



Santee School District

SCHOOLS

Cajon Park
Carlton Hills
Carlton Oaks
Chet F. Harritt STEAM
Hill Creek
Pepper Drive
PRIDE Academy
at Prospect Avenue
Rio Seco
Sycamore Canyon
Alternative
Success Program

To: All Santee School District Employees
From: Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent
Subject: **Update – End-of-Year Needs and Information**

Date: June 4, 2020

Happy “almost end-of-the-school year”. I’m not sure if I feel truly happy at the moment but I am thankful for the time we had together this year and for your composure and commitment to our students through the closure. Please do read onto page 2 for important information.

Staff Survey

We are preparing for next school year and need you to complete the staff survey using the link below. **All employees should assume they are returning to their regular work schedule for purposes of this survey.**

Submitted data will be managed by our Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Tim Larson. Once staff has submitted their information, Tim will provide each supervisor with a site or department report.

We need you to complete this survey very quickly, by Tuesday, June 9, please. If you have any questions, your supervisor can help you or you can email Tim Larson in HR.

Survey link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfprJFwR9_CuN8pGToZDW4uAaioDrb3wxGdotDPPzAVISskSw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Final Parent Letter for 2019-20 SY

Please see our final parent letter attached to my email. The letter will go home via school messenger tomorrow.

Next School Year Scenarios

We have two core groups of employees working on the logistics necessary for our safe return to schools in the fall. One group is working on the instructional plans should we be unable to return full-time, every day. Another group is working on all the logistics necessary to support our safe return (e.g. cleaning/sanitizing, health checks, busing, nutrition, etc.).

It is our priority to return to school full-time as of August 19. If our local health orders do not allow for this scenario, we will have a back-up plan called a “hybrid” model. A hybrid model is put in place when we are expected to reduce the number of students in a classroom at a given time. These hybrid models split the total number of students into two groups, an A and B group, and students essentially attend school on campus half the week and continue their learning at home the rest of the week.

BOARD OF EDUCATION · Dustin Burns, Dianne El-Hajj, Ken Fox, Elana Levens-Craig, Barbara Ryan
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT · Kristin Baranski

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Protests in Santee and SD County

You have all witnessed the reactions of citizens in our local communities as people attempt to grapple with emotions from the death of George Floyd and the arrest of Amaurie Johnson in La Mesa. As you know, the pain we feel comes on top of the stress from the pandemic. Some of our children and families are deeply hurting.

In normal times, our classrooms would be a powerful place to help children navigate the scenes that have filled our televisions and, in our case in Santee, the streets. Though our campuses are closed, we still have a moral obligation to create safe spaces to discuss race, inequities, and recent events with children -- and now, to help parents do the same.

I know our school year is near the end; however, children or family members who need your help may still contact you. The County Office of Education put together an [Equity Resources webpage](#), which may assist you in facilitating conversations with students and families. The resources on this page are truly amazing and worth reviewing.

Lastly, I know some of our employees are also sharing in the same emotions as our children and their families. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Union Tribune Article Today

We had a wonderful article published today by Karen Pearlman at the Union Tribune. I think you'll enjoy reading it. Last Friday, the Board of Education, Executive Council, and Mimi McGinty traveled to the homes of nine students to present them with an award. Our principals and teachers met us at the children's homes. They were so surprised. I will **never** forget the looks on their faces that day.

SCHOOLS GO THE DISTANCE TO HONOR 9 SANTEE STUDENTS

Board members, officials hop on bus to hand out awards

BY KAREN PEARLMAN

SANTEE

Nine Santee School District elementary school students, one from each of the district's nine schools, were honored last month in a way the district had not done before: with board members and other school officials rolling up to their homes in a big yellow school bus.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily curtailed school board meetings from being held at the district office, the stu-

dents were not going to be recognized in person, so the district decided it would fill up a bus gas tank and drive the elected officials around the city to honor them.

Schools shut their doors in mid-March to stop the spread of COVID-19 and students have been doing distance learning with their teachers since. The last day of school is Wednesday, June 10.

"This is one of the highlights that we do every year for our students when we recognize them for outstanding achievement and growth," said School Board President Dustin Burns.

The busload of board members along with Superintendent Kristin Baranski



KAREN PEARLMAN U-T

Carlton Oaks sixth-grader Forrest Habibi gets an award from teacher Chelsey Clixby.

made a stop at each honored student's house, where their teachers and principals were also there to read a short statement to the winner, and give the student a certificate and a medal. Each student was chosen by teachers and school administration for their commitment to learning and personal growth.

"It's a huge deal," Burns said. "For the kids and their parents. It didn't seem adequate to mail something to them. So we thought what better way to go out and show our support, rally our kids, let them know how much we care than by coming to them? It's really a symbolic gesture to show all of our kids how much they mean to us, how much we

miss them and love them and that we are rooting for them for the future and looking forward to getting them back to school."

Burns said it is still up in the air what will happen during the 2020-21 school year. The first day is Aug. 19.

"It is our hope and desire and we feel strongly that we want our kids back in school," Burns said. "Not just for their academic needs, but their social and emotional needs, too. They need to be back with their friends, their teachers. What the first day of school is exactly going to look like, we're not sure."

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