SAN MARCOS
UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT
engaging students...inspiring futures

255 Pico Avenue, Suite 250
San Marcos, CA 92069

T 760.752.1299
F 760.471.4928
www.smusd.org

June 25, 2020

Dear SMUSD Community,

Summer's full arrival brings with it time to renew and relax. On our end, our school district teams continue designing 2020-2021 school plans that include overall goals of each student attaining a full year of academic growth, acceleration, and, if needed, remediation to address learning loss.

Key in our design process is utilizing feedback we received from the two surveys we sent to our students, parents, and staff. The first survey sought information on our distance learning model. The responses we received from nearly 4782 submissions revealed the need for additional strategies to strengthen student engagement, a key component of student success. The qualitative data will be used to design and strengthen a new SMUSD virtual school for families/students who have indicated their preference to continue in a virtual learning mode for next year. As indicated in previous communications, our district will be offering a SMUSD virtual school model as one option for those families and students that would like to continue with online learning.

The second survey focused on the 2020-2021 school year design preferences, ideas, and concerns completed by nearly 8500 parents, students, and staff members is providing valuable data in our design process. The overall results indicate that 59% of our stakeholders prefer to return to school on a traditional model, 25% in a hybrid model, and 16% prefer a distance learning model.

First Choice Preference	Overall	Parents	Staff	Students
Traditional Model	59%	60%	50%	60%
Hybrid Model	25%	24%	30%	24%
Virtual Model	16%	15%	20%	16%

We share our community's preference to return to school under a traditional setting to the greatest extent possible; school size and the extent to which we can maximize classroom availability are important factors that will contribute to how we will reopen school on August 18th. Recently released state/ local health school reopening guidelines include the importance of physical distancing thus limiting the number of students and staff in a classroom space at once, logistical procedures ranging from school entry/exit, symptom monitoring, student movement and support services, among many others. We aim to maximize the time students are on campus as much as possible in order to support our students' academic (one year's growth, acceleration, and remediation) and social emotional well-being which will allow us to continue to deliver on our promise of SMUSD #exceptionalforall. We will also be prepared to transition our instructional delivery model overnight to a virtual mode should local public health officials mandate school closures.

![San Marcos Unified School District logo]

SAN MARCOS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
engaging students...inspiring futures

255 Pico Avenue, Suite 250
San Marcos, CA 92069

T 760.752.1299
F 760.471.4928
www.smusd.org

The Design Team Process, as outlined in my previous update, was created to ensure that multiple lenses in our community—teacher, staff member, parent, student, administrator—are considered in our design process. Administrators, Teachers, Nurses, Counselors, Social Workers, etc are participating in the Structures/Models brainstorming. In addition, 200 certificated, classified, and management team members will be participating in the leveled workgroups that will commence soon. For the parent lens/perspective, we have invited members of our established Parent Advisory Council (PAC), DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Council), and one additional parent representative selected by each Principal. This approach will include at least three parents from each school. For the student perspective, we will convene student representatives from each high school to provide input. We will have additional district wide informational sessions.

A detailed account of the instructional programs, safety measures, etc. will be articulated by mid-July. We understand the need for our community to have this information as soon as possible, and I want to assure you that our teams are working diligently and around the clock to be able to provide our students with a safe and academically rich experience.

Thank you for your continued support. We will get through this together!

My best,
Dr. Garcia
Superintendent