



Important Information from the Superintendent Tuesday, October 13, 2020

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am thrilled and yet cautious to announce that we have successfully transitioned into Phase 2 of our School Reopening Plan. It was such a treat to see the students when they returned to campus last week. The feedback and support that we received from families that returned was overwhelmingly positive, which was appreciated by all of our staff that worked tirelessly to make the safe return to campus a success. I do understand that there are families in our community that have many differing opinions on students returning to school campuses, including consideration of important factors such as personal health risks. As such, we must address some important needs during Phase 2 in order to continue to provide continuity of education for all students and to safely transition to Phase 3. Please keep reading as we celebrate the return to campus for many of our students and share the proposed next steps for Phase 2.

Students Return to Campus!

We are so grateful and pleased to see our students back on campus for the much needed in-person learning and social/emotional connections that are so important. We could see the smiles in their eyes, while they were proudly wearing their masks, as they returned to school last week. Most students were very excited, and some were a bit timid and nervous returning to campus after such a long time which is expected and understandable during this uncertain time. Teachers and parents did an outstanding job of helping our children to prepare for their return as evidenced by students knowing what to do when they arrived at school. We must commend all of them for doing such a great job of adapting to the new practices and protocols. Of course, reminding students to maintain physical distance is going to take some time and we will need to continue to revisit these protocols to ensure students can consistently follow them now that we have students on campus and we can see how the protocols REALLY work. We know there are some modifications that we will need to make in order to bring all students back at the same time, and we

need to further develop protocols and schedules that will make it safe to do so.

Proposed Time Change for the Duration of Phase 2

A tremendous amount of time and effort has gone into creating our robust Phases for Reopening so that we can bring students back on campus safely. We started in Phase 1 – Distance Learning and have now transitioned to Phase 2 – Split Cohort Hybrid Model. Each of these phases needed thoughtful planning, training and collaboration to reimagine how schools look during a global pandemic. When we developed each of our phases for reopening over the summer, we planned them in accordance with the health and safety information that was available at the time. As we have transitioned to Phase 2, and we are enacting the procedures required to ensure safety and physical distancing, we need additional time to further develop these plans. We have discovered in our final preparations for Phase 2 that there are still some space and capacity challenges that are not easily overcome. At next week's October 20th Board of Trustees meeting the administration and staff recommendation to the Board will be that the November 9th date to move to Phase 3 full classes be delayed. The requirements for Reed and Bel Aire are not the same as those for Del Mar, so we will share with the Board revised plans for moving to Phase 3 at each of our schools that will illustrate the rationale for needing a longer duration of Phase 2.

Extended Distance Learning and Independent Distant Learning Programs

For students enrolled in our Extended Distance Learning program and newly developed Independent Distance Learning program, we will continue to provide daily support with dedicated resources and staff, and we will look forward to continuing to build the RUSD community connections that are important for all of our distance learners. These programs will continue to evolve just as our in-person program will.

Warm Regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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