



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Wednesday, October 28, 2020

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Hello Everyone,

During the spring, summer and early fall, you received many messages from the District. You will remember that it was a time where we had to manage rapidly changing information and set up different practices in order to continue to support our children. I appreciate your patience during that time. While I do not expect to return to that turbulent time, you can expect an uptick to our communications again as we work toward further reopening of our sites.

[In-Person Learning: Status and Plans](#)

Our District continues to focus on the health and safety of students and staff in our continued efforts to reopen schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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As you know, the District has provided in-person instruction and services starting with our subsidized preschool and several Annex classrooms which were the first to return in-person and are open in accordance with preschool and childcare guidance received last spring.

In accordance with the recent guidance provided by California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the District has also opened “Learning Support Hubs” for students with urgent needs in what had been termed “Equity Groups.” Students in Equity Groups include homeless, foster youth, economically disadvantaged, English Learners and students with exceptional needs. Over the past week the District opened seven Learning Support Hubs on our College Park campus and two at Bayside Academy. Five more Hubs began at Laurel Elementary in partnership with Newton Center, Inc. All Hubs serve students (across the grades) with urgent needs who were recommended by staff. We will continue to look into options to open further Learning Support Hubs.

Now that our County has moved to the Orange Tier according to the Governor’s [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), districts must submit a Reopening Plan in order to move forward with grade level, in-person return to campus. Following the template required by the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and San Mateo County Health (SMCH), our [Reopening Plan for In-Person Instruction, 2020-2021](#) provides information on health and safety protocols that will be implemented in the Hybrid Model. You will notice that it is marked “Under Review” because it must be submitted and reviewed by both SMCOE and SMCH. Once that process is complete, we will address any comments received and post a revised plan to the [District website](#). You can view [the video of the October 22 Board of Trustees meeting](#) to see the presentation of the Plan (begin at minute 39). The Board approved the submission of this Plan to the SMCOE and SMCH for review and comment.

Additionally the Board approved a return to school for elementary-school students and Special Day Classes (SDC) by utilizing a staggered approach in a Hybrid Model starting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The youngest students and SDC students would return to campus first, with grades 2 and 3, and then grades 4 and 5, following at regular intervals thereafter.

Due to the size of our middle schools, middle school students will remain in Full-Time Distance Learning at this time. Staff are working on options to bring students to campus under CDPH guidelines.

Please remember that this Plan follows a required template. It is not an implementation plan. Staff have continued to work on implementation of the areas listed for each site. More information will be made available as we finalize our site plans.

[Community Listening Session](#)

A Community Listening Session discussing school safety has been scheduled for November 2, 2020 from 6-8 pm to listen and learn about the needs of our students in relation to school safety and to redefine the role of police in the schools. Please join us using the Zoom link found on [our event web page](#).



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Special Education Snippets

Last month the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) hosted two Individualized Education Plan (IEP) parent training sessions. In addition to leading these sessions, Karen Breslow, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Coordinator, also provided many resources for parents. If you were unable to attend and want to watch the meeting videos or to access the resources, please go to the [SEDAC web page](#). SEDAC leaders would also love to receive your feedback on inclusion, parent education and outreach via [this Google Form](#).

Enrollment for 2021-2022

New student registration information for the 2021-2022 school year will be published on the Registration/Enrollment & Transfers page of the District website at noon on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. This is important information for families with students who will be new to the SMFCSD next school year. Additional information will be provided prior to the release of the information.

Meals during Thanksgiving Break

Our Child Nutrition Services Team would like our families to know that they will package seven days of meals for the week of Thanksgiving Break. These meals will be distributed on Friday, November 20 at our food distribution sites.

Facilities Master Plan for the New Decade

On July 30, 2020, the SMFCSD Board of Trustees adopted the Facilities Master Plan for the New Decade (FMP). The FMP provides the direction for facilities work that is needed at all sites over the next decade to ensure that all students and staff have school facilities that support teaching and learning and are healthy and safe. Please see our [Facilities Master Plan for the New Decade web page](#) for answers to frequently asked questions and all the details.

Please see Upcoming Events and Announcements below for more information.

Be well,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- Halloween: Saturday, October 31
- Daylight Savings Time Ends: Sunday, November 1. Turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night.
- [Community Listening Session: School and Community Safety](#): Monday, November 2, 6–8 pm via Zoom
- Election Day: November 3, 2020



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- Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2020, 6:30 pm
- Veterans Day Holiday - No School: Wednesday, November 11
- Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020, 6:30 pm
- Thanksgiving Break - No School: November 23–27
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC): Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 pm
- Board Study Session: Saturday, December 5, 1:00 pm

Announcements

Community Resources for Families

Two benefits are available for qualified families: Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Extension and the San Mateo County Immigrant Relief Fund. Please share this information with your community.

- **P-EBT Extension** provides food benefits to school-aged children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Over the next two months, new P-EBT cards for August and September 2020 will be mailed to those who filed and received benefits during summer 2020. Eligible families do not need to apply to receive P-EBT Extension benefits. Important Note: Children who are newly eligible for free or reduced-price school meals for the 2020-21 school year are not eligible for P-EBT Extension benefits and will be served under a new program; details are not yet available. Please visit the [P-EBT web page](#) frequently for the most current information or to access assistance with the process.
- The San Mateo County (SMC) Board of Supervisors recently added two million dollars to the Immigrant Relief Fund. This fund will provide a \$1,000 grant for eligible SMC residents affected by COVID-19 that were not able to receive a CARES check due to immigration status. Please go to [Mission Asset Fund's website](#) to learn more and apply.

Halloween Guidance from SMC Health (SMCH)

Traditional trick-or-treating in San Mateo County is discouraged this year due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission. Here are some [Halloween ideas from SMCH](#) on how to celebrate safely.

Free Flu Shots - Appointments Still Available

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.

Election Day is Next Tuesday, November 3. Don't Forget to Vote!

The San Mateo County Elections Office provides many resources for you. Find all the details you need in this [letter from Mark Church](#), Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, or in the links below. Learn about Curbside Ballot Drop Off, Pop-Up Vote Centers,



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Mobile Vote Centers and even how to find the Vote Center with the shortest waiting time on Election Day!

- [Explore Your Voting Options](#)
- [Register to Vote](#)
- [Track your Vote](#)
- [Additional Vote Centers](#): 42 additional Vote Centers will open on Saturday, October 31.
- [Pop Up Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Box Locations](#)
- [Interesting SMC Statistics](#)

District Communications - Reminders

- Current District News: www.smfcisd.net under News or in [News Archive](#)? Most current two stories are visible on the home page of each District school website (right column under "SMFCSD News.")
- Opt in to SchoolMessenger text messages from the District by following these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [@smfcisd](#) on Instagram.