



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 21, 2020

Superintendent's Message: Welcome Back and Expressing Appreciation for our Classified Staff

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

I hope you were able to take some time during spring break to relax with your family as we move through this difficult time of staying safe at home to protect our health and the health of others.

As we return to distance learning this week, we want to acknowledge a dedicated group of classified employees who continued to work during spring break as essential workers at our sites.

In this letter, I want to recognize this core group of our SMMUSD family who are doing tremendous work keeping our students fed, our campuses safe, and our distance learning supported. Our classified personnel performed a variety of duties during spring break and continue through distance learning including: food service for ALL students who need a meal, providing security on our closed campuses, and supporting our teachers and students in our distance learning journey.

Our classified staff continues to provide support to our district and site teams, and families, in our human resources department, maintenance, operations, custodial, facilities, transportation, administrative support, special education support, payroll, purchasing, fiscal, business, translation and family support services.

We often do not see these vital jobs being performed, but the continued operations of our programs during this trying time is made possible with the support of these dedicated employees.

Please take a moment to thank them, either in person (from at least 6 feet away!), by email, or even on social media. During times like these, let us all pause to reflect on all the individuals who are supporting everything we do, every day, even in these challenging times.

Our classified staff have big hearts and are dedicated to their work and supporting all of us. Thank you to all of you for your passion and commitment to our families.

Distance Learning

Distance learning continues to be our education delivery system through the remainder of this school year. Our teachers, administrators and district staff have worked hard to create a robust system to meet the needs and goals of all students. Our principals have reached out to families



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regarding plans for your school and students. Please check with your teacher(s), counselors / advisors and school administrators for more information for your particular school. Please make sure your email address and phone numbers are up to date at your school to ensure receiving important messages. If you have previously opted out of school / district messages, please ask your school to opt you back in. It's very important to stay connected and also receive any emergency information. Our Blackboard Connect voice, email, text and push notification system is our communications platform for general information and emergency information.

Our **Distance Learning / Family Resources Online Hub**: www.smmusd.org/familyresources is our portal for information on distance learning, instructional resources, community and mental health resources and special education information. I encourage parents and staff to check out this hub.

Meal Service Program

The district continues to provide breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals for students on weekdays from 8-10 a.m at Samohi, McKinley, Rogers in Santa Monica and Webster in Malibu. My letter prior to spring break includes information regarding Enrollment for 2020-21, Permits and Continuing Enrollment Verification, facility improvement projects and Census2020. The letter also mentions discussions taking place now regarding grades and graduation requirements, end-of-year activities and summer school. More on these topics will be forthcoming.

Technology Access

Please contact your teacher or administrator if your student needs use of a device for distance learning or complete this form: <https://bit.ly/SMM0420>. We understand that families who have devices may be strained to share between students and parents working from home, and we will also accommodate devices under this circumstance.

For up-to-date health guidelines and recommendations, please visit: www.smmusd.org/coronavirus.

Please stay healthy and safe and continue to take care of each other.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent