

## Parent Q & A

Dr. García's latest community update: [March 23rd Update](#)

**1. Will there be online school and how will grades be impacted?**

Answer: The district will not have a specific online school. Parents and students may access optional learning activities on the district website under the Student Learning Activities tab. These activities are intended for practice, enrichment and maintenance of skills already taught. These activities are not mandatory and will not impact a student's grade.

**2. How will the school closure impact semester grades if no assignments during the closure are graded?**

Answer: Grades are currently frozen and will not change until schools reopen.

**3. How will children who might have a less-than-ideal grade in a class at this time have an opportunity to improve that grade? For kids who are high school juniors that need every week of the semester to work on getting the highest grades possible for college admissions, this is an important question.**

Answer: At this time grades are frozen. When schools reopen, students will have opportunities to improve and remediate grades as currently practiced.

**4. I see that the assignments aren't graded in the resource section. Does this mean that the end of the school year is extended for grades 9-11 for as long as many weeks as school is closed? How about the seniors? We will need to plan if the seniors are actually going to be able to graduate (not walk, but complete the requirements) for college beginning in late august.**

Answer: At this time, extension of the school year is unknown. We continue to await guidance from the state on graduation and credit requirements. With this international pandemic, we are optimistic that systems will work together to ensure positive outcomes for all students.

**5. Will the school closing affect the length of summer break? Will the students have to make up these lost days?**

Answer: At this time, the impact on our school calendar is unknown. While the state has waived the number of mandatory days in the school year, we do not know the specific impact yet.

- 6. Will this time need to be made up at the end of the school year for students to stay on track with the necessary learning for this school year? if not, is there a period of time that would need to be made up if the closure extends? Thanks for keeping us all safe and stay well.**

Answer: See answer to question 5.

- 7. Will students be required to make up the time they are missing now because of the school closure in the summer? Will this extend the school year past June 10th?**

Answer: See answer to question 5.

- 8. Using the current proposed return date of April 13th, does it appear that the school year will be extended past the current end date June10th?**

Answer: See answer to question 5.

- 9. When doing the suggested work over this break, will my child get any school credit? And is it mandatory?**

Answer: See answers to questions 1-3.

- 10. Will our students have to make up the missed days in the summer? Thereby extending the school year and shortening the summer?**

Answer: See answer to question 5.

- 11. Do the CNS /Cafeteria staff know how much we appreciate their work?**

Answer: Thank you for recognizing their efforts in continuing to support our children.

- 12. Please let them know we said thank you for serving our two kids the pack and go lunch today, and for keeping our community with a normal meal routine in these uncertain times.**

**How will the school hours be made up? Will the school year be extended into the summer (hopefully)**

Answer: See answers to questions 11 and 5.

- 13. Are all athletic and VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) events cancelled?**

Answer: Yes. All games, matches, events, practices, and rehearsals have been cancelled until further notice.

**14. How long will our schools be closed?**

Answer: Currently, our schools will be closed from March 16th through April 10th. This date may be extended depending on CDC and/or state directives. We will provide families with updates as they are received.

**15. Are campuses open to parents, students and/or volunteers during school closures?**

Answer: No. All SMUSD campuses are closed. Grab and Go lunches will be distributed during the designated time.

**16. Are there resources available to parents regarding how to talk to their child about COVID-19?**

Answer: This is a great resource from the National Association of School Psychologists: [Health Crisis Resources](#)

Our school social workers have compiled a list of additional resources including information on meals, physical and mental health wellbeing, shelters and more. Click here to view resources: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15hApvPRqcCVEuZMSmAHRrn-PFwBX5brgRKNYCoqZYwA/edit?usp=sharing>

**17. Are there any resources available online to support students during school closures?**

Answer: Yes. SMUSD has created a tab for Student Learning Activities: [https://smusd.org/student\\_learning\\_activities](https://smusd.org/student_learning_activities)

**18. Will SMUSD be serving lunches while schools are closed?**

Answer: Yes. SMUSD's Child Nutrition Services Department will be serving to-go lunches at all school sites between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Lunches will be distributed in front schools or on a drive-in basis, where available.

**19. What is the status of AP, SAT, and ACT Testing?**

Answer: For AP and SAT testing information, please visit: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

For ACT testing information, please visit: <https://www.act.org>

**20. Are schools being cleaned while they are closed?**

Answer: Our custodial staff is working diligently to keep our schools clean. They will be working throughout the school closures to prepare for students to return to campus.

**21. Will school be extended past June 10 or will June 10th still be the last day of the school year? Thank you.**

Answer: See answer to question 5.

**22. Is there any chance you will move to online learning of some sort? I understand tech issues with some families but it seems those are solved with the chromebooks and free wifi. Lots of districts are doing this. I understand it is challenging but for high school students, particularly those in AP classes, the learning activities provided on your site are simply not enough to keep them learning or to prepare them for their tests. It isn't right to keep all kids from learning just because of these issues. Thanks.**

Answer: The District is considering various options to support our students' learning. As soon as our plans are solidified we will be sharing them with the community.

