



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #35 2023-24 School Year – Week of May 13, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

- 1. I work with the district and all these new safety programs are confusing. Why do we need all these systems? We already have Beacon and now we have the anonymous reporting system. Don't they all do the same thing.**

The district prioritizes safety and recognizes that safety platforms allow the district to obtain information that threatens the safety of our campuses that we may not receive otherwise. Each safety platform has its own use that is essential to the overall goal of helping us maintain safe school environments. Beacon is used to monitor student technology use for the use of threatening language or the search of images such as weapons, previous active shooting events, etc. The Sandy Hook Anonymous reporting system allows students and staff to make anonymous reports on various safety concerns ranging from bullying, suicide, and school shooting threats to name a few. Both systems are intended to gather information that allows the district with the ability to identify leakage behavior to be preventative and address safety concerns to keep our campuses safe.

- 2. I'm a teacher at Jane Fredrick and noticed a button on my wall. I have never used it, but is that a panic button?**

The button on the wall in the classrooms at Jane Fredrick is not a panic button. The button is an intercom system that allows two-way communication from the classroom into the main office. The district does not have a panic button at any site however we are looking at a crisis alert system for our staff. The Centigix Crisis Alert system is a badge on a lanyard that can be worn by staff and allows the user to call for assistance in an emergency by pressing the button on the badge 3 times. This would alert office staff and assistance can be called to the staff member's location. If the user believes the campus is in danger, they can press the button 8 times and place the school on lockdown. This crisis system empowers the user, allows for portability and for quicker notification, and helps with receiving faster responses in crisis situations.

- 3. When can we see details about the Facilities Master Plan?**

Following the conclusion of site assessments and stakeholder engagement, the project team will share a summary of their findings on May 29th. Subsequently, they will develop a detailed list of needs for all district sites, including associated cost estimates, based on their assessments. This will form a critical part of the 2023 Facilities Master Plan.

- 4. Hello Dr. Rodriguez, I've been working for the district as a math teacher for 8 years and I was looking forward to receiving my Day of the Teacher box. However, I did not receive one like my colleagues did this week. Are they still being delivered to sites? Have you heard from other teachers who did not receive one, maybe by accident? Thank you!**

I appreciate the enthusiasm for the Service Year Award Program box and the dedication of all of our staff members. I understand your anticipation of the recognition, especially considering the Service Year Awards program is a new tradition that we are implementing to honor our dedicated staff based on years of service. While we are acknowledging employees with years of service ranging from 5 to 50 years in 5-year increments, the current recognition program provided the awards retroactively only to employees between 25-50 years of service.

I apologize for any confusion or expectations that may have arisen due to the service awards not being retroactive for the employees reaching the 5, 10, 15, and 20-year milestones. Rest assured, your continued dedication will be recognized and celebrated in the upcoming years with this new tradition as employees reach the 5-50 year milestones.

- 5. How is the replacement of the new flooring going to work? I do not want people to touch my belongings.**

Starting next week, the Maintenance and Operations Department is set to manage a significant project involving the replacement of carpet in 229 classrooms across 20 sites. At this point, we are focusing on portable classrooms. Other spaces such as libraries may be completed at a different time. This project, funded through the ESSER III program, is scheduled to be completed by October 30th, 2024. The aim is to replace the current carpets with Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP), aligning with the district's new hard surface standard. The Maintenance and Operations Department Building Division will oversee this project. In the coming weeks, staff will coordinate installation as RJ Flooring mobilizes on-site at each location. RJ Flooring will be provided keys for access to the site, with the Head Custodian serving as the primary point of contact. The work is scheduled to commence around 4 pm on in-session days and may also extend to weekends. If construction activities are scheduled during class hours in occupied rooms, staff will coordinate the arrangements for displacement with the administrator. It is essential for RJ Flooring to take photographs of the existing interior of each classroom before commencing work. This will help in documenting the initial condition of the classrooms and serve as a reference. They will be responsible for moving and reinstalling all materials and furniture in every classroom. As an added bonus, the Maintenance and Operations Department will provide packing material for personal items, eliminating the need for staff to use on-site materials. An agreed-upon space within the site will be designated for storing these materials during construction. Affected teachers will be asked to secure any loose or personal items before the construction begins.

6. I am not a regular classroom teacher. Am I going to get student furniture too?

As we are using time restricted funding, it was important to complete the large order for general education classrooms and special education classrooms first. We will now focus on the remaining preschool rooms including Preschool Autism Center (PAC), specialty rooms such as those for arts and physical education, School for Adults, Young Adult Program expansion, and support staff such as counselors, mental health clinicians and speech and language pathologists. We will begin that work prior to the end of school.

7. For the school year 24/25 will school start times stay the same or will they change? When will we know?

In an effort to improve transportation services to and from schools throughout SUSD, some school start and end times have subtle changes by 5-10 minutes for 24-25. There are only a few with changes more than 10 minutes. These changes were made in an effort toward making sure our students arrive on time for school and are not waiting for buses to take them home after school. School sites that have changes should have already communicated with families regarding these changes for next year. In addition, all sites should have their start and end times for the 24-25 school year posted on their school websites. Please contact your school principal if you have any questions about the start and end times for the 24-25 school year.

8. I am a teacher who is moving to another SUSD site. Can I take the materials that I purchased with the \$250 that was provided to each teacher this year with me to the new site? Is there a process to transfer the materials to the new site?

Teachers who are transferring to another SUSD site can take the materials or supplies they purchased with them to their new site as the district allocated the district funds directly to each individual teacher. If the staff member is leaving SUSD, they would have to leave those materials or supplies at the school site as it was purchased with money intended for SUSD students. Any other items purchased with site funds or site PTO funds would need to stay at the site that purchased the materials. There is an official materials transfer process for curriculum materials, Chromebooks, and items valued more than \$500.00 with an asset code.

9. I need my fourth grader to attend the SUSD Summer Program since I am still working. Is there still room? Where can I sign up?

Summer School registration ends today, May 17, 2024. All SUSD TK-8th grade students are encouraged to attend Summer School from June 3rd- June 28th, 2024, 8 am -5 pm every day. Register at your school site or go to our district website @ www.stocktonusd.net and click on the “Summer School Day Camp” district headline. Student enrollment will depend on staffing.

Click here: [Summer School Registration](#)

10. When will parents know more information about the UOP Summer Program?

An informational meeting regarding the University of the Pacific Summer Residency Program will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:00pm. The meeting is designed to provide parents of students that have been approved to register with all the information they need to know about the program, including details about the program curriculum, activities, housing, safety, and more.

During the meeting, they will cover:

- Overview of the University of the Pacific Summer Residency Program
- Program Curriculum
- Housing and Accommodations
- Safety and Supervision
- Daily Schedule and Activities
- Staff and Faculty
- Q&A Session

The meeting is a great opportunity for parents and students to learn more about the program and ask any questions you may have. We highly encourage all parents/guardians to attend. If you have any questions before the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will provide bilingual services during the meeting for our Spanish speaking parents.