



August 29, 2022

Dear Parents:

I hope everyone has had a great start to the school year. Although there will always be a few bumps in the road, altogether it was an extremely smooth start. A special THANK YOU to all of you for your partnership and support in making this happen. I hope your children have enjoyed getting back to school!

Listed below are the updates for the week.

Enhancing Student Opportunities and Experiences

As Superintendent, one of my key roles is to ensure we are providing opportunities and experiences for all of our students to explore interests and develop their skills and passion for learning. Over the years, we have invested heavily in updating our materials and resources for student learning. We have expanded our program and course offerings, provided significant enhancements to student and staff technology, and we have hired administrative support and instructional coaches, as well as additional teaching and classroom support staff to best meet the academic needs of our students. We have invested significant funds to upgrade instrument and equipment needs, as well as adding staff to bolster our music and arts program. And over the past year, we have been analyzing our athletic programs to provide similar support as we have done for academics and the arts. At a meeting last week, the Board gave the green light to implement new athletic opportunities for our students, as well as to provide coaching levels that are commensurate with our athletic conference and provide the level of coaching support to foster the development of our student athletes. These enhancements to the athletic program will start with the winter sports season. You can click [HERE](#) to see the updates coming for Winter 2022. In addition to optimized coaching levels, we are excited to evolve the Dance Team and Spirit Squad to be district supported opportunities at SHS, as well as the addition of cheerleading and intramural sports to SMS. At SMS, we will also be adding a second 8th grade basketball team this season for both boys and girls. Spring 2023 and Fall 2023 enhancements will be reviewed and determined in the coming months.

Your Help Getting the Word Out to Improve Student Registration

Although this may be a little after the fact, I am sharing this now and will again in the spring to get the message out to anyone looking to enroll students in SCS. Over the past two years, we have had over 100 new students register a week or two prior to the start of the school year. Most times this has nothing to do with just moving to Strongsville, but rather waiting until August to register. In the neighborhoods and in your networks, please share the message that if you plan on having your kids attending SCS, register as soon as you know. When parents wait to register their children until just before school starts, some of the challenges we face include class sizes and placement options at the elementary level. In May / June,

we can possibly hire more staff to accommodate increased enrollment. That is nearly impossible in August. Bus routing may need to be redone to accommodate increased students. Also, when large numbers of students enroll in a condensed time frame, it is difficult to process registration and all of the required documents at a pace that can ensure every student can start on the first day of school. Thank you for your help in getting the word out to your friends and neighbors to register with SCS as soon as they know their child will be attending. To start the enrollment process, all families need to do is click [HERE](#) or go to our website and under 'Families', click on 'Enroll a Student'.

DRAFT Goals for Stakeholder Feedback

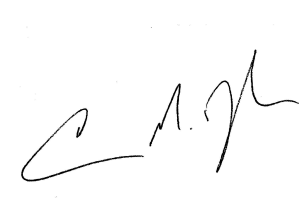
As you have read in past updates, our Diversity Council worked last year to draft vision statements and goals to enhance district procedures and student experiences. We have solidified our first draft of the goals and are seeking stakeholder feedback prior to moving forward. If interested, you can click [HERE](#) to see the draft goals and click [HERE](#) to provide feedback. The window to offer feedback will close on Friday, September 16th. Any feedback provided will be taken to the Diversity Council and reviewed at our September meeting.

REMINDER...COVID Procedures for Students

We are still having a small amount of COVID cases being reported to us. As a reminder, if your child tests positive for COVID s/he must isolate for 5 days after symptom onset. Please report this information and absence to your school's attendance line like you would for any other absence. If symptoms lessen and you are fever free for 24 hours without medication, then s/he may return to school on day 6, but should mask for an additional 5 days. Masks may be removed earlier with 2 negative antigen tests. Click [HERE](#) for a good visual of the protocol should you test positive. If your child has a known exposure to COVID, s/he should mask out of precaution as symptoms could develop within 5 days; however, they do not need to quarantine regardless of vaccination status. Students that are out sick with COVID will be supported like any other absence. They will be providing the work that they missed either via hardcopy or Google Classroom and they will be allowed the same number of days as their absence to make up the work.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,



Dr. Cameron M. Ryba
Superintendent

Past Parent Updates. If you are trying to find information that I shared in previous parent updates, you can click [HERE](#) to access all updates that are linked on our District website.

SCS Text Message Opt-In. If you would like to receive these and other text messages from the District alerting you of important updates, opt-in by texting 'Y' to 67587.