

April 5, 2020

Dear SMUSD Community,

As we approach our district's Spring Break, my sincere hope is that you and your loved ones continue to stay healthy and safe. We are thankful for our immediate community's continued support, patience and understanding. Our collective resilience and flexibility over the last 3 weeks has buoyed our strength as a community and has demonstrated our undeniable resolve to push forward and lean on each other during these ever changing times.

As previously shared, we will be moving away from optional activities/lessons and pivoting toward our new instructional model by launching our new [Distance Learning Plan](#) beginning April 13. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff have been hard at work engaged in distributing chromebooks, participating in professional development, meeting with grade level teams, and planning/creating virtual lessons. To ensure equitable access, it is important for students to have their own device (chromebook, tablet, laptop). If your child does not have a device, please contact the school and one will be checked out to you. Additionally, in an effort to support our families during this transition, our team has been working on a [website](#) with resources that provides parents and students assistance navigating Google Classroom, Clever, the SMUSD Cloud, in addition to other platforms. There, you will also find a link to a "Chromebook Frequently Asked Questions" and below the link, parents can complete a form to submit questions. We plan on updating the FAQ with timely answers and support. In addition, we will be adding more resources in the coming weeks.

For your convenience and enjoyment, our Instructional Services Department has also put together a list of Staycation [Spring Break #StayAtHome Activities](#). In the link, students and families will have opportunities to go on sightseeing expeditions, take virtual tours, explore Mars, participate in a drawing class or in a digital escape room, among many other fun adventures. Please enjoy this [video](#) that introduces the various activities.

Our School Counselors and Social Workers continue to plan ways to stay connected with our students by offering [social/emotional](#) and academic resources and support, as needed. In addition, our Administrative team, ASB Directors and ASB students are identifying ways to keep our student bodies connected, exploring new ways we can maintain some end of the year activities and brainstorming special ways to honor and celebrate our Class of 2020.

Our *Grab & Go* meal service will continue during Spring Break except for Friday, April 10th. As a result, on Thursday, April 9th, students will receive a double portion of breakfast and lunch. Our [regularly scheduled meal service](#) will resume on Monday, April 13th from 11am-1pm.

Although these are trying times, full of challenges and new experiences, we will continue to forge this path together! The late singer/songwriter Bill Withers' timely classic "[Lean on Me](#)" reminds us to maintain hope and "that there's always tomorrow." We are indeed *SMUSD Strong* and will continue to lean on each other!

My best,
Dr. Garcia