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Office of the Superintendent

April 3, 2020

Dear San Dieguito Union High School District Community,

We know how challenging this period of time has been transitioning to online instruction and distance learning. I want all parents and students to know how hard our teachers, support staff and administrators, have been working to make this transition happen. We know how hard our parents and students are working to continue learning. Next week is our spring break and we want everyone to be able to focus on their well-being and families. When we return from spring break, beginning on April 13, 2020, we will enter the next phase of our distance learning plan. We are mapping out our plan in increments so that we can continually evaluate how it is working and make changes as needed.

We will implement credit/no credit grading for the fourth quarter and the second semester of the 2019-20 school year. The decision was made in consultation with our principals, instructional leaders, and the San Dieguito Faculty Association. We all believe this is what is best for our students. This change in our grading policy will only apply to the 2019-20 school year. Moving to credit/no credit grading will benefit our staff and students without negative consequences for students with collegiate aspirations. The University of California System and the California State University System have both issued guidance that supports this decision. Additionally, colleges across the country have made it clear that students will not be penalized for missing traditional standardized tests or for posting credit/no credit transcripts for this semester. We have assurances that private institutions will adopt policies so that students are not penalized for credit/no credit grading and a lack of opportunity to take standardized assessments. Harvard University has already posted this [assurance online](#).

We know this is a stressful time and we all need to remember to find ways to stay well. We are committed to the health, safety and well-being of our community. In an effort to continuously support this commitment, the District has approved an agreement with Care Solace, which is an online resource with a live 24X7 concierge line meant to assist individuals in finding local mental health-related programs and counseling services. To use Care Solace, individuals answer ten basic questions in order to receive an extensive list of referrals to applicable care providers. Care Solace takes into account all types of private insurance including Medi-Cal, Medicaid, and Medicare and those that have no insurance. The system also filters by age, gender, zip code and special request. This service is now available for use by SDUHSD students, staff, and families at no cost. Please note, this service is an optional resource available by choice. Care Solace does not require a user's name, address, phone number, or date of birth. All of the information that is entered on their platform is completely confidential and stored securely. If you are interested in seeking counseling-related services at this time, please consider visiting caresolace.com/sduhsdfamilies or clicking the link to begin.

We will get through this together!

Robert Haley
Superintendent
Committed to the Future