

August 12, 2021



**Dear Edison Families,**

**Welcome to our new students and families and welcome back to continuing members of the Edison community!** We are so excited to be able to begin the year with in-person dual immersion instruction. Although the Covid-19 pandemic continues, we are confident that with a good home-school partnership and closely following SMMUSD's safety protocols, we will be able to create a great year of learning – *together through two languages!* This letter contains some important information to help you and your family prepare for the first days of school. Your child will receive a first day packet with many other pieces of information and there will be multiple meetings in the first days of school to ask clarifying questions and for teachers and school staff to share more important information. But I wanted to get us started with some of the most pressing questions and answers to start the school year.

**What's the schedule for the first week?** August 19 is the first day of school for all students and is also a Minimum Day for all students. On Friday, August 20, only the TK and K students will have a minimum day; all others have a regular dismissal time. Please note that beginning with the second week of school, we have a shortened day on Wednesdays.

**How and when do we drop off and pick up our students?** Edison has staggered arrival and departure times by grade level in order to reduce traffic on our narrow residential streets and cut down on health screening time at the gates. Each grade level is also assigned to enter and leave through a different gate. Please note below the time and gate where your child will start and end the day. Once your child is accustomed to school routines, you may want to use drop off zones at the Kansas and Virginia gates where your child can be screened from your car; otherwise, please park remotely, walk to campus and wait with your child for screening and entry.

### Edison Bell Schedules and Assigned Gates

Grade	Regular Day	Minimum Days	Drop Off and Pick Up Gates
Pre-K	8:30 -2:30	8:30 - 12:30	Parents must walk into the classroom for screening and sign in
TK	8:15– 1:15	8:15 – 12:30	Preschool Parking Lot Gate (8:00-8:15)
Kindergarten	8:15 – 1:15	8:15 – 12:30	Preschool Parking Lot Gate (8:00-8:15)
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades	8:15– 2:45	8:15 -- 1:35	1 <sup>st</sup> – Virginia Avenue Main Gate (8:00-8:15) 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Kansas Avenue Gate (8:00-8:15)
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades	8:30 – 3:00	8:30 -- 1:50	3 <sup>rd</sup> - Preschool Parking Lot Gate (8:15-8:30) 4 <sup>th</sup> – Kansas Avenue Gate (8:15-8:30) 5 <sup>th</sup> – Virginia Avenue Main Gate (8:15-8:30)

**What happens at the end of the day?** Teachers walk students to the same gate through which they entered and parents may pick them up there right outside the gates. There will be signs for parents to line up by class (so it's helpful to remember your child's teachers' name!) to keep dismissal smooth and distanced. Children who are registered for on-campus child care will be taken directly to their child care classrooms. At this time, there is no playground access after school and children who are not in a campus-based child care program should be picked up promptly at their dismissal gates.

**What if I have more than one student at Edison and they're assigned to different gates and times?** We'll work with you so that it's not impossible to drop or pick up your kids. For children who have the same arrival time but are assigned to different gates, use to the gate assigned to the youngest child. Your teacher's welcome email will include information about their class morning waiting area and there will be signage and staff to help children learn where to go. For the end of the day, make a pick up plan with your children about which of the two assigned gates you'll be using and email their teachers to let them know. For children who have different arrival and departure times, your best bet is to time your arrival for close to 8:15 am and have children use the same gate as that assigned to the older child. That way your younger child can go right into class and the older child can wait in line with others of his/her grade until it's time for their group to be screened and enter. At the end of the day, make a plan with your children about which gate they'll use and have the younger child wait just inside the gate until their older sibling's class comes down. Let the teachers know what your plan is.

### **Where is my child's class and who is the teacher?**

A few days before school begins you will receive an email from your child's teacher, announcing their class placement, providing some details for the first days, and welcoming children and families to the learning community. Classes were built thoughtfully, considering any confidential input from parents, recommendations of last year's teacher, and consideration given to any special learning needs in order to create classes that are diverse with a good mix of language backgrounds. If your child does not know the way to their classroom waiting area, they will be directed by Campus Monitors and we will have rosters of classes at each gate in case they have forgotten the name of their new teacher. Teachers come to the classroom waiting areas to pick up students and escort them to the classroom. If you don't see an email, check your spam folder and if the email is not there, email Kathy Fagnoli ([kfagnoli@smmusd.org](mailto:kfagnoli@smmusd.org)) for your child's class assignment.

