

A Note from Dr. García

October 21, 2018

Dear San Marcos Unified School District Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write my first note to introduce myself as I begin my journey as Superintendent of our remarkable school district.

I would like to express my gratitude toward the Board of Trustees for their trust in my abilities to steward our district toward its next chapter of excellence. I look forward to working alongside our Board as a strong governance team to ensure we deliver on our promises to our community—to fully implement our mission, beliefs, and commitments of excellence for all of our students.

I am excited to serve the San Marcos Unified School District and look to engage and build on its many strengths. These include a commitment to educational excellence by placing students as the core focus, the excellent teachers and staff members who work to support teaching and learning, the framework of linking support services to all students, openness to integrate innovation in the learning process, belief in continuous improvement, and fostering community and university partnerships. I am committed to serving the needs of every student in the district—all students deserve our best.

My life is proof that education is the world's greatest equalizer that opens many doors to those who want a better quality of life. I was born to immigrant, hard working parents who instilled in their ten children the desire to work hard in order to reap rewards. I grew up in neighboring Escondido and took full advantage of its public-school system. I hold bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees along with teaching and administrative credentials. My 21-year career in education has provided an array of perspectives; I've been a teacher, researcher, middle and high school Principal, district office administrator as well as Superintendent.

On a personal note, I am married to Gabriel Gutiérrez, a School Psychologist and San Diego State University adjunct professor, and together we have three beautiful children—Sophía (7), Emma (5) and Sebastián (3). The added lens of parent intensifies my sense of responsibility and urgency for all students enrolled in our school district.



These life, professional, and educational experiences inform my vision and belief system for excellence in teaching, leading, and learning in order to empower those closest to our students—our teachers, school staff members, administrators, parents and community—so that together we can effectively ensure an equitable system for all students.

A Note from Dr. García

My leadership approach is simple—I listen, read and learn. I am a leader who listens with intent, understands and connects with students, families, staff members, community members, and stakeholders. It is through these established relationships where we can engender trust—a first key step in order to cast a vision, think creatively, and co-create the most ambitious plans to strengthen teaching, learning, and opportunities for our students.

Over the next 90 days, I will hold *“Listening, Reading and Learning”* sessions. Last week, I met with our Parent Advisory Council, District English Learner Advisory Council, and our district office team members. During my official first few days this week, I plan to visit all of our schools as well as continue meeting with SMUSD colleagues, community members and other stakeholders. I look forward to meeting you and learning from your experience in our school district.



Together, I am confident we will deliver on our promise of *engaging students...inspiring futures* while providing an *unparalleled education* to all of our students!

I look forward to our journey ahead!

With gratitude,

