July 2 Update from Superintendent Skelly

Dear SMUHSD Students and Families:

I hope this note finds you healthy and doing your part to keep those around you in fine form as well.

Even though this is a week where many administrators and others are taking time off, planning for the fall is underway. The logistical challenges associated with the upcoming semester are daunting. However, I am pleased with the direction the school board gave us at their June 25 Board meeting. A summary of the important steps taken are included in my message from June 26 that can be found on our [website](#) (below).

I’ve received a lot of questions about what synchronous learning is and what it will look like. The best way I have heard it described is that, no matter where you are, the instruction is happening in real time and all students are receiving it together. The District is committed to providing synchronous learning for all students almost every day, regardless of what phase of opening we are in.

In the coming weeks each District family will be asked to complete a questionnaire choosing important elements of your student's educational experiences for the coming semester. This will help the District to gauge your interest in distance learning with scheduled time for instruction vs. fully independent study; classes your student might plan to take outside of the District, and their need for a Chromebook and/or Internet access. For ninth and tenth graders, we will also ask about your choice for physical education classes. As we build the logistics around this we may ask whether or not your student wants to take Physical Education in person on campus or would prefer to meet this graduation requirement in another way. Students with IEPs and English Learners will also have questions that pertain to their experience. More information will be forthcoming. Stay tuned for this.

There have been questions about the fall sports season. The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) has a state-wide meeting on July 20, and they will provide some direction to schools with respect to this important topic. No matter what they decide, our District plans to offer some sports in the fall depending on our ability to have students participate safely. As soon as we know more information we will share it.

I hope your student reads this summer. Something. Anything! I have found upbeat stories of success and redemption to be a tonic for our troubled times. See our school websites for a few ideas. Here is one list of suggestions from the Hillsdale High [website](#). Escaping the world for a few hours and developing empathy through a piece of literature can be very helpful.

I invite you to join the next board meeting on July 14 at 1 p.m. Next week I’ll share the agenda. Look for weekly updates from me and news from your principals later this month.

On we go!

Sincerely,

Kevin Skelly, Ph.D.

Superintendent