



July 24, 2020

Dear Elverta Students and Families,

We hope that all of our students and families are healthy and safe. We also hope that, considering the circumstances, you have had a good summer break.

In preparation for the first day of school (Wednesday, August 19), we want to communicate some updated information.

The Sacramento County Office of Education announced on July 15 that schools in our county will begin the school year with distance learning. As of this writing, we are not certain when we will be allowed to have groups of students on campus. We hope that this will come soon.

Our teachers and staff have been working diligently on how we can be most effective in distance learning. We recognize there were some concerns with distance learning last spring, and we have developed a plan to make this a much more successful experience this fall. We learned a great deal last spring and we can put that experience to good use. We know what worked and what can be improved upon, and are committed to doing just that.

Here are the details regarding the upcoming school year:

- School starts August 19th, 2020 and ends June 16th, 2021, regardless of the learning format (distance learning, transition schedule, or full schedule).
- Distance Learning will take place 4 days a week until we are allowed to transition back. Mondays will be teacher preparation and school work distribution days (except for holidays and vacation schedules).
- Teachers will provide standards-based instruction, responding to parents and students in a timely manner, supporting diverse learners (such as Special Education and English Learners), building rapport and connections with students, regularly monitoring student work completion

and participation, providing students feedback, and reporting non-participation to the district office for additional outreach and follow up.

- Attendance will be taken by teachers and grades assigned based on the traditional practice of student academic progress and effort.
- Instruction will include three direct-instruction lessons with accompanying work packets each day. Teachers and staff will also conduct distance interactive meetings with students. In addition to academics, students will receive social emotional learning lessons and/or connection time.
- Teachers will provide “office hours” for families and students to connect and receive assistance. This will be done by appointment, either in-person or through a distance platform such as Zoom.
- “Grab and Go” lunches will be provided on days school is in session.

We believe that the following will be of great value to our students at the beginning of the new school year:

- From August 19 – September 11, we are implementing a “Jumpstart” program. For the sake of continuity and student-teacher connection, students will begin the school year with their teacher from last year. **Students will advance to their next grade as usual**, but will be taught by their teacher from the previous school year. This will allow teachers to focus on the concepts they may have missed and that are essential as they move into the next grade. This will also allow students a great deal of familiarity and comfort as the school year begins. On Monday, September 14, students will transition to their new teacher for the remainder of the school year. **Again, students will advance in grade, but will be taught the first few weeks by their teacher from last year.**

Further communications regarding plans for the 2020-21 school year will be sent in the coming weeks. **Once again, the school year for students will begin on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.**

We sincerely thank you for partnering with us during this difficult time.



Michael Borgaard, Ed.D
Superintendent