



Saratoga High School

20300 Herriman Avenue, Saratoga, California 95070
Phone: (408) 867-3411 Fax: (408) 867-3577 www.saratogahigh.org

Greg Louie, Principal
Kerry Mohnike, Assistant Principal
Brian Thompson, Assistant Principal
Matt Torrens, Assistant Principal

Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District
Mike Grove, Superintendent

July 23, 2020

Dear Falcon Families,

As we concluded the 2019-20 school year unconventionally with remote instruction and uncertainty, we start the 2020-21 school year optimistically with renewed distance teaching and learning and hope. Our students of Saratoga High School are amazing young adults who will be summoned to start the year in ways that none of us ever experienced and with frequent and on-going episodes to demonstrate their maturity, creativity, and integrity. Similarly, our students will be challenged to advocate for themselves and for their peers to ensure all of our students celebrate success. This is an opportunity for students to own their education and to inspire their friends.

In conjunction, my staff and I will offer our best efforts to educate and support our students through these unpredictable days, recognizing this untraditional experience as an opportunity to innovate, evaluate, and collaborate with peers throughout our profession. Delivering instruction and assessing students remotely is a new challenge that many of my teachers studied over the summer so that they would be better equipped to provide an educational experience our students deserve. This is an opportunity for my staff and I to own how we educate and to impress our students and their families.

Equally important, our parents and guardians play an integral role during these unique circumstances. Boundaries, expectations, and healthy environments are essential to tying everything together. Ensuring students are asleep at a decent hour (before 11 pm), awake early enough to present themselves to their peers (before 8 am), and cognitively ready to critically consider what and how they are learning may decide the difference between success or frustration.

This year's theme, "Unity Makes Community" is designed to remind all of us--students, staff, and parents--that the success of our school and the prestige of our reputation depends tremendously on all of our efforts, individually and collectively, to be proud of the person we see in our mirror or be willing to make the necessary improvements.

In addition to our focus on academic rigor and relevance, the 2020-21 school year will also include critical evaluation of our practices and policies regarding anti-racism, equity, inclusion, and creating a culture of consent. We will serve as an example for other schools and for our community, demonstrating ways in which we celebrate our humanity and express empathy. We will model to others how to thrive together rather than in opposition of each other. We will not solve all of our challenges during the 2020-21 school year, but it will serve as a great year that will mark the start of our progress.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Cynthia Chang, David Guidry, Peter Hertan, Rosemary Rossi, Katherine Tseng

It is the policy of the Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation or disability in its educational programs and activities or in the recruitment and employment of personnel

Throughout this year, all of us will be experiencing a new normal and all of us will need to communicate our thoughts and needs to contend with the various levels of anxiety, confusion, and overwhelm that may develop. Patience and the benefit of the doubt for each other are essential agreements.

Over the next three weeks, I will be sharing more specific information via email, voice messages, and the school website regarding our activities, athletics, bell schedule, and recommendations for a successful school year. In the meantime, below are preliminary dates and details to put on your calendars.

- ❑ **Week of July 27:** Students emailed their Course Requests for final review
- ❑ **Tuesday, July 28:** Window for Seniors to sign up for FalconFest 2020: Senior Day via Signup Genius
- ❑ **Wednesday, July 29:** Window for Juniors to sign up for FalconFest 2020: Junior Day via Signup Genius
- ❑ **Wednesday, July 29, 6pm:** Virtual FalconFest 2020 Q & A Night
- ❑ **Thursday, July 30:** Window for Sophomores to sign up for FalconFest 2020: Sophomore Day via Signup Genius
- ❑ **Thursday, July 30, 6 pm:** Virtual Meet and Greet: Bryan Ringsted, our new Drama teacher
- ❑ **Friday, July 31:** Window for Freshmen to sign up for FalconFest 2020: Freshmen Day via Signup Genius
- ❑ **Friday, July 31 (by noon):** Last chance for students to make course request schedule changes on the [Schedule Change Request Form](#).
- ❑ **Week of Monday, August 3:** 2020-21 Schedules emailed to students; videos for Virtual Parent Ed Camp will be available for viewing.
- ❑ **Tuesday, August 4: FalconFest 2020: Senior Day** for school pictures, ID cards, pick up of textbooks, and other necessary school supplies.
- ❑ **Wednesday, August 5: FalconFest 2020: Junior Day** for school pictures, ID cards, pick up of textbooks, and other necessary school supplies.
- ❑ **Thursday, August 6: FalconFest 2020: Sophomore Day** for school pictures, ID cards, pick up of textbooks, and other necessary school supplies.
- ❑ **Friday, August 7: FalconFest 2020: Freshmen Day** for school pictures, ID cards, pick up of textbooks, and other necessary school supplies.
- ❑ **Tuesday, August 11, 3 pm:** Virtual Orientation for New Sophomores, Juniors, or Seniors
- ❑ **Tuesday, August 11, 6 pm:** Parent Ed Camp Q and A with SHS Administration
- ❑ **Wednesday, August 12, 8:30 am:** Virtual Freshmen Orientation, hosted by ASB and Link Crew
- ❑ **Thursday, August 13:** First day of online classes
- ❑ **Wednesday, August 26, 6 pm:** Virtual Back to School Night

As always, my office is open and everyone is invited to meet with me. Please feel free to email me at glouie@lgsuhd.org or call my office at 408-359-4204.

Thank you and I hope you are enjoying the summer weather and the quality time with family.

Best wishes,

Greg Louie, Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Cynthia Chang, David Guidry, Peter Hertan, Rosemary Rossi, Katherine Tseng

It is the policy of the Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation or disability in its educational programs and activities or in the recruitment and employment of personnel