



San Carlos Unified School District No. 20

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"Our Vision Is To Be An Effective Student Focused Learning Community Graduating Culturally Confident Citizens"

September 11, 2018

Dear San Carlos USD Stakeholders; Governing Board, Parents, Staff, Students and Community,

Welcome back to the start of another school year! We are six weeks into this new school year and we're off to a great start! As your superintendent I once again wish to thank each of you for being an instrumental part of our San Carlos USD family and community. We welcome and congratulate all our new staff on becoming members of the SCUSD school community!

Throughout the summer several of our teams of educators have been involved in a variety of trainings all to improve student learning as well as their own professional growth and most importantly designed to advance our overall progress of the SCUSD Strategic Plan and Accountability Model, **"Empowering Our N'nee People The Brave Way."**

Our week long orientation the last week of July was also designed to enhance clarity with our direction and our Mission as it states, **"We exist to educate and empower students to become culturally responsive, global N'nee,"** as well as our Vision of **"Being an effective student focused learning community graduating culturally confident citizens,"** being at the forefront of everything we do as SCUSD stakeholders.

We anticipate this school year to be both exciting and challenging as we work to implement our new and innovative approaches focused on our trauma informed and sensitive school community initiative. Over the last two years our leadership team of administrators and Governing Board have spent quality time developing our research based systemic approaches that will bring about positive changes in how we educate the students of the San Carlos Apache Nation.

A few of our new innovative systems include the Pre-K-5th grade Rice Elementary, with the new Apache Immersion Kindergarten Cohort being taught by Mrs. Marsha Goseyun. The new Apache Immersion Cohort came about through our partnership with the SCAT Education Department and is a component of the Native American Language Grant awarded from the USDOE last fall. Our RES Principal is Mr. Ivan Tsosie and the Associate is Mr. Nick Ferro.

Our new San Carlos Middle School serves grades 6th -8th and is led by Principal Mrs. Carol Slim. Within the new middle school concept is our implementation of the new Braves Academy, an alternative middle school developed to address our students' social-emotional learning needs through non-traditional, culturally relevant and responsive methods and approaches along with our established partnerships with several key community entities including the SCAT Forestry/Outdoor Curriculum, the SCAHC Young Child Program, the *Nalwoodi Dezhone* Strength and Beauty Programs, the SCAT Wellness Center, including the Young Warriors Program, and Equine Assisted Therapy through the Native Learning Institute just to highlight a few.

San Carlos High School is now a 9th through 12th grade system and is led by Principal Susan Poole. Within the new design of SCHS is the Student Care Center that was again established as part of our goals of becoming more focused on our students' social and emotional learning needs that encompass becoming trauma sensitive and informed. In addition to this center, all three campuses have new Parent Centers and Apache Language Learning Labs that are being implemented through the NAL grant in partnership with the SCAT Education Department. Furthermore, through our partnership with the San Carlos Apache Health Care Corporation, all three schools now have registered nurses and we will be implementing School Based Clinics that will allow for dental, vision and other medical needs to be met at the schools our students attend. An additional and exciting new partnership is the dual credit program that will provide our students the opportunities to have both college and high school credits as approved by our Governing Board through the Apache College.

As our vision and mission reach fruition with these and other new initiatives becoming fully implemented, there will be a need for our staff to participate in on going professional learning. Furthermore, we recognize the need and will be offering learning opportunities to our parents, grandparents, families and community as it truly does take a village to raise a child!

Thank you to all who send your children to school at San Carlos Unified School District. It is most certainly a privilege to serve you, your children, your families and the San Carlos Apache Nation and community!

Daa'goo'tee! doo' Ahe'hee!

Dr. Deborah J. Dennison, Superintendent
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