



# SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Friday, May 18, 2020

### High Level Summary:

The following letter from D. Rosas, Superintendent, includes:

- Gratitude for Certificated Staff, launch of Classified School Employee Week and related Board recognition. [See Staff Appreciation web page](#)
- Links to San Mateo County COVID-19 data and resources
- Thank you to generous donors
- Updates on free meal distribution, connections to students, summer and fall plans.
- Virtual Coffee Chat dates and link to [Coffee Chat web page](#) providing instructions

Hello Everyone,

Now that we have settled into a Shelter-in-Place routine, I have been able to spread out my updates to you. However, as you can imagine, there continue to be so many moving parts that I write to bring you the latest updates.

### Gratitude

We had a wonderful celebration for Certificated Appreciation Week. I would like to share my gratitude for our certificated staff once more as we head into our celebration for Classified School Employee Appreciation Week. These front-line and often behind-the-scenes team members have been keeping our operations running during the pandemic. A Resolution honoring our Classified Staff will be read during the upcoming Board meeting and a video will be played expressing our thanks.

In addition, we hope you visit our [Staff Appreciation web page](#) where you can view our video appreciation to teachers and certificated staff, a lovely message to all school employees and links to our “#31DaysofGratitude” campaign.

### COVID-19 Information

I have found [www.smchealth.org](http://www.smchealth.org) to be an authoritative source of statistics related to COVID-19. It is updated daily and has helped me monitor our county's health progress. Deaths in CA are now in decline which is really good news, however, the virus is still very much with us and we will continue to respond accordingly. On the SMC Health website, you will find the most recent Health Order; please continue to shelter in place as required.

I recognize that there are fiscal and fatigue factors with such a disruption to our lives and there is another site, [www.smcgov.org](http://www.smcgov.org), where you can find a wide range of resources. You can also find resources on our Distance Learning Family websites ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)). Please feel free to share these resources.



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Beginning today at 8 am there is a new opportunity for fiscal relief for our undocumented families called California Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI). To protect undocumented people, this money will be distributed through trusted nonprofits—[Catholic Charities of San Francisco](#) is handling San Mateo County. Please check their website for the most current information.

This week we will also share information about Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), a new COVID-19 response initiative for families whose children are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

## **Thank You to Our Community**

Many people and organizations have supported SMFCSD students through the pandemic, from tutoring support to financial donations. We would like to recognize each of our Community Partners as they continue to “meet” with our students and support them with their work. Our Education Foundation is running a campaign to address the cost of Distance Learning by funding hotspots and internet service for our students. They have collected ~ \$97,000 to date. You can learn more at the [SMFC Education Foundation website](#). The Foster City’s City Council donated \$10,000 to our meal program and \$10,000 to offset the cost of the hotspots. The Rotary Club of Foster City donated \$3,200 toward the meal program. We are truly grateful for the support from these organizations at this time.

## **Meals**

We are now providing 1,100 breakfast/lunch combinations in a grab-and-go style each day at five school sites: College Park, Laurel, LEAD, Foster City Elementary and now Sunnybrae. You can find full details on our [Free Meals web page](#).

## **Student Connections**

In the area of Distance Learning, your teachers should be connecting with the students regularly. If you have concerns, please contact your teacher or, if you are unable to reach your teacher, contact your principal who will work with you to address your concerns.

## **Summer and Fall**

Our next enormous set of tasks are the safe handling of summer programming and fall re-entry. As you may know, I speak to other Superintendents in the County multiple times each week and am also a member of a Return-to-School Task Force that is building a framework for the fall.

At this time we are allowed to hold some classes this summer, however, there are very strict guidelines for the number of students that can be instructed in the brick and mortar setting. I am working through those requirements with staff and should have a framework to share with you in the next couple of weeks.



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As for fall, again, there are going to be very strict guidelines and all students will not be able to be on our sites together every day. Dr. Scott Morrow, Public Health Officer, is reviewing the framework and will let us know whether our plans are considered safe. As we have a firmer understanding of the fall scenario, I will communicate with you.

## **Virtual Coffee Chats**

I am scheduled to hold three Virtual Coffee Chats from 7 – 8 pm on:

- Tuesday, May 19,
- Wednesday, May 27 and
- Tuesday, June 2.

Login details and instructions are on our [Coffee Chat web page](#). I hope you will join us. Just know that I won't have all of the answers to the many questions facing us, and answers may change in response to the situation, but I will share what I know when we meet.

Stay well!  
Dr. Joan Rosas