



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Friday, October 9, 2020

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Dear SMFCSD Community,

As I was writing to wish you all an enjoyable Fall Break, I realized there are a number of items that I wanted to share with you.

SMC COVID-19 Status

As you know, our subsidized preschool and several Annex classrooms are open in accordance with the childcare guidance we received last spring. After the Fall Break we will open Learning Support Hubs for students with urgent needs including homeless and foster youth. These Learning Support Hubs will follow the guidance from the California Department of Public Health. Since our County is in the Red Tier according to the Governor's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), Districts are required to write a Reopening Plan for any further return to school. District staff are writing this Reopening Plan which predominantly requests information on health and safety protocols. This Reopening Plan will be presented for Board review during the October 22 Board meeting and will include recommendations for further staggered returns after the winter break.



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Call for Equity Task Force Members – Seeking a Community Member

One community member seat is open on our Equity Task Force. Appointees to the Equity Task Force are asked to serve a two-year term. The current open community member seat is designed for community members who are not currently parents or guardians of students. The Board of Trustees believes an Equity Agenda outlining clear priorities for the District will establish a holistic and objective framework to guide the allocation of resources, improve District and school performance, foster equitable student achievement goals and promote transparent communication. Since the inception of the Equity Task Force, members have been highly engaged in developing recommendations for improving processes related to staffing, support for LGBTQ+ students and academic programming. This year those initiatives will continue and members will also work closely with our community to conduct listening forums with our students, staff and families to improve our discipline and safety practices and redefine our relationship with our Police Departments.

If you know of any community members who might be interested in this opportunity, please share the link to the [Equity Task Force Application](#); the deadline for submission is **Friday, October 30, 2020**. All applicants will be contacted by a member of the Equity Task Force Leadership Team and selected individuals will be invited to an interview.

Special Education Snippets

Thank you to Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Coordinator Karen Breslow for leading two training sessions aimed at helping families understand Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and how to effectively participate in IEP meetings. Videos of these sessions along with many resources from Karen are available on the [Special Education District Advisory Committee \(SEDAC\) web page](#). Thank you Karen!

The next SEDAC meeting is Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Check the [SEDAC web page](#) for login information later this month.

Free Grab-and-Go Meals Continue during Fall Break; Note Adjusted Pickup Times

Please note that during October Break, pickup is between 7:30 and 9:00 am, Monday through Friday, at one of these five elementary school sites: [College Park Elementary](#), [Foster City Elementary](#), [Laurel Elementary](#), [LEAD Elementary](#) and [Sunnybrae Elementary](#).

Meals are free to all community youth aged 18 and under, and under USDA guidelines in effect at this time, may be picked up by any youth or adult.

TIME SENSITIVE: New Disaster CalFresh Food Benefits for Families in San Mateo County

If you or someone you know were adversely affected by the wildfires in Lake, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano and Yolo counties, you may be eligible ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) for newly announced Disaster CalFresh food benefits. Access to these benefits requires pre-registration by **calling or texting 916-237-1909 between October 7 and October 13, 2020**. Please follow or share these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) promptly to complete the process and determine eligibility. Please see the [CA Department of Social Services](#) for more information.



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District Network Maintenance during Break

Please be advised that due to network maintenance, the District's Aeries system, including the Parent Portal, will be unavailable from Friday, October 16 at 4 pm through Sunday, October 18. During this weekend, students will be able to use District-owned devices and access their Google accounts without interruption.

SMUHSD Virtual Town Hall: Unity in the Community, Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 pm

To our African American families: the San Mateo Union High School District along with the Black Parents Association invite you to attend *Virtual Town Hall: Unity in the Community*, Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 pm. Please see their [Unity in the Community flyer](#) or the [SMUHSD website](#) for webinar information. You can also participate in a [Thoughtexchange](#) (by Monday, October 12) to give your input on the question: What are some impactful actions the District could take to better serve African American students and their families?

Please see below for more Upcoming Events and Announcements, especially the important updates from our SMFC Education Foundation. If you are looking for some creative inspiration, try out the fun contests planned for the Gala!

I wish you a relaxing Fall Break,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- Fall Break - No Classes, Monday through Friday, October 12–16, 2020
- Equity Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 7:00 pm
- Parent Education – [The 3 R's: Regulation, Routines and Relationships](#), Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 6:30 – 7:15 pm; Send questions and register in advance.
- To our African American Staff and Families: SMUHSD [Virtual Town Hall: Unity in the Community](#), Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 pm. Participate in [Thoughtexchange](#) by Monday, October 12.
- Parent Education: [What Every Parent Should Know about Vaping](#), Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 7:00 – 8:00 pm; Registration required by Monday, October 19.
- Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 22, 2020, 6:30 pm
- SMFC Education Foundation GALA: ["Lights, Camera, Auction,"](#) Friday, October 23, 2020, Reception begins at 6:30 pm, Auction at 7 pm
- SEDAC Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 2020 Census: Deadline extended to October 31. [Be counted!](#)
- Election Day 2020, November 3, 2020: Don't forget to vote!



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Announcements

Attention Artists in Grades K-5 – HIP Housing Calendar Contest Deadline is Friday, October 16, 5 pm

HIP Housing is looking for 12 drawings from San Mateo County students in grades K-5 for their 2021 calendar. Children must draw a color picture of a home and submit a quote about what home means to them. Requirements and entry form can be found on their [Calendar Contest flyer](#).

