



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Friday, November 20, 2020

Hello Everyone,

At the Board Meeting on Thursday, November 19, the District honored Trustee Rebecca Hitchcock for her dedicated service over the past three years. The needs of our students have always been the basis for her decisions as a School Board Trustee and, while she will be transitioning off of the Board, we are sure that she will continue to serve our community in other ways. Thank you, Trustee Hitchcock!

We also honored 50 teachers who gained permanent status this year! We are thankful for their service and so appreciative that they have chosen to work in our District with our students.

In other news, you have probably heard that San Mateo County has moved back to the Red Tier. In the Red Tier, districts are still allowed to hold in-person learning, therefore, we continue to move forward with our reopening plans.

Questions related to reopening were raised at the Board meeting last night that I thought I could clarify:

- Elementary families, if you choose “Stay with Teacher...” in AERIES, your child’s learning model (Distance Learning or Hybrid Model) will be the same as the one that your teacher is assigned.
- Class lists will be posted before winter break, however, we will not transition students and staff to the new assignments until we reopen the Hybrid in-person learning. (Targeted opening dates are listed below but are subject to change.)
- The Hybrid Model that will be implemented is the one that has been shared [[English](#) | [Spanish](#)] previously.
- If you have questions about your selection or need to confirm your choice of Distance Learning or the Hybrid Model, please call your school office.
- District Learning Support Hubs and our Annex program will continue to operate even when we move to the Hybrid model.

If you have further questions, please reach out to your school principal.

Here are some upcoming dates that you should be aware of:

December

- Site facility logistics finalized
- Handbook distributed to staff and families with health and safety information
- Class lists posted
- Transportation details to families whose students ride the bus



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January 19, 2021 - Subject to Change

- Reopening for Grades TK / K / 1 and Special Day Classes

February 1, 2021 - Subject to Change

- Reopening for Grades 2 and 3

February 16, 2021 - Subject to Change

- Reopening for Grades 4 and 5

I would also like for you to know that our Reopening Plan was approved by San Mateo County Office and San Mateo County Health and the final copy can be found on our website at www.smfcisd.net. (Please click on COVID-19 in blue above the left menu or the COVID-19 tab under slideshow). HEPA filters have been received by the District and thermal scanners are in process thanks to the work and generosity of our [SMFC Education Foundation](#). We are working with a vendor to implement a health screening application and directions for how to download and use the app on a daily basis will be sent to you soon. We have finalized our contract with Curative and staff testing begins in December.

Due to the fact that San Mateo County is in the Red Tier, County officials are reinforcing the importance of wearing masks, social distancing and that all gatherings should be of limited duration and have few participants. ([CDC: Holidays and Small Gatherings](#) and [Recommendations from 10 Bay Area Health Officers](#)). This guidance also includes travel advisories; Please be aware of them should you have to travel.

Star Vista has provided a list of important community resources for families ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) for families who may be in need during this holiday season.

In spite of all that we are managing, Thanksgiving is here and, while it won't be the same as our usual holiday season, I wish you much joy in what we can do...hiking, walks, putting together puzzles, binge watching shows or movies with our immediate family...have fun!

Wishing you well,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent