

March 27, 2020

Dear San Dieguito Union High School District Community,

Thank you for your support and patience in this time of unprecedented responses to a global pandemic. We began our transition to being a virtual school district during the week of March 16. This week we added instruction and began connecting our teachers with their students. As of Thursday, March 26, we had 12,185 students online learning in Google Classrooms. As we re-engage, we are focusing on key essential learning for each course and have prioritized student re-engagement and re-connection with their coursework, teachers, and classmates. We will be providing additional opportunities for students to check out Chromebooks on Monday and Tuesday, March 30 and 31, at Earl Warren Middle School and San Dieguito High School Academy between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

To provide continuity in this time of uncertainty, we will follow the already-established 2019-2020 grade reporting window. Third-quarter grades will be issued with the following guidelines:

- Student grades will reflect all course content from the start of the second semester, January 29, 2020 through the March 13, 2020 school closure.
- No instruction took place the week of March 16-20, 2020, to allow students and staff time with their families to focus on their health and wellness.
- Instruction from March 23, 2020, through April 3, 2020, is an opportunity for students to continue their learning, reconnect with their teachers and peers, and to engage with academic content. Learning activities from March 23rd through April 3rd should not lower a student's 3rd quarter grade from what it was at the time of school closure on March 13.

I know many, if not all of you, are wondering about the rest of the school year. At this point, we do not know how long we will be away from our physical campus. We will follow the guidelines established by the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency and the Public Health Orders issued. This information is posted online at [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). We have contingency plans that include our being able to reopen on the established date of April 13 after spring break, however, we have contingency plans that include our not being able to reopen until further notice. We suggest that families develop contingency plans as well.

As both a school leader, and as a parent, I recognize how devastating it is for school, and school activities, to be taken away from our students. I empathize with the struggles many families are facing. I am saddened for our seniors who are facing the prospect of losing many of the events they were looking forward to in the final year of their K-12 school careers. I know there is uncertainty regarding graduation. I can assure you that it is our sincerest hope to have graduation ceremonies. We can provide assurance that if a senior was on track to graduate when we were forced to close, they will remain eligible to graduate. Consistent with our grading guidelines, we also want to give opportunities for students who need an opportunity to catch up, to have that opportunity. The same holds true for eighth-grade students who were on track to go to high school beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

We continue to be committed to balancing high-quality instruction with student and staff well-being. We want to make sure that our families are finding time for balance and wellness. We know school connectedness is meaningful and important. We look forward to more engaging classroom and school activities in the days to come.

Thank you all for your flexibility, understanding and support. We will all get through this together and be stronger and better!

Robert A. Haley, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Committed to the Future