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August 28, 2020

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Carlsbad Municipal Schools is ending the first week of remote learning. When we entered this week we believed that we would be able to transition to in-person instruction on September 8, 2020. We now know that we will have to deliver instruction on-line for some time to come. We also know that there have been pluses and minuses to on-line instruction. To help us improve as we move into the month of September, we are asking you to take a short survey to tell us what we are doing well, what we need to improve, and what supports you need for your student to be successful in the on-line learning environment.

The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentsurveycms>.

Please take a few minutes to let us know how we are doing so we can improve. Thank you for being patient with our teachers as we navigate this type of learning and know that our commitment continues to be to return students to in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Just some reminders for parents and students. We are not in the pass/fail environment as we were in the spring semester. Students need to engage in the instruction provided during regular school hours or make arrangements to access the lesson at other times if connectivity or other issues interfere with logging on. Homework and other assignments are graded and attendance is being taken in accordance with state guidelines. Therefore, students need to be participate in Google Meets and remote learning activities. Sixth grade students and parents are reminded that their child has multiple teachers and multiple periods, which is a big change from elementary school. Also parents are reminded that even in an on-line environment kids need to get back into a regular schedule. This means students can't keep playing video games until 4 AM, and they need to participate more than 30 minutes a day to make academic progress.

To help us get students back to a face-to-face learning environment we have a big ask of the community. The key requirement for getting kids to in-person instruction is getting our case counts down. That means wearing masks and engaging in COVID-19 safe practices. We can only bring students back to in-person instruction if we get our cases down. I know this community will do what it needs to do for our students. Each of us being focused on getting cases down will get our students back in school. Do I need to be at that gathering? Do I need to travel out of state? Am I wearing a mask when around other people? Am I practicing social distancing? By being thoughtful and engaging in safe practices we will get our cases down and get kids back in school. We are asking for your help because kids and teachers belong in the same room not on the same screen.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Washburn', is written over a horizontal line.

Gerry C. Washburn,  
Superintendent