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Office of the Superintendent

March 30, 2020

Dear San Dieguito Union High School District Community,

Many of you now know that the San Diego County Public Health Officer issued a new order effective March 29, 2020. This order includes an indefinite closure of schools, however, that does not mean it necessarily goes through the end of the school year. It is my sincerest hope that as soon as it is safe to reopen our schools we will be allowed to do so.

On Friday, March 27, 2020, I sent a message to the staff and community to provide an overall update about 3rd quarter grading and school closure due to novel coronavirus. In an effort to provide guidance around the quarter 3 grading period, related to the unusual impact of COVID-19 and the time leading to the March 13 school closure, the following information was shared with school staff: "Students may be provided opportunities to make-up and/or remediate assignments and assessments that took place prior to March 13, per teacher discretion." However, it was removed by Educational Services, prior to sending out to the school community to ensure all teachers were informed, supported and equipped to provide each student with an appropriate academic grade.

To clarify, the information about students making up work prior to March 13, 2020, was related to those students who were impacted by illness, quarantine or missed school in the build-up to school closure on March 13, 2020. It was not an indication that all student work from the start of the term on January 29, 2020 was open to remediation.

Canyon Crest Academy and San Dieguito Academy - 3rd Quarter Grades

As both of these schools are issuing final term grades for credit purposes, teachers have been given guidance on providing opportunities to improve students' academic standing, therefore students will be given an opportunity to improve their grades from what they were on the date of the school closure. Each teaching professional oversees the academic records and overall organization of each course and has the autonomy to work with individual students who missed school and/or need to make up work to demonstrate proficiency or improve grades in each course. As a district we are striving for flexibility and discretion for our teachers and compassion for students to successfully conclude this academic quarter under these unprecedented circumstances.

All Schools - 4th Quarter and Semester Grades

We are working with other San Diego County school districts, and districts across the State of California, to ensure we provide fair and accurate grades in the 4th quarter and the 2nd semester. We are expecting guidance from the UC/CSU systems regarding grading and college admissions for 2020-21 and the future. We are aware some districts have adopted pass/fail grade systems, however, that may be premature as we do not know if that will have negative consequences. We will be developing grading guidance that addresses our middle schools as well.

We are aware that some students will struggle with the move to online learning, or may not have adequate resources, so we are developing plans to support those students. We do not want any student's academic career negatively impacted by this sudden shift.

Robert Haley
Superintendent
Committed to the Future