



A NOTE FROM DR. GARCÍA

Office of the Superintendent · San Marcos Unified School District · 255 Pico Ave., Suite 250, San Marcos, CA 92069

August 19, 2019

Dear SMUSD Parents, Students, and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 137th academic school year in San Marcos! I sincerely hope each of you enjoyed a relaxing and adventure-filled summer overflowing with precious time with family, friends and loved ones. Personally, I took full advantage of my two-week vacation and traveled to Nuevo Vallarta and Tepatitlán, México where I spent time with family, my husband and young children—Sophía, Emma, and Sebastián. Reconnecting with my loved ones is the perfect way to recharge.



Nearly 144 years ago, public education was born in the San Marcos valley in the home of Major Gustavus Merriam when he began to hold classes for his own children and those of his neighbors. We've come a long way since 1882 when the San Marcos School District was founded with one school building and a handful of students. Today, our district boasts beautiful, state-of-the-art schools where magic occurs inside our classrooms on a daily basis.

As I begin my 23rd year in education and approach my 11-month anniversary with our school district, my personal resolve to ensure that *all* SMUSD students excel academically remains firmly intact. But, this is not just my commitment; it is *our collective commitment* to all 21,000 students who will walk through our doors today. I'm looking forward to continuing our collective district work of providing an *unparalleled educational experience* for each and every one of our students. Over the next several weeks and throughout the school year, you will hear and learn more about our district's focus areas that will serve as a coherent vehicle ensuring we deliver on that promise. Our ultimate goal is an environment where *exceptional is the norm for all*. Below, please find a visual that represents our district focus areas and their alignment to our 2019-2020 LCAP goals.



Our school sites and district offices have been abuzz preparing to welcome our students to another successful school year. Together, working as a team—all parents, students, school sites, district, and community partners—we can ensure all of our students are poised to accomplish their dreams! I look forward to seeing you when I visit our schools, classrooms, attend parent meetings, community events, and student performances, among others. It is through these shared experiences, commitments, and teamwork that we will truly make SMUSD a place where exceptional is the norm for all! Go, Team SMUSD!

My best,
Carmen