



District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina A. Potter, Ed.D.

Week of May 1, 2020

SUPERINTENDENT

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

Every year we use School Lunch Hero Day as a prompt to say, thank you to the people who provide such an essential service to our students.

But this time around, we feel like we're saying thank you with tears in our eyes. For many of our most vulnerable students, school was their connection to safety and love and community. When schools closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it also cut off that lifeline for them.

School food service and nutrition employees, teachers, principals, administrators, board members and school and district staff stepped up in a tremendous way to be that connection with a smile, a wave, a welcome -- and also with meals. Since schools closed, they've been outside every meal distribution day in rain, sunshine, and now heat.

When they were called on during a pandemic to serve, they did -- with courage and grace and bravery, armed with masks and desire to help. If that's not a hero, we don't know what is.

A big, heartfelt "Thank you" to all our school lunch heroes!

With Sincere Appreciation,

*Governing Board Members
Superintendent
Management*



SOUTH COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT VIRTUAL MEETING: Next School Year Start Date Conversation

On Monday, April 27th the superintendents from the south county school districts met virtually to discuss the school start date for the new 2020-2021 school year. The originally calendared common start date for our school districts in south county is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, July 20th**. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and statewide health orders for sanitation and social distancing school districts across the state are working with county and state health officials to determine the best time for schools to begin the new school year. At this time, our district is working with the south county school districts to determine which date between July 20th and a date in August to reopen schools for the new school year.

The California and county health departments have indicated that when schools do reopen social distancing guidelines will likely continue to be in place. This means that when schools reopen we may need to limit the number of students who physically attend school each day along with possibly narrowing the length of the school day. Thus, school district leaders are beginning to work on hybrid learning plans for the new school year which include students learning both at school for a portion of the week and continued online distance learning for the other portion of the week. This is referred to as a blended learning model.

Additionally, when schools reopen for the new school year it is likely that the state and county health departments may continue to require the wearing of face masks, social distancing that limits the number of people that can gather, sanitation protocols, and encouraging people exhibiting or diagnosed with COVID-19 like symptoms to quarantine. Our district is preparing now to follow these guidelines for the new school year.

The Governor, the Center for Disease Control, and county and state health departments will notify school districts when it is safe to reopen schools and will delineate health and safety guidelines for schools when they reopen. On April 28th, Governor Newsom announced four stages that the state must go through in order to reopen statewide for all industries and activity. Part of the Governor's plan may "possibly" allow schools to reopen as early as July 2020. Governor Newsom indicated that health care capacity and hospitalizations in California are stabilizing. Further, the Governor and his health care team established criteria that would allow "meaningful modifications" to the statewide stay at home order. However, before schools reopen the state needs to complete Stage 1 which includes widespread testing and tracking of the coronavirus, stabilization of hospitalization and intensive care unit trends, along with adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) to meet demand. The Governor acknowledged

more planning is necessary to determine how to reopen schools and indicated the need for schools to prepare for the need for physical changes and staggering class times.

COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce - SBA Now Taking Next Round of PPP Apps - 4-27-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wg3XxWKPrju-hUirhg0rV52JaRutXxbr/view?usp=sharing>

Governor Newsom's - Update on Executive Order N-56-20

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EO-N-56-20.pdf>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Commends Governor's Executive Order Allowing Districts to Focus on School Closure Impacts and Returning Students This Fall

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel25.asp>

SDCOE - COVID-19 Update 4-28-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13qYFcBbND6xM11jsKngWfV8O6QomW2KO/view?usp=sharing>

Governor Announces Possible Reopening of Schools - Budget Hearing Focuses on COVID-19 Fallout 4-28-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18FGS6fbtwSFXXmj4PdAL4oqlPZT--gop/view?usp=sharing>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Issues Statement in Response to Governor's Remarks for Potential Earlier School Year

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Jp9Q_Xtj6Y-TmocgVQXlJtDXduHlleb/view?usp=sharing

SDCOE - Daily News Clips - 4-29-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GbFWXn1IdTaDDljlhveYfH0JfiGokbBL/view?usp=sharing>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Working with State and National Leaders to Study Possibility of Schools Reopening Earlier 4-29-20

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel27.asp>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Creates New Committee with State Leaders Focused on Achievement Gap and Loss of Learning 4-30-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iokhFjRwHq1KO2M83nOKfqoZXjLcrtkA/view?usp=sharing>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Announces New Statewide Benefit Program to Help Food Insecure Students During Coronavirus Pandemic 4-30-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eZ79JAp6VyrBVrw6SYujPofol5BbqRf3/view?usp=sharing>

Cal Matters: How the state plans to keep people fed 4-30-20

<https://calmatters.org/newsletter/california-coronavirus-farmers-food-banks-calfresh/>

