

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

**Superintendent
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Chris Belmer
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Brian Sonner
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July 27, 2020

Dear Placerville Families,

I want to thank all of you for the patience and grace you have shown during this time of uncertainty and confusion on how we will open school for the 2020-21 school year. Over the past four months, we have been working diligently on our plans to reopen school. Many individuals have invested a great deal of time into the development of these plans. I am grateful for the teachers, staff and parents who have shared their thoughts and ideas throughout this entire process. Your insights have made our plan as strong as it can be. Throughout this process, our goal has been to have students on our campuses 5 days a week.

Our County Health Department, with whom we have worked very closely, is currently having to deal with a significant increase in positive COVID cases throughout our County, and an ever increasing need for testing capabilities. Because of these increases, El Dorado County could possibly be placed on the "Watch List" for the State of California.

We have received direction from our County Health Department that if the County is on the Watch List, our reopening plan needs to ensure that students on campus would be in small groups and be able to stay within their cohort, to the greatest extent possible. The following plan meets the guidelines outlined by Governor Newsom, and is acceptable to the County Health Department for us to open school for the 2020-21 school year.

Over August 13th and 14th at the elementary sites, we will hold Parent, Student, Teacher conferences at Sierra and Schnell. A schedule will be made so that each family will have one on one time with their child's teacher. No formal classes will be held during these days.

At Markham, students and parents will be scheduled to come to campus August 12th-14th, to pick up schedules, get textbooks and meet teachers.

During the week of August 17th, we will open up in Phase 1 which will be a hybrid start for our TK-2nd grade classes. Students in TK-2nd grades will be divided into two separate groups; each group will be on campus two days per week. Monday will be a Distance Learning day for all students. School work will be assigned in class for the days when the students are not at school. On the days not in class, there will be an afternoon video conference with their teacher to discuss the assigned work. This will allow us to provide direct, face to face instruction for the students who are least likely to learn independently.

On days that students are on campus for hybrid learning schools will be running an early release schedule, meals will be available.

Students in grades 3rd-8th will begin classes the week of August 17th in a full time distance learning model. Protocols and expectations for distance learning are attached.

Specifically, for Special Education students, TK-8th, we will offer a hybrid model beginning on August 17th. This will allow us to meet the needs outlined in each individual IEP. Special Education students will be invited on campus as scheduled by their case manager.

Between August 17th and September 4th, we will be monitoring the COVID numbers within El Dorado County, keeping an eye on the Watch List and working closely with our County Health Department. Our hope is that we will see progress made in COVID numbers within our County and we will be able to modify our plan to include 3rd-5th grade students into the hybrid model at that time.

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If progress is made, we will move into Phase 2 starting the week of September 7th, we will add 3rd-5th grades to our hybrid model. At that time, students in grades 3rd-5th will be divided into two separate groups, each group will be on campus two days a week. School work will be assigned in class for the days when the students are not at school. On the days not in class, there will be an afternoon video conference with their teacher to discuss the assigned work. Students in 6th-8th grades will continue with full time distance learning.

We will continue to monitor the County's COVID numbers and work closely with our County Health Department. By the week of September 28th our hope is to be able to move into Phase 3 and open up for all classes, with TK-8th grades either in a hybrid model or in a full 5 days a week program. This will be determined by the number of positive COVID cases in El Dorado County, the testing capabilities and the abilities to expedite results through the County Health Department, along with El Dorado County not being on the State of California Watch List.

Attached you will find the protocols and expectations for the hybrid and distance learning programs, along with the current Health/Safety and Cleaning and Disinfecting protocols for the start of the school year.

If you would prefer to sign up for the Placerville Virtual Learning Program (PVLN) for the 2020-21 school year instead of having your student on campus, you will be asked to complete a PVLN application. By signing up for this program, your child will be removed from their assigned class.

The proposed calendar for the beginning of the 2020-2021 School year:

August 13-14	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
Phase 1 (August 17th)	Hybrid TK-2nd/SPED TK-8th, Distance Learning: 3rd-8th
Phase 2 (September 7th)	Hybrid TK-5th/SPED TK-8th, Distance Learning: 6th - 8th
Phase 3 (September 28th)	Hybrid TK-8th grade or full 5 days a week depending on county numbers and county testing capabilities.

This is a lot of information to absorb at the end of a long journey of uncertainty. Our plans place the safety of our school community as a top priority while providing a high quality education for our students. This could not be accomplished without your continued partnership.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer, and we are looking forward to you returning to our campuses.

Sincerely,



Eric Bonniksen
Superintendent