



SANTA FE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

4133 Warpath Ave. • P.O. Box 370
Santa Fe, TX 77510
409.925.3526

www.sfisd.org

Board of Trustees

James "Rusty" Norman, President
Wayne Logan, Vice President
Eric E. Davenport, Secretary
John H. Snider, Patrick Kelly, Clay Hertenberger, James Grassmuck
Leigh Wall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



April 12, 2019

Subject: A Day of Remembrance and Resilience, May 17, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As part of our continued effort to keep our school community informed and involved, we would like to share with you more information about what we have planned for the Day of Remembrance and Resilience at Santa Fe High School on May 17, 2019.

As we approach the one-year mark of the unimaginable tragedy we experienced on May 18, 2018, we understand the difficulty this time period may cause for our entire community, particularly our students. Friday, May 17, 2019, will be a voluntary attendance day at Santa Fe High School, allowing our students the option to decide how they want to participate in remembrance activities so that they can feel as comfortable as possible. There are a variety of activities planned for students who elect to attend school for this Day of Remembrance and Resilience. Students may also choose to participate in off-campus community service projects organized through the Santa Fe Resiliency Center.

We have been working closely with our coordinated response partners, which includes mental health and wellness experts from across the state, to ensure we are providing the necessary support for our students and staff during this challenging time. Director of Psychology for Texas Children's Hospital and the Texas Children's Hospital Trauma and Grief Center Dr. Julie Kaplow has emphasized to us that while not every student will want to engage in the remembrance activities in the same way, it can be more difficult to deal with this first-year mark if students feel alone or isolated. We cannot underestimate the critical role that social support plays, and we encourage students to spend time with friends and/or family.

Santa Fe High School staff and students, along with our mental health partners, are currently working to finalize the schedule for the Day of Remembrance and Resilience. The first part of the day will consist of campus activities for students and staff, followed by a keynote speaker from first responder and founder, Tommy Maher, of "The Honor Network." Maher's address, titled "A Message of Hope and Resilience" will be open to parents and community members, in addition to students and staff. This presentation is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and will be held in the Santa Fe High School Auditorium. The Day of Remembrance and Resilience will

conclude with an outdoor tree dedication at 2:30 p.m. A final schedule and information specific to high school students for May 17th will be shared by Santa Fe High School later this month.

All other Santa Fe ISD schools and facilities will operate on a normal schedule and will observe a moment of silence at 9:30 a.m., in honor of those whose lives were lost and recognize those injured and impacted. No activities are scheduled at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2019 as the district will be supporting the City of Santa Fe's *Resiliency Day: Remembering Angels* which will be held at the Galveston County Fair Grounds from 2:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., culminating in a Candlelight Vigil. For additional information on May 18th events, visit: <http://bit.ly/SantaFeResiliencyDay>

We understand that speaking with children about this difficult time may be challenging, so we are continuing to work to provide you with helpful resources from leading mental health authorities. Attached are Tips for Families on Addressing the Anniversary from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). Our hope is that, as a community, we can work together to ensure that every student is engaged with others and has access to appropriate support.

As a district, we continue to work diligently to support our students and staff through this difficult healing and recovery process. Let us continue to come together as a community and surround each other with love and support. If you or someone you know are in need of support, we encourage you to take advantage of the many options available throughout the district and the community. Our focus remains on providing the necessary support for the victims and their families and appreciate the hard work of our community and mental health partners in ensuring that all our students, staff and families are supported through these difficult and challenging times.

Day of Remembrance & Resilience

May 17, 2019

Schedule:

Buses: Regular Late-Start High School Schedule

8:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student check-in begins • Breakfast provided for all students in the cafeteria
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<p>Counselors will offer group topics for students and staff such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs/Symptoms of Depression and coping strategies • Trauma and Grief • Strategies to support your peers through their trauma • Percussion sessions for reflection and connection • Library/Wellness Center – Individual Support available • SFISD Special Programs staff will provide counseling and activities focused specifically on the needs of this student group <p>Students will have a variety of opportunities for participation such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community service projects (on-campus) • Letter writing to veterans • Cards for Troops/Nursing homes/Big Cancer Love • Mosaic Craft Project (correlates to Resiliency Center project) • Crafts • Rock Club • Culinary classes • Open Gym • Yoga Station • Game sessions (team building) • Hangout/Chill Room with food • Teacher Appreciation room served by students
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Buses will depart for students who elect not to attend the guest speaker presentation at 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	Message of Hope and Resilience: Tommy Maher, The Honor Network; students, parents and the community are invited to attend this presentation in the Santa Fe High School auditorium
2:30 p.m.	Buses will depart
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	A Time of Remembrance and Tree Dedication: Outdoors at Santa Fe High School

Santa Fe High School will soon send more specific information regarding procedures and options for high school students' participation on 5/17/2019.