

PLACERVILLE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
1032 THOMPSON WAY
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667
ERIC BONNIKSEN

Superintendent
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chris Belmer
Misty diVittorio
Katharine Stabler
Brian Sonner



April 30, 2020

Dear PUSD Families,

I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing in partnering with us in the education of your children. These are very challenging times for all of us, but we are all continuing to move forward in a very meaningful and positive way, keeping students as the focal point of all our decisions. The outpouring of love and support that you have shown to the teachers and staff during this time has been remarkable and reconfirms that PUSD is truly a family. This motivates all of us to continue to go above and beyond for each and every student. This next week is PUSD's annual staff appreciation week. If you have a chance to drop them a note, I know it will be greatly appreciated.

We do understand that during these trying times that involve isolation, learning and attempting new challenges, and dealing with demands that we never could have anticipated, the emotional toll can sometimes get overwhelming. As we have stated before but it can't be said too many times, please do what is best for yourself and your family first. If that means taking a day to just relax and play a game, work in the yard, or go for a family hike, please do that. I know that screen time can sometimes just be too much and it needs to be shut down for a little bit. It can be for me. If you need to connect with someone, please don't hesitate to contact one of our school counselors, Alissa Inks at SierraAinks@pusdk8.us, Brittany Wagner at Schnellbwagner@pusdk8.us, or Gail Fitzpatrick at Markhamgfitzpatrick@pusdk8.us. We also have been fortunate to partner with Care Solace who can help connect anyone in your family with services that they might need. You can contact them at (888) 515-0595, or follow the link at caresolace.com/placervillefamilies.

We have been very fortunate in El Dorado County that we have not had a significant outbreak of COVID-19. With our numbers staying relatively flat, the El Dorado County Health Commissioner has decided to not extend the County's Shelter in Place order. In the statement that was sent out she stated that we are still to follow the State's orders that are in place. With all of those moving parts continuing, we are still planning to have our sites closed through the end of the school year. Our teachers and staff will continue to provide a high quality educational experience for each student. Both Sierra and Schnell have some fun ideas to keep students engaged through the month of May and Markham is working on how they will be honoring our 8th graders at the end of the year. Plans for that should be announced within the next week.

There has been a great deal of discussion recently about reopening schools for next year. You are probably aware the Governor recently announced that schools will possibly be opening in early July. At this point, we have no intention of starting next year's school year early. Our current calendar for 2020-21 starts the school year on Thursday, August 13, 2020. If this changes, we will immediately notify you. Also, the Governor is communicating, and superintendents are discussing the possibility that when schools open, it may look very different. Our first option is that we will open in August in a traditional format with all students back on campus while still utilizing the skills that have learned over these past few weeks. We are developing other plans as well, if that is deemed not possible. We are very closely involved in these discussions at the State level and will continue to monitor the situation. We will continue to keep you informed of any developments.

Sincerely,

Eric Bonniksen,
Superintendent