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July Message

1 message

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To: Everyone <cuhsdeveryone@mycuhsd.org>

Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 5:03 PM

Greetings,

We are now less than a week away from everyone coming back to work and a few weeks from greeting students. Many of you have really not had much of a break as this has been a unique summer. Even if you did, probably in the back of your mind are many questions about our return to work. Below are a few items of information for your consideration. Not every question will be answered, but we are working on more complete answers as we get started in August and in the months to follow. Information and guidance continues to evolve.

We have a home for all this information on the district webpage. [COVID19 Recovery Plan](#) More will be added over time.

Safety

Employee, student and public safety is our highest priority.

Daily Health Checklist: All employees and students are expected to complete this [self-check](#) each day before reporting to school. Please follow the steps on the form if you are having symptoms. This is a "passive" screening that meets the local health official's guidance. Passive meaning, you do it on your own.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The state has sent us a 60 day supply of PPE (masks, sanitizer, etc.) to the district for all employees and students. We will get more from the state throughout the year. We are purchasing additional face coverings for each employee (5 per employee). The State guidance continues to evolve (change) about masks, but we know this much: when you are within 6 feet of others, please wear a mask. We are asking members of the public to wear one when they are in line and registering now. We will have disposable ones when someone does not have one of their own.

Sanitizing, signs and barriers: We have added hand sanitizer stations on campus and signage about distancing and wearing masks. We have ordered partitions for office spaces to create more barriers and safety for employees and the public. We have received enhanced sanitizing equipment for busses, classrooms and offices. We have additional cleaning supplies for staff that complete the online training for sanitizing wipes. You may bring your own hand sanitizer for personal use, but please use the district provided supplies for use with others. We will be replacing faucets and paper towel dispensers with no-touch upgrades.

Instruction

Our thinking and planning has prepared us as best as we can for this next school year (thanks to all those that participated). As we can see, it will be like no other, nor like the 4th quarter of 2019-2020. In March, we quickly prepared what we could and evacuated our schools. We made great efforts to do as much as possible. Moving forward, we have learned from that experience and our summer school program. For the 2020-21 school year, we will move back to regular instruction, but in new ways. The state adopted budget came with requirements for schools to have daily live interaction and instruction and the reporting of attendance. (The full language is found in the link below.) The state is requiring the school board adopt a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. The CDE is revising the draft template now. The district will apply our model and attendance intervention plans to this new template. This plan will include taking daily attendance in Aeries as that is how we are held accountable for student participation. Our Daily instruction and follow up with non-participating students is essential.

Distance Learning: We are starting the school year with Distance Learning for all students. We made that determination in June and announced it on June 30th. However, this is not going to be the distance learning

model we did in the 4th quarter. Much of that was an asynchronous model, meaning; 'here is some work, get it to me when you can, I will check in with you tomorrow.' Many staff still maintained a synchronous schedule, but the general model was an asynchronous plan.

Daily live interaction is just that, each school day, teachers are to provide live interaction and instruction. This has a variety of delivery models, but the most common and preferred will be a live video conference for at least a portion of the established class period. Other methods may include a phone conference, interactive message boards, email or text communications. Whichever the method, keep in mind the phrase, **daily live interaction**. Attendance will be recorded daily of the students participating in the daily instruction. After 3 days of no participation, the attendance interventions start to kick in. One of those interventions is a Tier 1 strategy of teacher outreach to the family. Other interventions include our counselors, administrators, and other staff to check up on the student.

It is critical to reestablish the routine of learning with **daily live interaction and instruction**. Many students have lost that routine of learning. Families I have spoken with recognize that the routine of school helps our students maintain a regular schedule and wellbeing in the home and of their children. Returning to daily live instruction following the school schedule will help to reestablish the routines of learning and wellbeing. Not every student will be able to do this perfectly so there is some flexibility available. However, regular daily live instruction is at the core of our Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

Social Emotional Learning: We have all gone through and are still experiencing a high level of stress due to the pandemic. It affects our employees, students and their families differently. Some have experienced traumatic loss, others have been merely inconvenienced. The stress of the unknown or fear of infection vary from family to family and person to person. These traumatic stresses unsettle us and take our minds off the process of learning and teaching. As professionals we need to be educated on the facts about the disease and precautions from reliable sources such as the County's Public Health Department or the CDC. We also need to help our students adjust, find comfort and support them as best as we can so they can refocus on learning. The CDE had provided resources to help educators support our students as they transition back to school and back onto campus. [Click here](#) to see what the state had compiled for us.

Blended Learning: When Imperial County moves to Stage 2B of the recovery plan, we (CUHSD) can bring students back on campus. The routine of daily live instruction will shift from only online to a combination of online and distance learning. The Think Tank Team devised a plan to have 25% of the students attend one day a week, Tuesday through Friday. Mondays would be a distance learning day for all students and a way to prepare students for the week. Furthermore, all Monday's would be minimum instructional days. The afternoons would be set aside for planning, training and department or content area teams. These smaller classroom loads will help maintain physical distance in the classroom, busses and cafeteria. When conditions allow, we would increase from 25% to 50% of the students on campus. Our feeder elementary districts are also aligning their all-distance learning day with Monday for continuity of families.

Advisory: The Think Tank members are recommending we suspend the Advisory Period for the 20-21 school year and redistribute those minutes through the regular instructional day. We would resume Advisory in the 21-22 school year, assuming we return to a full in-person school model.

Supported Technology: The district and Instructional Coaches will support with technical assistance and training, Google Classroom and Google Meet. Those are the primary Learning Management System (LMS) and video conferencing tools. Teachers that need an external camera may contact the Instructional Coaches for support. During the training sessions in August, there will be specific training for beginning or more advanced users of these tools.

Devices for Students: We will distribute Chromebook to every student that requests one. (Not one per household.) We will distribute them for the school year so that, when we start blended learning, the student will need to bring their device to school so they can use them in classes. It looks like the era of computer carts in the schools are coming to an end. We will further develop our 1:1 initiative during the school year. Myfi devices to connect to [BorderLink](#) are also available. We are also in the beginning stages of adding WiFi to all our buses.

Full Senate Bill 98 signed into law on June 29, 2020

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB98

- More details will be found in the Teacher Expectations document to be distributed as part of the back to school professional development. Some of these items are contingent on negotiations such as the changes in advisory.
- A letter will be distributed with details very soon. All of the training will be available online via Google Meet or Zoom. Some sessions will be synchronous and others will be asynchronous. For those that do not have working technology to participate, there will be in person locations to participate at SHS and CUHS. Masks and physical distancing will be required. Click here to see the current agendas: <http://www.cuhsd.net/Departments/Human-ResourcesPayroll/index.html>

This next school year will be a new challenge. There will be many changes and mistakes. We will make more mistakes in the beginning, but will work to get it right. If you have ever played a video game, you know this. You start out on the challenge, and learn from mistakes. You get past a few checkpoints and before you know, you have learned the new patterns and how to address new obstacles. Change is not easy for anyone. Part of the difficulty is giving up the old patterns to make way for the new ones. The other hard part is learning how to make adjustments as you go. The next time you have a chance, watch a bird soar on the wind or a surfer ride a wave. They have no control over the air or water they are riding, but they have learned how to adjust themselves in order to move forward.

Stay Safe,

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Ward H. Andrus, Ed. D.

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"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication" Leonardo Da Vinci

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