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Tiered plan for student return to campuses

Four levels of occupancy based on safety, science

San Antonio ISD shared last week with employees and parents its plan for re-opening campuses safely, based on four levels of student occupancy that are directly linked to health metrics. The District has been working closely with the city and Metro Health to ensure its decision-making around starting school is being driven by safety and science, using the most current health data. In consultation with Metro Health, SAISD has developed health safety criteria to determine how it will advance to increased levels of student occupancy as local COVID-19 conditions improve over time.

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WATCH AUG. 7, 2020 LIVESTREAM HERE

CLICK HERE FOR PHOTO ESSAY ON SAISD'S VERY OWN INSTRUMENT REPAIR SHOP

August instrument drive to benefit students

The SAISD Foundation is teaming up with Alamo Music Center for their second annual instrument drive to benefit SAISD students. The public is being asked to donate previously used instruments that will be cleaned and, if necessary, refurbished before being distributed to music students across the District.

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San Antonio ISD, meet Canvas

New learning management system to enhance digital learning

In light of the increase of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, San Antonio ISD has purchased a new learning management system, Canvas, for the

2020-2021 school year. Canvas is made up of a powerful set of highly integrated learning products that allow teachers and schools to customize their digital learning environment, as well as introduce students to a system used at colleges and universities around the nation.

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Planning for a safe school start

San Antonio ISD is ready to welcome our students, staff and teachers back for the 2020-2021 school year. The District has been tirelessly working through the summer to create safe campus environments for the start of school. With the help of experts, we have redesigned the schools' environments to be in line with the safety protocols recommended by the City of San Antonio, the TEA and the CDC.

From sanitizer stations, to modified classroom layouts, to strategically placed protective barriers, SAISD is doing everything in our power to protect our students and teachers from COVID-19. Click on the video above to see what measures the District is taking to keep our SAISD family safe.

SAISD receives \$325,000 grant for connectivity

The USAA Foundation has awarded \$325,000 to the Connect Campaign, an initiative of the SAISD Foundation. The goal of the Connect Campaign is to secure \$1 million to pay for 12 months of connectivity fees for a portion of the more than 47,000 devices that were distributed to SAISD students this spring when the COVID-19 pandemic forced school buildings to shutter their doors.

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Devices distributed to students for fall semester

The school year begins on Aug. 17 for students across San Antonio ISD and device distribution is in full swing. The first three weeks of the school year are fully remote and after schools' individual distribution events, all students will have access to a device, and a hotspot if necessary, to enable them to learn remotely.

A new take on Meet the Teacher

Beacon Hill Academy students had a chance to meet their teachers for the 2020-2021 school year this week during the school's Mobile Meet the Teacher Drive-up event. The school had special times and locations for parents and their students to drive up to the school and meet with their new teacher. Educators decked out in colorful face masks excitedly greeted their new students from the sidewalk during this socially distanced event. Juanita Cortez brought her two grandchildren to meet their teachers.

"I'm their grandma; their mother works so I have to be in charge [of their online learning] and it is so different," said Cortez. "They do much better in person, but seeing their teacher now face-to-face gets them motivated and encouraged for the school year."

Davis Middle and De Zavala Elementary schools also hosted meet the teacher events this week, see photos below.

Real-world learning for San Antonio ISD students

A number of students from across San Antonio ISD took their education to new levels as they took part in various internship opportunities this summer. From cybersecurity to medicine to marketing, students got a taste of what it is like working in a career field that interests them.

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Sandra Cisneros live Zoom read aloud draws crowd

Last week, award-winning author Sandra Cisneros read live to more than 200 San Antonio ISD students, staff and community members as part of the Office of 21st Learning's Library Media Services Live Read Aloud summer program. Via Zoom, Cisneros led sessions in both English and Spanish, where she not only read aloud but also participated in Q&A sessions with participants.

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Challenge accepted

Randy Storie, instructional specialist for Gifted and Talented Education, celebrated his birthday this year with a personal challenge - trekking more than 10 miles for the first time while on a back (walking with a weighted backpack). His 12-mile trek took him past all the schools where he teaches and a few extra along the way, starting at Highland Hills Elementary. His son joined him for the last few yards once he reached his goal destination of Lamar Elementary. Way to go, Mr. Storie!

COMPLETE IT

This week's closing shot