

# Summer Report 2020



## Update on Voter-Approved Local Funding Supporting Malibu Schools



The overwhelming voter approval of Measure M in 2018 marked the first Malibu-specific source of local school funding, allowing us to take the first essential steps to re-make Malibu High and Malibu Middle Schools, as well as make essential repairs and upgrades to all our Malibu schools – most of which were built more than 60 years ago.



### A New Malibu Middle School!

Malibu's new middle school building opened in 2019, bringing 21st-century classrooms and more hands-on learning to Malibu students in clean, safe and engaging learning environments. The long-awaited library and classroom building project is nearing completion. This facility will house multiple science labs, a new library, classrooms, and a media lab, as well as college and career counselors and other student services. Construction is anticipated to be complete in time to occupy the building in January 2021. These projects integrate environmentally sustainable practices, saving energy costs.

### Improved School Security System in Place

The visitor management system is now installed at all campuses, verifying identification of all visitors and an updated intrusion alarm system is now operational. New public announcement and camera systems are in design. These security improvement projects will improve safety for our schools.

### Repairs and Upgrades to Elementary Schools

SMMUSD took full advantage of the unfortunate campus closures to accelerate projects planned for summer of 2020. The installation of the air conditioning at Webster Elementary School started earlier than scheduled and is on track to be complete when school resumes to protect students and teachers during extreme temperatures. Electrical upgrades to replace old wiring have also been accelerated to support more hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) instruction. A new playground is being installed at Malibu Elementary School ahead of schedule. It will include seating areas to serve multiple purposes and also be available to the Point Dume community to use when school is not in session.



### Plans Reflect Community Priorities

The Malibu Campus Plan was developed with extensive parent, student and staff involvement. The entire community can be proud of the work that has been accomplished. Architects have been selected to design the new Phase 1 Malibu High School Project, which will include STEAM classrooms, student support services, administrative support services and resource centers with a focus on career pathways. [Click here](#) for a detailed progress report on current and planned Malibu school facility improvements.

### Addressing Fiscal Challenges

The funds SMMUSD has available as a result of voter-approved bonds for school facility improvements unfortunately cannot solve the overall budget challenge our schools are facing when it comes to funding programs, teachers, counselors, librarians and other essential school staff who support our students. By law, bond funds may only be used for already in construction, modernizing and technology. Before COVID-19, SMMUSD was already in the process of realigning its budget to address the gap between ongoing costs and existing revenues. The economic impact of a worldwide pandemic has significantly compounded the severity of the problem as all schools anticipate reduced State and local funding. The 2020-21 budget is finalized and has been approved by the school board. Detailed budget information and reports are available [online](#).

### Fall 2020 School Re-Open Planning

In close coordination with public health officials and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the planning process to re-open our schools this fall is underway. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District hosted a virtual town hall-style meeting on July 7 for Malibu schools to discuss potential models for reopening schools based on parent and staff survey responses and State and County public health guidelines. The plan is expected to be finalized mid-July. Recordings of the meetings and the presentation can be found [here](#).



For more information or any questions, please visit [www.smmusd.org/superintendent](http://www.smmusd.org/superintendent)