Free Flu Shots Available

The Lions Club International is holding its Health Fair in collaboration with San Mateo County Health, Samaritan House and the Global Initiative for Health and Wellness. Free, drive-thru flu shots are available Saturdays and Sundays through November. An appointment is necessary. Please see their [Health Fair 2020 flyer](#) for all the details.

Fall Break Fun: Get Ready for SMFC Education Foundation's Gala: *Lights, Camera, Auction!*

The Gala Team has ***set the stage*** and invites you to make the event really special. It's coming up fast, on **Friday, October 23, 7 pm!** If you're looking for creative and fun family activities during the Fall break, they have a couple of ideas for you.

Moktok Dance Contest: Dance for a good cause! Visit the [SMFC Education Foundation's Gala website](#) to watch the "Blinding Lights" dance challenge video and learn the moves. Then, using the same song, get creative and record your own dance. Dance [alone](#) or gather friends and family to stage your own hit. See the [Gala website](#) for instructions and contest rules. A fun activity for Fall Break — contest deadline is 1 pm, Monday, October 19.

Pets in Costumes! The Second Gala Contest: It's October, the time of goblins, ghouls, witches and warlocks! And time to have some fun with costumes and our pets! To enter this contest, simply snap a photo of your pet in costume and post to social media following the instructions on the [Gala website](#).

Most Importantly, Please Register Today to Be a Part of This Important Event! To join the Gala on **Friday, October 23 at 7 pm**, go to [Greater Giving](#), click "Start Bidding" and follow the instructions to create your account. Your registration includes access to the live and silent auction, plenty of entertainment and some surprise guest appearances; all attendees will receive an email from Greater Giving announcing the opening of the silent auction **on Monday, October 19**.

And remember, proceeds from "*Lights, Camera, Auction*" will contribute to virtual innovation and resources for all students in the San Mateo-Foster City School District.



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Important News from the SMFC Education Foundation

Back to School Campaign Is in Full Swing! The Education Foundation's Back to School campaign is now in full swing. We rely on this campaign to support programs like art, music, science and technology for all our District students. This year we have also purchased backpacks for our students in need so that they will have the necessary school supplies for at-home learning. Our **suggested donation is \$250** per family, but every dollar counts. We would love to see 100% participation at any donation level.

If you have donated already, **thank you!** If you haven't, please consider [donating today](#). Does your company match? It's a great way to increase the impact of your donation. Learn more about the Education Foundation and what we do for our students [here](#).

Announcing our New Staff! The Education Foundation is thrilled to announce our new part-time Executive Director, Sonja Tappan! Sonja is an experienced professional with a background in design and business operations. She is a homegrown talent with a special connection to our district schools — she grew up in Foster City, and she and her children attended our very own schools. She has the talent, energy and deep knowledge of our community to take the Education Foundation to the next level. Sonja's first day was September 1, and we look forward to working with her in support of all our District students. Welcome Sonja!

We also extend sincere thanks and appreciation to our long-time bookkeeper, Vicki Peterson, as she leaves us to embark on a new job. In Vicki's nine years of service to the Education Foundation, she kept our office running smoothly, helped organize multiple Fun Runs, and was always ready to go above and beyond. Thank you, Vicki! We wish you all the best now and in the future. Kim Crellin has taken on the role of Office Manager/Bookkeeper.

Thank You! We are so grateful to these community partners for their generous support of our students:

- Chance to Excel Foundation for a grant of \$12,500 to fund the purchase of (25) flutes and (25) clarinets for our District 5th grade musicians. This grant will impact students for many years to come.
- SMETA for their \$5,000 donation and Samaritan House for donating 300 backpacks to get the backpack project started.
- An anonymous District family who made a \$2,505 Digital Divide Campaign donation, with a Franklin Templeton \$1,000 match, in honor of all non-site-based District employees.
- All of our families and community members who have donated to Closing the Digital Divide, the Culturally Relevant Literature Project, and our Back to School campaigns.



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Communications - Stay connected to SMFCSD

- Did you know that you can always find the three most current District news stories at www.smfcSD.net under News or read them all by going to our [News Archive](#)? As a special bonus, the most current two stories are also visible on the home page of each District school website (right column under “SMFCSD News.”) Another way to keep you updated!
- While we haven’t released a new *Newsletter* since COVID began, we’re getting closer! Please sign up for the District Newsletter at www.smfcSD.net (scroll to bottom of page).
- SMFCSD families can opt in to receive text messages of District news and alerts from SchoolMessenger by following these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and @smfcSD on Instagram.

2020 Census Deadline Extended to October 31

As of Friday, October 2, the US Census Bureau agreed to extend the response date for the 2020 Census to Saturday, October 31.

- We need to count everyone, especially children!
- Only 78% of San Mateo County households have responded as of 10/7/20.
- Why is being counted important? MANY reasons, including school funding for the next decade!
- It’s easy! Go to 2020 Census or call 1-844-330-2020.

Election Day is November 3. Don’t Forget to Vote!

The San Mateo County Elections Office provides many resources for you to learn how to explore your voting options, register and track your vote.