



October 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thanks for all that you have done to support your children with distance learning this school year. I would like to encourage all of you to review our *AUSD Plan for Reopening Schools* and the *AUSD Elementary Waiver Application*. Both of these documents are available on our district website.

Over two weeks ago I shared that the District was beginning the process of developing an Elementary Waiver Application. The Board of Trustees will consider the approval of the Elementary Waiver Application at their next meeting on October 6, 2020 and if approved will be submitted to the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department for their review on October 7, 2020. If approved by our County Public Health Department we will be aiming to transition to in-person (Option B in our Reopening Plan) for the primary elementary grades on November 2, 2020. This will be followed shortly by a second phase of the upper elementary grades.

All parents will have the opportunity to choose which of the three educational models will work best for your family. The choices will be In-person (this schedule will be the same as currently used with distance learning), Distance Learning, and Independent Study. We are planning to provide this information on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, to all parents and guardians and will ask at that time for you to make your choice. Here is a further description of in-person instruction.

**In-Person Instruction:** The following conditions and requirements apply.

- Reduced class size to allow for physical distancing in the classroom
- Reduced school day (approximately 2.5 hours)
- Distance learning to be done at home to complete the school day
- Face coverings are required for all students at all times
- Students are required to use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the classroom
- No sharing of objects
- No transportation (except for students with IEP's)
- No access to communal spaces such as, cafeteria, library, and playground

Please understand that these requirements are coming from state and county public health agencies and we are required to have these in place in order to have students return to the campuses.

As you would expect the health and safety of our students and staff are the top priority as we work with both of our employee associations. Below is a summary of our strategies to provide safe learning environments.

### **Summary of Strategies to Reduce the Transmission of COVID-19 in Schools**

- **Face Coverings:** Students and staff will be required to correctly and consistently wear face coverings on all AUSD campuses and in all classrooms.
- **Physical Distancing:** Students and staff will maintain a distance of 6 feet between people to the greatest extent possible.
- **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:** Staff will teach, reinforce, and monitor student hand sanitizing upon entry to all classroom settings. Staff and students will be expected to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then immediately wash their hands or apply hand sanitizer.
- **Contact Tracing:** In collaboration with the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department we will employ systematic contact tracing of infected students and staff.
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting:** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses as much as practicable.
- **Adequate Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies:** Healthy hygiene will be supported by an appropriate and available supply of hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, and tissue. Schools will be fully supplied with all cleaning and disinfecting products and equipment.
- **Staying Home when Sick:** Educate and encourage staff and families about staying home when they feel sick.
- **Alternating Student Schedules:** Option B in our Academic Reopening Plan will utilize alternate schedules with fixed cohorts of students to decrease class size, promote social distancing, and incorporate staggered arrival and departure times to limit contact between individuals as much as possible.
- **Campus Access:** Limit all non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations to the greatest extent possible.
- **Ventilation and Communal Spaces:** Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of fresh outdoor air throughout the classroom. All communal spaces, such as, cafeterias and libraries will be closed.

Thanks so much for all you do to support our students.

Sincerely,



Tom Butler, Superintendent