



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Message Summary:

- Important Note about the Next Superintendent Coffee Chat, Thurs, Aug 27, 7 pm.
- Meal Service - Expanded Pickup Hours, 7:30 am – 1:30 pm. Updated flyers: [English](#) | [Spanish](#).
- Technology Resources and Assistance
- On-Demand Translation Is Available
- Attendance and Class Participation Recorded Daily
- Recordings Prohibited
- Child Care Provider Contact Information
- Special Education Snippets, including Special Education Team announcements and information about the next [Special Education District Advisory Committee \(SEDAC\) meeting](#) TONIGHT, August 25, 7 pm.
- Survey for Ideas and Volunteers
- Announcements and Upcoming Events
 - SEDAC Meeting, TONIGHT, August 25, 7–8:30 pm, via Zoom.
 - Superintendent [Coffee Chat](#), Thursday, August 27, 7 pm, via Zoom. Please see revised agenda.
 - SAVE THE DATE for the SMFC Education Foundation's "[LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION](#)" Gala which will be held on Friday, October 23, 7 pm. Learn how to join and/or become a sponsor.
 - DAC / DELAC Meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 5–6:30 pm
 - Xfinity Free Wifi

Dear Families,

Welcome Back to School!

It has been quite a roller coaster ride to arrive at this second week of school and we are excited to begin another school year in whatever form it takes. We started in Distance Learning last week and we are looking forward to our eventual move to a hybrid program, and then, hopefully, to a full and healthy return to school. Everyone has worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare, and to ready themselves for Distance Learning, our staff has been involved in professional development opportunities prior to the opening of school. We will continue to work together as the year unfolds to provide high quality educational experiences for our students.



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Important Note about the Next Superintendent Coffee Chat, Thurs, Aug 27, 7 pm.

The next Superintendent Coffee Chat will be held via Zoom this Thursday, August 27, from 7–8 pm. This Superintendent Coffee Chat was originally planned to focus on our elementary schools, however, the District must seek community feedback on our Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan prior to the September 10 Board meeting. Therefore we will focus on this Plan during the Chat and I encourage both elementary and middle school families to attend. We thank you for your input.

This meeting will be held in English with Spanish translation. Instructions on how to join are found on our [Coffee Chat webpage](#). Flyers in [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

Meal Service - Expanded Pickup Hours, 7:30 am – 1:30 pm

Meal service continues at five of our elementary school sites ([College Park](#), [Foster City Elementary](#), [Laurel](#), [Lead](#) and [Sunnybrae](#)), but now meals can be picked up **anytime between 7:30 am and 1:30 pm**.

If your child was approved for the free and reduced-price lunch program last year, they will continue to be eligible for the first 30 days of this school year which began on Monday, August 17. Beginning on September 29, our Child Nutrition Services Team will require a new, approved application on file for your family. We are pleased to see that most families have sent in their new application for the current school year, but we would like to ensure that all students in need are covered by this meal plan.

Meal program applications can be submitted anytime throughout the school year. If your family's economic status changes during the school year and you think you would now qualify for free or reduced-price meals, please [apply online](#). You can find additional information and the link to the application on our [Child Nutrition web pages](#). Please see the updated flyers: [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

Technology Resources and Assistance

Last Thursday, Aug 20, you should have received an email with technology resources and instructions on how to obtain assistance for your student(s). If your child is struggling to get connected to their Google Meets or Distance Learning programs, please check those instructions. Please do alert your child's teacher and/or the school office as soon as possible if you are having difficulty. You may also submit a Tech Support Form ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) for assistance.

On-Demand Translation Is Available

I want you to know that we continue to utilize an on-demand, multi-lingual, translation service. If you are experiencing communication challenges, please request this service by asking any of our staff members.



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Attendance and Class Participation Recorded Daily

The California Department of Education has established strict rules for attendance and I wanted to review them with you.

Student attendance and class participation have been counted since the first day of school, August 17, 2020, and will continue to be recorded on a daily basis in accordance with CA Senate Bill (SB) 98 which governs both Distance Learning and Hybrid Instructional Models. Students must connect with their teacher during the class time and participate in class work. Examples of participation can include asking a question or making a comment in the virtual class, commenting in a chat, answering a teacher or classmate's question, working on assignments, connecting with the teacher during the day in a whole group, small group or individual meeting, or sharing work with the class or teacher.