**23. With the recent announcement from Governor Newsom that he doesn't believe schools will reopen before summer, how are you planning on having students complete this academic year?**

Answer: Although Governor Newsom announced his opinion that schools will not reopen before summer, he has not authorized the closing of schools for the remainder of the year. Future information from the state will guide our actions regarding the completion of the academic year.

**24. Will the school year be extended because of this shutdown?**

Answer: See answer to question 14.

**25. How can I get a hold of my daughter's counselor?**

Answer: You may email the counselor as staff are working from home during school closures.

**26. In order to not lose credits and maintain future learning, will the district consider waiving its requirement that all core HS classes be taken at the district so that students may take math, history, etc. via virtual schools and continue their academic progression?**

Answer: This may be a consideration as we explore various options to support student learning during the time of school closures.

**27. With the current crisis, many of us parent are being required to work from home. Our work responsibilities have not changed, and we still have to get our work done. With this in mind, why can't the San Marcos school teachers work from home also? They can**

still post assignments, grade papers, post video lectures etc.. Even if the assignments are not for an actual grade, it would still keep the kids on track, learning, and ready for the next school year. Links to online content separate from school is all good, but that does not explain why the teachers cannot continue to do their assigned work within the school system (I assume, rightfully, that they are still receiving full pay and benefits). By the way, some have taken it upon themselves to do this informally which is very commendable, but it should be a blanket policy in order to keep things rolling. Other school districts in the area are doing this, so San Marcos kids should not be left behind!

Answer: See answer to question number 22.

**28. I saw the Parent Q&A, Thank you for posting this! This is a follow up question to the many questions regarding the end of the school year, Has there been any guidance sent from the state level as to when the decision will be made regarding the end of the school year and if it will be extended into Summer? When will we know the answer to these questions? Thank you again!!**

Answer: The state has not yet issued any directive on either the ending or extension of the school year. As soon as we have more definitive guidance we will share it with our school community.

**29. When is SMUSD going to start Distance Learning as outlined by The California department of education ( <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/distancelearning.asp> ) ? CVUSD And nearby school districts already distance learning for high school (including AP/IB coursework) beginning the week of Monday, March 23rd. Our children need the same opportunity for high-quality learning.**

Answer: Please see answer to question #22

**30. Can we please get an update on when we will be getting the update on distance learning. While I realize these are unprecedented times, many districts have either gone online or are planning to on Monday. I am deeply concerned about my kids falling behind especially the high schooler who has several classes that are prerequisites for next year.**

Answer: Please see answer to question #22

**31. Why are we not having classes taught online? Teachers across the nation are holding full days of school, including homeroom, online. Teaching online without delay allows students to maintain some normalcy, stay connected with their teachers and classmates, and to stay on track academically. DPS focuses a great deal on their "Innovation Lab," this is an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to innovate - or at least keep pace with best practice. Zoom is making their platform available at no cost, as are many other online resources. I highly encourage DPS and SMUSD to learn from**

**peer schools and quickly get teachers back to work with our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Answer: Please see answer to questions #1 and #22

**32. Are we able to check out a chromebook? My son needs one.**

Answer: If your child does not have a device at home to use, please contact your school. Chromebooks will be issued at the school sites.

**33. Will SEMS receive additional Chromebooks to distribute to students? I have 2 SEMS students who will each need one. Thank you!!**

Answer: If your child does not have a device at home to use, please contact your school. Chromebooks will be issued at the school sites.

**34. Why have you directed high school teachers to stop holding Zoom meetings until further notice?**

Answer: We are transitioning all staff to use Google Meet with students due to the security limitations that exist with Zoom. Google Meet is part of the Google Suite of products that our district uses and allows us to provide more security protections for our students.

**35. Only my son's history teacher has been providing work. His math teacher gave a link for a math program which we can't get to work, both myself and my child have emailed her with no response; there is nothing for secondary education pulling up, under the additional resources tab; there is nothing posted on the clever site for my son. I hate to complain because I know this is a difficult time, but I also have seen other school districts act quicker and provide much more for their students. We need help and we need it ASAP. Thank you.**

Answer: Structured, daily activities for grades TK-12 have been provided in the SMUSD Practice and Extended Learning Activities. These can be accessed from the home page of the district website on the top tab "Student Learning Activities". When you reach this site, there are separate tabs for grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

**36. We missed the opportunity to pick up a chromebook for my daughter, are there still any available? If so, can we still pick one up? Thank you!**

Answer: If your child does not have a device at home to use, please contact your school. Chromebooks will be issued at the school sites.

**37. I have two children that attend Discovery Elementary. They need chrome books. Where and when can I pick them up? Thank you.**

Answer: If your child does not have a device at home to use, please contact your school. Chromebooks will be issued at the school sites.