



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #25 – Week of September 28, 2020

*Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.*

**1. I heard that certificated staff were getting all new laptops. When will we receive them?**

Technology Services has done everything possible to expedite the purchase, shipping, provisioning and eventual deployment of new devices for teachers that need a new high quality device. They will be arriving in several batches over this month and they will work very hard to get them out to teachers throughout the month. They should have the first batch ready to go by the end of next week. They cannot at this time say when the deployment will be completed for all teachers needing a new device because they do not have an exact date from the vendor on shipping of the final batch.

**2. It is my understanding that teachers will be receiving new chrome books/laptops in October. I work as a SPED Instructional Assistant for PVUSD & was curious as to whether or not we would also be getting better devices?**

Yes, Technology Services will be able to provide SPED Instructional Assistants with devices that have larger screen sizes and improved hardware once they complete the teacher device deployment.

**3. The district knew the new teacher Lenovo chrome books have bad hardware. You all connected the dots weeks ago yet no one has officially informed me and teachers are still using them. Why?**

The new Lenovo laptops do not have bad hardware. After some testing, Technology Services did identify an issue caused by a software/driver problem conflicting with the Chrome OS running on some Lenovo devices. PVUSD Technicians have been working with Lenovo and Google engineers to get this resolved. They will be pushing out the fix as soon as it is made available. This issue should not make these devices unusable.

Whenever there is a serious technical issue, teachers should work directly with School Site Technicians to get a replacement device, or contact the help desk, and Technology Staff will come up with a solution, or find a replacement device to make sure that distance learning is supported to the best of their ability. There has been a challenge purchasing and receiving new devices during the COVID-19 situation, Technology Services is doing everything they can to deploy the best hardware and software possible to support teachers district-wide with distance learning instruction.

**4. I heard about some new fund to support students without internet at home. What is that about?**

Several low-cost internet options are currently available in our community. On the PVUSD website main page click on Tech Links, then click on Low Cost Internet Option on the left side. There you will find options from Spectrum and AT&T that are also shared below. Additionally, Cruzio will be launching expanded coverage in the Watsonville area within a few weeks including low-cost options. When their system is up and running we will share the information on how to apply.

The fund you may be referring to is [Equal Access Santa Cruz County](#): Cruzio Internet and the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County have teamed up to generate funding for our work to bridge the digital divide and get fast, dependable, and affordable internet to families in need. PVUSD is collaborating with these efforts.

## **SPECTRUM INTERNET ASSIST:**

### **Internet for \$14.99/month through Spectrum includes:**

- High-speed 30 Mbps Internet with no data caps
- Internet modem
- No contracts required
- Add in-home WiFi for \$5 more per month

**To qualify for Spectrum Internet Assist, a member of the household must be a recipient of one of the following programs:**

- The National School Lunch Program (NSLP); free or reduced cost lunch
- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the NSLP
- Supplemental Security Income ( $\geq$  age 65 only)

**For more information and to apply go to: [Spectrum Internet Assist](#)**

## **INTERNET FROM AT&T:**

### **Internet for just \$10 a month:**

If you are a California resident and at least one person in your household is a SNAP participant or receives SSI benefits you may qualify for Internet for \$10 a month through AT&T. Visit [att.com/access](http://att.com/access) for complete information and to apply, or call 1-855-220-5211.

**5. I am worried about my child and distance learning. What can I do as a parent to support him?**

We appreciate all of the support our parents, caregivers and community partners have provided our students. Our teachers, staff and administrators are working tirelessly to provide the best distance learning opportunities and our partnership with parents is

crucial to the success of our students. To best support your child, we ask that you or the caregiver of your child help with the following five areas:

- a) Ensure that your child is aware of the time and is ready and online when noted in their weekly planner. The synchronous learning, both whole group and small group, is key to their learning and students should be online during that time.
- b) Ask your child to keep their camera on whenever possible. It is important for teachers and staff to be able to build a better connection and provide instructional and behavioral feedback to your child.
- c) Find the quietest location with a chair and flat surface when possible
- d) Pass by your child's screen once in a while to check that they are on the right screen and not distracted with other websites, videos or games.
- e) Provide positive encouragement and feedback to your child for their participation and engagement in distance learning. Their teachers, peers and administrators are happy to see them each day.

**6. Why would a teacher wear a face mask during their class? They are at home and wear the mask throughout the entire music class. It just makes it more difficult to understand and engage without seeing the facial expressions and mouth.**

There are a range of reasons for why a staff member would be wearing a mask during instructional time. Therefore, I encourage you to reach out to the teacher with the feedback. It is important to note that due to internet connection needs and access to materials, many staff members are not teaching from home and therefore safeguard their health through the use of masks. We have personal protective equipment on site for all of our staff including face masks and face shields to use upon their return.

