

Hello SEMS Families,

As a principal of a large middle school, it's important to keep a pulse on how our students are doing personally and socially, especially now we that have a large number of students back on campus. I know our students have gone through many changes in the last year and Social Emotional Learning is an important part of ensuring our kids are able to cope and adjust with constant change. As part of our focus on Social Emotional Learning, SEMS counseling has provided some tidbits on how to take care of ourselves during **Mental Health Awareness Month**:



Monday - **Mental Health Matters** – Explore why mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.



Tuesday - **Treat Yourself** – Learn something new, do something you really enjoy or try a relaxing technique like coloring or listening to music.



Wednesday - **Wellness** – Discover a physical activity that you enjoy; one that suits your level of mobility and fitness.



Thursday - **Thankful** – Do something nice for a friend, thank someone, smile, express gratitude.



Friday - **Friendship** – Connect with the people around you: family, friends, colleagues and neighbors at home, work, school or in your local community.

**Textbook and Chromebook collection for 8th grade students** will be on June 1 and 2. Students in 6th and 7th grade are scheduled for June 3 and 4 (textbooks and novels). Collections will occur during designated periods.

Please use this [link](#) showing how to log into your student's library account to find out what items need to be returned.

**LEVS:** 8th grade LEVS students will be able to drop off items in front of the PAC on June 7 from 1-3pm (if 8th grade LEVS students are participating in the drive-thru promotion they can drop off items during that time) and 6th and 7th grade LEVS students will drop off items on June 9 from 12-3pm. Promotion tickets will be distributed to LEVS students attending the in-person promotion on June 7 during collection. More information will be sent to 8th grade parents during the week.

**2021 8th grade Promotion lawn signs** are now on sale for \$10 each in the PTO Webstore, <https://semspto.square.site>. Signs are 24" x 18" and come with a metal stake. Orders must be placed by May 24 and signs will be available for pick up starting June 2. Additional details regarding pick up times and locations will come at a later date.

**SEMS will offer Summer Programs** from June 14-25 and August 2-11. These programs will be offered to students who may be interested in academic remediation, enrichment, self-guided academic support, physical activity, social-emotional learning, and the arts. We are in the final stages of planning for these programs and hope to get more information and applications out to families by the end of the month. We encourage our current 6th and 7th grade students, including our LEVS students, to sign up for these programs.

Applications for sign-ups will be made available to ALL families next week. The classes are free and lunch will be provided.

I have attached **news from Dr. Campbell's community email** as a reminder about facial coverings and learning models for 2021-22.

**Facial Coverings:** You have likely heard the recommendations announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week relaxing face covering guidelines for individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19, suggesting they may be removed in most but not all indoor and outdoor settings.

While this is encouraging news, on Saturday the CDC revised its initial statement, clarifying that they are not changing their guidance regarding schools before the end of the school year. SMUSD's current [facial covering policy](#) reflects [CDC recommendations for schools](#) and complies with state and local health orders which continue to require the use of face coverings by all individuals while on school property.

We will continue to monitor state and local requirements, and will keep you posted on any changes that impact school operations. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and adherence to mask policies while at district campuses/facilities.

**Looking Ahead - 2021/22 Learning Models:**

As has been announced previously, our district will return to a traditional 5-day a week schedule next year. While in person, full time instruction is the primary and recommended mode of learning for all students next year, the district will be offering alternative options to in-person learning for elementary and secondary students. Please take a moment to review this brief video highlighting our [2021-22 SMUSD learning models](#).

For additional information about the models, including an FAQ and enrollment information, please visit our [website](#).

Thank you everyone for your continuous support. We have a busy but exciting few weeks remaining of the school year.

Thank you,  
Mr. Zeait