

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez Superintendent March 26, 2020

Dear PVUSD Teachers, Staff and Administration,

Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued collaboration and compassion during this time of great disruption in our personal and professional lives. Together we have accomplished so much preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. This week our students, families, teachers, staff and administrators were ready for distance learning as a result of great efforts by so many: teachers, instructional support staff, site administrators, Education Services and Technology Services staff prepared distance learning experiences for their students. Technology Services staff and Expanded Cabinet distributed 15,000 Chromebooks and power cords to students, 750 hotspots were inventoried and distributed to students. K-2 instructional packets were copied and provided to students, the Teacher Tech Hotline responded to 261 calls in two days, the Community Tech Hotline responded to 604 calls in two days, coordination with free and low-cost internet providers to close the digital divide. Business Services and other District Office service areas maintained operational and fiscal health, and Food Services staff distributed 46,900 meals to students the week of March 16-20 alone. We are collectively modeling resilience and dedication to our students, colleagues, families and community at this important time.

At the PVUSD Board meeting last night, Trustees approved the Administration's recommendation to extend the closure of all schools through May 5th with schools reopening on May 6, 2020. Please note there is the possibility that the school closure date could be extended further as we follow guidance from county, state and federal authorities and work together to slow the spread of COVID-19.

PVUSD has been and will continue to adhere to guidance from state authorities with regard to COVID-19. Governor Gavin Newsom's March 13, Executive Order #N-26-20, provided guidance to ensure that schools continue to receive funding and outlined four critical areas schools should pursue:

- Distance learning and independent study
- School meal delivery
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Child care and supervision

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During this extended period of school closure, PVUSD teachers, staff and administrators remain essential workers. Additional district and site operations and services will need to be reinstated as the school closure timeline is now extended. Staff supporting these operations and services may or may not be able to continue to work remotely. Our priority is and will continue to be maintenance of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines such as adhering to social distancing, reducing density protocols at sites and the District Office and working remotely when possible. Please watch for more details regarding these changes after April 6, 2020. All school sites are being professionally sanitized with work to be completed by April 6. After this date, we will determine a schedule and guidelines that allow teachers and staff to briefly and safely access their instructional and work spaces if necessary.

Please know that our commitment to serve the whole child remains at this critical time. We are also aware that teachers, staff and administrators maintain significant connections with students and families, including those who are facing uncertainty which directly impacts emotional well-being. We are appreciative that many of you are reaching out in positive and creative ways to keep that connection alive at this time.

Please ensure you are also taking time to care for yourself, your family, friends and colleagues.

PVUSD is committed to ensuring that students, families, teachers, staff and administrators are aware of and have access to our strong ecosystem of PVUSD resources and community partners who continue to connect with, support and engage our students and staff in reimagined ways. Many are playing a vital role in supporting whole child needs. Below is a partial list of key district and community support systems in place for staff and families; we encourage you to visit our website, the Parent or COVID-19 tabs, and explore the links created to support our community through this time.

PVUSD supports:

- Distance Learning Resources for Teachers: https://sites.google.com/pvusd.net/learnfromhomeresources/home?authuser=0
- Staff and Teacher Tech Support Line: 786-2492
- Tech Support Line for Students, Families, Community, Partners: 786-2493
- PVUSD.net, Parent Tab for resources for families
- PVUSD.net, Student Services support, including academic and social emotional counselors

Ecosystem of community partners and supports:

- <u>Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance</u>: Preventative education, training, and counseling services, virtual parent support group meetings
- Second Harvest Food Bank: Food Insecurities
- Salud Para La Gente: Health care
- 2-1-1: Connection to available critical health and human services
- Youth Now: Tutoring services
- Digital Nest: Innovative ways to engage and support students
- <u>UCSC Educational Partnership Centers (EPC)</u>: Supporting college and career readiness

With patience, flexibility and the PVUSD collaborative spirit, we will continue to learn together. We will offer our students effective distance learning and communication tools, access to social emotional support, and help our families feel connected and supported through this unique shared experience. Our togetherness will allow us to come out of this a stronger and more united community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rodriguez, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools