

July 2, 2020

Dear Sunnyside Families –

Earlier this week, Governor Ducey announced the delay of in-person learning to **August 17**. However, this date reflects an aspirational hope that it will be safe for us to return in-person. The reality is, given the increase in COVID-19 cases across the state, we may have to move the in-person start date again. I believe this creates great uncertainty for our parents and staff. The effect of this uncertainty is the delay of essential educational services that students and families depend on.

Although we are facing some challenging times, we are unwavering in our commitment to serve our students, families and staff. It is not in the best interest of our learning community to delay the essential educational services that students and families depend on. **For Sunnyside, this means the first day of school will remain August 5th through remote learning.**

While starting school completely online is not ideal, I am confident that we are prepared for a remote learning environment given our track record of using technology as an essential instructional tool for the past 10 years. We are committed to offering your child a quality uninterrupted learning experience. Our teachers and curriculum staff have been working all summer to ensure that we can remotely deliver the same rigorous curriculum that would have been offered in person. This online experience will be different from what you experienced during the initial school closures. Our expectation is that teachers deliver content five days a week and require scheduled times for students to be online receiving instruction. For a more detailed description on this remote learning experience, please visit [susd12.org/responsible-reopening](https://susd12.org/responsible-reopening).

As you may know, we traditionally issue Chromebooks to 4th–12th grade students at the beginning of the school year and students are able to take these devices home. In order to accommodate the transition to K-12 remote learning, we will also provide a device to all K–3rd grade students. Your school will provide you with information about picking up devices prior to the first day of school.

Furthermore, we are excited to share with you that we have implemented a new enrollment system that will allow families to complete the registration process entirely online. In the coming days, please look out for a letter that will have a code that is specific to your students' registration.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is at the forefront of our decision-making. As we responsibly move forward with planning for an in-person 5 days a week return on August 17th or at some other date in the 2020–21 school year, we will provide you with updates on how we will implement the health guidelines outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pima County Health Department.

Lastly, as a parent of two school-aged children myself, I hear your concerns and share the stress of this ever-changing situation with you. **Your child's principal will be providing more communication throughout the next few weeks prior to school starting remotely on August 5th.** I thank you for your patience, trust and commitment to the Sunnyside learning community. I am confident that together we will emerge from this stronger and better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Holmes", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steve Holmes, Superintendent