



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Message Summary:

- **First Day of School is Monday, August 17.** Please see [NEW 2020-2021 School Calendar](#).
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with San Mateo Elementary Teachers' Association (SMETA)** was approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on August 6. ([Agenda Item 9.1](#))
- **School Resource Officer Contract** with the San Mateo Police Department was cancelled by the Board and a series of actions requested of staff to determine the best next steps.
- **Special Education Snippets** including recent program highlights will be in these *Superintendent Updates*. Special Education [presented to the Board](#). The [Special Education District Advisory Committee \(SEDAC\)](#) training was held and their next meeting is August 25, 7 pm.
- **Resolution Authorizing a Bond Election for November 3** was passed by the Board ([Agenda item 6.4](#)).
- **Attendance and Class Participation** will be counted daily beginning August 17, 2020, in accordance with CA Senate Bill 98.
- **Announcements and Upcoming Events**
 - **Back-to-School [Coffee Chats](#)** begin with Spanish Language Coffee Chat tomorrow, Thursday, August 13, 7 pm.
 - **[Parent Education Events](#)** will be held tonight and tomorrow, August 12 (English) and 13 (Spanish), 5:30-6:16 pm: "Kicking Off a Successful Academic Year." Star Vista is in partnership with SMFCSD to host these sessions
 - **[Grab-and-Go Meals](#)** will continue during Distance Learning. Please apply now for free and reduced-price meals and read more to learn important information about this program.
 - **Give Your Suggestions to District Reopening Teams:** Please complete [this survey](#) to share suggestions with District Reopening Teams
 - **SAVE THE DATE for the SMFC Education Foundation's "[LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION](#)" Gala** which will be held on Friday, October 23, 7 pm. Learn how you can join the fun and/or become a sponsor.

Dear SMFCSD Staff & Families,

While I know we have been in touch throughout the summer, I want to warmly welcome you and your students to the 2020-2021 school year. As I write to you today, our school teams are fully immersed in preparations for the start of the new school year.



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First Day of School, Monday, August 17

As a reminder, due to COVID-19 conditions, all SMFCSD students will begin the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 17, in Full Time Distance Learning.

As I described in last week's *Superintendent Update*, all students have been assigned to classes with teachers from their home school. Many of you may have already received the class assignments and schedules from your schools this week. If not, information will be sent to you **very** soon.

Please take note of the [Revised District Calendar](#). Most noteworthy is that all three previously scheduled professional development days, September 18, January 4 and March 12, were moved to this week to allow teachers and staff to launch Distance Learning. As a result, the three days (September 18, January 4 and March 12) will now be school days for your students. (Please note that these changes do not affect Monday, September 28; it remains a school holiday.)

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with San Mateo Elementary Teachers' Association (SMETA) regarding Distance Learning

We are delighted to report that at their August 6 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the MOU between SMETA and the District for the Distance Learning program. We are grateful for the ongoing collaboration with our SMETA colleagues. ([Agenda Item 9.1](#))

School Resource Officer Contract

The Board of Trustees has made it a practice to review policies, programs and practices within the District for their effectiveness in meeting the needs of all students with particular attention to our vulnerable student population. The District's School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with the San Mateo Police Department ends this school year and, as is the practice, the Board is seeking information about the effectiveness of this program and whether it best meets the needs of our students. At their August 6 Board meeting, the SRO program was cancelled and a series of actions requested of staff to determine the best next steps. I am presently working on those actions and will have further information to share with you shortly.

Special Education Snippets

In order to ensure that there is continual communication from the District to our families with students on IEP's, we will include "SpEd Snippets" in each of these newsletters. This week we would like to share that this [Special Education Program presentation](#) was given to the Board on August 6 and there was a robust conversation about our program. Highlights include this year's organizational chart, an update on the work done to date on inclusion practices, the development of a Special Education operational plan and updates on work accomplished in relation to the audit completed last year. Also, the [Special Education District Advisory Committee \(SEDAC\)](#) held their first training for families which was very informative and the



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Committee is planning their first meeting of the year on August 25 at 7 pm. Topics for the upcoming meeting include a welcome to the new year, important announcements, review of the SEDAC Work Groups for the 2020-2021 school year which include: Inclusionary Practices, Communications, Parent Education and SEDAC Development/Governance. The evening will end with an opportunity for Questions and Answers. Watch for an invitation and join us for this important meeting! More information can be found on the Special Education webpages at www.smfcsd.net.

Resolution Authorizing a Bond Election for November 3, 2020

Also at the August 6, 2020 Board meeting, the Trustees passed a resolution ([Agenda item 6.4](#)) authorizing a bond election for November 3, 2020. The *Facilities Master Plan for the New Decade* (FMP) was approved by the Trustees at their previous meeting on July 30, 2020. It outlines health and safety needs and facilities needed for programs. Of particular note are concerns with the ventilation systems and sewage pipes along with needs for bathroom upgrades, handwashing stations and water bottle fillers. It also addresses program needs in the areas of technology and science. The FMP has a section for each school site. Find full details of the FMP will be posted shortly on our website. You can find the presentation to the Board at [Agenda item 7.3, July 30, 2020](#).

