



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #3 – Week of April 20, 2020

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

1. When can we go back to school, like is it a possibility we can get back to school sooner than expected?

This past week, I received several questions from students expressing a desire to return to school as soon as possible. I understand that students want to return to their schools to see their friends, teachers, staff and administrators. We all miss our students as well and want to see them back at their schools as soon as it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, we will not be able to return back to our school sites this year. We still hope to receive our students at the school sites on Monday, August 17, 2020, but note that we are planning for other scenarios.

2. I understand that students will not be returning to school for 2019-20 school year, if the CDC guidelines change, will the students return to school? Perhaps the month of May?

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, and we hope to have students in our classrooms and schools, although we are planning for other scenarios.

3. When will we be able to pick up meds that the kids have in the Nurse's office?

All parents whose children take medication during the school day and have medication in the Health Assistant's Office should have already received a call from the School Nurse to pick up the medication. If you have not received a call, please contact the site principal and they will arrange with you for a pick-up of the medication on a Monday or Friday.

4. I am wondering how issuing No Credit/Incompletes to students who do not engage enough during Distance Learning fits with the state's Hold Harmless Grading Policy. The idea of a senior who had an A-D grade at third quarter who was unable to complete all Distance Learning assignments due to hardship now potentially not graduating does not follow the Hold Harmless Grading Policy. I am having trouble understanding how no student can receive a lower grade than they had at the end of third quarter, but any high school senior whose teacher decides has not engaged enough (which in itself seems nebulous) may not graduate.

If a student is not able to consistently participate, the first step will be to consider a program shift by providing other options such as Independent Study, Adult Education, credit recovery or paper packets. If we are unable to find another option, a committee of stakeholders which could include counselors, teachers, the parent and the student will go through an Interactive

Dialogue Process led by the Assistant Principal. The final decision on whether a student has valid reasons for not participating is determined by the Administration and Student Services and ultimately reviewed by the Assistant Superintendent. The students are held harmless if they cannot participate. They will receive the same grade that they received in the third quarter. Only the students that cannot demonstrate a valid reason for their nonparticipation will receive a noncredit.

5. What do we do about students not participating online even after repeated parent contact by ourselves, staff, and principal?

Similar to the previous answer, we will consider a program shift which varies according to the grade level of the student. Apart from Independent Study, Adult Education, credit recovery or paper packets, the shift could mean a reduction to core subjects or participation in a Bridge or Jump Start program in August. Once the teacher, counselor and principal have all tried to contact the student, the information should be provided to Student Services who will try to make additional contacts with the student and their families.

6. What will happen to the students when their parent is unable or unwilling to help them? Will they be retained or passed? How will you insure equity for all the students?

One of the key reasons for PVUSD's use of the Chromebooks and Google Classroom is to provide work and instruction that is as independent as possible so that parents are not required to instruct the student directly. Students who are unable to engage with Distance Learning will be eligible and enrolled in either Bridge and Jump Start programs in August, after school interventions or winter intersession as determined by need.

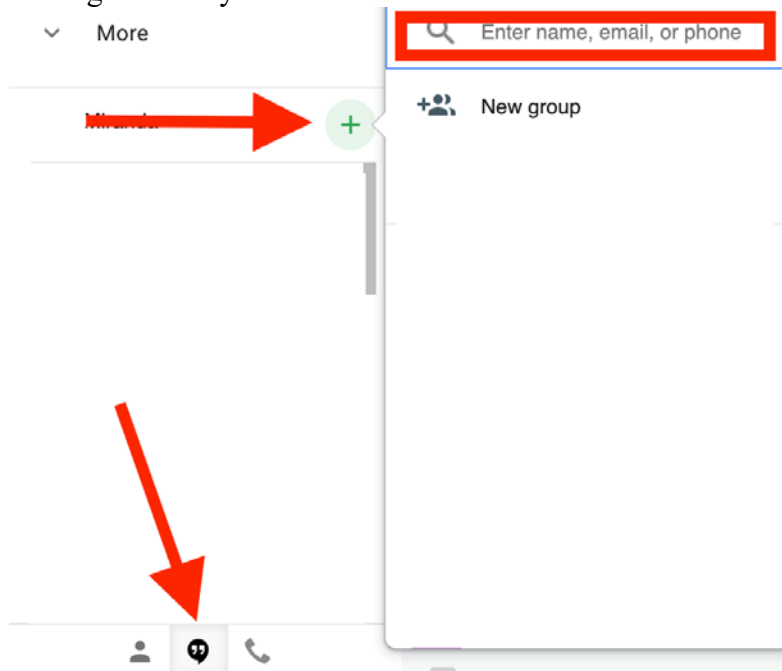
7. Why are PVUSD teachers not offering Zoom or recorded YouTube videos for lessons, especially for math instruction as so many other schools are?

Most of our PVUSD teachers in grades 2-12 are using either Zoom or Google Meet to engage and provide feedback to their students. In the area of mathematics, many teachers are also using Khan Academy or MAP Accelerator as a way to support math instruction with recorded lessons.

8. May teachers get access to instant messaging through the Classroom Relay system to send personalized messages to both individual students and our entire class? I often see students struggling and then rush to 'catch' them by either getting onto a document (only works if that's what they are working on) or messaging the parent through ClassDojo but many parents are working, don't check messages, etc. It has been especially needed during times of troubleshooting for the Chromebooks. The preset messages in Relay (Need help?, Are you done?, Great job) were and are, especially under current conditions, ineffective.

We have asked Classroom Relay in the past if this is a feature they could make available, and they replied that if they were to provide a free-form messaging/ chat feature, that then they would then be required to keep a transcript of all messages sent through their system. Classroom Relay said they are not set up to provide a saved transcript of all communications sent through their program, and thus do not provide free-form messaging in their program.

However, there are some other options for messaging/ chatting with students. Students 3rd grade and up have access to the Google Hangouts Conversations feature in their email. This is an instant messaging tool that can be used to message back and forth with just one student, or multiple students at a time. To access this tool, students and teachers login to their Gmail, and then click on the “Hangouts Conversations/ Chat” icon in the bottom left of the screen. They can then use the “+” sign to start a new conversation with a student (s) or staff member. If students keep this tab open, the tab will notify them when they have a new message instantly.



Another option for students K-12 is to use the stream in Google Classroom to send a message to an individual student or a group of students. To do this, teachers click in the “Share something with your class” field of the stream, and type a message and select the one student or group of students they want to share the message with. Students can then reply to this message directly in Google Classroom too. Only students who the teacher selects will see the messages appear in their stream in Google Classroom. Here is a [video](#) showing those steps.

- 9. Will you be providing speech therapy via google hangout/zoom or a virtual platform? My child is receiving speech through Duncan, so far all it has been are the activity matrices but I know speech therapist offices are doing virtual therapy (tele therapy) wondering why that hasn't started through the district?**

We first provided Chromebooks to all students grades 3-12. After the first week of distance learning, we expanded the distribution of Chromebooks to grades 1-2. We have now provided Duncan Holbert with 100 Chromebooks which will be provided on either May 1 or May 4. We are encouraging the Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) to conduct tele-therapy when it is a good fit for the student and the pathologist. Each family is being

considered individually and many of the SLPs are utilizing some form of tele-therapy. The best plan is made collaboratively to meet the student's needs as they vary in accordance to student goals. They send home activity ideas for things to do at home, printables that are picked up at the school, and links are provided online activities. This is also to support families that are finding online learning and services challenging.

10. I want to register my child. Where do I go to sign up?

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 meet 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.