



**Santa Fe Independent
School District**

Superintendent Message



Dear SFISD Community:

Sept. 18, 2020

*“Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence- is the key to unlocking potential”
Winston Churchill*

Thank you again to all staff and families for making this unusual school year begin with engagement and excitement for so many SFISD students! We are happy to have so many students back in school, and our students and staff adapting to our new instructional formats as we continue forward toward a great school year in SFISD! We are appreciative of the commitment to ensuring a healthy, safe and positive learning environment for all of our students, and encourage everyone to continue to practice health and safety protocols. We are very grateful for our staff and community support for each other and our students, as we return our focus on our students and learning!

As you all know, every day Matters in learning! Education achievement gaps are rooted in the hidden crisis of chronic absenteeism from school. Now more than ever, absence from learning is harmful regardless of the cause. When students miss instruction, whether excused or unexcused, virtual or in person, they miss critical learning, making it hard for them to keep up with their peers. This can contribute to a cascade of events that lead to a higher risk of dropping out of school. Attendance, even as early as first grade, can be predictive of graduation rates. Let’s all reinforce the impact of excused and unexcused absences, that will easily add up to too much time lost in the classroom. Additionally, sporadic, not just consecutive, absences matter. Thank you for your efforts and focus on working together with families and the community to develop the habit of attendance in preparing students for success in school and in life!

Our SFHS volleyball and football teams have been working out, practicing and preparing for competitive seasons this year. Although their seasons have also been adjusted, they are now beginning pre-district play and look forward to district competitions representing SFHS and SFISD for successful seasons!

Committed ...To a cause. To making a difference. To improving lives!

Santa Fe ISD is an academic leader committed to excellence through continuous improvement by instilling high standards, building strong community partnerships, providing innovative opportunities, and empowering students for lifelong success.