

Greetings,

At Tuesday night's meeting the Board of Education for the SMJUHSD approved the Re-Opening Plan for Spring of 2021. We would like to take a few moments to summarize and clarify some of the elements of the Spring Plan. First and foremost, congratulations on making it through the most unusual and difficult semester in the history of public education. You deserve tremendous credit for the sustained energy you put forth and your commitment to keep learning alive during the pandemic. We sincerely hope that you will be able to enjoy the Holiday Break and get some well deserved rest while, of course, staying safe.

First point of emphasis will come as no surprise to anyone: we will return in January in Distance Learning format. We will remain on the same bell schedule with Daily Live Interaction (DLI) requirements that we have been using since just before Thanksgiving. It is our current intention to remain on Distance Learning until at least March 1st, but more importantly we will continue to evaluate local and county Covid data to ensure that we do not come back to in person (Hybrid) instruction **until it is safe to do so**. Although the last ten months have been difficult, Covid case rates, hospitalizations and deaths are at higher levels than ever before and could go significantly higher after the Holiday season. So the March 1st date should not be considered a hard return date but rather a point in time that we will look toward while analyzing the data, as well as evaluating the progress and availability of the vaccines.

**If and when** we are able to return students to campus this spring it will be in our 50% Hybrid model. This model will provide a couple of different options for teachers depending on how they want to organize their instruction.

In the 50% Hybrid model, we will still be required to have the full class roster participating (DLI) each period, with half of the students Zooming from home while the other half are in the classroom. There are two basic formats that can be used within our schedule to accomplish this. Each has **many** variations that can be utilized by the individual teacher based on subject area, training, and available technology such as wide-angle classroom cameras.

### **Model A: Simulcast**

In this model a teacher would teach 'live' to their entire class roster with some students present in class and the others remotely via Zoom. In order for this to be done effectively teachers need to be trained in the use of wide-angle classroom cameras. The cameras can be set for different zones by the teacher and controlled remotely, allowing demonstrations, use of traditional white boards, interactive white boards or smart-tv units. In this type of arrangement students that are in Zoom-mode are getting somewhat of the same instructional experience as those in the classroom and it is all being done simultaneously.

This model does require the monitoring of remote students as well as classroom students at the same time, and we understand this may not be for everybody. And because of the technical reliance on cameras and the associated training that needs to take place, not all teachers will be comfortable choosing this option. We have purchased the cameras and will provide the training for teachers that want it. But we also want to point out that the cameras can be a great way to enhance Distance learning instruction because they allow the teacher freedom of movement without being tethered to the desktop or laptop camera. So we encourage experimentation and learning how to use these at your own pace even if you don't plan to dive into Simulcast instruction right away.

### **Model B: Room/Zoom**

Teachers who choose not to use the wide angle cameras can still provide quality instruction in what we call the 'Room/Zoom' model. The following is an example of how a hypothetical Period 1 class might be organized in a Hybrid setting, but there are many different ways that this could be done:

**Tuesday, Period 1 A-L (in Class) and M-Z (in Zoom)**

8:40-8:55 Greetings, Roll, Instructions (All Students)  
8:55-9:45 A-L's in class getting direct instruction  
M-Z's working remotely on assignment. This may or may not be the exact same assignment as the A-L's, depending on how the teacher wants to structure the week. The M-Z's may work in break-out sessions or a waiting room to work during this time frame.  
9:45-10:00 Teacher brings M-Z students back via Zoom to review learning, answer questions, provide feedback, check for understanding, etc.. along with the A-L's.

**Wednesday, Period 1 M-Z in Class and A-L in Zoom**

8:40-8:55 Greetings, Roll, Instructions (All Students)  
8:55-9:45 M-Z's in class getting direct instruction  
A-L's working remotely on assignment. This may or may not be the exact same assignment as the M-Z's, depending on how the teacher wants to structure the week. The A-L's may work in break-out sessions or a waiting room to work during this time frame.  
9:45-10:00 Teacher brings A-L students back into Zoom to review learning, answer questions, provide feedback, check for understanding, etc.. along with the M-Z's.

**Opening Week: January 11-15**

January 11th: PD Day. A separate schedule will be forthcoming soon from the Tech TOSA's. Tech training sessions will focus on use of wide angle cameras, Zoom integration into Canvas (we highly recommend this as a security measure), and Canvas Homepage Templates.

January 12th: Teacher Work Day

January 13th: Wednesday, would become our Flex Day, so Periods 1-7 Zoom

January 14th: Thursday, Periods 1-4

January 15th: Friday, Periods 5-7

Normal Weekly schedule resumes week of January 18th-22nd.

Happy Holidays, enjoy your time with family, and please stay safe!!

**SMJUHS Leadership**