SDCOE - COVID 19 - Update 5-1-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13NZl1gbvEAMVcUcpl4ajgdwtDYXxVTHr/view?usp=sharing>

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and Closing the Digital Divide Task Force Call for Free Internet for California Students 5-1-20

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ks79RWIAAhaSqvhNjKA6BTmTbN__3Q7P/view?usp=sharing

VIDEO & VIRTUAL MEETING TIPS

Here is a great simple guideline sheet for when you are filming videos and joining a virtual meeting.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_AJuT13QHe8lec8uqhrrCk3KXdmH53p9/view?usp=sharing

SPECIAL VIRTUAL ZOOM BOARD MEETING: Thurs., May 14th @ 3pm - *Change of Location - Virtual Zoom Board Meeting*

Please save the date of Thursday, May 14th from 3-5pm for a Special Board Meeting via Zoom for the superintendent evaluation.

REGULAR VIRTUAL ZOOM BOARD MEETING: Thurs., May 14th @ 5pm - *Change of Location - Virtual Zoom Board Meeting*

On Thursday, May 14th beginning at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Regular Board Meeting. This governing board meeting will be held virtually in order to adhere to the social distancing regulations embedded within Governor Gavin Newsom's Stay-At-Home Executive Order which is in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The email for public comment is: publiccomment@sysdschools.org. Board agendas will indicate the need for the public to submit their public comment via email at publiccomment@sysdschools.org. There will be a 300 word limit to the public comments to align with our district's 3 minute public comment board policy.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

DISTANCE LEARNING GRADING POLICY

In accordance with the California Department of Education Guidelines for Grading and Graduation requirements, and in conjunction with SYEA we have created the SYSD Grading Policy. This policy provides teachers grading guidance as they navigate teaching through Google Classroom and the virtual world.

SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTANCE LEARNING GRADING POLICY

*April 20th - June 4th
(Final Draft 5-1-20)*

SYSD GRADING: HOLD HARMLESS STATEMENT

Student grades will not be negatively impacted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic school closures and the implementation of our Distance Learning Program. Student grades at the time of the school closures will not be lowered, but can be improved upon. Teachers will continue to monitor and support student progress toward mastery of grade level skills and standards. Student participation in Google Meet/Hangout virtual or audio classes/meetings/office hours, completion of weekly Study Packets and other teacher Google Classroom assignments and activities will prepare students academically for the next school year and allow them to raise their final grade. The district's Distance Learning Grading Policy is in accordance with the California Department of Education's guidance on grading and graduation requirements for distance learning:

ELEMENTARY: KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADES

3rd Trimester Report Cards	Google Classroom Assignments and/or Study Packets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning student work (Google Classroom assignments, Study Packets, extra credit work, etc.) will be used to increase a student's report card grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning student work (Google Classroom assignments, Study Packets, extra credit work, etc. as determined by individual teachers) will be used to increase a student's grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grade will be lower than the 2nd trimester report card <u>OR</u> the grade prior to the schools closures, whichever is higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning Google Classroom assignments and/or Study Packets as determined by individual teachers will be scored as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed (C) Not Completed (NC) For students who need more time to complete a Study Packet or assignment the grade marked will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Progress (IP) For students teachers are not able to contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to Contact (UTC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary report cards will continue to be standards based, with a 2-4 grading system in all subject areas for 3rd trimester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Approaching Standard 3) At Standard 4) Above Standard If a student is experiencing a serious hardship due to COVID-19 and they are unable to complete the distance learning then their teacher may opt to provide them with a no grade report card that has a narrative only. If a student does not complete any distance learning then their teacher may opt to provide them with a no grade report card that has a narrative only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers may assign extra credit and other forms of credit recovery activities to support a student in increasing their overall 3rd trimester grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No student will be retained, or held back a grade during distance learning 	

MIDDLE SCHOOL: 7TH & 8TH GRADES

2nd Semester Report Cards	Study Packets & Google Classroom
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	Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning student work (Google Classroom assignments, Packets, extra credit work, etc.) will be used to increase a student's report card grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning student work (Google Classroom assignments, possible Study Packets, extra credit work, etc.) will be used to increase a student's grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grade will be lower than the 2nd semester progress report card grades <u>OR</u> course grade prior to the schools closures, whichever is higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning Google Classroom assignments and/or Study Packets as determined by individual teachers will be scored as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed (C) Not Completed (NC) For students who need more time to complete a Study Packet or assignment the grade marked will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Progress (IP) For students teachers are not able to contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to Contact (UTC) OR leave blank
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle school report cards will continue to use a letter grading system, however all students will earn a minimum grade of D or higher. Thus, all students will earn a grade between A-D only in all subject areas, no F's will be given during the Distance Learning Program through June 2020. If a student is experiencing a serious hardship due to COVID-19 and they are unable to complete the distance learning then their teacher may opt to provide them with a no grade report card that has a narrative only. If a student does not complete any distance learning then their teacher may opt to provide them with a no grade report card that has a narrative only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers may assign extra credit and other forms of credit recovery activities to support a student in increasing their overall 2nd semester grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No student will be retained, or held back a grade during distance learning 	

CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION MCKINNEY-VENTO STUDENTS 2ND-4TH:

Information sent to parents for the chromebook distribution for McKinney-Vento students (homeless)

Dear Parents,

Your 2nd-4th grade child was identified to be eligible to check out a Chromebook from our district this Friday, May 1st at Willow Elementary from 12 pm (noon) to 4 pm.

Quantities are limited. Chromebooks will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until they're gone.

The Chromebook checkout papers required to be completed are available now on the district website, or the district will provide you with papers to complete upon arrival.

If you have any questions or if you are not able to come this Friday to check out a Chromebook for your child then please contact the district's Students and Family Services Manager, Veronica Medina at veronica.medina@sysdschools.org or (619) 251-1580.

Thank you and have a good day.





CHROMEBOOKS DISTRIBUTED AS OF 5-1-20

School	Date	Chromebooks Distributed to Students
Vista Del Mar Middle	April 16, 2020	218
San Ysidro Middle	April 17, 2020	375
La Mirada	April 20, 2020	78
OVH	April 21, 2020	141
Smythe	April 22, 2020	72
Sunset	April 23, 2020	125
McKinney-Vento / Make Ups	May 1, 2020	243
TOTAL		1,252

TRANSFERS

Transfer requests for the 2020-2021 school year have moved to a digital contactless format. Our staff is working in the office weekly to process all submitted documents. Parents of students on a transfer who attend school in our district have been contacted regarding the new procedures.



GOVERNING BOARD

Humberto Gumilan, President
Antonio Martinez, Vice-President

Rudy Lopez, Clerk
Irene Lopez, Member
Rosaleah Pallasigua, Member

Quality education and opportunity for all students to succeed

Manuela Colom
Executive Director

April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy as we all learn to balance life during the current world health crisis. Due to state health guidelines for social distancing we have begun a process for electronically processing all transfer applications.

Our records indicate that your child is attending one of our schools with an approved intra-district or inter-district transfer for the current school year. ***This transfer MUST be renewed for school year 2020-2021.***

The Educational Services Department will be collecting inter-district and intra-district transfers via a contactless process. The applications will need to be downloaded from the district website (<https://www.sysdschools.org/Page/105>) and completed. Once you have completed the application, there are two options for turning in the application:

1. Scan the application and supporting documents and email them to:
transfers@sysdschools.org
2. Send the application and supporting documents to:
SYSD-Educational Services, Transfers
4350 Otay Mesa Road
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Thank you for your patience as school districts throughout the county work to move their offices to a virtual model in order to maintain safety and health guidelines outlined by the state. If you have any other questions, please contact Ms. Sara Almeida sara.almeida@sysdschools.org.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Monreal Gonzalez
Educational Services Director

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ONLINE REGISTRATION

Details for registration for the 2020-21 school year are being finalized so that we can launch registration with a contactless process by May 15th. Of note this year we will be including preschool in our online registration process. Additionally, we are working with Casa Familiar for registration assistance for our parents at various locations throughout the community.

HUMAN RESOURCES

STAFF MEMBER HEROES

The incredible SYSD team is working at lightspeed to keep our district moving forward through this unfortunate crisis. This week, we continue to thank our teams from CNS, I.T., maintenance, custodial, support staff, and all of our certificated staff pressing forward with the second week of distance learning using Google Classroom. Our Director of MOTF, Paulo Azevedo has led his time with incredible leadership during this difficult time. Each day he deals with everchanging requests to meet the needs of our schools, departments, and our meal distribution program.

Our Director of IT, Todd Lewis, has also done an incredible job leading his team with various projects including distributing chromebooks and creating access to instructional platforms and communication to our SYSD staff.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEKS

Each year, in the month of May, we take time to celebrate our amazing staff districtwide. Day of the Teacher is on Wednesday May 13, 2020. Week of the Teacher is Sunday, May 10 through Saturday, May 16. Classified/Confidential School Employee Week is Sunday, May 17 through Saturday, May 23. During this time, it is more important than ever to show our appreciation for the work our staff do every day to support our students. Please look out for more information on how you can help us virtually celebrate our staff.

