



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Thursday, November 12, 2020

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Hello Everyone,

Thanksgiving will be here soon and, for me, it is a time to reflect on those things for which we are thankful. While 2020 has been a tumultuous year and it has taken its toll on us, I appreciate that our community stays strong and hopeful as we move forward. This letter provides some important updates on our Reopening Plans, appreciation for support for Measure T and an update on our magnet programs with no assigned neighborhood.

Reopening Update

Staff have been asked to provide additional information on the reopening, especially the Hybrid Model for elementary school. We reviewed the model with our leadership teams and have more details that may help with your decision making. (As you know, the Distance Learning model will remain essentially the same as it is now.)



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The Hybrid Model for elementary-aged students will be an AA/BB schedule. There will be two consecutive In-Person Days which consist of a 3.5 hour instructional block including a morning meeting for about 30 minutes. Students at home will join this morning meeting. There will be three At-Home Days. Two of these days will include synchronous and asynchronous learning where students will see their teacher during the morning meeting for about 30 minutes, followed by independent Google Classroom / Seesaw assignments that reflect in-person learning. There will then be a 30-minute final check in with the teacher, after the In-Person students are dismissed. The third At-home Day is Wednesday where all students within the Hybrid schedule (both A and B cohorts) will be in Distance Learning like they are now, with a combination of Google Meets with their teacher and independent work. Students will follow a similar schedule to what students have in Full-time Distance Learning.

The Hybrid Model for Special Day Class (SDC) students will also be an AA/BB model following the same pattern. In some cases, class sizes may be small enough to allow SDC students to attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We will provide this information to individual classes as we have it.

Middle school students are not returning in a Hybrid Model at this time, however, there will be In-person options shared with middle school families soon.

Schools in the county will continue to follow the guidance included in the [Pandemic Recovery Framework](#) and provided by [San Mateo County Health](#) (SMCH) and the California Department of Public Health. We were required to submit a Reopening Plan to the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and SMCH for review which has been completed. The District received preliminary comments back and the revised version has been resubmitted. Our most updated plan is on our [COVID-19 Updates](#) web page.

Additional site-level details regarding ingress, egress, health screening and other health and safety protocols will be sent to you as we finalize our return.

Soon you will receive a letter via SchoolMessenger from Dr. Sarah Drinkwater, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services asking you to provide the District with information needed for the District to move forward with in-person learning. As part of this process, families may choose to stay with their teacher, no matter what the teacher is assigned, or to choose the Full-time Distance Learning or the Hybrid Paired-Days Model. Please watch for this letter from Dr. Drinkwater.

Measure T

While the election has not yet been certified, preliminary results show that our community appears to have answered our call for help in improving the infrastructure of our schools by passing Measure T. We are very thankful and will immediately work to address issues related to



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air conditioning and filtration along with adding handwashing stations and bottle fillers as first steps.

Magnet Programs with No Assigned Neighborhood

There are four magnet programs with no assigned neighborhood in our District: North Shoreview Montessori, Parkside Montessori, Fiesta Gardens International School (FGIS) and College Park (CP). At a previous meeting, the Board approved a 12-seat priority for neighborhood kindergarten students wishing to attend North Shoreview and Parkside Montessori programs. At the last Board meeting the Trustees discussed whether that same priority should be extended to FGIS and CP. After the discussion, the Board decided that, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, one third of the seats in each kindergarten at these four schools would have a neighborhood priority.

During this Board item there were public comments that seemed to indicate that all students would not be able to be successful in the Mandarin program. The Board of Trustees and District are absolutely committed to equity guidelines that ensure that all students have access to high quality programs, including language programs, and are able to attain academic success. The District has long supported language programs from middle school world language options to the opening of a Spanish immersion school in 1993 and the inception of a Mandarin immersion school. Language learning is an essential skill for students living in a global community. Our community needs to work together to align these goals. College Park leadership and District staff embrace the work and are already in conversation about how to support all students as we move forward.

Thank you always for your continued support. Please see Upcoming Events and Announcements below for more information.

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- AERIES Parent Portal Opening: Saturday, November 14 to 11:59 pm until Sunday, November 22
- SMFC Education Foundation Community Meeting, November 16, 7 pm, via Zoom
- Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020, 6:30 pm, via Zoom
- Thanksgiving Break: No School: November 23–27
- Board Study Session: Saturday, December 5, 1:00 pm
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC): Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 pm via Zoom (*Please note that this is a new date as of November 13.*)
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30 pm, via Zoom
- Equity Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom



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Announcements

Special Education Snippets

The next meeting of the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) is on Tuesday, December 8, 7 pm via Zoom. *(Please note that this is a new date as of November 13.)* At this meeting AbilityPath, a community agency that provides a lifespan of support services to individuals with special needs and developmental disabilities, will share resources and answer questions.

