

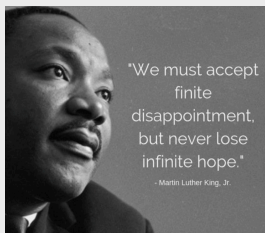
OLIVE & GOLD NEWSLETTER

Remembering | Changes | Supporting our Students & Families

Message from the Principal

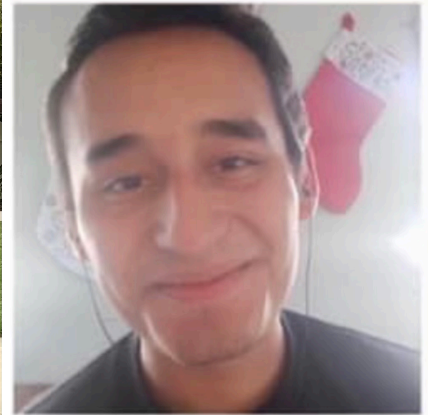
Hello Dons,

Happy New Year! This time every year, we look forward to resolutions and a fresh start. Last week was the hardest week of my career. You are never prepared to handle the death of a student. Thankfully, with the support of our staff, colleagues in the district, and community agencies like Family Service Agency and SB Response Network, this week is better. The healing process is a PROCESS, which means it takes time. As a school, a community, and a Nation, there are so many things that have taken place this year and this past week that require a great deal of processing and healing. And, as we look forward to honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr this Monday, Jan. 18th, his words of wisdom can provide us with a gentle reminder of how to move forward.



Sincerely, Elise Simmons, Principal of SBHS

Remembering our Dons



On Sunday, Jan. 3rd, the Santa Barbara High School and Eastside community lost two youth. Omar Montiel Hernandez (above left), 2020 graduate, and Angel Castillo (above right) 11th grader, died as a result of a gun shot wounds. Today, we had a moment of silence for both young men. This moment of silence provided our school community a chance to pause and think about the positive impacts that both young men had on our school, our students, and our community. They will be remembered fondly and missed dearly. Grieving is a process and we look forward to the day when we can be together again as a school to remember Omar and Angel in a way that makes sense and we are not bound by the health and safety guidelines. And, we encourage our staff, students, and community to reach out for help.

If you need help and/or you know someone that needs help please contact Nate Mendoza at nmendoza@sbunified.org

Family Engagement & Support

Signs of Suicide Webinars

The districtwide SOS Parent/Guardian Webinars will take place on Wednesday, January 20th from 6:30pm-7:30pm (in both English and Spanish)

Flyer and Zoom Link: [SOS Parent Webinar \(English\)](#)

Flyer and Zoom Link: [SOS Parent Webinar \(Spanish\)](#)

Cal-SOAP Parent University Workshops

Flyer that details the three workshop details. They take place via Zoom from 6:00-7:30pm.

PFLAG & Just Communities

Our LGBTQ families need information and safe spaces more than ever. PFLAG en Espanol, Just Communities and Bienestar Latinx are working together to create these spaces. Please join us for our first *Platica* en Espanol (Spanish dialogue group) this coming Thursday, Jan. 14th at 7 p.m. We will have a group of SB Latinx families sharing their coming out experience and discuss how we can better support our LGBTQ Latinx youth in their coming out journey. Our *platicas* are in Spanish with English interpretation.



Anniversary of the Montecito Debris Flow

Three years ago, our community suffered a great loss in the Montecito Debris Flow. This debris flow killed 21 people, destroyed 129 homes, and damaged an additional 307 homes. Well over 100 SBHS families were directly impacted by the debris flows. Two SBUnified students lost their lives, Jorge Benitez and Jack Cantin. Jack was a student at SBHS and was most known for his giving, kind soul. He was the founder of a student club called, "Teens on the Scene," which gave back to our community in many ways. He was an incredible student that was involved in our Multimedia Arts and Design Academy (MAD) and a well loved student, friend, and brother in our SBHS community.

Again, we encourage our staff, students, and the community to reach out for help. If you need help and/or you know someone that needs help with grief, processing loss, and/or just need some time to talk with someone, contact Nate Mendoza at nmendoza@sbunified.org

Sunrise & Sunset Chats with Principal Simmons - Tuesday, Jan. 19th!

Please join the Principal and other staff in these monthly zoom meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide updates to parents as well as engage in a conversation about topics that are of interest to families.

•Sunrise at 7:45-8:30am: <https://sbunified.zoom.us/j/98574454434>

•Sunset at 7:00-7:45pm: <https://sbunified.zoom.us/j/95860044156>

Thinking of the Seniors

We are thinking of our seniors and truly miss having them all on campus! We want to inform senior families about an exciting opportunity for our class of 2021 students. On Wednesday, January 27 between 12:00pm and 5:00pm, we invite senior families to drive thru our campus so your senior can take a photo (from the car) for our class of 2021 photo, pick up their free Senior Spirit Pack, pick up the Herff Jones information packet on how to order caps, gowns, class rings, graduation accessories,

Academic & Technology Support

PAPER Tutoring

FREE Tutoring for ALL!

Did you know that SBUnified has contracted with Paper for free tutoring? The tutoring is available 24 hours a day, for all content areas, and bilingual tutors are available. If you haven't checked it out, please do so! Here is the login information: <https://app.paper.co>

Teacher Office Hours

Don't forget about these! Be sure to contact your teacher if you are not sure when they are available. Every teacher is expected to have two times each week set aside to help YOU outside of class time.

Technology Support

Having issues with your iPad?

Please have your student submit a tech ticket (email support@sbunified.org through their school email address). You also may call the Tech Helpline: (805) 696-2700 or visit the SBUSD Office from 8am to 4pm.



senior keepsakes, etc. and pick up their textbooks for term 3. Please see the parent square sent on January 12 for more information.

Changes, Changes...but SAME Bell Schedule!

Bell Schedule: We are not able to shift to in-person instruction since we continue to see an increase in transmission and positivity rates. Therefore, we will [continue with our current bell schedule](#) as we transition to a new term. We are NOT changing the bell schedule. Once we are able to shift to in-person instruction, we will provide you with a 2-week notice.

New Classes: Beginning on Jan. 19th, all students will receive new classes and possibly new teachers. Please check the Aeries Parent Portal for the classes. Students need to check their school email on Monday evening/Tuesday morning for messages from their teachers, which will include new zoom codes. Please contact your child's counselor if you have any questions.

New Grading Policy: Beginning Term 3, the grading policy will be A, B, C, D and No Credit (NC). Students can receive an incomplete and will then be expected to work with the teacher until their grade has improved (within a 6 week timeframe).

Textbook Return and Pick-Up: We will have book return bins in front of the library for drive-up, contactless drop-off Thursday and Friday, January 14th and 15th, from 8am-4pm. We ask that you please return any SBHS textbooks and library books at this time. Please take a moment to check your student's library account (see these [step-by-step directions with screenshots](#) or this [screencast video](#) to learn how) so you can be sure all library books, textbooks, and fines are turned in and/or paid. If you have any questions about your student's library account, please contact Sherri Bryan, SBHS Teacher Librarian, at sbryan@sbunified.org.



Second Semester Textbook Distribution: Textbooks for Spring 2021 courses will be distributed drive-thru style the week of January 25th-29th. Distribution will be by grade level, one grade per day, and will occur during after school hours. Additional details regarding distribution will be provided in the coming days.

Athletics Update

As we patiently wait for further guidance from the California Department of Public Health as to when youth sports competition can resume, SBHS Athletics continues to safely provide in person workouts for 15 of our sports programs and approximately 575 student-athletes. The start of Term 3 will see us add 7 more sports to in person workouts and 175 more student-athletes. We'll continue to make safety a priority as we optimistically look forward to the day when we can compete again.

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing Update

To students and families enrolled in an AP course terms 3 & 4:

We're excited to have everyone begin work on their spring AP courses. Just like in the fall, we'll need ALL students enrolled in an AP course to log into their College Board account and join their teacher's online section. Each AP teacher will provide students the appropriate join codes for the respective classes.

We also have a new deadline to purchase AP exams for spring courses. For all students who plan to take their AP exam(s), families will need to purchase the exam on the SBHS webstore located at sbhs.sbunified.org by March 12th, 2021 at 4:30pm. This is the FINAL deadline. The College Board will not accept any new registrations after that time. If you have questions, please reach out to your AP teacher or to SBHS Assistant Principal Dan Dupont at ddupont@sbunified.org.

#SBHSStrong

Many thanks to the 300 current families and alumni whose generosity has helped the Foundation for SBHS and PTSA to be #SBHSStrong. YOU helped raise a record-breaking \$227,000 since the beginning of the school year. Of that total, \$75,423 (donated by 41 families during our December campaign) has been earmarked and distributed to SBHS families impacted by the pandemic (through our December campaign). The remaining funds will help address the needs of our students and our community as we finish the school year, work to reopen safely, and gear up for 2021-22. Look for our ParentSquare updates!