**How does daily entry screening work?** Children and families line up (masked and socially distanced at six-foot intervals) outside their assigned gate during their designated entry window (8:00-8:15 or 8:15-8:30 am). A team of Edison staff at each gate will check your child's temperature, ask health screening questions, provide hand sanitizer so children can start the day with clean hands and offer a welcome to school. SMMUSD has adopted a new prescreening program, "The Company Nurse" and information on how to access and use the app will be sent out as soon as available. We recommend that all parents try to use this app as it acts as a kind of "fast pass" for entry. If your responses indicates your child may have Covid symptoms, the Company Nurse advises you stay home and call the school office for further instructions. **Please be patient and allow a little extra time those first days** as people learn to use the app. Also, some children just need a little extra reassurance when the school year begins! In just a couple of days you'll find that the lines will move very quickly.

**Does my child need to wear a mask? Yes.** All persons (adults and children) who come on to district property must be masked at all times. Sidewalks and line up areas are considered district property. Please send your child with a couple surgical or cloth masks that cover their nose and mouth and fasten securely. With young children it's always good to have extra masks, but we will have some masks available if you forget a mask or your child's mask gets soiled. Children remove their masks only for morning snack/merienda and for lunchtime while they are eating. Exceptions to this policy outside are rare and are only allowed when a teacher can guarantee a consistent 6 feet of distancing at all times.

**Are we still social distancing? Yes!** We are using best practices which are 3 feet in the classroom whenever possible, and six feet apart anywhere that children may be unmasked, eating, breathing hard,

etc. We will have some outdoor learning spaces set up for teachers, instructional assistants, interventionists, etc. to use when that is conducive to learning.

**Will there be regular surveillance testing? Yes.** The Board just adopted this policy on August 10, so details and contracts are still being finalized. As soon as we have the information we'll share it with you. The intention is to surveillance test students once per week and refer any students with positive tests for additional testing to determine if they need to be isolated or quarantined. We will all work to make testing (done with a swab in the nasal passage) as easy, positive, and supportive as possible. This is one of the ways that we can keep our community safe and do the contact tracing and follow up to keep our school open.

**How will I learn more about the teacher and classroom curriculum?** Back to School Nights (BTSN) will be held via Zoom on August 24 or 31 and will give you a chance to get to know the teacher in more detail, hear about classroom management, receive an overview of the curriculum that your child will study this year, etc. For Preschool, TK, K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, BTSN will be held on Tuesday, August 24 at 6:00 pm. BTSN for grades 3-4-5 happens August 31 at 6:00. Your child's teacher will be sending you a link to his/her zoom meeting. Please mark your calendar for these important meetings!

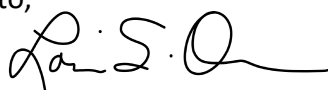
**Will school staff be masked, vaccinated, and tested?** Yes to all three! District policy mandates that all staff be masked while on campus unless working alone in a room. The District and the State of California just mandated (8/10) that all teachers/staff be vaccinated and that staff participate in surveillance testing along with students. For anyone who cannot be vaccinated, there is the requirement for more frequent testing.

**Where can I get more information about school health and safety protocols or ask clarifying questions?** You can start by attending a chat with the principal on August 16 (<https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/83025219520>). I'll be going over district and school protocols and plans in more detail and answering questions at a webinar at 5:00 pm. Translation will be provided and the slides from the webinar will be posted on the Edison web page if you're not able to attend. We'll also offer regular "chats with the principal" in this zoom format – especially while school is getting started and we're all getting used to new routines. For more information, please also, see the letter from Superintendent Drati sent to all families on August 11, 2011..

**Who are school staff and how do I contact them? Where can I find more information about the bell schedule and about important holidays, dates, and meetings?** We've put a lot of this information into a two-sided "refrigerator page". It's something we suggest you keep handy throughout the year – as in attached to the front of your refrigerator or on a family bulletin board!

Edison has a talented and committed bilingual faculty and staff and an amazing and caring community of families. I have no doubt that working together we can make this an incredible year for our students.

Hasta pronto,



Lori S. Orum, Principal