To find login information for meetings, videos from previous meetings or to access the resources, please go to the [SEDAC web page](#). If you have any questions about SEDAC, please contact Committee Chairperson, Amy Fickenscher, at acfickens@gmail.com.

Meals during Thanksgiving Break

Our Child Nutrition Services Team would like our families to know that they will package seven days of meals for the week of Thanksgiving Break. These meals will be distributed on Friday, November 20 at our food distribution sites.

Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

New student registration information for the 2021-2022 school year will be published at www.smfcisd.net > Registration/Enrollment & Transfers page at noon on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Families with students who will be new to the SMFCSD next school year will learn about eligibility requirements, the registration and transfer processes and valuable school information. Due to COVID-19, this is not an in-person event but rather the date that information for the 2021-2022 school year will be published. Please share this information with your community. [Learn more](#).

Seeking Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

The District is seeking members to fill the following open positions on the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

- One (1) member shall, at the time of appointment, be active in a business organization representing the business community of the District;
- One (1) member shall, at the time of appointment, be active in a senior citizens organization;

Committee members must be 18 years old, live within District boundaries and cannot be employees or consultants of the District. If you're interested, please submit your name, phone number, term interest and affiliation/group type to [Patrick Gaffney](#), Chief Business Official, by email, or leave a phone message for Patrick at the District Office by calling 650-312-7700, **by December 1, 2020**. Learn more at www.smfcisd.net.



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SMFC Education Foundation News

Community Meeting Next Monday, November 16

The San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation is growing our classroom libraries. What books would you like to see in our schools? We want to know!!! Click [here](#) to share your suggestions.

We would also like to invite you to join us on **Monday, November 16** at 7pm via Zoom for our Community Meeting. We are highlighting our new Culturally Relevant Literature (CRL) Project. Through this project, we plan to provide San Mateo and Foster City elementary school classrooms with books that reflect the amazing diversity of our community. We will also give a quick Education Foundation update and answer your questions. To learn more, please [visit our website](#).

SMFC Education Foundation's Inaugural Gala — Success!

"Lights, Camera, Auction!" was a huge success! It was an exciting night of fast-paced bidding and friendly competition among a community united around a very important goal. Thanks to San Mateo and Foster City families, community leaders and local businesses, we raised over **\$140,000** for the San Mateo-Foster City School District!

The Gala Committee and the SMFC Education Foundation Board of Directors thank all those who joined in, our generous donors and our special guests. Please [see the Gala website](#) for a recap and complete list of donors. The Gala Committee looks forward to seeing you at next year's Gala!

Wellness Corner

- **Newsletter - November Issue:** Each month our Wellness Team publishes *Pondering Parenting* containing stories and guidance, based in the 3R's: Routines, Relationships and Regulation, to help your family navigate the everyday puzzles that arise in supporting your learner(s). Check out the November 2020 Issue ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).
- **Guidance and Assistance during the Holidays:** The Thanksgiving and December holidays are just around the corner and this can be a difficult time for many. Star Vista has provided a list of important community resources for families ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).

In addition, this week the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance, [Holidays and Small Gatherings](#), as part of their "Your Health" series and ten Bay Area County Health Officers also issued their [joint recommendations](#) for staying safe.

- **"Parent Venture" Offers Community Support:** Peninsula Health Care District is sponsoring a free Parent Education Webinar Series, periodic Parent Cafés and access to parenting resources, including educational videos and newsletters, for parents of SMFCSD students. Content and programs are provided in English and Spanish. Learn



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more at [PHCD's website](#) or [sign up today](#) to receive free access to all these great resources.

COVID-19 Testing in San Mateo County

Testing for COVID-19 is available for everyone who lives or works in San Mateo County, including children aged 5 and above, regardless of symptoms. New appointments and testing locations are now available. Please see www.smcgov.org/testing for information.

Free Flu Shots - Appointments Still Available

Lions Club International is holding its Health Fair in collaboration with San Mateo County Health, Samaritan House and the Global Initiative for Health and Wellness. Free, drive-thru flu shots are available Saturdays and Sundays through November. An appointment is necessary. Please see their [Health Fair 2020 flyer](#) for all the details.