



## **Santa Fe District Staff Return for 2018-2019**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(August 14, 2018) – Our Santa Fe ISD community has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that has come from across the nation. Our Santa Fe community has demonstrated incredible strength and compassion during this difficult time. Over the past few months, we have come together, not only as a Santa Fe ISD Family, but as a community to ensure that our students return to school with all the love and support they need. This week our SFISD staff members returned to their campuses to begin preparation for our students to return on Monday, August 20, 2018. We are Santa Fe Strong!

#### **Mental Health Training:**

As teachers returned this week, staff are being trained by experts on Trauma Support for Students, Mental Health/Self Care for Teachers, and Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid has also been provided to our Nutrition Services and Transportation employees with future plans to train all other departments, faculty and staff. All District Counselors are participating in training in Trauma and Grief Crisis Therapy for Adolescents in addition to customized training by the Gulf Coast Center and Dr. Julie Kaplow, Director of Texas Children’s Hospital Trauma and Grief Center. Mental Health support and training will continue to be a focus for all staff throughout the year.

#### **Safety Training:**

All returning teachers to the District will receive CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training, as well as, District Crisis Emergency Management training in early September. New Teachers to the District received this training on August 7, 2018, and all substitute teachers returning for the 2018-2019 school year received this same extensive training on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. All Santa Fe ISD staff and substitutes complete the Safe Schools training modules for all federal, state and local mandated employee compliance training before the school year begins. Safety training in these online sessions include, but are not limited to, Response to Active Shooter, Bullying Recognition and Response, and Crisis Response and Recovery. Training is available in both English and Spanish.

#### **Curriculum Training:**

As staff returned, they began a “Journey of Learning” which includes a focus on Literacy across the district. Teams of educators continue to engage in Professional Learning regarding best practices and selecting appropriate Literacy resources to implement during this school year. In English Language Arts classrooms, students will apply the framework of Balanced Literacy to

help them grow as a reader, writer, speaker, and listener. The workshop model will allow for students to be at the center of their literacy adventure with an exposure to areas of high interest for individual learners. Teachers across all grade levels will be strengthening their skills in Literacy Instruction.

Math, science, and history teachers will focus upon creating literate learners within their content. Texas Essential Skills and Knowledge (TEKS) Resource subject experts will support Santa Fe ISD multiple times this year to assist in our curriculum management to refine and design relevant pathways across grade levels to create clearer avenues for student success.

If you would like to know more about our learning systems, "Join the Journey!" We know we cannot experience complete success without our parents help. Santa Fe ISD Learning has launched a Twitter @SFISDlearning and Facebook @SFISDlearning. Information will be continuously updated on how to assist our learning journey at home by providing you with resources and a voice in your child's education.

### **Moving Forward:**

We ask that our community continue to keep our victims and their families in their prayers as this will be a difficult time for all. We are blessed to be a part of such a giving and strong community that continues to stand strong together.

Every action, every note and every prayer is welcomed and very much appreciated. In the next few days, there will be additional opportunities for our staff to come together, support one another and continue to plan for the return of all our students.

When students return to school on Monday, August 20, 2018, multiple law enforcement agencies from across the state will be assisting our SFISD Police Department to provide additional security for our schools. Also, additional counseling support entities will be at the high school and available for all schools. As a community, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment as we prepare our students for a successful start to the 2018-2019 school year.

Our Parent Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2018, at the SFHS Auditorium located at 16000 Highway 6, at 7:00p.m. Opportunities for parents to discover the many ways they can volunteer will also be made available for those interested in supporting their child's learning and participation in extra-curricular events.

In the coming days and weeks ahead, we will continue to communicate frequently and post updates to [www.sfisd.org/updates](http://www.sfisd.org/updates).

**#SANTAFESTRONG**

Patti Hanssard,  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Human Resources & Public Relations