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October 9, 2020

RE: TK-5th Grade In-Person Instruction

Dear COJUSD Parents/Guardians,

The intent of this letter is to provide you important details about the District's waiver request submitted to Tulare County Health Department (TCHD) and District Schools reopening for grades TK-6. The submission of the waiver does not guarantee the COJUSD schools will open. The approval of the waiver request does allow for schools in the District to open for in-person learning with very strict guidelines. Currently, the district is contemplating an opening date for in-person learning for grades TK, K, 1, 2 on or around the week of November 2. There are many factors that will be analyzed before moving forward with a start date. The School Board of Education and District Administration will be discussing the current state of COVID-19 cases in the area as well as the feasibility of opening up schools during the winter season.

In preparation for this decision the District will need information from parents to plan for the families choosing to remain in Distance Learning and families choosing in-person learning on the Hybrid Schedule. Parents will receive specific information from their School Principals about the opening date and the process and procedures to follow when students will return for in-person learning.

The Tulare County Health Department and the California Department of Public Health has very strict guidelines for reopening schools. We must also follow all the requirements of SB98 (distance learning education law) that require a minimum amount of minutes and documentation for instruction during COVID-19 pandemic. According to SB98 regulations students in every grade must have a minimum amount of instructional minutes and must also have daily live interaction from a certificated teacher. The safety of students is of the utmost importance and many health and sanitation requirements must be met for students to be on campus. In order to social distance students we must not have more than 15 students in a classroom. Classes will be divided into two groups to meet this requirement. In preparation the District has outlined processes and procedures to meet all safety and health requirements for in-person instruction. These procedures are posted on the District Website.

The District has planned for the return of students in phases. The first and second phase has been implemented with small group instruction, learning hubs and preschool students starting in-person learning. **The third phase of students' return is grades TK, K, 1st, and 2nd that could possibly begin with in-person instruction on or around the week of November 2 (first day of Trimester 2).** Grades 3, 4, and 5 are phase 4. Below is information about the in-person instruction.

- Students in **grades TK, Kindergarten and Dual Immersion**
 - Students will be on an **AM or PM Schedule** (see attached).
 - Students on this schedule will attend school every day and will also be responsible for 30-75 minutes of assignments at home depending on the grade level.
- Students in **grades 1 and 2**
 - Students will be on an **A/B Schedule** (see attached). We will be ensuring all families are placed in the same group. Students on this schedule will be coming to school two-to-three days a week.
 - Students in **Schedule A** will attend school Monday, Wednesday and every other Friday.
 - Students in **Schedule B** will attend school on Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday.
 - Students will be responsible for assignments at home and for a Zoom session with the teacher if they are not receiving in-person instruction that day.

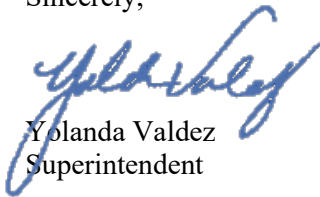
- Students in **grades 3, 4, and 5**
 - Students will also be on an **A/B Schedule** and will follow all the requirements as in **grades 1 and 2**
 - A start date for this group will follow after phase 3 group has started in-person learning.

All students in these schedules will not be eating at school to minimize COVID-19 exposure. Parents will need to ensure students have eaten breakfast before dropping them off at school and they must be fed after being picked up from school. The meal programs will continue throughout the community and students will receive a “grab-n-go” meal bag upon dismissal daily.

Parents can choose for their students to remain in Distance learning. If you chose for your student to remain in Distance learning, please fill out the attached *Distance Learning Option Form* and return it to your students’ school no later than **Thursday, October 16. The Distance Learning Option will require students to remain in Distance Learning until the end of Trimester 2 which ends February 26. **If parents have not submitted a *Distance Learning Option Form* to the school office by October 16, we will assume your student will be returning to in-person instruction.****

Keeping our schools open will require a strong partnership of health and safety. The attached flyer entitled “Covid-19 Screening for Parent” is very important to understand and follow. Your School Principal will be providing you detailed information in upcoming days about your students’ grouping, schedule and safety for the return to school. Please don’t hesitate to call your student’s school office if you have any questions. These are difficult times, but we know our students are ready for in-person learning. We hope that working together we can keep our children healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Valdez
Superintendent