



## Arcohe Union School District

Troy Miller – Superintendent / Principal

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Telephone (209) 748-2313 Fax (209) 748-5798

June 4, 2020

Arcohe Families,

I hope everyone is healthy and safe at home. This has certainly been an incredible couple of months and we are all hoping it ends soon. As we wrap up the current school year, our minds turn to what the fall might look like. Over the past few months, we have been working closely with both district and County leaders to determine what we will be able to do in the fall. I wanted to send out some information about our plans as they stand right now.

### 1. 2020-2021 School Calendar

- a. To get students back to school earlier than normal, the Board of Trustees has decided to move the start date up to **August 10, 2020**. The Board is in the process of approving two versions of the same calendar based on what we are able to do in the fall following Sacramento County Public Health guidelines. These two calendars will have the same start and end dates along with the same scheduled days off during the year. The difference between the two calendars is one assumes we are allowed to come back full time and the other meets the current guidelines of only allowing half of the students in classrooms at any given time. Once both calendars have been approved, we will release them.
  - b. The current health guidelines stipulate schools must reduce the number of students in the classroom to meet social distancing guidelines set by the county. To achieve this, we have developed an alternative calendar in an A/B configuration as a Plan B. In this scenario, students would come either on a Monday and Wednesday OR Tuesday and Thursday. There would not be students at school on Fridays but teachers would still present lessons in a digital format to continue instruction. During students off days from school, we are still working on what that will look like from an instructional standpoint. **If, and when, the county allows for schools to open fully, it is the desire of the school and Board of Trustees to reopen immediately and resume school on an everyday format.** To view the County Health guidelines in full, go to: [https://www.scoe.net/media/rokm1xn2/school\\_year\\_planning.pdf](https://www.scoe.net/media/rokm1xn2/school_year_planning.pdf)
  - c. To allow us flexibility in the middle of the year in the event of an outbreak, the calendars are designed to allow for us to cancel school up to 10 days during the year. Any days we are closed can be added to the end of the school year so we do not lose valuable instructional time.
  - d. To help families with day care on the days when students are not at school in an A/B format, Arcohe has partnered with a company called Champions to provide all-day care for students at Arcohe. This service is something parents will need to sign up for privately. I will be sending out information to all families as soon as our licensing agreement is approved by the state.
2. To keep students safe at school, we are going to take a safe, yet sensible, approach to reopening school. Items we are taking into consideration include increasing hygiene, limiting exposure, and enhancing cleaning procedures.



- a. To increase hygiene, we have installed hand sanitizer stations through the campus and we will be requiring students to wash their hands with soap and water when they leave and come back into classrooms. Teachers will be instructing students about the importance of hygiene and we ask you to help with additional talks at home.
  - b. To limit exposure to the virus, there are many things we are doing. These include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Any student that shows signs of potential exposure will be sent to the office for evaluation. Students with a fever of 100.1 or greater will be sent home. If students have a fever for multiple days, we ask you to get them evaluated by a professional to determine the cause of the fever. If the cause is unrelated to COVID-19, he or she can return to school when healthy and with a doctor's note. If a doctor determines a COVID-19 test is necessary, please provide documentation to the office when the doctor determines it is safe to return to school. Students who test positive for COVID-19 are asked to stay quarantined for the 14-day period and can return to school when the doctor determines it is safe to do so. Please check your child's temperature in the morning, if needed, to help us limit the spread at school.
    - ii. We will not be requiring staff or students to wear face coverings at school. If staff or students elect to wear a mask, we only ask that it be done in accordance to our school dress code policy (i.e. no tobacco or alcohol products displayed, etc.). If students show symptoms of the virus, they will be given a disposable mask and will be asked to wear it until the evaluation is complete.
    - iii. The main office will have slight changes to how business is done. We are in the process of reconfiguring the main office and installing Plexiglas on the outside windows to allow for all school business to happen outside. Once complete, all school transactions will happen through the windows and adults will not be allowed to enter the office unless instructed to by the main office staff.
    - iv. Access to campus will also be limited to the public during the school day. Temporary barriers and signs will be installed at the front of the school to ask family members to wait either out front or in their cars. Parents will also be asked to drop off their children in the front of the school and not walk them all the way to class. The exception to this will be the first few days of school when our littlest students are apprehensive.
    - v. We will be temporarily suspending all large group gatherings including Falcon Feather Assemblies, Back to School Night, Rallies, and Awards presentations until further notice. Contrary to CDC recommendations recently released, we will continue to serve lunch in the cafeteria and students will have recess with their peers.
  - c. We have enhanced our cleaning practices by purchasing the latest disinfectant equipment to use in each class daily. Our custodial staff will be provided personal protective equipment and are trained to effectively disinfect classrooms. Even though there is a reduction of students, there will not be a reduction in the amount of hours we spend cleaning each room on campus.
3. To meet the needs of families still apprehensive about sending your children back to school until the pandemic is fully contained, we are preparing a system where students can receive instruction from an Arcohe teacher in a full-time distance learning format. Students who elect full-time distance learning will receive instruction at home from one of our teachers and will not be required to come onto campus. **If interested in this option, please contact the main office.**



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4. We are actively working on a Summer School option for our most struggling students July 27 – August 6. This is not the typical STEM Summer Academy we have done in the past and will only be offered to targeted students. If your student is considered for this program, the school will reach out to you directly about this opportunity. For students not selected, parents can ask to be put on a waitlist, but there is no guarantee your child will be selected. We will be focusing on the students with the highest academic need first.

This is an evolving situation and one we have to be flexible with. We believe in getting our students back on campus as soon as it is safe to do so while also ensuring both our students and staff are safe. We know some of the above items are a change to how we normally do business, but we feel they are important to keep people safe and keep the school open. If an outbreak occurs in our area, we will have to take appropriate action, but we are hoping to avoid situations with common sense approaches.

We will be updating families through our website, Facebook page, and parent emails as information is made available. Please help us all in this endeavor. We are all in this together!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "M".

Troy Miller

Superintendent/Principal

Arcohe School