



March 20, 2020

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Re: COVID-19 Update

Dear Cloverdale Community,

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. The email you are receiving today has been in the works since the beginning of last week. It has been difficult to hold off on sending it, but we wanted to make sure that we had the most up to date information to include before sharing with everyone. Anything in this email is subject to change based on more guidance from the State/County, but we feel that we finally have enough clarification on certain topics to send to you.

School-Based Activities

The Sonoma County Health Officer issued a social distancing and shelter-in-place order on March 18, 2020 to be in effect through Tuesday, April 7. Be that as it may, Governor Newsom issued an executive order on March 19, that “orders all individuals living in the state of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.” This executive order has no end date, and the Governor has stated that he is unsure if school will resume again before the fall. Therefore, it is very unclear as to when students might be able to return to campus.

As of today, we have canceled all school-based activities through the end of April. As we learn more in the coming days/weeks, we will determine next steps, and provide an update with regard to athletic events, prom, dances, graduation, etc. Please understand that even if the current order (April 7, 2020) is lifted, a social distancing order will most likely be in effect, and this will impact the events described above.

Distance Learning

All teachers will be messaging their students/families March 23-24, and providing various web-based learning activities for the week of March 23 (Lexia, Aleks, IXL, Khan Academy, Edmentum, Learning.com, etc.). For these assignments, teachers will utilize software/platforms to which students already have experience. Sometime during the week of March 23, teachers will check in with students/families (via email, Google Classroom, phone, etc.) to monitor progress of student learning for that week.

By the end of day Friday, March 27, teachers will have developed a more formal 3-week home-based work program for students for at least a 3-week period beginning Monday, March 30. During this time, teachers will provide support to students virtually or by phone on a weekly basis. A general outline of plans by subject/grade level can be found below:

- a. Grades K-4: Each grade-level will collaboratively develop one 3-week packet (identical packet for each teacher on the team). Teachers will email packets home to parents by Friday, March 27, letting parents know that hard copy packets will be made available for pick up only upon request. Such requests should be made through teacher of your child, and will then be forwarded to Principal Yakich.
- b. Grades 5-6: Will be utilizing a combination of packets and Google Classroom, as well as various web-based resources that students already have experience with.
- c. Grades 7-12: Primarily utilizing Google Classroom to facilitate home-based learning.
 - i. Elective teachers may use Google Classroom, or other web-based tools they are familiar with, or simply use email to outline activities students can be engaged in to continue their exploration of their elective class.
 - ii. ELD students who are level 1-2 will be contacted by either 1) the District Translator, or 2) the District ELD Support Coordinator once per week for added support.
- d. Students with IEPs: In addition to a check-in by their general education teachers, students with IEPs will also be contacted by a Special Education staff member once per week during school closures.
- e. Counselors: May provide appointments to students for academic counseling as possible. These appointments or conversations may be conducted via email/phone or when appropriate via tools such as Google Hangout.

Grades/Testing

Distance learning activities provided to students shall include enrichment, engagement, and review. The activities provided will not require summative assessments or grading. In addition, students will be held “harmless”, and will not receive a lesser grade than their current grade as a result of engaging in Distance Learning during this unprecedented time. This aligns with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's recent statements that assessments should not be used during this time as a summative measure, but rather as a formative measure to gauge instruction and identify where students need support. Students will, however, be able to earn a higher grade as a result of engaging in Distance Learning, and if appropriate, may be assigned Edmentum as an option for credit recovery in grades 9-12.

While the activities being provided will not require traditional tests or grading, there is the expectation that parents will be present and engaged in supporting the learning of their child. Your child needs you now more than ever to be engaged in their learning. Please take the time to ask them about their learning activities, and check in with them daily regarding their progress. Without this support, it will be extremely difficult for your child to succeed with this model for delivery of instruction.

Testing

- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests have been cancelled for 2020.
- SAT has postponed its April 4 exam to June 13. The May 2 date has been cancelled.
- ACT has postponed its April 4 exam to June 13. The May 2 date has been cancelled.
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams remain scheduled for May 4-8, 11-15, with late testing scheduled for May 20-22. The AP Program is reportedly finalizing streamlined AP Exam options that would allow students to test at home, depending on the situation in May.

Internet Access/Chromebooks

Students in grades 5-12 will need to have a device available daily in order to engage in Distance Learning effectively. Students can use any connected device available at home to access the online learning tools their teachers may use during the current school closure. Here are the steps to access their school's learning portal:

- Open google chrome
- Go to cusd.org
- Click the Family & Students menu
- Click the Students link
- Click Clever portal
- Click login with CUSD Google account

Your student will be familiar with these steps, as this is how they access web-based learning resources at school.

If your student does not have access to a connected device at home, you may check out a Chromebook from the school. In fact, most students in grades 7-12 should currently have a school issued Chromebook at home. Should students not currently have access to a connected device at home, they will need to reach out to their Cloverdale High School Principal, Mr. Meredith, meredithc@cusd.org or Washington School Principal, Mr. Lucchetti, lucchettim@cusd.org to remedy this problem.

For students in grades 5-6 we will be checking out Chromebooks only as needed, please contact Mr, Lucchetti should this be a need.

Students will also need to have access to the internet in order to engage in Distance Learning effectively. Should you currently lack internet access, the following companies are currently offering free internet for families:

- SONIC is offering 3 months of free internet to new customers: <https://www.sonic.com/cov19>
- Comcast is offering 2 months of free internet to new customers and increasing their speeds. They have also opened all xfinitwifi networks so anyone can use it without an account: <https://www.internetessentials.com>

Should you need assistance with signing up for internet access, please reach out to your site Principal. We will do our best to support you throughout the process.

Breakfast/Lunch

Starting March 23, lunch will be offered at Washington School to all children under the age of 18, whether or not they attend Cloverdale Schools. The following day, March 24, breakfast and lunch will be offered to all children under the age of 18, whether or not they attend Cloverdale Schools.

- Breakfast and Lunch will be offered together, and can be picked up between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm at Washington School.

The district will be serving mostly cold breakfast and lunch, with some hot meals, in paper tray/lunch bags to be taken home. District staff will be serving from outside of the Washington School Multi-Purpose Room.

The district is currently planning to only utilize Washington School to serve meals, but should the demand for breakfast and lunch be high, we will consider serving breakfast and lunch from other sites as well. The menu is currently being developed and will be provided to parents at a later date.

Communication

I am sure that there are many questions that you might have. I ask that you either reach out directly to the teacher of your child, or Principal:

- Jefferson: Susan Yakich → yakichs@cusd.org
- Washington: Mark Lucchetti → lucchettim@cusd.org
- CHS: Chris Meredith → meredithc@cusd.org

Thank you for being understanding and flexible during this time. What we are trying to navigate right now is crazy and unprecedented, and we are going to do all we can to best meet the needs of our students. This situation is ever-evolving, and the district wants to provide the proper support that is needed to provide a “continuity of learning” for our students, and that support may change as new information is received. Our focus has been on creating a structure to provide distance learning for the first month, but should this continue through the end of the school year as Governor Newsom stated that it might, we may have to shift our focus to planning through May. In turn, this might affect the plan that is outlined above in the distance learning section.

I cannot stress enough how important you, the parents and guardians, are to this process. Without your active engagement in the learning of your child, he or she is going to have a difficult time finding success through distance learning. We need you as active and engaged partners. We are in this together, and my sincere hope is that this experience acts to strengthen the relationship between the school district and our families, and ultimately leads to positive outcomes for our Cloverdale students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Decker
Superintendent

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