

**IMPORTANT: MEAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES**

Starting Monday, March 23rd, PUSD will be consolidating meal service. From 11am to 1pm Monday through Friday, we will now be offering lunch and breakfast together. We hope that this will be more convenient for our families, allowing students to have one pick up time that includes both lunch and breakfast for the following day. This decision was based on feedback from our families as well as the data collected from the actual number of meals distributed this week.

These meals are free for anyone 18 years or younger in our community or for any PUSD Transition student 22 years or younger, but we ask that students needing meals be physically present for an accurate count. The meals will be available at the following 12 centralized school sites; please drive up or walk up to the site nearest you:

- Del Norte High School (16601 Nighthawk Lane, San Diego, CA 92127)
- Los Penasquitos Elementary School (14125 Cuca St., San Diego CA 92129)
- Meadowbrook Middle School (12320 Meadowbrook Lane, Poway, CA 92064)
- Midland Elementary School (13910 Midland Road, Poway, CA 92064)
- Mt. Carmel High School (9550 Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129)
- Pomerado Elementary School (12321 Ninth Street, Poway CA 92064)
- Poway High School (5500 Espola Rd, Poway, CA 92064)
- Rancho Bernardo High School (13010 Paseo Lucido, San Diego CA 92128)
- Twin Peaks Middle School (14640 Tierra Bonita Road, Poway, CA 92064)
- Valley Elementary School (13000 Bowron Rd, Poway, CA 92064)
- Westview High School (13500 Camino Del Sur, San Diego, CA 92129)
- Westwood Elementary School (17449 Matinal Rd, San Diego, CA 92127)

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March 19, 2020

Dear PUSD Families,

We know for many of you, this has been a long and challenging week. As a parent myself, I have also been navigating the sudden closure of my own daughter’s school with some amount of uncertainty and anxiousness. Knowing firsthand what it is like for our PUSD families dealing with the emergency closures, motivates me and my leadership team to work diligently every day to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible.

Please read this entire email. It contains a lot of important information for our families and answers many of the questions we have been receiving from you.

This week our focus has been on the following key priority areas: student nutrition, equitable access to resources and technology, and staff and student health and safety.

## **STUDENT NUTRITION**

Tonight Governor Gavin Newsom issued an [Executive Order](#) stating that all individuals living in the State of California should stay home or at their place of residence to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The order states, however, that essential state and local government functions will remain open. This will include food service that schools have been providing and will continue to provide to the children of our community.

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## **EQUITABLE ACCESS**

Equitable access to technology is vital to the success of all of our students during this closure. We cannot proceed with distance learning without this piece firmly in place. We are currently assessing the needs of PUSD students who do not have access to any personal devices to support their learning at home during this time of school closure. A personal device can include a desktop computer, laptop, Chromebook, tablet, Surface, iPad, etc.

Please complete one of the following options by Tuesday, March 24 by 4:00 pm only if your child needs access to a device at home.

- Option 1: Click [this link](#) to fill out the Student Technology Needs Form (or on the button on the top left of this page)
- Option 2: Call (858) 668-4080 and leave a voice message with the following information:
  - An email and/or phone number where we can best reach you
  - Your child(ren)'s school
  - Your child(ren)'s grade level
  - Does your child have access to a device and internet connected WiFi at home?

More details on device distribution will follow once we collect this information.

The CDE has also stated that distance learning must effectively serve students with disabilities. Additional guidance will be coming shortly from the CDE regarding various models to meet our students' needs. The state is convening a workgroup of experts and practitioners to determine how best to serve students with disabilities in our current context. Staff will need to look at each student's IEP and determine what additional accessibility supports they'll need in the home before we proceed with distance learning.

Earlier this week, Governor Gavin Newsom stated his opinion that he anticipates few schools, if any, will reopen before summer break. While we understand this statement was unsettling, it is prudent for all of us to start preparing for the potential of a more long-term closure. As of now, there is no definitive date on when schools will be able to reopen. All decisions about reopening will be made locally in conjunction with public health officials.

As such, we have been finalizing plans for our transition to distance learning. An overview is included below:

### **District Instructional Plan and Timeline**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Focus</b>
1-2		<b>Phase 1: Optional Learning</b>
	March 13- March 27	(No formal instruction, teachers connecting with students and families over <a href="#">Optional Learning Resources</a> , technology distribution to teachers and students)
		Teacher training and professional development
		<b>Phase 2: Optional Learning</b>
3	March 30- April 3	Teacher training and professional development
		Teachers reach out to students to assess readiness and preparation to move to Distance Learning
		<b>Phase 3: Back to School if the Situation Allows</b>
4	April 6-10	(If not, launch Distance Learning)
5	April 13-17	Spring Break

6+ April 20-  
TBD **Phase 4: Continue Distance Learning**  
(Based on guidelines from the State)

During the optional learning period, through April 3, teachers will continue to connect with students and families and be available to answer questions.

When we transition to distance learning, students will engage in assignments given by their teachers, collaborate virtually with classmates, and receive feedback on their work from their teachers. Teachers will be reaching out to students through email, Google Classroom, Canvas, or other technology to establish a distance learning plan. The California Department of Education has provided guidance that during this time, attendance, assignments, and assessments should be used only for the purposes of measuring student progress, not to penalize students. Thus, while students might receive feedback for the work they are turning in, the assignments will not earn credit nor count toward their grades, official report card, or transcript.

Our leadership team and our teachers are committed to providing the highest quality online instruction, and remain dedicated to your students' learning, even with the physical closure of our campuses. As you know, this is an incredibly dynamic situation. We will continue to re-examine our plan, and be guided by our state leadership and regularly communicate with you as we adapt.

On a related note: the College Board has canceled the May 2, 2020 SAT. The College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as feasible. They have not yet canceled the June 6, 2020, SAT administration and will continue to assess its status. The College Board is also developing tools to mitigate the impact of school closures on students in the Advanced Placement Program. The AP Program is finalizing streamlined AP Exam options that would allow students to test at home, depending on the situation in May.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Our custodial, maintenance, and operations staff have been hard at work, cleaning our campuses and classrooms in our students' absence. A sincere thank you to our hard-working staff who have stepped up to ensure our schools remain safe, clean, and well-maintained during our closures.

Please remember: the purpose of school closures is to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please adhere to [social distancing orders](#) issued by the County of San Diego. All schools and District offices are closed, with the exception of essential personnel.

Again, thank you, for your patience and support. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

Marian Kim Phelps, Ed.D.