distance Learning. This work is based on the data we received from parent surveys and valuable teacher and administrator input on best practices for Distance Learning. Additionally, the SMMCTA teacher Union is negotiating the MOU this week. Once I obtain both of these important documents, we can begin tailoring the specific Distance Learning Program to be offered at Webster.

Webster teachers and staff are still on summer vacation enjoying their last few weeks of relaxation. But that doesn't mean Webster isn't gearing up for fall. I have teams of teachers meeting in the next few weeks to develop schedules, plan instruction and learn about best practices for remote learning. In the next week or two, I will also know how much PTA was able to raise in the SOS campaign. This information is necessary before I can begin building the master schedule of our extra programs at Webster.

Prior to the start of school on **Aug. 17th @ 5:30 p.m. Principal Daruty and PTA President Heather Campi will host an informative parent evening via Zoom.**

<https://zoom.us/j/91081777478?pwd=cFMrMOE1OXovRGFMZWZPbTV5WFFWZz09>

Meeting ID: 910 8177 7478 Passcode: 175212. The agenda will include: general grade level schedules, parent involvement “do’s and don’ts”, grading & attendance expectations, instructional strategies, material distribution dates, and how you can help our school be great!

Will students be provided Chrome books for at home instruction?

Yes, Chromebooks will be provided to any student enrolled at Webster. Dates and instructions to follow. If your current school issued Chromebook needs repair we will also provide you support with repair or replacement.

What materials will I need to start the school year? Will there be a contactless materials pick-up day?

Yes, we will offer this to families. The dates and times are TBD. Webster school will provide your child with ALL of the necessary materials to implement our Distance Learning Program. You do not need to purchase any supplies. Parents will be invited to campus to pick-up general school supplies (pencils, paper, glue etc.) as well as and specific materials provided by their assigned classroom teacher (textbooks, consumable work books, journals).

My student left items in their classroom last year. How may I retrieve those items? Once it is safe for our staff to return to school (we are still undergoing HVAC construction), we will gather these belongings. Our intention is return Lost and Found items and personal items left in classrooms to every student!

At the Town Hall meeting Dr. Drati mentioned the option for Distance Learning Centers. When will these plans be shared?

The district is still developing childcare options. We understand the strains DL has placed on families and want to provide every viable option. I should know more in the upcoming weeks. We will continue to explore and communicate all possible options with our community partners such as our valued relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Malibu.

Our family is making plans with another family to supplement learning and help with child care. Can we make class placement requests to fit these “pod” plans?

Unfortunately, I can't guarantee that students will be placed with other students. As you know, the class-building process is a very laborious and time-consuming activity in which we engage to ensure balanced and equitable classes. Some of the criteria we use to build balanced classes are gender, race/ethnicity, ability level, behavior, English Language Learners, and students with special needs. The teachers and I have already completed *the tentative lists* for the upcoming year. I truly appreciate how our parents are thinking outside the box during this unprecedented time, however, we are unable to add this as one of our criteria, as the classes will most certainly be out of balance and it will foster, what we believe, are massive issues of equity for many of our students. That said, this year, our grade-level teams will be continuing the work of aligning the instructional program and schedules so that it will not matter which teacher a child has in the grade level as the core of the content area work will be the same. Enrollment is continuously

shifting through summer and has impacted the tentative class assignments we completed before summer. **I will email parents their student's class/teacher assignments on August 14th.**

Our family is considering securing support (tutor/teacher) for our children at home. Are there minimum requirements to participate in Distance Learning Program provided by the school?

The distance learning program that will be offered at Webster Elementary **does not** require the hiring of an outside teacher or tutor to implement. If your child is enrolled at Webster they are expected to follow the provided instructional program. Teachers will take daily attendance. Assessments will be given, assignments will be grades and a standards-based report card grade will be provided. Teachers, as always, will work with individual families to adapt and scaffold the curriculum based on your child's individual needs. Parents may not "pick and choose" which components of the program they want to implement. The expectation is to adhere to the program offered with the full support of our teachers and staff.

If you have additional questions or concerns feel free to email Principal Daruty @ ldaruty@smmusd.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN Webster and MES PTAs are currently running an emergency fundraising campaign called "SOS". Our two schools are on their own to finance Planet Bravo, PS Arts and retain our Instructional Aides. As we begin to reimagine the new year, providing these programs and the support of familiar, skilled adults will be paramount. Please consider sending your donations to the <https://websterpta.com/>. We are holding an online auction too! Learn more about [HERE](#). Bid now, there are some exciting items to bid on!

