

July 29, 2021

Dear SCCS Families:

We can't wait to welcome our students back to the classroom in a couple weeks! I wanted to let you know that we'll be holding an informational Q&A Webinar next Monday from 6-7pm, where we'll run through all the details on our COVID safety protocols, talk about our restorative restart approach to the 21-22 year, and give everyone a chance to ask any questions you have.

But first, we need to share some info from brand new State Laws (AB 130 & AB 140) that affects students who **still want to change existing grades to pass/no pass**, students who may **want to repeat last years' grade level**, students who may be **hoping to either graduate without meeting some SCCS requirements or finish High School with a fifth year**, and **anyone interested in Independent Study in 2021-22**.

If this doesn't apply to you, we'll see you in a few weeks! If it does, here is the summary:

- I. **Independent Study is open for 21-22.** Santa Cruz City Schools had already built and shared this option with you before AB 130 required schools to "offer an independent study option for students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction (as determined by their parent or guardian)." But we are happy to share it again!
  - **To enroll in Independent Studies**, *TK-5th grade at AFE and 6th - 12th grade at The Ark*, please contact the Branciforte Small Schools Campus at 429-3898
  - **To return to in-person instruction from Independent Studies**, contact the Branciforte Small Schools Campus at 429-3898 to disenroll and the Student Services Department 429-3410 to re-enroll in in-person instruction.

[Learn more here.](#)
- II. **Student Retention (Repeating Grades by Choice).** Want to check your student's eligibility to repeat a grade level for the 2021-22 year? Send your principal a written request, and we will schedule a consultation with parent, pupil, administrator and teacher within 30 days. Final determination is sent 10 days later.
- III. **High school grade changes.** For the 20-21 school year, a parent, guardian, or student (if 18 years old) may petition to change a deficient grade to Pass/No Pass on their transcript. We offered this to families last year already, but the state is requiring that we make this available to you again. Families can find a list of colleges and universities that accept Pass/No Pass grades [here](#). Applications for grade changes must be submitted within the next 15 days. We will not be able to accept applications after August 15th. Please use this form to submit your grade change request. [Grade change application](#)
- IV. **Graduation requirements for 2020-2021 Junior and Seniors.** These new laws allow all students who were juniors or seniors in 2020-21 to be exempt from local high school graduation requirements if they were not on track to graduate in 4

years. And all of our High School students have the opportunity for credit recovery or a 5<sup>th</sup> year to complete state graduation requirements. School staff will be working closely to determine which students may benefit from this option, and you can contact your child's counselor to learn more.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for further information about any aspect of these developments or these new laws. And we look forward to starting a new year together!

Best regards,  
Kris Munro  
Superintendent