Attendance and Class Participation

Student attendance and class participation will be counted on a daily basis beginning August 17, 2020, in accordance with CA Senate Bill (SB) 98 which governs both Distance Learning and Hybrid Instructional Models. It was passed by Governor Newsom on June 29, 2020.

With respect to class participation, students can demonstrate participation in a variety of ways such as asking a question or making a comment in the virtual class, commenting in a chat, answering a teacher or classmate's question, turning in an assignment, connecting with the teacher during the day in a small group or individual meeting or sharing work with the class or teacher.

After three days of non-participation or unexcused absences, you will be contacted by your school in an effort to identify any barriers that are preventing your child from attending and participating in their classes. You will continue to receive calls from the school when your child does not log in or is considered absent. Just as when students were in classes on our physical campuses, please call your child's school office and give a reason for any absence. Doctor's notes are still required should your child miss class for medical or professional appointments, or if they miss more than three days of school for illness. We do encourage you to schedule any appointments outside of the school day so that your child does not miss valuable instruction.

In Closing

On a personal note, I appreciate your connection and engagement throughout the summer and want you to know that I share your thoughts and any emerging trends with our District and



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school site teams. We remain dedicated to providing the best possible education for our students.

(Please see below for Announcements and Upcoming Events.)

Thank you,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Back-to-School Superintendent Coffee Chats

The dates are set for “Virtual” Superintendent Coffee Chats with Dr. Rosas.

All Chats will be held via Zoom from 7 – 8 pm.

- Thursday, August 13 (Hosted in Spanish)
- Thursday, August 27, Elementary School Focus (In English with Translation)
- Thursday, September 17, Middle School Focus (In English with Translation)

Instructions to join are found on our [Coffee Chat webpage](#). Flyers in [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

Parent Education Event: Kicking Off a Successful Academic Year

In partnership, Star Vista and SMFCSD bring you a 45-minute workshop for families to help get the school year off to a positive start. This event will discuss stress, strategies for overall well being, and will provide resources for you and your family.

These events will be held via Zoom from 5:30 - 6:15 pm.

- Wednesday, August 12 (**TONIGHT!**)
- Thursday, August 13, Hosted in Spanish

Instructions to join are found on this [Parent Education webpage](#). In addition, these events will be recorded and we'll post the videos on this page. Flyers in [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

Grab-and-Go Meals during Distance Learning

Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch are available to all SMFCSD students on all school days beginning on Monday, August 17. There is no charge for those that qualify for free and reduced-price meal benefits, but families must complete the application at:

<https://smfcsd.rocketscanapps.com/> to confirm eligibility. Families that do not qualify can



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purchase meals at meal pickup locations or online at <http://myschoolbuck.com/>. ([Learn more](#) about applying.)

Students or their parents/guardians may pick up meals between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm (sites close at 1:00 pm) at the locations listed below. Adults picking up meals will be asked to provide the names of enrolled students.

- [College Park Elementary](#), 715A Indian Avenue, San Mateo
- [Foster City Elementary](#), 461 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
- [Laurel Elementary](#), 316 36th Avenue, San Mateo
- [LEAD Elementary](#), 949 Ocean View Avenue, San Mateo
- [Sunnybrae Elementary](#), 1031 So. Delaware Street, San Mateo

For more information, please see Nutrition and School Meals at www.smfcsd.net, or call Child Nutrition Services at 650-312-1968. Flyers in [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

Give Your Suggestions to Reopening Teams or Volunteer

Our Reopening Teams continue to work on logistics for returning to school campuses. Families have expressed their desire to provide suggestions and feedback to our Reopening Teams. Please complete [this survey](#) and a Team Leader will get in touch with you.

SAVE THE DATE for the SMFC Education Foundation's "LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION" Gala!

Don't miss a historical night celebrating San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation's first ever Live Virtual Gala, "LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION," **Friday, October 23, at 7 pm**, to raise vital funds for our students. Watch for invitations coming soon!

Our virtual Gala will take place on **Friday, October 23, 7 pm** and we hope to "see" you there. Learn how you can join the fun on this historical night as we celebrate our successes amidst a year of unexpected challenges.

Join the FUN! Participate in a LIVE auction and become a virtual "Paddle Raiser!" There will be exciting give-aways, costume contests, mini dance challenges and much more.

Gala Sponsor Opportunities

In addition to your attendance, we would love your participation as a sponsor at our "LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION" Gala. While we know that times are challenging right now, there is simply NO better cause to support, than to ensure a bright future with higher quality education for ALL of our kids! If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to [Shara Watkins](#).

Learn more at the [SMFC Ed Foundation website](#) or at www.smfcsd.net.