



March 29, 2020

COVID-19 Letter to Parents/Guardians:

I hope all is well with your family. I understand it is challenging to be home for this period of time, but I hope you are finding time to relax and spend time with your family playing, reading, board games, cooking, being creative, watching movies, taking walks etc.

As we begin our third week of suspended face-to-face instruction in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19, we hope that the work that your child's teacher provided has helped provide some routine and normalcy in these unprecedented times. Unfortunately, at this point, we are working on the assumption that Governor Newsom will continue the "Shelter in Place" order for California. With that in mind, the primary and elementary school teachers are meeting via Zoom to set up a distance-learning plan for our students when we resume classes on April 14th. We understand that not all families have access to the internet, so our distance learning plan will include both online and pencil/paper lessons to meet the needs of all of our families. Our goal is to keep schools open, even if it is only virtual, so that our students are continuing to learn and grow. Your site principals and teachers will be sending out more information about how assigned work will be graded and how students will access academic help.

Happy Valley Union Elementary School District is determined to think 'outside the box' to ensure that our schools continue to deliver a quality education during this pandemic. Teachers and staff will be calling you to ask about your student's technology and connectivity needs. We are working to get devices ready to send home with those of you who need them. We will be checking out Chromebooks to our students on April 13th and April 14th. Activities will be provided that include both paper and pencil as well as online. Please don't hesitate to communicate with school site teachers and administrators regarding any and all student learning challenges you encounter while your child is receiving instruction in this distance learning model.

There will be some bumps in the road as we get started with this new way of delivering services to our students. Please know that we are all doing our best. In closing, keep in the front of your mind that we are all anxious now. Help each other by connecting with one another in positive ways. Have fun together! While we want to see academics continue, it should not add stress to your lives. 1-2 hours a day for TK/K/1 and 3-4 hours for other grades is plenty. Remember, you are not alone. We are here for you!

We look forward to serving our students and meeting their educational needs. To be clear, we are not giving up on the possibility of returning to campus before the school year is over. However, with that date being uncertain, we need to start distance learning until it is appropriate to return to school.

Thank you for your patience and support!

Helen Herd
Superintendent
Happy Valley Union Elementary School District