



Important Information from the Superintendent Tuesday, October 27, 2020

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Phase 2 to Phase 3 Transition and Distance Learning Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to provide an update on the progress that our District is making at this time to meet the educational needs of all of our students and to address the key action items that are needed to transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 across each of our campuses.

Transition from Phase 2 – Phase 3:

Reed and Bel Aire:

As I mentioned in my letter last week, Reed and Bel Aire are planning to transition to Phase 3, which will bring full cohorts back on campus, 5 days per week, no earlier than December 7th. Progress is currently underway on both campuses to:

- Expand protocols for inclement weather.
- Adjust schedules and routines for full cohorts.
- Ordered additional desks and tables to better facilitate various classroom configurations.
- Added plexiglass barriers where needed when the spacing between students is less than 6 feet. Public Health allows for 4-6 feet between students.
- Modify indoor / outdoor learning spaces to accommodate full cohorts every day.

Del Mar:

At Del Mar, the team is currently working on Phase 2.5 to transition to a

revised Phase 3 in order to accommodate more students and more days on campus each week. As part of this process we have:

- Ordered additional desks and tables to better facilitate various classroom configurations.
- Added plexiglass barriers where needed when the spacing between students is less than 6 feet. Public Health allows for 4-6 feet between students.
- In addition, administrators and teachers are collaborating on what parts of the program are working well and what areas can be improved to maximize student learning. The team is continuing to work on these revisions over the next week and Del Mar will provide parents updates on the progress.

All Campuses:

We are also working on a consistent solution for students who need to stay home due to illness or the potential need to quarantine related to COVID-19 and we will provide more information on this plan in the coming weeks.

Extended Distance Learning (ExDL) Program:

Our ExDL program was designed as a long-term solution for students who knew that they would not be planning to return to the classroom for in-person instruction for at least the first semester and most for the duration of the 2020-21 school year due to COVID-19. At the start of the school year, we had 78 students in grades K-8 enrolled in this program, and we have 3 dedicated teachers leading the program. Below are more details about this program:

- We are using Accelerate Education as the backbone for this program, so that students can work together with their teachers in core areas and leverage a full platform of content across grade levels for the full year.
- Our ExDL teachers build on the content in writing to make the program even more robust and students also participate in specialist programs during the week.
- Due to the small number of students enrolled in ExDL per grade, we have multi-age learners assigned to each teacher, rather than grade level classes.

As we have started the transition to in-person learning in our traditional program, we have some new families that have expressed interest in continuing in distance learning. We are working to add more teachers to form additional classes that would accommodate new families. I am exceedingly grateful to our ExDL teachers and students who have shown incredible flexibility and continuously engage in robust and meaningful lessons and discussions while building a strong sense of community.

Independent Distance Learning (IDL) Program:

We understand that there are many varying needs in our community, and we know that the Independent Distance Learning (IDL) Program does not meet the needs of some families, while it is working well for others. The IDL Program was designed as an independent program to provide more flexibility for families that weren't ready to transition to in-person learning at this time but may be ready to do so in the shorter-term, before the end of the year. However, some families have expressed interest in a more robust program. As noted above, we are working to hire additional teachers to accommodate IDL families. We are in

the process of finalizing a date in the next two weeks for a Special Board meeting to discuss this program in more detail.

Have questions or comments?

We have created a **new feedback form** that you will find at the bottom of communications that come from my office moving forward. This link provides an easy way to ask questions or make comments that will inform content of future newsletters and provide feedback on areas that are working well or not so well as we move through the current school year during the global pandemic. We will continue to use this link when things resume to “normal” in the future. 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: <https://forms.gle/za2oJqs8dHJww3LQ8>

Thank you for taking the time to review all of these important updates and look for additional information in the coming weeks.

Warm regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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