



RUSD Headline News Wednesday, January 20, 2021

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are so happy to see students in our traditional program back on campus each day. It has literally taken our entire village to make this shift to Phase 3 happen. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students for working together to develop and follow structures and protocols that greatly reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread!

Phase 3 Success

We are now in our 7th day of Phase 3 and things are going very smoothly. As with each of our Phases, we are learning new information and identifying areas for further consideration and review. Some of the benefits we have seen in Phase 3 include:

- More students attending in-person and more days per week
- Elementary teachers provide core instruction during the 4 hours on campus that they would typically provide in a full day on campus schedule. Lunch, recesses and some of independent work time has now been moved to the afternoon when students are home so there is not loss of instructional time while on campus
- Middle school students are able to connect with more of their classmates and spend more in-person time with each of their teachers
- Teachers are able to better identify when issues or concerns arise
- Students are able to better connect with their teacher and classmates
- Del Mar students are once again able to engage in office hours
- Del Mar small virtual classes have allowed for more personalization and support

Why Will we Remain in Phase 3 for an Extended Period?

There are multiple issues that will need to be resolved in order to enable the transition to Phase 4. A few examples include:

- Accommodating student lunch periods while keeping students 6 feet apart without masks. Maintaining 6-foot distance means that only 4 students can fit at a lunch table, which typically holds nearly half a class.

In order to accommodate these protocols, we would need to stagger lunch times throughout a larger portion of the day.

- Need for additional supervisors to accommodate lunch periods
- By staggering lunches for a much longer period of time, will remove our instructional support staff from being able to work individually or with small groups of students in academics as they will spend a significant portion of their day supervising lunch periods
- Even after all staff have all been vaccinated, we are still limited to the current number of cohorts that adults may work with each day to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Distance Learning Week for February 22-26

Once again, as we did after Thanksgiving and Winter Recess, we will make the week following Mid-Winter Break a distance learning week for grades K-8. It is unclear if the Stay at Home order will be lifted by then, so we want to continue to provide the “buffer week” so that families can return home and/or not gather with others outside of their small social bubble for the week of distance learning. We will provide on-site COVID-19 testing during this distance learning week at the dates, times, and locations below, which is in addition to the six days per week [Curative](#) testing available in locations throughout the county. We have learned that many districts that did not provide a distance learning week after a school break needed to close several cohorts due to students or staff returning to school who were positive for COVID-19.

Dates/times for PMH Testing

8:00 AM-5:00 PM each day

Tuesday, February 23rd at Reed School

Wednesday, February 24th at Del Mar School

Thursday, February 25th at Bel Aire School

More information on how to sign up for one of these dates/times will be sent to you in an upcoming newsletter.

Together we are doing our part to keep our campuses open!

Great Kindness Challenge (GKC)

All RUSD schools will participate in this annual event again this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to engage in a very meaningful week of events. Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction says “The theme for this year’s GKC is Kindness Unites. Now, more than ever, our communities need to experience the healing and unifying power of kindness. I encourage you to embrace the GKC as a powerful tool to celebrate diversity and champion our common humanity. It is through the cumulative effects of sometimes small acts of kindness that we can begin to counter bias, bullying and racism”.

Superintendent Search Update

With my retirement approaching this July, the Board of Trustees has engaged with a Search Firm, Leadership Associates, to assist in selecting the next RUSD Superintendent and the search is beginning immediately. The process is very thorough and the initial Special Board Meeting to discuss the search in detail will take place tomorrow night, January 21, at 5:00 PM. You can also stay updated on the process by checking [here](#) on our District website.

Best regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Have questions or comments?

Click on the **Parent Feedback Form**. A few of our District Communications Committee members will regularly check this link for new questions and comments and will be able to help respond to questions promptly.

[Parent Feedback Form](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

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[VOTE HERE](#) for your 2021 PTA Nominating Committee by Friday, January 29

The Nominating Committee will consist of five members plus one alternate and will be tasked with compiling a slate of qualified candidates to serve in various PTA leadership roles including District President, District Secretary, Bel Aire Site Chair, and Treasurer at all three schools.

Thank you to the following candidates for volunteering to serve:

Allison Hart
Kristen Hole
Amanda Hyslop
Angela Jorgensen
Amy Kaufman
Isabelle Schuman
Michelle Thomsen
Michelle Wilson

****Please note that you must be a PTA Member to cast your vote -[Join PTA](#)****



THE FOUNDATION FOR REED SCHOOLS

REED SCHOOL * BEL AIRE SCHOOL * DEL MAR SCHOOL



\$1 MILLION DOWN... \$1 MILLION TO GO!

THANK YOU TO THE **456 FAMILIES** THAT HAVE DONATED!

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES US TO PRESENT
ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO RUSD ON JANUARY 22.

THIS IS HALF OF OUR ANNUAL \$2 MILLION GRANT



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SO WE CAN FULFILL OUR REMAINING
\$1 MILLION COMMITMENT TO RUSD

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