



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Family Welcome from Dr. Rosas, Superintendent Friday, June 19, 2020

Dear TK and Kindergarten Families,
Welcome to the San Mateo-Foster City School District. We are delighted that your family is joining our community!

Joining a new school and school district can feel like a big step, an important milestone, not only for our new student, but also for you as their parents and guardians. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on our daily lives, I know that you are anxious to know what school will look like in the fall. The District has not established a definitive reopening plan at this point, however, there are aspects that I can share with you now.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. Our District has researched reopening methodologies from other countries, states and counties within California. A Pandemic Recovery Framework written by a task force convened under the direction of the San Mateo County Office of Education was used as a primary resource. The Framework reflects the guidance of the CDC, California Dept of Public Health, CDE, and current county health orders for SMC residents. Under the Framework there are Four Pillars that guide our structure and program. These Pillars represent best practices in preventing communicable disease and have been established to reduce the likelihood of spread of COVID-19 within our schools. The Four Pillars are Health and Hygiene, Face Coverings, Physical Distancing and Limiting Gatherings.

Based on these Pillars and input from our staff and families, staff will propose to the Board of Trustees, both a Distance Learning option that allows students to learn entirely at home through connection to a District teacher while continuing enrollment in their assigned school and an At School/ Distance Learning program. This At School/ Distance Learning model would bring students to campus on certain days of the week while other days would be spent in Distance Learning. This cohort approach is necessary to maintain safe physical distancing through reduced class sizes. As we establish the details of these two models, we will send a survey for you to choose the model that is most appropriate for your child and family.

We are aware that wearing face coverings, physical distancing and similar practices are challenging for young children. Rest assured that these practices along with regular



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hand washing, will be built into the school day in an age-appropriate manner. We will bring understanding and patience as we work together to create school environments that minimize risks.

As our plans for the fall reopening are finalized, we will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer. Please know that all of our recent news can be found on our home page at www.smfcsd.net and COVID-19 updates are on our [Coronavirus Updates and Resources page](#). Keep an eye out for communication from your principal with important information to connect you to your school community as we get closer to the start of school. We also invite you to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@smfcsd) for announcements and District happenings.

Again, we are pleased to welcome you and your child to the District community as you start this educational journey. We look forward to meeting you soon. Until then, enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent