

Sunnyside Union School District

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Date: May 18, 2020
Topic: State of the District Message

It has been a **long time** since we have seen you all. First, we hope that you are all **healthy and safe** during these tough times. Feel free to reach out to the school if you need any assistance and we will do the best we can to help out.

As the “school year” comes to a conclusion we wanted to give you an update on what our future at Sunnyside may look like. To start out with we will be collecting the final batch of work and the student Chromebooks on **June 1 and June 2**. More details will be sent out regarding times and procedures. We encourage you to have your students do the best they can with this “distance learning” we have found ourselves in. We have also instructed our staff to leave a day for you to have a **“Parent-Child” or “Teacher-Child” Conference**. We hope that you take one day and just have a special conversation with your child. You have acted as teacher, parent, and friend to your child and are hope is that you are **closer than ever**. We **commend you** for all the roles that you had to take on during this time.

The district has been working on graduation since we closed the campus. It is the Governing Board’s goal to hold an onsite graduation **as close to traditional as possible**. At the same time **safety for all must take precedent**. It seems like the guidelines provided are constantly changing so we have held off on being to public and putting out false hopes. At this time we are looking at **three options**, in order of preference:

- a. **Graduation on the Field “Drive in Graduation”** – The students would go through a traditional ceremony with social distancing in place. The graduates would still give speeches, receive diplomas, and collect their awards. Parents would be allowed on the field **“in vehicle.”** The public may not attend. We are looking at **weather obstacles** and **outside campus gatherings** as issues. The biggest obstacle is the size of the gathering.
- b. **Student Only Graduation** – A student only graduation would be a full ceremony and would be videotaped for all to view.
- c. **Drive Thru Graduation** – Students would drive through with parents and pick-up diplomas and awards.

***We hope to provide you with a final decision during the week of May 25th.**

During the final drop off of materials and Chromebooks students **will pick up** end of year materials (class awards, athletic awards, Flower Show Winners, Family Project Winners, Pablo Picasso Art Challenge Winners, and Personal Items, etc.). Please email the district if they have left anything in the classroom or have items in the nurse’s office. Also during this time please drop off **ALL School Materials**; including but not limited to Jazz Band Shirts, Band Instruments, and Athletic Team Uniforms.

The staff has put together a **Community Parade** for Tuesday, May 19. We will be coming through the community in vehicles and school buses. This will take place around 1:00 PM. **Please make sure you have your children stay behind the fence, by your house our in your house looking through the window**. Let’s demonstrate that we can be good stewards of social distancing.

Right now the district is planning on offering a district Summer School, along with a Migrant School. More details will be out soon. We are contemplating an “on-campus” summer school, a distance learning summer school, and a “blended” (on site and distance combined) program. We are doing our best to get everything put together, but again it is all dependent on guidelines that come down from the county and state level.

This leads us to the big question, “What about next year?” We plan on the first day of school being on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Right now we are planning for the following possible scenarios:

- a. **Return to Normal While Practicing Good Health Procedures** – This would include an option for parents who do not feel comfortable yet to opt for Distance Learning.
- b. **Return on a Blended Schedule** – students would be assigned a **Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday** Schedule alternating on Fridays. On days not on campus students would receive distance learning support during the school day. This allows for roughly 50% of the students being on campus at a given time or about 10 students per classroom (social distancing). This would require us to monitor recess, pick up, drop off, limiting students on buses, etc.
- c. **Distance Learning** – No students return to campus until the state allows. This would be an **improved version** of what we are currently doing. We are learning a lot about how this can be improved.
- d. **Delayed Start or Modified Calendar** – Delaying the start of school to later in the month or September. Possibly have an extended break or distance learning during the “flu months.”

In all scenarios, there **may/may not** be requirements for masks, daily temperature checks and other health protocol. We are currently discussing and planning for all options. The district is also working on making sure **everyone** in our community has Internet access. We are looking at and implementing many things to help make the **campus safer** (touch free toilets, enhanced cleaning procedures, health room for those who are experiencing symptoms of COVID, etc.) The option we may eventually choose may not even be listed! Things are changing by the hour or day.

With the potential of a significantly **reduced budget** we are attempting to be creative to minimize or have no reduction of any services or programs. We do know that extracurricular activities such as athletics are temporarily on hold. With all of these things on our minds, we do **encourage you to complete** CENSUS 2020. The CENSUS is used to **determine funding** for many school related programs. If we are **not counted** we **will not be receiving** the funding we could have.

We wish that you were all back and **celebrating together** the end of another good year at Sunnyside. I can speak on behalf of our entire staff . . . **we cannot wait to see you all again**. Sunnyside is a unique place, no matter our differences we **always come together**. Thank you for being part of the **Sunnyside Family!**

With **Much** Appreciation