



Pacific Union School District



August 7, 2020

Dear Pacific Union Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As many of you know, we have been working diligently to figure out the best way to safely open the 2020-2021 school year. We were hopeful that we could provide some site-based instruction, but with COVID-19 numbers continually increasing in our local area this is not the direction we will be able to start in. At a special board meeting on August 6, 2020, the Pacific Union School District Board of Trustees took action to support starting the 2020-2021 school year in full distance learning and re-evaluating the plan at the regularly scheduled board meeting in October.

As we continue to move towards the start of the school year, our amazing Pacific Union teachers and staff will now shift their focus to distance learning and meeting the new requirements from the state. We will be updating our distance learning plan to reflect these requirements and get the plan out to families as soon as possible. We will offer a robust and improved program. We have purchased an online common core state standards curriculum for all grade levels in core subject areas. This will support teachers to provide a systematic program whether families choose to have their child(ren) participate virtually, through paper packets, or a combination of both. Teachers will work with parents as a collaborative partner and there will be weekly interactions with parents and daily interactions with students. Students will be accountable for participation, attendance, work completion, and assessments.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank those of you who participated in our surveys and gave input at the board meetings over the summer. I am fortunate to work in such a thoughtful and respectful community. I know that some of you will be relieved to have us start the year with a distance learning only model, due to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns. I also understand that this news is extremely disappointing for other families. Please know, it is our goal to make distance learning work for all families and we will be creating multiple opportunities to support students and parents. We know that we are teaching partners with each of you and we want to make sure you feel supported as well.

We wish dynamics were different and that we could start the school year with onsite instruction. I can assure you that we remain committed to returning to onsite instruction as soon as safely possible. You will be hearing from your child's grade level team regarding a supply list and we will be sending information about classroom teacher assignments within the next couple of weeks. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and understanding. We are definitely better together! Stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Rene L. McBride

Superintendent