

CVMS Community Update  
August 20th, 2020



# Carmel Valley Middle School

A Proud Member of the San Dieguito Union High School District

Dear Bobcat Community,

We are less than a week away from the first day of school and we are so excited to see you! I know this Fall is going to look a lot different than any other school year, but I can assure you that we have been working hard all summer and are ready for the challenge. I prepared a short video titled [CVMS Distance Learning and Tips for Success](#) that will hopefully answer some of your questions and ease the anticipation.

If you are a returning student, you will notice that the [SDUHSD Middle School Distance Learning Schedule](#) and [First Quarter Instructional Calendar](#) look quite different. Single Period Days are on Wednesdays with an Advisory Period at the start of the day, and Block Period Days are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Students will be expected to engage with their teachers every period for live instruction daily. Attendance will be taken and letter grades will be earned.

On Single Period Days, all students will begin their day with Advisory. Your Advisory is scheduled as a separate class, but will be with your first period teacher. There is no homework or grades for this class, but attendance is taken. During Advisory, students can expect social-emotional lessons (SEL), technology safety lessons, student announcements, opportunities for school connectedness, and presentations from our school counselors and administration. Your Advisory teacher is here to support you Please note that the first two days of the school year (August 25th and 26th) will be Single Period Days. All students will report to their Advisory teacher before joining their 1st period class.

After the last period of the day (Period 5 or 6), Student Support Time is available for all students. This is designated time for teachers to meet with students who need additional academic support and for students to complete assignments. Additional school wide or student specific interventions will be made available as well.

Students will have access to their class schedule in Aeries on Friday, August 21st, and should expect to receive Google Classroom invitations from their teachers prior to the first day of school. In order to maintain a balanced master schedule, please refrain from class change requests during the first two days of school. To familiarize yourself with the technology we'll be using and to ensure your student's District account is activated, I highly encourage you to visit the [SDUHSD Tech Hub](#). Also watch [Mr. Richards' Tech Tutorial](#) to better understand how to navigate this site. **Our next drive-thru distribution day for school materials (books and math packets) will be Monday August 24th from 9:00-3:00. Please save the date and see below for details.**

Please find the time to review this information with your student, and bookmark the [CVMS Distance Learning Page](#) where we will continue to house resources. I encourage your feedback on the learning schedule [here](#) and if you have questions or topics you would like me to cover in future school presentations please complete [this form](#). Thank you!

“It always seems impossible until it is done.” - Nelson Mandela

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# General Information

## Next Distribution Day : School books, math packets, other - Monday, August 24

Please have your student's name (last, first), their *English teacher's last name*, and their *math class* clearly displayed in the front and rear windshield of your vehicle. Please proceed up Mykonos Lane and you will be directed into the appropriate grade level lane. If you have students in both 7th and 8th grades, please start in the 7th grade line. A staff member wearing PPE will approach the vehicle and place all materials in the trunk or backseat. Please help everyone stay safe by observing all social distancing rules, remaining in your car at all times, and wearing a mask if you open the car window.

## Need a hotspot for wifi access at home? Click [here](#).

If you are in need of a device for home, please email [ian.richards@sduhsd.net](mailto:ian.richards@sduhsd.net) to request district issued Chromebook

## Please have your student complete the [CoVitality Survey](#)

Students, please take a few minutes to complete a quick survey to give us feedback on how things are going for you. We ask that you please answer honestly. We will use the results to provide targeted support and develop programs to help our students learn and feel better about their experiences in school. While we encourage you to take the survey, **it is voluntary, and choosing not to participate will not impact any student's academic status or access to services.**

## Beginning of Year Assessments

As you may know, CVMS uses STAR assessments to help teachers understand what students know and are ready to learn. Because we are currently unable to test students at school, students should expect to take the first STAR assessments in Reading and Math during the second week of school: August 31 - September 4. The first assessment will establish a baseline of each student's learning status as they enter 7th and 8th grades. Teachers and staff will provide detailed instructions in the coming days on how and when students will be able to access the online assessments.

## Immunizations

To ensure your student is ready to start the school year on August 25th, please be advised that there are no changes to immunization requirements for the 2020/21 school year. State law requires all students to have current immunizations to attend school, even though we are opening in a Distance Learning model. We understand there may be concern about accessing health care during the pandemic, however most providers' offices are conducting both wellness checks and immunization appointments while taking extra safety and hygiene precautions. If you have questions about how to obtain the required immunizations, please contact your primary care provider. For more information regarding immunization requirements, please visit [shotsforschool.org](http://shotsforschool.org)

## Resources

### Social Emotional Supports

[Care Solace Local Counseling Referrals](#)  
[Coping Strategies](#)  
[Each Mind Matters - Mental Health Supports](#)  
[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

### Technology & Instruction

[Aeries Communications Troubleshooting](#) - A helpful document if you are having trouble receiving District communication.  
[SDUHSD Tech Hub Page](#) - A great resource to learn about our Educational Technology.  
[The Essentials To Getting Started](#) - Steps to make sure your District email & Google account is up and running.  
[The SDUHSD Middle School Distance Learning Schedule](#)  
[CVMS 1st Quarter Instructional Calendar](#)

***\*\*Please see below for a welcome message from our PTSA\*\****

## A Message from the PTSA

Greetings CVMS Parents,

I am honored to serve as the 2020-2021 President of the CVMS PTSA. The PTSA plays a vital role in the daily lives of CVMS students and staff; I look forward to leading our efforts to foster a positive, inclusive organization for all parents, students and staff as we take on this rather unique school year.

The mission of the PTSA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our PTSA must ensure ALL our children have a “seat at the table” and opportunities to thrive socially, emotionally and academically. Supporting CVMS’s PTSA is a wonderful way to give your time and talents and directly impact our children. Your engagement in our school and learning community is important for both the child and the parent.

There are many ways you can become engaged at CVMS and with the PTSA and I will provide more details in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we are still looking to fill a couple of open positions on the board as well as someone to participate in our monthly wellness committee meetings so please reach out to me at the email address below if you would like to volunteer.

We will get to know each other even better over the upcoming year. One of my favorite quotes is from Winston Churchill – “*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference*”. I know it may not be easy at times but let’s all maintain a positive attitude and we will get through this together!

Cheers,

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