



RUSD Headline News Wednesday, March 10, 2021

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am so pleased to share some exciting news with you today! Through abundant collaboration and work with our administrative teams and staff, we have completed plans to transition to Phase 4 on Monday, April 19th. As we proceed through our Phases of Reintroduction, we are continuously adjusting to changing public health guidelines and we are very grateful for the flexibility and patience of our students, staff and families. We have learned a lot over the course of this year, and we have developed schedules that continue to increase student learning time on campus while accommodating all of our safety procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at school.

Phase 4 begins on Monday, April 19th

We have made the decision for Phase 4 to begin on Monday, April 19th following a week of distance learning after spring recess. This decision is in place to ensure that families have the opportunity to self-quarantine if they have traveled out of state during spring recess and to enable our teams to make campus adjustments needed for Phase 4.

The following elements have significantly contributed to our progress for Phase 4:

- All RUSD employees will have had the opportunity to receive the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination
- Evolving guidance for schools from the CDC, CDPH and MHHS to facilitate reopening
- Schedules have been developed to accommodate longer hours using current staffing
- Ability to maintain safety protocols to ensure we mitigate any in-school spread of COVID-19 to keep classrooms and schools open through contact tracing

The following schedules will apply to students in the Traditional program:

Reed and Bel Aire:

Starting April 19th

- Staggered start times and entry points remain the same
- Monday will be an early release day to allow for staff meetings (similar to pre-COVID early release Wednesdays)
- On Mondays, student time on campus will be 4.5 hours and students will have the opportunity for a grab and go lunch, with staggered early dismissal times from 12:30 – 1:30 PM
- On Tuesday – Friday, student time on campus will be 5.5 hours and students will have lunch on campus (30-min lunch) with staggered dismissal times from 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- No Zoom classes at home in the afternoon

Del Mar:

Starting April 19th

- Staggered start times and entry points remain the same
- Monday will no longer be a virtual learning day and no virtual week rotation
- Monday – Friday, ALL traditional students will attend in-person 5 days per week (full cohorts)
- In the initial transition to Phase 4, student time on campus will be almost 5 hours per day (4 hours, 55 min) and students will have the opportunity for a grab and go lunch with staggered dismissal times from 12:40 – 1:10 PM

Starting in Early May (date soon to be announced)

- Student time on campus will increase to 6 hours per day, with lunch on campus (30-min lunch) with staggered dismissal times from 1:45 PM – 2:15 PM
- Monday will be maintained for staff meetings; No office hours on this day
- No after school Zoom classes; Virtual office hours and clubs resume Tuesday – Friday

Students in the ExDL program will continue in their program though the remainder of the school year.

Please know that this transition would not have been possible without the partnership of our staff, students and families. We are still proceeding through our Phases of Reopening with the goal of getting back to a complete return as we exit this pandemic in the fall. In the meantime, we are hopeful that vaccines will continue to increase for our entire community over the next few months and we will all continue to do our part to be safe, wear masks and protect our loved ones.

From the Board Room

Below is a recap from the Regular Board Meeting held last evening (March 9th - [Zoom Recording](#))

- Bel Aire's specialist team gave a heart-warming presentation on how clubs and specialists are being utilized at Bel Aire, including PE, Music, Spanish, Children for Change and the Bel Aire TV show.
- Dr. Lynch announced Phase 4 will begin on Monday, April 19th following the week of distance learning after spring break. We are so grateful to the administration and staff who are once again reimagining school! Staggered start and end times continue to be needed under current public health guidelines. See Dr. Lynch's [presentation](#) for details.
- The Del Mar math team presented background material and a recommended

approach to Math 7 / Math 7C that focuses on equity and growth in our math program. The board asked for more information as well as community input. The item will return to the board for the May 18th meeting with more details, stakeholder input and additional data as needed. Last night's presentation can be found [here](#).

- The Board voted to adopt the curriculum recommendation from the Del Mar Science team for Pearson Elevate. After piloting multiple programs over the years, this decision aligns with the NGSS standards and replaces science curriculum last adopted in 2008. Huge kudos go to Katie Baker and her team for this thoughtful evaluation. View presentation [here](#).
- Ashley Williams presented the results from the January 2021 Emotional Wellness Surveys, noting an overall positive lift across most categories compared to Fall 2020. Students feel safe and are happiest when they get to see their friends and make connections with their teachers. Staff noted more typical challenges, such as work-related concerns, than COVID related. View more details [here](#).

On Campus COVID Testing Available:

Following Spring Recess RUSD Staff and families will have the opportunity to register for COVID testing at one our school campuses. The testing times are from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. ***The deadline to sign-up for an appointment is April 7, 2021.***

Tuesday, 04/13/21 - Reed School

- [COVID Testing - Reed School](#)

Wednesday, 04/14/21 - Del Mar Middle School

- [COVID Testing - Del Mar Middle School](#)

Thursday, 04/15/21 - Reed Union School District/Bel Aire School

- [COVID Testing - Reed Union School District/Bel Aire School](#)

Warm 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.

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