



PRINCIPAL'S 411

Santa Maria High School

{8-20-21}

Important Items and Reminders:

- Monday is collaboration early release, 1st pd starts at 7:40!!
- Remember to complete your mandated trainings for the new school year.
- Student agendas are completed, ordered, and are scheduled to arrive any day now. Once we receive shipment, we will have them distributed to your classrooms within a couple of days.
- Bathroom passes were distributed to your mailbox earlier this week. Please use these passes for allowing students into the halls. Students having their bathroom pass visible makes it easier for our security to monitor hall traffic and makes the students less likely to be stopped/delayed while outside your class.
- Tablet distribution: the last of the 9th grade tablet order came in yesterday. The IT department will be formatting these tablets and getting them to us next week. We are targeting next Friday as our distribution day. Details to follow.

Athletics:

Fall sports are in full swing with volleyball, water polo, and football having their first interscholastic competitions this week. Athletic Director Ellington says that numbers are still growing as students are finding out about the different programs. It is great to see the kids out there enjoying their sport of choice. If given a chance, please encourage students to participate by referring them to Mr. Ellington, or helping them contact their respective coach through our school website.

Kudo's:

Kudos this week should go to our medical technicians. Sandra Fry and Jesse Soto are truly an outstanding team as they are always willing to do whatever it takes to help our students. The medical office is always a busy place, but this fall their workload and responsibilities have gone to a new level. Their willingness to stay current with the state's/county's constantly changing regulations is the reason we can all enjoy an open and healthy campus. If you see Sandy or Jesse, give them a pat on the back for a job very well done. Thanks you two, we're lucky to have you on our team!!

Message from Administration:

This week there has been a lot of talk about the rise of COVID 19 cases and resulting protocols and procedures. It is hard to believe that the numbers are back at the level we are seeing right now. With that said, the staff and the students have done an outstanding job in following the county's guidelines and doing everything possible to keep our campus safe. I want to be as transparent as possible and disclose that yesterday we had our first positive case on campus, and we have had others since. Once the positive cases were discovered our above-mentioned medical team, security team, and office/administrative staff did an amazing job putting our designed protocols into action. As of Friday at quitting time we have 5 students who have tested positive. The students have all been sent home to be quarantined, all people in defined contact

with these students were tested and all the students' families were notified. As serious as this may sound, I think it is important to remember that 5 out of 3200 is still a very small percentage. It is also worth noting that none of these cases appear to have originated on our campus. In other words, this is a community spread more than it is a school spread. I am in no way making light of this situation, but I also don't want to cause undue alarm. We are sticking to the designated protocols to the letter and hold campus safety as the absolute priority. If you feel you might have been in contact with COVID 19 and would like to be tested, all you need to do is contact Tim Vincent or Jesse Soto by phone to arrange a time. The rapid test currently being used takes about 15 minutes to determine positive or negative. Please remain vigilant with the seating charts, they are invaluable in determining contact tracing needs. Thank you all for sticking to our campus protocols, the cooperation from the staff and students has been great. As we have done through this whole debacle, let's all stick together, communicate, and carry on. Have a good weekend everyone and congratulations on completing your first full week of school.

Sincerely,

SMHS Admin