HVAC Installation: The construction is ongoing and we are excited to have air conditioning by the end of August.

August 14th Webster Office Opens We will be working remotely but you can expect emails and phone calls to be answered daily.

August 17th @ 5:30 p.m. Parent Information Night. Prior to the start of school Principal Daruty and PTA President Heather Campi will host an informative evening via Zoom. The agenda will include: general grade level schedules, parent involvement "do's and don'ts", grading & attendance expectations, instructional strategies, material distribution dates, and how you can help our school be great!

August 20th First Day of School

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Superintendent Anti-racism Message Our Board of Education and Superintendent recently sent out this [message](#). Webster is fully onboard. Webster teachers will be following up with lessons and learning projects to support equity through excellence.

Meal service: Children enrolled in any SMMUSD school or program will be able to pick up free breakfast and lunch from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Monday-Friday at the following schools: Santa Monica High School, McKinley Elementary, Will Rogers Learning Community in Santa Monica and Webster Elementary in Malibu. SMMUSD families may go to any of these schools even if not enrolled there. All students under the age of 18 will be served. A parent or guardian must be present, except high school students may participate on their own. We are providing grab-and-go bagged meals. If you or your child are sick, do not come to school. **This will continue through the summer and next year.**

Visit the SMMUSD [Family Resources](#) website that contains instructional materials by grade span in all core subjects that will continue to be updated with additional resources and materials to support parents who are supporting students at home during this extended closure. Visit the Distance Learning, Instructional Resources or Community Resource pages in the link above for important and helpful information.

The Wellness Center at The Boys & Girls Club of Malibu The Wellness Center continues to offer and provide much needed counseling to all Malibu public school children and their families via video conference during this time. If you would like to request and schedule a video conference therapy session with one of our clinicians, please call or email:

[Wellness Center Director](#)

Randi Goodman, LMFT#52964

[310-691-6523](tel:310-691-6523)

wellnessinfo@bgcmalibu.org

ARTICLE FROM THE BGCM:

Teachers know about the “summer slide,” – the period when students return to school from summer break and teachers must review last year’s material before moving forward with new material. It’s common for students to play catch-up when returning to school, and considering the long break because of the quarantine, learning starting this fall may be even more challenging. Here are some ways to keep your children academically engaged over the summer:

- Encourage reading. While other subjects are important, reading is the gateway to learning. Allow children to choose their own books. It’s ok if they select books with lots of pictures. Any time spent reading is beneficial. Allowing children to choose their own books gives them agency.
- Buy a science notebook and have your children record daily observations about the natural world around them. Have them spend time outside taking notes and drawing pictures of what they see.

- Ask children to help write a grocery list or create a menu plan for the week to encourage writing and critical thinking. Look at recipes together and discuss specific amounts needed, make measurements together, etc.
- Plant a small garden. Children like the idea of growing things and bringing fruits/vegetables to the table to eat. Choose something simple and easy to grow – like peas, green beans, or tomatoes. They're all easily grown in a small pot!
- Try creative writing! Help your child choose a topic they are interested in and ask them to write a paragraph or a page about it. Topics can be fun, such as their favorite family vacation, favorite food or animal, or a holiday memory.

In all summer learning, allow the child's interests to lead. Children deserve a break from school, but keeping their mind engaged in learning all year can help their academic success in the long run.

For more suggestions on keeping academically fit during the summer, check out these links:

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/parents-preventing-summer-slide-jennifer-peck>

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/summer-learning-activities-that-are-practically-free/>

OTHER INFORMATION:

New Student Enrollment: Spread the word, we are enrolling NOW for the 2020-21 school year. It will be all done electronically. Please read the [Webster Enrollment Process](#) memo or reach out to Michael Ward, michaele.ward@smmusd.org for more information.

Malibu Middle School Summer Reading



Please use this [LINK](#)

1) Students should read at least one book of their choice. The book may be one you borrow from the public library, purchase, or you may find hundreds of free books using [Sora](#) (under "resources" on our website's library page; please use student ID to login).

2) When school starts in August, students should be able to participate in a discussion about their book and why they would or would not recommend the book to peers.

3) No written assignment or grade will be attached to summer reading.

Here is the link: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5928>

District Announcements: <https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/58471>. SMMUSD posts information parents may find valuable on the WEBSTER homepage. Please use the link above to quickly access this page.

For the latest PTA news from Webster, follow us at @ptawebster on twitter.