

April 16, 2021

SEMS Families,

Thank you, families, for the **wonderful support** as we begin Week 3 of Quarter 4. Students were once again well-prepared, on time and ready to learn. I anticipate with this continued effort the quarter will run smoothly.

The district received an update from the California Department of Education that the waiver for standardized assessment, known as **CAASPP**, has been approved for the 2020-21 school year. As a result, districts have been given the autonomy to administer their own assessments based on specific criteria set forth by the state. The district is likely to use the i-Ready diagnostics for English Language Arts and Math to assess students. I will update families when I receive confirmation which assessment model will be used.

Last week I shared with families about the plan for a 5-day-a-week full return to school for the 2021-22 school year. Preliminary discussions at the district level with principals have taken place about **returning to campus more than 2 days a week** during this school year. The school board will formally look at options for expansion during their next meeting.

The middle schools continue to discuss **8th grade promotion**. At this stage we are still in the planning stages as middle schools across the district try to decide the best possible way to proceed with promotion while ensuring safety protocols and guidelines. No matter the outcome, our students will be afforded an in-person promotion, one that will be special and focused on recognizing student achievement.

Please continue to **call the Attendance Office** immediately or before the start of the next school day if you receive an absence call for your student. By calling in a timely manner will ensure your student will not be locked out of the LumiSight app.

Finally, I would like to send a special **thank you to our PTO** executive board and members. The PTO has worked tirelessly in trying to support our staff and students. I encourage our families to get involved and help as much as possible. Without the support of our SEMS PTO, many programs and opportunities for students would not exist. Thank you for all you do!

Thank you, SEMS families, for all your support.

Mr. Zeait