

March 31, 2020

Dear SMUSD Families,

Lately I've been thinking about Mr. Rogers and his calm presence and demeanor that always seemed to permeate past TV screens into the hearts of children. He put it perfectly when he stated, "At many times throughout their lives, children will feel their world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again." I'd emphasize that the world has turned topsy-turvy for all of us!

Recently, the County of San Diego extended its public health order indefinitely and has closed schools until further notice. Faced with this reality, and in order to turn our educational world right side up, we are now poised to implement the Distance Learning Model set to begin on April 13th. The model was thoughtfully and collaboratively developed to provide high quality instruction for our students via a virtual mode while ensuring flexibility for our staff/families to balance their needs at home.

In short, the SMUSD Distance Learning Model includes two-prongs:

- a.) Staff preparation and support that includes instructional and team planning with embedded professional development learning/utilizing the Google G Suite. Over the next few days, we will be sharing resources for parents and students to become familiar with the Google platform;
- b.) Distance learning coherent framework that includes: instructional timeframes that ensure students, staff, and parents will have general routines, structure, and varied academic opportunities; targeted student support; and weekly, on-going professional development, preparation and collaboration time for staff.

This coherent framework is both centralized (set hours of instruction) and decentralized (flexibility of delivery of instruction). Mondays will be dedicated to teacher preparation, collaboration, planning, professional development, and virtual meeting(s) with Administration. Tuesday through Friday includes all teachers engaged in high-quality instruction for 10 hours per week over four days. Instruction includes a combination of face to face, video-taped lessons, independent work, direct instruction, small group instruction, among others. The remaining time will include office hours allowing for additional student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized assistance.

The tables below denote the weekly student schedule.

Elementary Student Schedule					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am – 10:00am	Teacher Professional Development and Planning Time Day	English Language Arts/English Language Development Block	English Language Arts/English Language Development Block	English Language Arts/English Language Development Block	English Language Arts/English Language Development Block
10:00 – 10:30am		Break	Break	Break	Break
10:30 – 11:30am		Mathematics Block	Mathematics Block	Mathematics Block	Mathematics Block
Teacher Office Hours To be communicated by Teacher.	Students continue to work on assignments.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.

Middle & High School Student Schedule					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 – 8:30am	Teachers will use this day for Professional Development, collaboration and planning		Period 0		Period 0
8:30 – 9:30am		Period 1	Period 4	Period 1	Period 4
9:30 – 10:30am		Period 2	Period 5	Period 2	Period 5
10:30 – 11:30am		Period 3	Period 6	Period 3	Period 6
11:30 – 12:30pm		Period 7	Teacher Office Hours	Period 7	Teacher Office Hours
<b>Teacher Office Hours To be communicated by Teacher.</b>	Students continue to work on assignments.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher Office Hours Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.	Teacher dedicated time for student support, check-in, student feedback, and individualized support.

While we acknowledge that this virtual reality is new to all of us, it's important to highlight that we are on this journey together, walking shoulder to shoulder, and leaning on each other for support. This safe and collective risk taking will rely on our staff, parents and students' flexibility, teacher magic, skills, creativity and collaboration. We envision teachers (General Education and Special Education) and Grade Level/Department Teams working alongside Administrators collaboratively planning and determining the best way to deliver high-quality educational opportunities for our students that's inclusive of new content, enrichment, practice, and intervention.

As we transition from optional learning opportunities to our new Distance Learning model, we continue to work with our families to ensure students have access to a 1:1 device as well as reliable WiFi service. Join me in thanking our administrators and staff for helping with this important endeavor. We have additional guidelines to develop and have assembled work groups to address the role of grades, assessments, meeting the needs of students with disabilities, English Learners, among others. We will share those details once finalized.

Attached please find a visual for students that summarizes that school is back in session!

Together, I'm confident that through our collective efforts, our new SMUSD Distance Learning Model will be successful! We can do this!

Best,  
Dr. García  
PS. Let's do this! ☺