



OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez
Superintendent

March 19, 2020

Dear PVUSD Staff, Teachers, and Administration,

Thank you to all of the staff members, teachers and administrators who have been working tirelessly to ensure that our students have continuity of high-quality learning, access to technology and internet through our Chromebook distribution, and over 4,300 breakfasts and lunches provided to students daily. Combining our strong efforts with our important community partners such as the Second Harvest Food Bank, Cruzio and PVPSA is helping us to provide reassurance to our students and families during this challenging time.

Over the last several days, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve and change. As noted in my letter to the community, on March 16, the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Health issued a “Shelter in Place” order. This terminology can be confusing for those of us in education as we often associate that term with an emergency response to a different scenario. However, in this case of COVID-19, the “Shelter in Place” order for Santa Cruz County means that all individuals should shelter at their place of residence except to leave in order to access essential services or engage in essential activities and work for essential businesses and government services. School districts will remain in operation to provide essential services to students and families including, but not limited to, food service and high-quality educational opportunities facilitated by staff to students through distance learning.

All certificated staff continue to work from home to develop distance learning resources for this multiple week closure. Teachers have leaned on each other to find ways to collaborate with each other to curate these materials. Both the Technology Department and Educational Services Department will continue to place additional instructional materials on the PVUSD Learn from Home Resource website, <https://sites.google.com/pvUSD.net/learnfromhomeresources/home?authuser=0>, including weekly planning templates, VAPA resources, and Systematic ELD resources. Virtual/online trainings will continue to be held for teachers throughout the closure to support distance learning. In addition to the trainings, starting Monday, March 23, 2020, at 8:00am, teachers may call the Teacher Technology Hotline at 831-786-2492 for technology or instructional technology support. Please be patient as we assess the appropriate staffing level for this hotline in order to meet the need.

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In addition to the supports noted above, teachers and staff can access Language Line if they need translation support in order to speak with a non-English speaking parent. Staff can access an interpreter by calling 1-866-874-3972, providing the client identification number 598999 and indicating the language in need. Staff will need to provide the goal of the session and provide any specific instructions. A quick reference guide is available under the COVID-19 tab of our website. Staff may also use Google Voice or Remind App to communicate with students and parents without using their personal cell phone number. Google Voice provides a U.S. telephone number, chosen by the user from available numbers in selected area codes, free of charge to each Google user account. Calls to this number are forwarded to telephone numbers that each user must configure in the account web portal. Multiple destinations may be specified that ring simultaneously for incoming calls.

Kindergarten through second grade teachers will provide their first weekly instructional packet for their students to their site administrator by Friday, March 20, 2020 so it can be reproduced. These packets will then be available for parents to pick up on Monday, March 23, 2020 at their school site from 8:00am-10:00am and 3:30-5:30pm. Parents will pick up a new packet and drop off their completed packet every Monday. Teachers will pick up their students' completed packets every Friday. The four-day delay between the delivery and pick up of the packets will ensure the instructional packets are safe for teacher review.

To prepare for distance learning, all Chromebooks located at PVUSD sites serving grades 3-12 have been cleaned by Advance Cleaning 365, Innovative Cleaning Solutions or Unified Janitor. Our Technology Department and Expanded Cabinet have worked together to prepare the Chromebooks for distribution which will start today and will continue over the next several days. If asked, please refer your students and parents to the website to identify the date and time for them to pick up their device. Once the students in grades 3-12 have received their Chromebooks, we will begin distribution of remaining Chromebooks to 2nd grade students through teacher request to their site administrator. Students and parents will also have a Community Technology Hotline that they can access for technology support starting Monday, March 23, 2020 at 831-786-2493 at 8am.

Over the past several weeks, the District has already secured 750 hot spots from T-Mobile that will be available to students that do not have access to internet at home. These hotspots will be made available to students and families when they check out their Chromebooks. We will also inform parents of Charter's offer of free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, parents will be able to call 1-844-488-8395. The installation fees will be waived for new student households. Lastly, Cruzio has committed to providing internet access to any PVUSD parent without current access. Parents can provide their contact information during the pick-up of their child's Chromebook so that Cruzio can follow up with the families.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a new experience for all of us, both personally and professionally. We are poised to make a positive impact on our students, families and community when they need to be reconnected to the teachers, staff and school system in their lives most. Thank you for your collaboration, professionalism, and commitment to supporting our students and families in this time of change and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Rodriguez', with a long, sweeping underline.

Michelle Rodriguez, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools