



Leading Edge Virtual School (LEVS)

For the 2020-2021 school year, SMUSD has established LEVS as a year-long virtual program. The program will coexist within Woodland Park Middle School, so that students, parents and staff will continue to remain connected to their home school communities. To start, WPMS LEVS students will participate in core academic classes with their traditional program peers while the whole school is learning remotely from home. When the traditional program is ready to bring students back on campus, LEVS students will be cohorted in all classes to remain in distance learning. Since this pathway will be a yearlong virtual program within WPMS for this year, LEVS students will also be cohorted and placed together in an Advisory which begins when we resume full time school days on Tuesday, September 1st. In Advisory, LEVS students will create academic portfolios where students will artifact evidence of their learning, and participate in problem-based, project-centered instruction that allows students to engage and investigate real world issues. Student mentorship/internships will provide opportunities to engage in collaborative partnerships with elementary students during *Genius Hour*.

As we phase in our LEVS yearlong virtual program within each school, SMUSD will continue to provide ongoing professional development opportunities that will be made available for all (LEVS and Remote In-Person) teachers in the following areas: transforming instruction for the virtual setting, best practices for online learning, *Genius Hour* and Passion Projects, creation and use of academic portfolios, how to conduct mentor/mentee sessions, technology platforms, differentiation, culture building and collaboration, Professional Learning Communities, "How People Learn", interdisciplinary problem-based, project-centered instruction, among others.

SMUSD LEVS Coordinator, Nikki DiRanna, will be communicating directly with LEVS teachers, students and their families with information related to phasing in the LEVS program.