

A Message From the Office of the Superintendent



Coronavirus Update from Superintendent Dr. Nancy Lynch

March 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

To say that we are in uncertain and stressful times, where information is coming at us so quickly and from so many different sources, would be an understatement. We are experiencing an event like no other in our lifetime. I cannot stress enough that it is important for all of us to recognize that this is not business as usual in our work or home lives. We need to give ourselves the gift of patience, understanding, grace and some space to get through these unusual and often frustrating circumstances while we all do our best to avoid the spread of COVID-19. This can be an opportunity for reflection and making incredible memories with our families and loved ones.

I understand how challenging it is for parents who are required to work from home while their children are home all day continuing their learning. Believe me, many of our educators are experiencing that exact same situation, and it can be exhausting. We all need to be patient with ourselves and others and recognize there is not a roadmap for this situation. As I mentioned before, it is not business as usual. Children always take their cues from adults, so the more we can make this experience fun and less stressful for our children the better they will adjust to this current reality.

School Closure Duration:

Currently, the order has been to close schools for 3 weeks, which will take us to spring break which will still be observed from April 6-10. During spring break, no instruction will be provided to students as this is a contractual break for all district employees.

Governor Newsom has stated several times that families may expect their children to be out of school for the remainder of the school year. Last night, he made the Stay at Home Order throughout the state and did not indicate a date when the order will end. Unless we receive other guidance, schools will be closed through the duration of the Stay at Home Order.

Learning Plans:

I am exceptionally proud of the work our educators and administrators have done, and continue to do, in providing our students thoughtful and meaningful lessons that enable students to make progress toward learning goals while at home. This has been a herculean effort that I am truly grateful for, and I greatly appreciate the positive messages parents have sent to teachers and administrators about the program.

Remember that it has only been one week of distance learning, although it may seem like much longer. As we progress through the next several weeks or months, we will be assessing what is working well and make the enhancements that we determine are educationally sound and appropriate where needed. Please understand that we must develop a program that meets the needs of all students through having flexible times to complete work, address developmental and age appropriate levels, and ensure equal access for all students. Educators are collaborating daily to create a program that is meaningful and engaging for students. We have heard that some families are experiencing bandwidth issues which can be expected with so many people now working and learning from home.

Standardized Testing:

Earlier this week, Governor Newsom made an executive order to waive the Smarter Balanced Standardized Assessment that students take in the spring. The waiver was approved by the U.S. Department of Education today.

Respectfully,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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