



SAN GABRIEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Our Children's Future is our Mission"

408 JUNIPERO SERRA DRIVE • SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA 91776
(626) 451-5400 • FAX (626) 451-5494 • www.sgusd.k12.ca.us

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April 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During these uncertain times, student, staff and family safety is a high priority. State health officials have made it clear that the safest place to be is home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this in mind, the Board of Education, during an emergency meeting on April 2, 2020, determined to extend the physical school closures until the end of the academic year. This decision aligns with the recommendation from Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Debra Duardo and State Superintendent, Tony Thurmond. Based on this decision our school campuses will remain physically closed for the remainder of the school year.

We understand this decision will pose challenges and hardships for students, families, and our district team. While the situation is not ideal, we believe it is the best option for providing continuity of learning and adhering to the important "Stay-at-Home" order from the Governor to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Importantly, while campuses are closed, school is still in session and instruction will continue with our online [Distance Learning](#) program. We recognize that this decision comes with many challenges. Distance Learning is a new experience for all of us. The California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and our leadership teams work each day to identify solutions to support this new learning environment.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our teachers, staff and students who are demonstrating amazing creativity and out-of-the box thinking to strengthen Distance Learning for all students. Equally important to this new learning shift are the parents and caregivers who are supporting the learning from home. Together we will do what it takes to ensure students receive the guidance and support needed during this new normal.

Remember, it is important for your child to connect with his/her teachers and classmates daily. We need to keep our lines of communication and collaboration open. We know this situation can be stressful. If you need assistance, please reach out to your child's teacher or site administrator.

It is also important to remember that in addition to teaching standards and curriculum, we are teaching our children the power of community in a crisis. This crisis presents life lessons and creative ways for our community to come together to problem solve, assist one another, and act together in an effort to provide support, nourishment, and encouragement. As we move forward, we will be using this same creativity to identify virtual ways to celebrate and engage in our spring traditions of dances, promotions and graduation.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this fluid situation and shift to Distance Learning. I feel confident that working together we will rise to the challenge, and be better for it.

Sincerely,

Jim Symonds

Superintendent

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