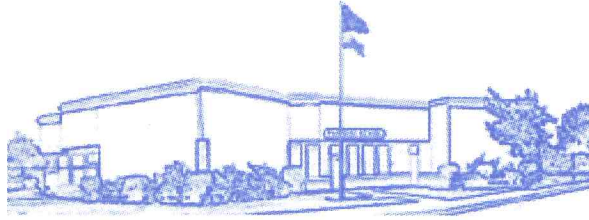


Board of Trustees

Manuel Furtado
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Superintendent
E. Heath Thomason



PARADISE SCHOOL DISTRICT Est. 1868

3361 California Ave., Modesto, CA 95358 · (209) 524-0184 · Fax (209) 524-0363

August 4, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In regards to Distance Learning, the State has rolled Distance Learning into Independent Study and the rules have changed a bit. We will now be calling what was once Distance Learning, Independent Study. The rules for synchronous teaching has changed and we will be following the rules and regulations set by the State for Independent Study. At Paradise, we feel that your child(ren) will be best served in the classroom, but understand if there are circumstances that will keep your child(ren) at home. You will need to fill out Independent Study paperwork in the office and you will be able to use that paperwork for the entire school year, or until you are able to return to the classroom. I will be working with our Staff on Monday August 9th to create a plan for Independent. The new rules will require Kindergarten through 3rd grade to meet with children daily to provide teaching and work. There is not a set amount of minutes required so these meetings will look significantly different from last year. In grades 4th through 8th we will be required to meet with children once per week for teaching and work, and no required minutes for those meetings. In my opinion this is not enough time for getting what your child needs, but we cannot continue to teach both online and in the classroom throughout the day. It was very challenging and taxing on the mental state of our teachers and students. I hope that this will help you in making your decision to return to the classroom in full, or possibly look into an online school option for your child. I know this letter is late getting out to you, but this information was made official by the State last minute. If you need support with finding a viable option or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school. Thanks for your continued support of Paradise School.

FYI – We will start school as we ended last year. Wearing masks indoors, limit mixing of students, and social distancing as much as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Heath Thomason".

E. Heath Thomason