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SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

October 13, 2020

Distance learning help has arrived for 10 Santa Maria Joint Union High School District families.

The SMJUHS District Multilingual and Migrant Education Program (MMEP) in partnership with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) and AT&T held a drive-through event to distribute 10 tablets and cases at the Lincoln Center on October 9.

The MMEP and Mixtecto translators will offer parents additional computer/tablet assistance this week. The training, which will be done by phone, includes how to set up the device, email and apps, according to Maribel Vargas-Meza, MMEP Administrative Assistant.

“Our parents were very appreciative and excited to receive the tablets,” said MMEP Director Elyssa [Rodriguez-Chavarria](#).

The recipients were parents who graduated from the most recent PIQE Parent Involvement Program with perfect attendance. Veronica Lopez, PIQE Associate Director traveled from Tulare, CA to personally distribute the tablets.

The tablets are part of AT&T’s Distance Learning and Family Connections Fund created to provide parents the tools they need. PIQE was one of the statewide organizations awarded funds to help families stay engaged during Distance Learning and empowering and transforming families to ensure their children achieve their full potential.

Parents will be the primary users of the tablets, and the whole family will benefit. Students have tablets provided by the district, but parents often have only a smart phone to access technology. The new tablets will help parents become involved in their student’s education, help stay in touch with their student's teachers/staff, send emails, ask questions and participate in school/district virtual parent meetings. Tablets will also help parents learn new digital literacy skills that will help them today and into the future.

“This tablet will help me a lot to learn myself on how to help my student now that he is studying through distance learning classes,” said PIQE parent Maria Lozano.

PICTURE: Santa Maria High School PIQE Parent: Hilario Garcia and Family

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