



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #1—Week of April 6, 2020

**1. When are students going back to school? What is the next school year going to look like? Will we still be doing distance learning like we are now or are we going to be in the classrooms?**

All school districts in California and throughout the majority of the United States will be closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. The expectation is that we will see the decline of the COVID-19 pandemic within the next several months and therefore we will be able to return to our schools for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Next school year is scheduled to start on Monday, August 17, 2020 in our classrooms and schools.

**2. Why does K-2 not have a Google classroom for distribution of instructional materials?**

Originally, we only selected students in grades 3-12 to receive the Chromebooks as we knew that older students could independently log into the digital programs without parent support as they all engage with the technology on a daily basis. Since the closure was extended, we are now providing students in grades 1-2 with Chromebooks as well. To ensure access, parents and students are supported by staff through the Community Technology Hotline, 786-2493. With their Chromebooks, first and second grade students will now be able to learn from a more blended approach which may include both instructional packets and digital programs.

**3. What is going to happen for Prom and Graduation Ceremonies?**

The Health Department, State and Federal mandates to practice physical (“social”) distancing has led to a sudden and disruptive shift of our collective lives impacting traditional activities in schools, and classrooms throughout the nation. While it will not be possible to hold prom or engage in a typical graduation, we are committed to making a memorable experience for our students and families. We will be meeting with Site Administration, Student Representatives, Activities Directors, and District Partners next week to reach consensus on an elevated experience that will best serve our students and families in celebrating our students while adhering to social distancing. We are committed to making a memorable experience for our students and families. Please watch for more details as we find a creative way to celebrate our seniors and graduates. We acknowledge the communal sense of loss for what would have been as we move forward and make the required changes in our lives.

**4. Do seniors still need to complete their community services hours?**

Due to the Shelter in Place and Stay at Home orders requiring physical distancing, we have suspended the community service requirement for all 2020 seniors. Students that did complete the hours do not need to provide that information to their high schools.

**5. How can low-income families get internet access for Chromebooks if they currently don't have Wi-Fi?**

PVUSD is committed to closing the digital divide to enable equity in distance learning. We have provided 750 hot spots to our families. We have an additional 250 hotspots expected to arrive later this week. We have a list of students currently without internet access and will contact them when we

receive the additional hotspots. We are also anticipating the arrival of requested hotspots from the California Department of Education and Google and Digital Promise to provide to families. As a long-term solution, we are working with multiple local internet providers, including Cruzio and Charter Spectrum to provide internet to households. On March 30, 2020, Cruzio installed the first set of free Internet in students' homes that live in Watsonville.

**6. If my hotspot provided by the school runs out and my family can't afford internet what can I do?**

The new T9 Hotspots that PVUSD passed out have unlimited data. Although on the screen it looks like it will only provide 20GB a month, it is actually unlimited. It will not run out or slow down no matter how much it is used. The local internet provider, Cruzio, is providing free internet for qualifying families for three months.

**7. Will I be able to register my daughter for kindergarten?**

Kindergarten on-line registration packets are available through the PVUSD website starting on April 13. If parents do not have access to the online registration, a registration packet can be picked up in-person starting Monday, April 20. Parents will be able to pick up and return completed packets on any Monday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM at sites. Office staff and administration at each site can assist parents as well; please note that families will need to leave a voicemail but they will receive a call back from the site.

Our traditional Kindergarten Roundup is currently being planned for late May/early June. Kindergarten Roundup is an important assessment process necessary to complete registration where incoming students and families meeting with staff, including Language Assessment Resource Center, Healthy Start, and nurse/health assistant. We will have flyers and banners posted at all schools, shared via social media and all information will be on our website, under the Enrollment tab.

**8. If the schools are closed, how can we register migrant students coming from Mexico?**

If parents want to register their child, they can make an appointment with the Student Services Department by calling 786-2390. They will explain what parents need to bring to the appointment. When the parents arrive for their appointment, the Student Services Department will provide them with the paperwork to fill out and any other assistance they may need. When the paperwork is given back to Student Services Department, they will scan it to the appropriate school. The school will then register the student, contact the parents and schedule the student into classes. This process is used for all new students. PVUSD has already welcomed eight students since the shelter in place began.

**9. Is summer school an option? If so, how would students sign up?**

Given the Shelter in Place and Stay at Home orders requiring physical distancing and the unknown trajectory of the COVID pandemic, we must put the health and well-being of our students and community first. Therefore, we will not host a traditional, physical, summer school this year. However, PVUSD remains committed to ensuring our students have access to learning opportunities over the summer and is very excited to announce summer options for continued growth, credit recovery and engagement:

- For students in grades 9-12, credit recovery opportunities will be available through Edgenuity, as in the past. Students will be able to enroll in Edgenuity's online, A-G approved courses. Applications will be available in May for the June session. Please contact the Extended Learning office at 786-2360 or [extended\\_learning@pvusd.net](mailto:extended_learning@pvusd.net) for more information.
- For students in grades K-8, we will provide a Summer Learning Packet with resources and materials to allow students to continue hands-on, project-based learning. Additional enrichment

opportunities will be provided in collaboration with our partner organizations such as City of Watsonville Parks and Community Services, Watsonville PAL, YMCA, Wetlands Watch, and Santa Cruz Arts Council. We also plan on expanding our literacy program that was established last year in partnership with Watsonville Public Library. Students will not need to pre-register in order to participate. More information on these programs will be shared next month.

- In early August, two additional opportunities will be provided to support high-needs students who will be transitioning from elementary to middle and middle to high school. As in the past, rising 6th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a Jump Start program and rising 9th grade students will also have the opportunity to attend Bridge to High School. These programs are scheduled to be offered at various sites. More information will be shared at a later time.

#### **10. How can I help my daughter with speech and learning disability? What can I do so she won't stay behind?**

One of the best things to do is reach out to your special education teacher and speech pathologist. They are able to answer questions and give you tips on what to do to support your child in specific ways. Additionally, to expand support options, SELPA/Special Services created [this easy online form](#) for families to use to contact a specialist with a specific question. Families can also call the SELPA office for support at 786-2130. Special education teachers at the elementary level have created a document targeted to address IEP goals with all service providers attached. This document has resources, accommodation/ modifications and contacts for providers. Secondary teachers have the same, or they are using Google classroom to connect with their students and provide support to families. SELPA/Special Services has a [Website](#) with resources for information and activities that parents can complete at home. This time of school closure can be challenging so do not put too much pressure on yourself. Have realistic expectations, set up a routine, and praise your child for the work they do. Having fun together is helpful for the learning process.