**7. Aptos has 103 cases in 2020, the majority of them are recovered. This is an infection rate for Aptos of .0039%, which is very low. What justification is there for keeping students in 3 elementary schools, one middle school and a high school on distance learning when there is a .0039% infection rate for the community, we qualify for the state waiver and private schools in Aptos have returned to the classroom?**

On August 28, Governor Newsom introduced a new statewide monitoring system for COVID-19 named the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) that sets forth new implications for resuming in-person instruction. Every county in California has been assigned a level based on test positivity and adjusted case rate by county, not by specific cities within the county. Further, the Blueprint specifies that each county must be able to remain in a level for at least three weeks before becoming eligible to move to a less restrictive level. Once a county meets this requirement, they must meet the next level's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned to a more restrictive level.

On Tuesday, September 8, Santa Cruz County moved from Widespread (purple) to the Substantial (red) level. However, our local public health authorities do anticipate our County may return to the Widespread level. While schools officially became eligible to provide in-person services to students in Santa Cruz County on September 21, 2020 there are a number of local requirements that schools and districts must take into consideration.

Should our county return to the Widespread (purple) level, which our local public health authorities anticipate will happen in the coming weeks, school districts would need to consider halting in-person services once again. This can be destabilizing, confusing and traumatic for students, as well as challenging for parents, teachers, and school staff to implement.

The Governor’s Blueprint revised the criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities by introducing the following designated risk levels:

<b>County Risk Level:</b>	<b>Impact on School Opening</b>
<b>Widespread</b> Many non-essential indoor businesses are closed	Schools in the Widespread (purple) level are not permitted to reopen to most students for in-person instruction, unless they receive a waiver from their local health department for TK-6 grades. Waivers have not been issued within Santa Cruz County. Schools are able to offer instruction to small groups of students.
<b>Substantial</b> Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	Schools can reopen for in-person instruction once their county has been in the Substantial (red) level for at least two weeks. Schools are able to offer instruction to small groups of students.
<b>Moderate</b> Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	Schools may reopen fully for in-person instruction. Local school officials will decide whether and when that will occur.
<b>Minimal</b> Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Schools may reopen fully for in-person instruction. Local school officials will decide whether and when that will occur.
<b>Source: California Blueprint for a Safer Economy, <a href="https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/">covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/</a></b>	

PVUSD feels strongly that the decision to provide in-person services should be made carefully and based on a variety of local indicators and the ability to secure surveillance

testing in order to prevent a surge in COVID-19 cases and keep our students, staff, and families as safe as possible. PVUSD is currently taking all necessary steps to ensure we are ready to return when health conditions permit including establishing surveillance testing with Stanford University and completing facility improvements including repairs to HVAC systems, roofs and windows.

**8. Regarding Sports ; there were dates sent out referencing practice start dates etc. for each sport, have they changed? Is there participation in sports in middle schools and high schools still taking place?**

Currently, the dates for California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) have not changed. The dates are noted below. We are currently conditioning for sports at the high school level following California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines. We will allow athletic participation at both the middle school and high school level following both CIF and CDPH guidelines as we return back to campus.

<b>2020-21 CCS Sports Calendar</b>			
<i>as of 9/17/2020</i>			
<b>Season 1</b>	<b>Practice Start Date</b>	<b>First Day of Contests</b>	<b>Section Final Date</b>
Cross Country	12/14/2020	12/28/2020	3/20/2020
Field Hockey	12/14/2020	12/28/2020	3/20/2020
Football	12/14/2020	1/8/2020	4/10/2020
Gymnastics	12/14/2020	12/28/2020	3/17/2021
Water Polo	12/14/2020	12/28/2020	3/13/2020
Volleyball	12/14/2020	12/28/2020	3/13/2020
<b>Season 2</b>	<b>Practice Start Date</b>	<b>First Day of Contests</b>	<b>Section Final Date</b>
Badminton	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	5/22/2021
Comp. Sport Cheer	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	N/A
Boys Golf	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	6/8/2021
Girls Golf	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	6/9/2021
Soccer	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	5/29/2021
Tennis-Team	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	5/29/2021
Tennis-Individual	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	TBD
Swimming & Dive	3/8/2021	3/22/2021	5/29/2021
Wrestling	3/15/2021	3/29/2021	6/5/2021
Basketball	3/15/2021	3/29/2021	6/12/2021
Baseball	3/15/2021	3/29/2021	6/19/2021
Lacrosse	3/15/2021	3/29/2021	6/17/2021
Softball	3/15/2021	3/29/2021	6/19/2021

**9. My understanding is that in January if schools reopen, parents may opt to finish the year with virtual instruction. Many teachers may have reasons to continue virtual instruction as well. Is the district trying to find ways to keep all of their stakeholders (students/staff) safe?**

Students and parents will have the option to continue with distance learning throughout the second semester. As with the PVUSD Virtual Academy, the proportionate number of teachers and staff compared to students will be able to continue with distance learning as well. Priority placement for staff will be given based on health conditions.

**10. Do we have access to Google Voice?**

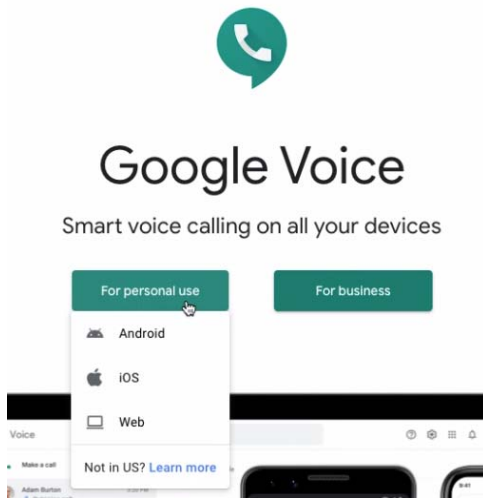
We have a limited number of Google Voice licenses available for PVUSD staff. If you created a Google Voice number and used it significantly between March and July 2020, your account was renewed. If you did not use it significantly, your account was discontinued. You can still create a Google Voice number for free but will need to do so using a personal Google account. Click [here](#) to learn how to create a Google account.

Google Voice allows you to create a phone number to use when making or receiving phone calls, text messages, and voicemails. That way, you can share the Google Voice number rather than your personal phone number. You can link this Google Voice number to your cell phone number in order to use your cell phone for Google Voice calls if you choose. Or, you can make and receive calls from your computer.

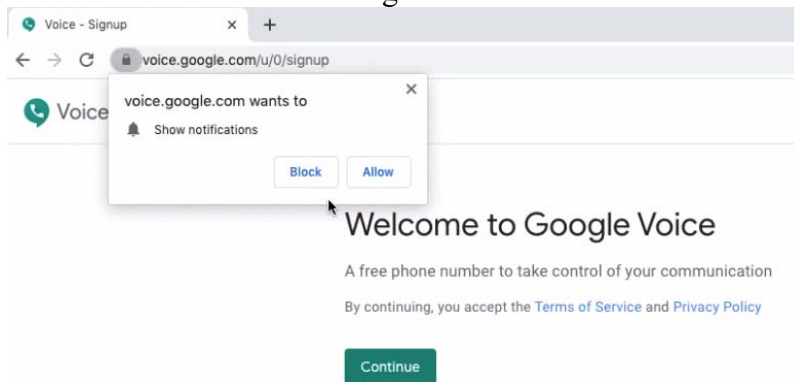
To set up your Google Voice phone number, open your Google Chrome browser and sign in with your personal Google credentials and call the Tech Hotline at 831-786-TECH (831-786-8324).

**Step 1: Go to [voice.google.com](https://voice.google.com)**

Click on the green “For personal use” button, then select where you would like to receive your calls (for most users, select “Web”).



A small window will pop up at the top of your screen asking if you want to show notifications. **Choose “allow”**. You can always turn off notifications later if you don’t like them. Then click the green “Continue” button.

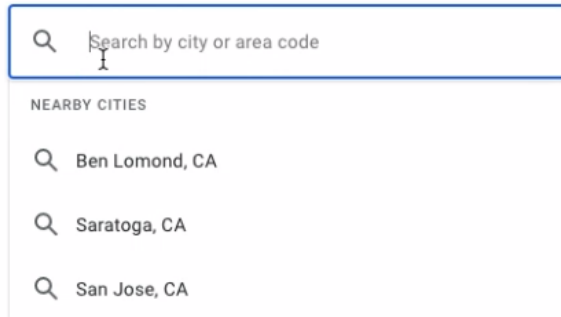


**Step 2:** Search for your location in order to find available Google Voice numbers. Then select a Google Voice number from the list of options.

## Select a Google Voice number

Look for available numbers by city or area code.

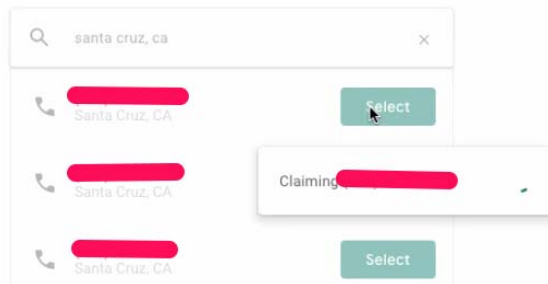
**You must have a US-based mobile or landline phone number to qualify.**



## Select a Google Voice number

Look for available numbers by city or area code.

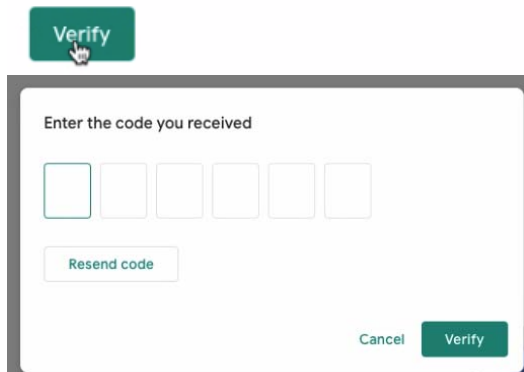
**You must have a US-based mobile or landline phone number to qualify.**



**Step 3:** Verify your number by clicking the green “Verify” button. You will be asked to enter your mobile phone number and then enter the code sent to your phone on the screen. Don’t worry- your mobile phone number will not display anywhere on your Google Voice account!

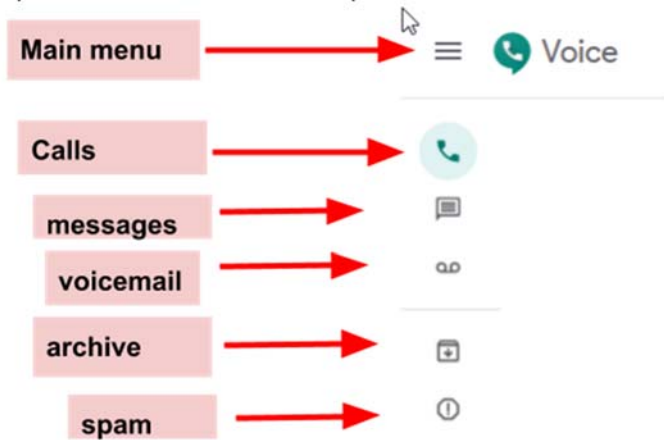
You selected [redacted]

To complete setup and start using Google Voice, you need to verify your existing phone number

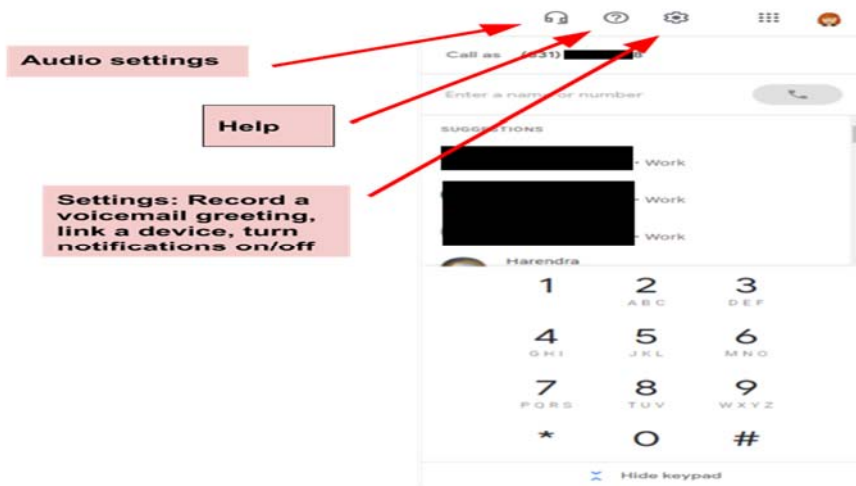


**Step 4:** You will then be taken to the Google Voice dashboard and begin making calls.

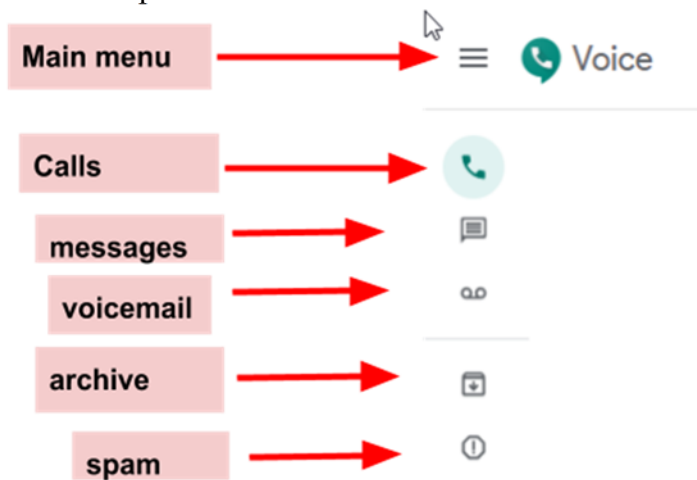
Once you've created a number, you will have the following



options:



To make a phone call make sure to click on the Calls icon on the left



You can then enter a number in the appropriate field and then click on the phone icon next to that field to make the call. You may need to refresh the browser before placing the first call.



