From the Superintendent's Desk

Weekly Update From Supt. Jerry Almendarez

Nov. 9, 2020

Dear SAUSD Community

I am excited to launch my weekly newsletter to provide the latest information on how we are working to meet the needs of all our students. Given our current conditions, our focus remains on our plan to reopen schools safely.

This week, we started our **Learning Labs** at three schools. These Labs will allow us to bring some of our students with the highest needs back to campuses at a small scale, then expanding as we go forward. You can read more below.

Please join me and other local superintendents at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12 in the **Fourth District PTA's Advocacy Forum** where we will be discussing ongoing challenges presented by the current pandemic. The public is invited to participate in this virtual forum by registering here.

Latest News

Learning Labs
Our Learning Labs will provide a safe and supervised environment for students to access their virtual classroom. They will include 14 or fewer students per cohort (group). Principals and school staff are helping to identify students who will have initial access to Learning Labs, specifically those who have had ongoing connectivity issues. Priority will be given to McKinney Vento, foster youth, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

Starting at 3 sites
Today, Learning Labs launched at **Madison Elementary**, **McFadden Intermediate**, and **Valley High** schools. At this time, Learning Labs will be staffed and led by Extended Learning classified personnel.

These Labs will be held in spaces that will ensure appropriate social distancing. Mask wearing and other safety protocols will also be a part of these Labs. Beginning next week, we plan to open Learning Labs at another round of schools. Every week, we will add Labs at additional campuses as it continues to be safe to do so.

Click here for more information and answers to some common questions about Learning Labs.

Here are the latest COVID-19 positivity rates for zip codes with SAUSD boundaries

Source: O.C. Health Care Agency (prepared Nov. 3, 2020)

ZIP	Population	Case Count 7-day+ 7 day lag (Excludes Inmates)	Case Rate (7-day day average, Excludes Inmates)	Adjusted Count 7-day + 7 day lag (Excludes LTCFs and Inmates)	Case Rate per 100,000 (7-day day average, excluding LTCFs & Inmates)	Testing Positivity Percent (7 day avg. + 7 day lag)
92701	55,534	32	8.23	32	8.23	7.8%
92703	69,190	60	12.39	60	12.39	5.9%
92704	90,205	58	9.19	58	9.19	8.3%
92705	46,883	29	8.84	29	8.84	6.2%
92706	37,406	19	7.26	19	7.26	6.0%
92707	62,894	61	13.86	61	13.86	9.4%
					Positivity average	7.3%

Visit www.sausd.us/coronavirus for free resources and testing information regarding COVID-19.

Other Reopening News

Commitment to Common Standard to Reopening Schools

Leaders from Santa Ana Unified, Los Angeles Unified, Fresno, Long Beach, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Diego recently agreed to commit to developing a common and high standard for safely reopening schools. These districts represent a combined 1 million students in California. Superintendents from each district signed a letter asking Gov. Newsom, the state Legislature and local and county governments to join in this effort. A copy of the letter is available here.

Leaders from these seven districts agree that it will take collective action and additional funding to bring students, teachers and staff back to schools in the way that is as safe as possible and sustainable for the long-term.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 10

- Public session begins at 6 p.m.
- To livestream visit sausd.tv
- Agenda is available here

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