



Jeremy Decker
Superintendent

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Windsor Unified School District Reopening Update

7/13/2020

Dear Windsor Unified School District community,

My name is Jeremy Decker, and I have been afforded the great privilege to be your new Superintendent. I am extremely excited to join the Windsor Unified School District and look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

I wish that my first letter to the WUSD community was under a different set of circumstances, but unfortunately I am writing to share an update on the efforts to reopen our schools. I know that the uncertainty presented by this pandemic is very challenging for parents, students, and staff. The team at Windsor Unified is working hard to get the best and most current information possible to share with you so that you know what to expect in the fall. This is one of many updates that you can expect as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year. I want to personally thank you for your patience and understanding.

Following a large rise in COVID-19 cases over the past couple of weeks, Sonoma County has been placed on a watch list with 29 other counties. Being on the watch list requires restrictions for certain types of businesses where people tend to congregate in large numbers. However, based on information from our health department, we do not believe that schools are specifically impacted by the watch list order. Having said that, based on the current trends, it is looking more and more likely that we may need to open schools via a distance learning model versus having any type of in-person student instruction. Be that as it may, things change rapidly, and the district isn't ready to fully commit to what the reopening of schools will look like at this time, but I will ask that you begin to prepare for the possibility that students may begin the school year receiving instruction remotely (distance learning) versus in person.

As a district, we are continuing to plan for all possibilities with regard to the reopening of schools so that we are able to move quickly based on what is occurring in Sonoma County specifically related to COVID-19. We are currently planning for the following scenarios:

- Stage 2: Fully engaged in distance learning online.
- Stage 3: Hybrid plan where students attend in person 2 days per week, and are engaged in distance learning the other days of the week
- Stage 4: Full classes of students, 5 days per week with some modifications.

Brooks Elementary School – Cali Calmécac Language Academy – Mattie Washburn Elementary School
North County Consortium Program – Windsor High School – Windsor Middle School
Windsor Oaks Academy – North Bay Met Academy

For each of the stages outlined above, we have created the following committees that are completing a rigorous planning process:

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Health, Safety, and Disinfecting/Sanitizing
3. Technology
4. Food and Nutrition
5. Transportation
6. General Operations and Childcare

We are also very aware that some families have concerns about having their child return to school next year. We hear these concerns and have committed to developing alternative plans for students to complete their education through an online independent learning model supported by Windsor Teachers. In this model your student would not be required to attend classes in person. If this model is of interest to you, please contact your principal directly:

- Mattie Washburn: jstearn@wusd.org
- Brooks: azucconi.@wusd.org
- WMS: bwilliams@wusd.org
- Cali Calmecac: sferrer@wusd.org
- North Bay MET Academy/Windsor Oaks Academy: fharper@wusd.org
- WHS: collins@wusd.org
- North County Consortium: vlong@wusd.org

It should also be noted that the district is actively working with both the Windsor District Educators Association (WDEA) and the Classified School Employees association (CSEA) to determine the best course of action for our students and staff. It truly is our desire to open schools in person as much as possible as we believe it is best for student learning, but the safety of our students and staff will take precedence over everything else. **The district is going to commit to making the decision to provide in-person instruction, hybrid, or distance learning no later than August 3rd.** This decision will be based on guidance received from the County Health Official, and how Sonoma County is trending with regard to COVID-19 cases at that time. We recommend that all families plan as we are, and prepare for distance, hybrid, and in-person learning for the 2020/21 school year.

I know that the uncertainty and changing information is very challenging for our staff and families as you try to plan for the fall. I assure you that we are working to get you answers as quickly as possible while being mindful that the information we share one day might be obsolete a few days later. While I recognize that I have not committed to providing you with an answer as to what the first day of school will look like, I can commit to ensuring that I communicate with you regularly over the coming weeks to keep you informed. Please know that I recognize how frustrating this situation is, and I share in your frustration. I will do my best to keep you informed moving forward so that we can make the best decision for our parents, students, and staff during these extremely challenging times.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Decker
Superintendent