



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Update on Fall Reopening Monday, July 13, 2020

Dear SMFCSD Staff & Families,

I hope this letter continues to find you well. Today I provide you with a quick update from the Thursday, July 9, Board of Trustees meeting, the status of the Fall Reopening and next steps.

First and foremost, we are dedicated to the health and safety of our staff and students and providing a consistent, meaningful educational program for all of our students. At the July 9 Board Meeting, a decision was made to offer a choice of either a full time Distance Learning program or a Paired Days Hybrid Model program (part time at school and part time distance learning) for Elementary School students. The Middle School program is still in process and will be further reviewed this Thursday, July 16.

With the recent escalation of cases, do understand that we will continue to monitor and follow the guidance of the California Public Health Department and California Department of Education which may mean that, despite the choices, we may need to begin the school year with all students in Distance Learning.

Distance Learning Details - Elementary School

Families who opt for this model will be placed in a virtual school/classroom with staff who have also opted for a Distance Learning assignment. In some cases, the students in the class and the teacher may be from your school of assignment but that is not a guarantee as we are still gathering the numbers of students and staff in these cohorts.

Hybrid Model Details - Elementary School

With respect to further defining plans for the Hybrid Model, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services David Chambliss presented the Board with the results of the Fall Hybrid Model Schedule Survey which showed that the majority of our staff and families preferred the A/B Paired Days schedule. Elementary school students whose families choose this model would come to campus on the same two days each week, either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Should our cleaning protocols take less time than presently anticipated, it is possible that there could be additional face-to-face time on Wednesdays. Special Day Class students would attend school on M/T/T/F. Also, we are looking at additional options for our youngest students and will have more information to share in the next couple of weeks.



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You can access the presentation on the Hybrid Model Schedule survey results and Middle School Planning from the Board meeting on July 9 through [this link](#) (Spanish translation of slides will be sent when complete.)

Middle School - In Process

Developing a Hybrid Model and building on-campus cohorts for our Middle Schools presented numerous challenges. We sought out examples from school districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and abroad and Assistant Superintendent Chambliss presented the Board with the advantages and disadvantages of several of these options.

Now that we've examined this challenge from many angles, we believe that beginning the school year with a Full Time Distance Learning Model with Strategic Support Cohorts at School is the appropriate direction to meet our goals for our Middle School students. This plan does provide for small cohorts of students to be on campus engaged in Distance Learning curricula under the guidance of a teacher or mentor. In the initial phase of the reopening, we anticipate that these small cohorts would include our Special Day Class students, Newcomers, Homeless/Foster Youth students, and our sixth graders. Sixth graders could come to campus in rotating advisory/homeroom cohorts that would enable them to engage in community building as they transition into middle school.

Regular Checkpoints

Regular checkpoints of both the county health statistics and the performance of our educational programs will be established. These checkpoints will enable the District to determine if we can move to another phase of opening at specified points in time. The models we plan to implement in the Fall were designed to allow us to increase or decrease on-campus instruction dependent upon health conditions. In addition, these checkpoints enable us to make adjustments to our models on a periodic basis.

Curriculum and Instruction

As the District implemented a Distance Learning program during the spring of 2020, it became clear to both staff and families alike that online curricula were needed. Staff members have reviewed Learning Management Systems (LMS) and online curricula to create a more consistent, robust program for the fall. The Board received information about the proposed adoptions for the upcoming year for both our Distance Learning and Hybrid programs and they will be brought forward for final adoption at the July 16, 2020 Board meeting.



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Elementary LMS and Curricula

- ELA/ELD: continue Benchmark Universe
- Math: adopt Zearn
- Science: continue new adoption Twig Online
- History: adapt Harcourt; add online resources
- LMS: Google Classroom
- Grade level models by Teacher Teams

Middle School LMS and Curricula

- ELA/ELD: continue Springboard; add CommonLit
- Math: adopt Math Nation
- Science: adopt STEMScopes
- History: adapt McGraw Hill; add online resources
- LMS: adopt Altitude Learning
- Grade level models by Teacher Teams

What's Next?

This Thursday our Board of Trustees will finalize the Middle School Reopening Plan. If the Distance Learning plan is approved for Middle School students, all Middle School students will be enrolled in that program. Presently, based on guidance from the California Public Health Department, there will be two Elementary School programs: Distance Learning and a Paired Days Hybrid Model. By early next week, we will be sending descriptions of these two models to our elementary school families with a request for families to choose the model preferred for their child(ren).

Additionally, our Reopening Task Force Team Leads will be presenting their work to date to the Board of Trustees at their July 16 and July 30 meetings. These Teams include Special Education Services, Staffing, Health and Hygiene, Physical Distancing, After School Care, Cleaning Protocols, Transportation and Wellness. Our summer school team has already been implementing health and hygiene protocols, cleaning protocols and physical distancing and their work has informed our Teams.

We recognize the urgency of this situation and each family's need for information in order to make decisions for the upcoming year. We will continue to inform you as each step in the process unfolds.

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent