



# SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Update from Dr. Joan Rosas, Superintendent Tuesday, June 2, 2020

### Message Summary:

This message includes information about:

- Resources for Discussing Race with Our Children
- End of Year Pickup and Dropoff of Materials
- Grading and Report Cards
- Meeting Date Change: Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC)
- Summer Program
- Fall Reopening Plans
- Virtual Coffee Chat & FAQs
- Resources for Discussing Race with Our Children
- SMFC Education Foundation
- Save the Date for a Community “MAKE SOME NOISE” Celebration for our Fifth and Eighth Graders
- APPENDIX: FAQ re: Google Meet Security Questions

To San Mateo-Foster City School District Families

We have a number of announcements and updates to share with you.

### Resources for Discussing Race with Our Children

We are compiling resources to support you in answering your children’s questions regarding the recent tragic death of George Floyd. We will post a link to these resources on our District homepage at [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net) as soon as they are available.

### End of Year Pickup and Dropoff of Materials

Families will be asked to come to school over the next two weeks to pick up student belongings and drop off school materials. **Your school’s principal will send details of the dates, times and information about what you need to bring.**

Please have only one adult come to campus for this exchange. Adults will not be allowed to enter classrooms or other school buildings unless it is essential. Middle school principals will distribute instructions to you directly with respect to cleaning out student lockers.

Each person must wear a mask and follow posted social-distancing guidelines at all times including remaining six feet away from one another. Once on campus, please adhere to the process established to ensure your safety and the safety of others. Safety comes first!

Technology Return - At this time we will collect Chromebooks and hotspots only from students who are moving out of the District or are graduating eighth graders. All other students will hold



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onto District-owned technology until Fall. If you are returning equipment, please remember to return power cords or other parts belonging with the devices.

## **Grading and Report Cards**

On May 7, 2020, the Board of Trustees approved the Resolution entitled, "[Grading During Emergency School Closure - COVID-19 Distance Learning](#)." Students in grades TK-5 shall receive summary information on work completed with a narrative of the student's participation and performance during the period of Distance Learning from March 16, 2020 to June 17, 2020. Please note that the elementary report cards will have comments only—the line items will either be X'd out or will be left intentionally blank. Students in grades 6-8 will receive a Pass/Insufficient Evidence grade for this same period. The final Pass/Insufficient Evidence grade will be based on participation in Distance Learning and determined according to guidance that requires schools to factor in technology barriers and family circumstances that may have impacted student participation.

## **Meeting Date Change: Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC)**

The next meeting of the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) has been changed to **Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 pm**; please watch your email for a separate email with Zoom link and instructions. If you have any questions or would like more information, please check the [SEDAC web page](#), or email [Chairperson Amy Fickenscher](#).

## **Responses to Google Meet Security Questions**

In the APPENDIX to this letter, we address several questions we've received regarding the use of Google Meets and related security.

## **Summer Program**

As a reminder, we will have a limited summer program due to the very strict guidelines under COVID-19. We will reach out directly to families who will be involved in summer programming.

## **Fall Reopening Plans**

The San Mateo County Office of Education is writing a comprehensive Framework for Reopening of Schools for San Mateo County. This Framework has been designed to ensure safety and has been reviewed by our Public Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow. It delineates four Pillars that must be met as we reopen:

- Health and Hygiene
- Face Coverings
- Physical Distancing
- Limiting Gatherings

As you can imagine, this Framework goes into a great deal of depth in each of these Pillars and it will have a significant operational impact on what school looks like in the Fall. Our District has established internal subcommittees that are already at work on plans in every area, from programming, staffing, and student wellness, to transportation, site logistics and cleaning protocols. As the Framework is finalized and plans are developed and vetted, we will provide information to you.



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## **Virtual Coffee Chat & FAQs**

Thank you to everyone who joined the last two Virtual Coffee Chats. While it is hard to achieve a “coffee chat” feeling online, I have appreciated your participation and input. The last one is this evening, Tuesday, June 2, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Please see the login instructions and further details on our [Coffee Chat web page](#).

We have captured your questions during and after the Coffee Chats and are preparing Frequently Asked Questions. We'll make them available on our website as soon as we can. Please know that answers may change over time, especially with respect to fall reopening.

## **SMFC Education Foundation**

The SMFC Education Foundation's campaign to support the District's efforts to Close the Digital Divide is now over \$219,000! Last week the Foundation received approval for a \$100,000 Gilead CARES grant to address the funding gaps and unmet needs created by COVID-19 from our neighbor Gilead Sciences, Inc. The Gilead CARES funding will be used to defray the \$350,000 costs incurred by the District to provide students with digital access to their education. We thank the Education Foundation team for their tireless work on behalf of educational equity, our neighbor Gilead Sciences, Inc., and all Ed Foundation donors. The Ed Foundation continues to accept donations online at [www.smfcedfund.org](http://www.smfcedfund.org).

## **Save the Date for a Community “MAKE SOME NOISE” Celebration for our Fifth and Eighth Graders**

Please join your neighbors in MAKING SOME NOISE for our grads in a multi-city recognition of graduates from local public and private high schools, middle schools and elementary schools—safely while sheltering at home. Mark your calendars for **Friday evening, June 12, from 7:00 - 7:15 pm** to whoop and holler, applaud, yell, stomp your feet, bang a pot and spoon, whistle, sing, play an instrument...all in the name of our graduates! Print a sign ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) to post on your front door or window to show your support for the Class of 2020! Share it with family, friends and neighbors! Learn more on our [“Make Some Noise” webpage](#).

Stay safe,  
Dr. Joan Rosas  
Superintendent

## **APPENDIX – Responses to Security Questions**

### **What security measures are being taken by the District within Google Classroom and how do you prevent uninvited participants from attending Google Meet Sessions?**

We have enabled security features within Meet to ensure that staff, teachers and students can use this service only in a secure manner. Only District accounts are allowed to join a Meet. Anyone without a District account must ask permission to enter a Meet and be permitted to enter either by a teacher or staff member. Students are not permitted to allow an external participant into a Meet. Google Suite and Meet are compliant with COPPA, FERPA, and HIPPA.



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## **What training has been provided to teachers around security/preparedness should something occur?**

We offered several webinars for teachers during our April 20 Professional Development Day to train teachers on safety and security during online distance learning. Those sessions were well attended, and the webinars remain available on our Distance Learning Teacher Resources website. We also provided a Quick Start guide for teachers' ready access, with an accompanying video tutorial, focused on techniques to prevent unauthorized access to a Google Meet session.

## **What happens if there's bullying via chat on Google?**

Students and families have been reminded that all of the same expectations of behavior in a physical classroom, and all related board policies, continue to apply in a distance-learning setting. The same code of conduct applies. Any bullying or other behavior not acceptable in a classroom setting that occurs during online instructional time or during lessons should be reported to the teacher and administrator, just as it has been when students were on campus. The administrator then follows the usual established process specified in board policy to investigate the situation. Since Distance Learning began, there have been a few reported situations, and the administrators followed the process to investigate and address.