After three days of non-participation or unexcused absences, you will be contacted by your school in an effort to identify any barriers that are preventing your child from attending and participating in their classes. You will continue to receive calls from the school when your child does not log in or is considered absent. Just as when students were in classes on our physical campuses, please call your child's school office and provide a reason for any absence. Doctor's notes are still required should your child miss class for medical or professional appointments, or if they miss more than three days of school for illness.

Recordings Prohibited

Remember that it is not permissible for someone to be recorded without their express consent so please do not record lessons. At the same time, please know that video lessons will be available through our new curriculum platforms and teachers will be making these videos accessible to you and your students throughout the year.

Child Care Provider Contact Information

I want to take a moment to thank our community partners for meeting over the summer and working to establish plans to meet the needs of our students. These providers are establishing options for small groups of students to come into a space for the day to complete their lessons and then to engage in activities once their school day is over. I want to make sure you are aware of available resources, so we are circulating this list of childcare providers and their contact information. Please note that the District is in no way affiliated with these providers and does not endorse any one of them. Likewise, the District has no control over their programs and is not responsible in the event of any illness or injury incurred during participation in any of these programs. We encourage you to contact the providers directly with your questions about their programs.

Programs that we are presently aware of and are currently available, listed in alphabetical order:



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- Building Kidz of San Mateo:
 - Jennifer Massis, jenniferm@buildingkidz.com, 650-291-7370
- Create Mix and Mingle:
 - Deb McNamara or Angela Kilkenny, info@createmixandmingle.com, 650-434-2781
- Foster City Parks and Recreation
 - Nabil Butros, nbutros@fostercity.org, 650-286-3387
 - Dusty Landwehr, dlandwehr@fostercity.org, 650-286-3374
- Newton Center;
 - Tal Tamir, office@newtoncenter.org, 650-346-8338`
- Peninsula Family YMCA:
 - Grace Ihn, gihn@ymcasf.org, 650-294-2618
- San Mateo Parks and Recreation:
 - Lauren Allen, lallen@cityofsanmateo.org, 650-522-7470
- Treehouse at Peninsula JCC:
 - Stephanie Levin, treehouse@pjcc.org, 650-378-2704

Special Education Snippets

We're really excited about last week's positive start to the new year. Our Special Education Team is fully staffed and, despite a variety of challenges over the summer, are ready to begin!

Tonight the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meets at 7:00 pm via [Zoom Webinar](#). You will learn the purpose and operations of SEDAC, meet staff and community members and learn about the SEDAC Work Groups where you can volunteer. Participants will also review Special Education contact information, organizational charts, and family resources. District staff will present the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan and solicit feedback from attendees. This is an important meeting to launch the new school year and we encourage you to participate. Learn more on the [SEDAC web page](#).

We also want to recognize the accomplishment of Sven Swenson, one of our special education staff members, who just earned her Doctorate in Educational Psychology from Alliant International University. Congratulations!

Survey for Ideas and Volunteers

We had a positive return of ideas and family volunteers to work with District staff on programs and health and safety protocols as we move forward this fall. Staff will be in touch with those who asked to volunteer.



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Fires

Finally, as fire season is upon us, we send firefighters and any families who may be in harm's way our positive energy and support. Our District will monitor the air quality to determine whether we can hold on-campus preschool and Annex classes. We will alert affected families of any changes.

Again, welcome back!

Dr. Joan Rosas

Superintendent

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting, Tuesday, August 25, 7:00–8:30 pm, via [Zoom Webinar](#).

Superintendent Coffee Chat, Thursday, August 27, 7:00–8:30 pm via [Zoom Webinar](#). Revised agenda will include presentation and input gathering on Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.

District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting via Zoom, Tuesday, September 1, 5-6:30 pm, held in Spanish with English translation. Meeting information emailed directly to families of English Learners.

SAVE THE DATE for the SMFC Education Foundation's "**LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION**" Gala! Friday, October 23, 7 pm, to raise vital funds for our students. Watch for invitations coming soon! Learn how you can be a sponsor by contacting [Shara Watkins](#), Board Trustee. Learn more at the [SMFC Ed Foundation website](#) or at [www.smfcSD.net](#).

Xfinity Free WiFi: For those who may be struggling with connectivity during this time of COVID-19 and rolling blackouts, we share [Xfinity's free WiFi offer](#). This is not a District-sponsored or promoted program, network or company, and we cannot provide any assistance. We provide this information as a public service only. Please direct any questions to Comcast. |