Dear Parents and Neighbors,

Letter from Superintendent

Dr. Ben Drati

Please visit www.smmusd.org/superintendent to get in touch.

This brochure provides updates on significant progress we are making at our schools, as well as plans for the future. Local bond funds will support the long-awaited completion of John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center to support hands-on science, math, engineering, technology at Santa Monica High. And, in partnership with Santa Monica College, Measure SMS specifically provides funding for significantly updated classrooms, labs and modern facilities to support hands-on science, math, engineering and technology at Santa Monica High School.

Voter-Approved Bond Funds Are Modernizing Santa Monica Schools for 21st-Century Learning

Local bond-funded projects currently underway include:

- Construction has begun at Santa Monica High to bring new classrooms, computer and science labs, to the north end of campus. And, completion of the John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center in partnership with Santa Monica College will be an exciting addition for the entire community, replacing a space that has been out of use since 2014. The new space will support choir, orchestra, band and dance programs, integral to the well-rounded education SMMUSD is committed to providing our students.

- SMMUSD National Ocean Sciences Bowl regional competition, held in February 2019 in Pasadena, CA. Topics in the competition ranged from biology, chemistry, geology and physics of the oceans, to navigation, geography and related history and literature. The first-place regional victory took the Santa Monica High School team to the national competition, where they placed second, finishing in front of more than 365 teams nationwide!

- Santa Monica High School took home the first place at the 2019 National Ocean Sciences Bowl final, where they placed second, finishing in front of more than 365 teams nationwide!

SMMUSD Students Stand Out

Graduation Rate

Community Update on Local Education Funding

Santa Monica High School

Santa Monica High School is one of the top-performing high schools in the nation. Our students consistently outperform averages in the county, state and nationwide.

Graduation Rate

Graduation rates and test scores continue to improve our schools. Measure SMS was approved by 72% — a testament to your unwavering dedication to supporting our students and ensuring graduates continue to achieve some of the state's highest honors and go on to attend top colleges.

I want to extend a big thank you for your overwhelming support of Measure SMS in Santa Monica to improve our schools. Measure SMS was approved by 72% — a testament to your unwavering dedication to supporting our students and ensuring graduates continue to achieve some of the state's highest honors and go on to attend top colleges.

School Safety and Security as a Top Priority

Our District is working to ensure students attend safe, secure learning environments each day. In the next year, we are working to:

- Add security cameras to the perimeters of all schools.
- Require visitors to check in and run their ID through an identity check.
- Improve student safety and campus security systems.

United Safety and Security on a Top Priority

Bolstering school safety and security are top priorities. We have been working closely with the City of Santa Monica, the Los Angeles Unified School District (SMMUSD). As we come close to the end of an eventful school year, I am proud to report our schools and communities are as strong as ever, thanks to the support of our teachers, staff, parents and communities.

Schools are well underway to ensure high-quality learning environments for our students. Santa Monica and Malibu high schools rank in the top 5% of schools in the state and nation, according to U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best High Schools. Our graduation rates and test scores continue to improve our schools. Measure SMS was approved by 72% — a testament to your unwavering dedication to supporting our students and ensuring graduates continue to achieve some of the state's highest honors and go on to attend top colleges.

It is an honor and pleasure to serve as the Superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). As we come close to the end of an eventful school year, I am proud to report our schools and communities are as strong as ever, thanks to the support of our teachers, staff, parents and communities.

For more information or any questions, please visit www.smmusd.org/superintendent.