BUSINESS SERVICES

CONTINUED MEAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR: GRAB & GO STYLE

Next week our district will begin serving free breakfast & lunch at two school locations: La Mirada Elementary and Willow Elementary. A full week's worth of breakfast and lunch meals will be served. The schedule will be as follows:

Location: La Mirada Elementary
Date: Wednesdays, April 8th - June 24th
Time: 11:30 am until meals run out

Location: Willow Elementary School
Date: Friday, May 8th
Time: 11:30 am until meals run out

Each child will be able to pick up breakfast and lunch for multiple days. *Children are now not required to be present to pick up their meals.* We're encouraging parents to only pick up meal servings once and for just their child(ren) meals will be served in a "Grab and Go" style. *Please remember to wear face cover when picking up your meals.*

Free Meal Program for the Remainder of the School Year - Email sent to parents on 4-13-20

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X6sJkoV2hMellY-d_312kfCR0Wn6OnLy/view?usp=sharing

This week we served 1,150 students. Each student received 5 breakfast meals and 5 lunch meals. Total meals served = 11,500. To date, we have served 56,832 meals.

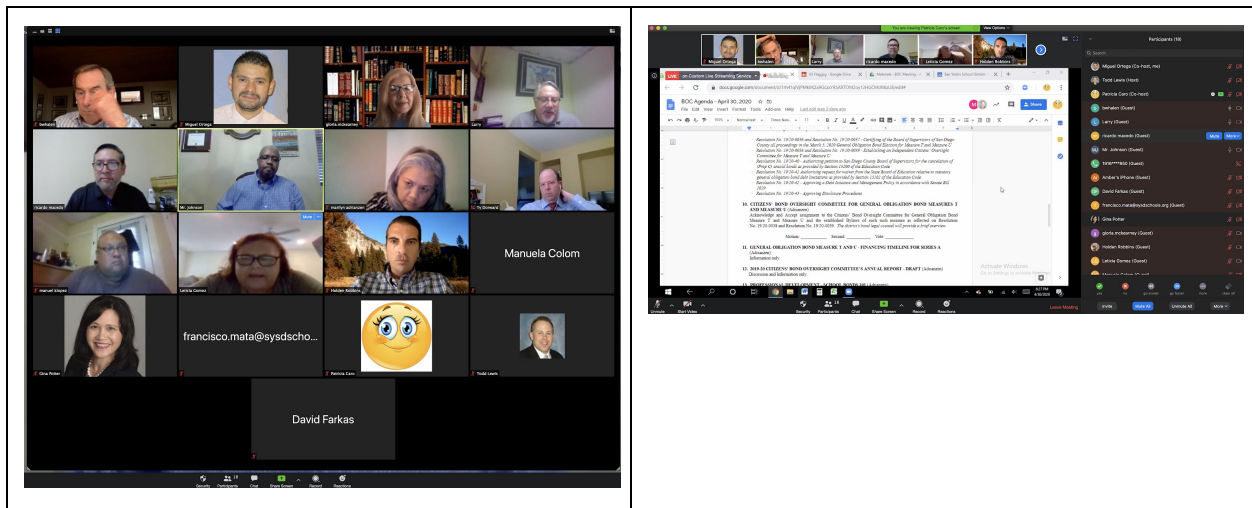
Photos & Videos from the Wednesday, April 29th, 2020
Grab & Go Style Breakfast & Lunch at La Mirada School:



Councilmember Vivian Moreno and Council Representative Christopher Gris attended this week's meal service at La Mirada.

VIRTUAL CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING:

The district conducted its first virtual BOC meeting on Thursday, April 30th.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

As of Friday April 24th, the district distributed 1,161 chromebooks. We anticipate an additional 1,475 new chromebooks to arrive sometime next week. BIG THANKS goes out to our Tech Department!

NEWS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MEDIA UPDATE

Please click on the links to view articles related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Union Tribune: Unemployment Rate in San Diego due to COVID Recession
 - <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/story/2020-04-28/coronavirus-summary-april-28-one-in-four-san-diegans-out-of-work-amid-talks-of-how-to-reopen-business>

PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION (PIQE): Smythe & La Mirada Parent Virtual Graduation

On Wednesday, April 29th, 32 SYSD parents graduated “virtually” after completing their Parent Institute For Quality Education (PIQE) courses! Thank you to the PIQE staff and parents for taking the initiative to complete the course online after the stay-at-home order went into effect. The ceremony took place on “Zoom” with thirteen graduates joining in for the occasion. The event included inspiring personal success stories from three of the graduating parents and words of congratulations, gratitude and inspiration from Governing Board Vice President, Antonio Martinez, Superintendent, Dr. Gina Potter, Smythe Principal, Russell Little and La Mirada Principal, Laura English, who joined in the festivities. Carmen Russian and Gloria Corral, from PIQE, were the Masters of Ceremony.

