



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 18, 2020

## **Superintendent's Message: Summer School and Looking Toward Fall**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

We appreciate the ongoing support of our parents and staff as we move into the final weeks of distance learning to wrap up the 2019-20 school year. We all transitioned into this new format a month ago, turning our traditional education delivery model and support system upside down.

For many parents, this has presented a challenge and for some an extreme hardship. We continue to support families in many ways. Please visit: [www.smmusd.org/familyresources](http://www.smmusd.org/familyresources).

We are finalizing the details of our summer school plans. Here is an overview of our plans:

### **Elementary school students**

All summer programs are based on educational need. Students who qualify for these programs have been notified by their school. All programs will be online. Programs include: Intensive Intervention Summer School (IISS) and Summer Language Academy (SLA) for English Learners.

### **Middle school students**

We are offering Intensive Intervention Summer School (IISS) and Summer Accelerated Math Support (SAMS), for students who will benefit from additional support. Students identified for these programs have been contacted by their school. Both programs will be delivered online.

### **High school students**

*Credit recovery* - for students who need additional learning opportunities to fulfill graduation requirements. Credit Recovery summer school will be delivered in an online approach similar to our distance learning instructional program. Students who have been identified for this program have been contacted by a teacher or counselor.

*Get ahead courses* – We are partnering with Santa Monica College to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in online courses that meet the learning outcomes outlined by the standards set out by the California Department of Education for the respective content area / course. Students at Samohi and Malibu High School have received detailed instructions regarding qualifying courses and registration. Please contact your school counselor for more information. We are aware that there had been some registration challenges. Please be patient and work with your school and the instructions they provided to register your student. Please keep in mind that these classes are college level and will be more rigorous. The grades will be on your student's transcript.

SMC has worked diligently to accommodate all SMMUSD students who are interested in a summer course. They have added sections due to higher demand, but may still not be able to accommodate every student. If your student did not apply for Get Ahead summer school and is now interested in taking courses at SMC, please reach out to your counselor or advisor for information on the process and availability of courses.

### **Special education students**

Special education students may be offered placement in the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Students must meet very specific requirements to qualify for this program. The program is intended



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to help students maintain skills gained over the school year. Families with students who qualify have been notified by their school site or IEP team.

**Child Development Services**

We are unable to offer any summer programs or camps for preschool, school age programs or Infant Toddler Center (ITC) this year. All remain closed.

Our board of education, district leadership team and site administrators are discussing plans for our fall semester, which we expect to start on August 20, 2020. This is our approved [calendar](#) date for the 2020-21 school year. We are discussing what form this may take and looking to guidance by state, health and education officials, for what is best for health and safety of students and staff. We will be prepared for several potential scenarios that we will share with you as they are developed. We are unsure whether this will include our regular full in-person classes, current distance learning experiences, or a hybrid of the two. Included in these discussions is ensuring that our schools are clean, staff properly trained and that have the proper health and safety protocols in place.

Our parent engagement department, in partnership with Los Angeles County of Mental Health, is offering a series of free webinars for parents in English and Spanish called: Resiliency: Getting Through Covid-19 Together. Please check your school website or Peachjar for the dates, times and subjects for each webinar. English and Spanish sessions are scheduled.

We are thinking about student accomplishments this time of year and regret that we are unable to have the traditional celebrations such as promotions and graduations and various awards assemblies and banquets. We feel for our seniors and I'm proud of the creative ways our principals, teachers and parent groups, are congratulating and recognizing our seniors.

For all families, please stay informed with plans from your school regarding textbooks, instruments, devices, library books and student stuff / medications that may still be at school. Our schools are reaching out to families with instructions that will keep students, parents and staff safe during these essential final school visits for the 2019-20 school year.

Report cards and grading were described in my [letter](#) last week. Schools will be emailing them to families. Your school will provide you with additional information. The last day of school is June 10, 2020.

This week we celebrated the California Day of the Teacher on May 13<sup>th</sup>. I am extremely proud of our teachers who have risen to the challenges of distance learning and continue to support our students and families. We appreciate you and thank you for all you do throughout the school year. Our Board of Education passed a [resolution](#) at its May 7<sup>th</sup> school board meeting to honor our teachers.

Please continue to be well and take care of each other as we focus on student improvement and achievement for the last few weeks of school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent