



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #4 – Week of April 27, 2020

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

**1. My husband gets text messages from the school/district but I don't how can parents be added or how can we sign up?**

We are frequently communicating with our families and it is important that you receive all information. If you have not received a text message or voicemail it may be because we don't have an accurate contact number for you. Please contact your school's Office Manager to ensure your student's information is updated to include your cell phone number as well. It is important to note that office staff may not be available to respond to you in person immediately but please know they will respond to your message at the earliest opportunity.

**2. For the students who didn't go to the DC Trip-what is the status on that? My daughter was scheduled to go 04/05/-04/09/20.**

Washington DC Trips for our 8th graders are facilitated through different vendor companies depending on school site. Depending on the vendor at your school, refund, voucher for a later date, and/or the possibility to reschedule may be offered. The district at this time cannot confirm the rescheduling of the trip until travel restrictions allow for student safety. We will be reassessing and working with the vendors on next steps as County, State and D.C. health and safety guidelines shift. Site principals will have specific information on the options from the vendor used at school sites.

**3. Why is my local elementary school playground closed after school hours and on weekends?**

We recognize the importance of physical activity to our students' health and the use of our facilities as green space for the community. In alignment with County requirements for other public areas, our school grounds are closed to ensure that we protect the health of our community, support the Shelter in Place Order and maintain physical distancing requirements. We will reopen our schools and the grounds once deemed safe by the County Health Department.

**4. Why isn't AJHS closed to the public? School grounds open and children, adults and dogs using it as a dog run /poop yard and a bike track!**

As noted in the previous answer, all school sites are closed with all lockable gates locked to the public. We have signs posted throughout our facilities and law enforcement daily support to ensure compliance. In some cases, school sites, such as AJHS, have multiple entrances to the campus that are not gated. When we see public on campus, our staff and law enforcement notify them of our closure and request that they leave our campus.

**5. Can us parents opt out and continue to have our children study at home? When the shelter in place is over? I am very concerned and have elderly at home, I do not want my kids getting this COVID-19 and bringing it home. At this time, we are all sheltering at home. We take this very seriously.**

The Shelter in Place Order guidelines are determined by the County Health Department. The order is being evaluated by the County Health Department team and updated as conditions change. We have begun our contingency planning for the upcoming school year. The plans will include options for parents to continue with both independent study or distance learning as an educational alternative. All contingency plans will need to comply with current health and safety requirements provided by the County Health Department. More information will be shared before the end of the school year as we begin to work with our stakeholder groups.

**6. For the new grading policy, looking at the 2nd green box on the left, are you taking the Report Card 3rd Quarter Grade from Synergy or Grade Book 3rd Quarter Grade? Those 2 are different for me.**

The 3rd Quarter Report Card Grade is the Official Grade of a student, therefore we will be using this grade rather than the grade book in Synergy.

**7. I am curious why the Hold Harmless Grading Policy for my Middle School student is so drastically different from my High School student? In High School grades are based upon the grade they had when they left in March. In Middle School, they are being graded A-C on distant learning work. Why?**

The middle school students will receive either a credit for an A-C grade in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as determined by the teacher or a non credit for students receiving a D-F in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as determined by the teacher. The PVUSD Hold Harmless Grading Policy guiding principles state that **we must alter how we assess student understanding, provide grades and hold students accountable to support continued student growth.**

Therefore, it follows that:

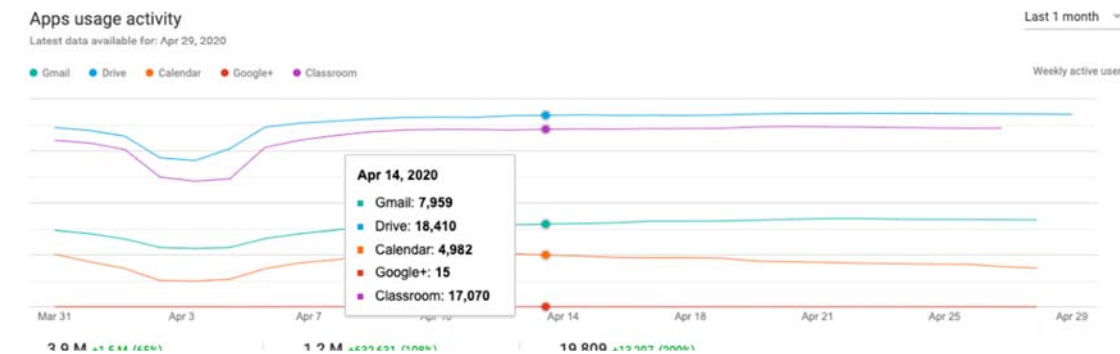
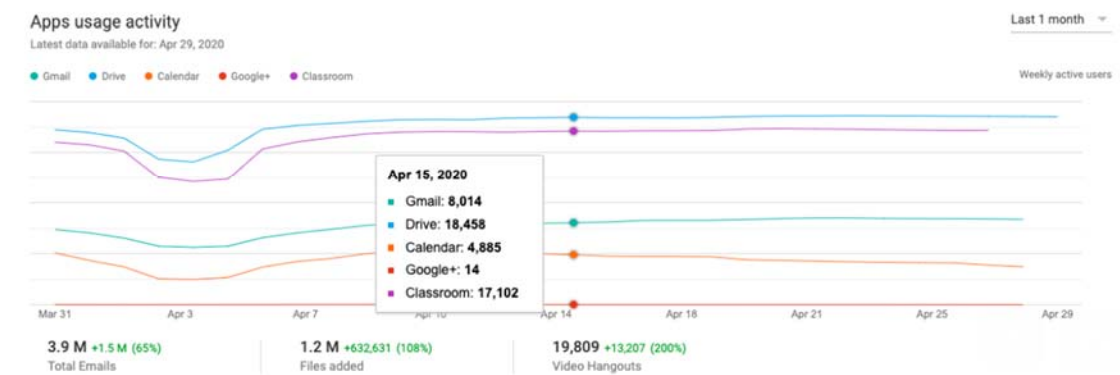
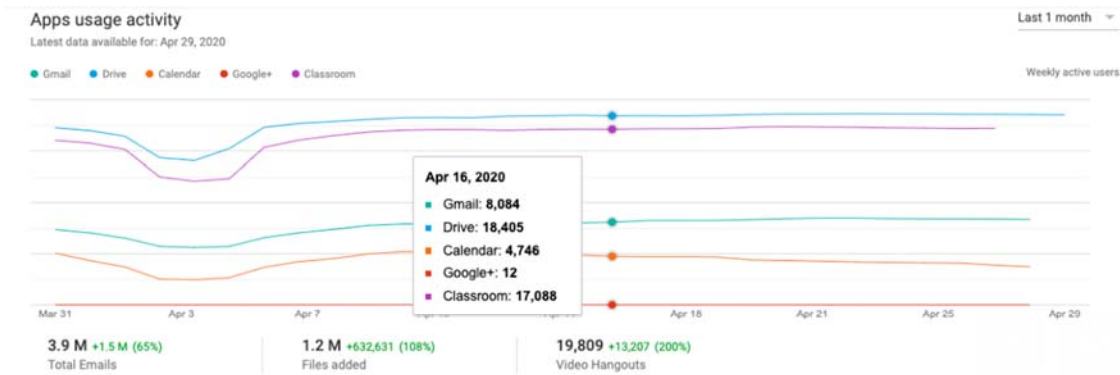
- Students deserve feedback, recognition of effort and engagement and continued connection with their teacher(s)

- We acknowledge that students need access to state standards and grade level content to ensure their future success
- We understand some work and course material will need to be prioritized and we will find appropriate differentiated supports for our students
- We acknowledge some instructional practices, student tasks and modalities may be altered as the course content shifts
- Assessments of student work have changed and may no longer be given in the same manner with the same amount of security, and not all students have access to the same learning environments

With these concepts in mind, we determined, with stakeholder feedback including students, teachers, counselors and administrators, to only provide grades to students with transcripts who will need the grades for their college admissions and scholarship opportunities. Therefore, we only are providing grades to students at the high school level.

- 8. In your email to staff on 4/28 you state that "96% of our 3rd-12th grade students are actively participating on Google Classroom". Can I ask please the source of this data, and also your impression of the integrity of the data. I'm assuming you meant to say that 96% of 3rd to 12th graders have clicked at least once on Google classroom. My own personal data, and other teachers' data would indicate a much higher rate not actively participating in the classroom. Can you explain and justify your statement. Thank you for taking this question.**

The purpose of the PVUSD Student Centered Access and Equity Data Sheet was to highlight and celebrate the positive and important work that our teachers, staff, administrators and community are doing in service of our students. We are working closely with Google to look at data and work with them on improved analytics around engagement. We highlighted the amount of “active users” a term used by Google for the data that we currently have. It is important to note, as you will see in the data below from our Google dashboard, that approximately 17,000 3-12 grade students and teachers are consistently logging into Google Classroom each day. The data points selected below demonstrate this consistency on April 14<sup>th</sup> 17,070 accessed Google Classroom, on April 15<sup>th</sup> 17,102 accessed Google Classroom and on April 16<sup>th</sup> the number sustained at 17,070. One of the key initial obstacles in distance learning is to ensure that students have the digital access and the skill set to log into Google Classroom. From the data, we know that is occurring. With current Google data analytics we cannot determine the average time that a group of students are on Google Classroom, but rather can only access an individual student’s time. In this moment, we can leverage the fact that students are accessing our systems and looking at our content. Our next steps will be to determine ways to sustain student engagement and increase learning and productivity.



9. I learned this week that a large number of my students live in areas that are not even serviceable by any internet provider. I realize that you have ordered another 250 hotspots to meet these needs. However, many of these families just got on the waiting list. I worry that 250 won't be enough. Also, a common reason that I received for 'why I am not participating in online sessions' was 'I can't get online until my mom gets home and gives me her phone.' These are from students who originally told me that they have the 'internet'. Consequently, many of their data plans maxed out the last week of the grading period and all work submission ceased. I am concerned that by mid April this situation will occur. Are you aware of these issues?

We are currently providing hot spots to students who are not online. These TMobile hot spots have unlimited data. We are using Classroom Relay to determine if a student is accessing the internet using their District Chromebook. In some cases students have requested a hot spot but when we look at their activity, they are online for significant time on other applications. If a student does not have access, please encourage them to call the community hotline at 831-786-2493. This week, we have finalized our request for 3,000 free hot spots through the Google partnership.

**10. My Zoom sessions are going great with my students. Is there any possibility that Extended Learning can pay me during the summer to continue tutoring my students?**

Currently the Extended Learning, Curriculum and Instruction, Equity, and Migrant Services Departments are collaborating on additional avenues to explore in addressing unfinished learning. We appreciate all teachers who have taken on distance learning and engaging their students. There will likely be other opportunities that will allow teachers to continue supporting student learning. For example, students in 9-12 will have access to completing credits in online programs over the summer, in addition to Winter Intersession. K-8 students will have suggested summer resources available and those eligible will also have the supports of Bridge, Jump Start, and Winter Intersession opportunities depending on our school calendar.