



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Friday, September 25, 2020

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Good afternoon,

I know this has been a very busy week for all of you, but I wanted to reach out before the weekend to provide more information to those of you who may be concerned about having your child return to in-person instruction beginning the week of October 5th.

Independent Distance Learning Option:

Living with a global pandemic, with ever-changing information, there are different perspectives, beliefs and comfort levels for returning to schools for in-person instruction. Everyone is making the best choices for their families at this time. As you know, we have offered two different programs for students to participate in this year. Our regular instructional program follows our Phases of Reintroduction that are grounded and approved by Marin Public Health. This program will enter Phase 2 on October 5th and will have students returning to school in a split cohort hybrid model, attending 2 days per week in person; and then will move into Phase 3 on November 9th, with a full cohort hybrid model having students return to school 5 days per week. Our alternate program is the Extended Distance Learning Program and it is designed for families that will not return to in-person instruction for the duration of the 2020-21 school year. This program uses the Accelerate Education platform. Families were provided a deadline (which was frequently extended) to enroll in the Extended Distance Learning Program that we staffed accordingly prior to the start of our school year.

In my September 16th Headline News, I asked parents to complete a [survey](#) if they did not yet feel comfortable having their child(ren) return to in-person instruction the week of October 5th. We are extending the Accelerate Education platform to provide an Independent Distance Learning option to families who wish for their students to stay home. This option enables students to engage in self-paced independent learning throughout the day, and then have an end of day check-in with an RUSD teacher to answer questions and

lend support when needed. This program would require that students be independent learners and that parents commit to supporting their child consistently throughout the day. Although this option is more fluid, it will require families to make a commitment for at least the trimester since we will need to staff accordingly for the end of day check-ins with an RUSD teacher. We have 31 families who have expressed interest in this program.

If you would like to learn more about this offering please attend this meeting on Tuesday, September 29 at 9:15 AM with the following zoom link.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76685948333?pwd=N0tRYVNiaFB6ZVJ6a1ZYQyswRVFRQT09>

Please understand that there will be no other options offered for student learning. By providing three different options for parents to choose from, we have needed to pull resources from our core program. Some parents have suggested that we allow students to stay at home and zoom in to their classroom until they are ready to return. We recognize that some districts are doing this, however, we know the impact on student learning suffers for all students when the teacher attempts to meet the needs of both learners. Therefore, we will not provide this as an option to families.

I recognize that this third option is not what some families are seeking, although I am hopeful between the three options that we have provided you will find a fit that is best for your family. We will not be facilitating any other options for the 2020-21 school year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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