January 27, 2021

Dear Sunnyside Families —

Today, I would like to share important updates with you regarding our target date for a return to in-person hybrid learning. Regrettably, COVID-19 rates in Pima County continue to remain high, and the Pima County Health Department metrics used to indicate a safe reopening of schools have not been met.

Throughout this pandemic, our decisions on opening schools have remained consistent with Pima County Health Department’s recommendations. Although other districts have opened schools, our 85706 and 85756 community zip codes remain “hot spots” for COVID transmission. For this reason, our Governing Board voted last night to postpone in-person hybrid learning to March 1, provided the metrics from the Pima County Health Department indicate that it is safe to do so. This means we will remain in remote learning for the month of February, and have set a target date to return to in-person hybrid learning on Monday, March 1.

We recognize it is essential to students’ learning and social/emotional wellbeing to be back in the classroom and we want nothing more but to have your students here with us. As such, we will continue to communicate closely with the health department over the next couple of weeks so that we are informed of the current trends in public health metrics and on any other proposed recommendations that may come about based on new guidelines by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). If this results in a sooner return date, we will communicate accordingly.

**COVID Testing Event**

This Friday, we will offer COVID-19 tests to the community free of charge. Testing is also open to SUSD students and will take place at Sunnyside High School on January 29th from 11am – 4:30pm. Please check our [website](#) for all the details.

Steve Holmes, Superintendent