March 15, 2020

Dear AUSD Families:

I would like to first thank you for your patience during this difficult week. Our entire AUSD staff has been working through an unprecedented public health crisis and processing information that is constantly changing. We know that it’s been difficult, and that we have made decisions that may be challenging for students and families alike. I hope all of you have been able to take some time this weekend to process this situation with your students and reassure them that all of us are working very hard to find solutions that balance their health, safety, well-being, and educational needs.

Here is the current information we have about next week.

**Monday and Tuesday (March 16 and March 17)**

*School sites will be closed* except for the provision of school meals. Meals will be available at all schools from 9 am to 10 am and 12 pm to 1 pm. Students and families will not be able to enter our school buildings, however. Beginning Wednesday, meal service will happen at select locations which are listed below.

*District office will be closed* to the public on Monday. All previously scheduled appointments for Monday are cancelled, including for enrollment. We will contact you to reschedule those appointments.

*District Office will be open for enrollment appointments only on Tuesday.*

We are taking these steps because our leadership team needs time to thoughtfully and thoroughly plan out the next several weeks. We want to create the best learning opportunities we can, and we want to develop a professional development plan that will empower our educators to effectively deliver those lessons.

**Notes**

- **Students on campus:** We know some of you have students who need to pick up learning resources, such as textbooks, notebooks, calculators, musical and instruments. Please note that this directive supersedes any and all direction you may have received from individual school sites or well-meaning teaching staff. No students or family members should be on campus on Monday.
As the week evolves, we will discuss how we can give students who need to collect belongings or pick up learning materials an opportunity to do so in a manner that is safest, most efficient, and equitable. An announcement on that issue may come late Tuesday.

- **School meals** Beginning Wednesday (March 18), we will be providing lunch (and breakfast for the following day) to youth at five sites from 12 pm to 1 pm.

  - **Alameda Point Collaborative**
    677 W. Ranger Street
  - **Wood Middle School**
    420 Grand Street
  - **Ruby Bridges Elementary School**
    351 Jack London Avenue
  - **Encinal High School**
    210 Central Avenue
  - **Academy of Alameda**
    401 Pacific Avenue

**Learning Opportunities**

- The attached *Non-Digital Learning Opportunities* are activities that students can do from home and do not require a device or access to the internet. We will have limited hard copies of this document available at our school sites at lunch for those who are coming for food on Monday and Tuesday.

  These Non-Digital Learning Opportunities (including some translations) are also available on our [Online Learning Portal](http://www.alameda.k12.ca.us). We will be posting more translations this week.

- You can also find links to *Online Learning Opportunities* (meaning for use with digital devices) in that portal. We will be adding translations of these materials over the next several days. If you need these resources in a language other than English, please keep checking the web page.

- In addition to our Non-Digital and Online Learning Opportunities, our teachers will be working on assignments for their classes this week and will be communicating about this shortly. Please give your student’s teacher a few days to prepare and distribute these materials.
Know that the unprecedented challenge of keeping our kids educated and trying to facilitate some continuity of learning for them is an evolving challenge, but it is also one that is receiving intense focus from our Chief Academic Officer and her team. Our plan certainly may evolve and adjust over the next several days as we confer with principals and teachers so please be flexible and patient and know that we will be making student-centered decisions.

Coronavirus Protocols

We have suspended our in-class instruction in order to help our community and our country slow the spread of COVID-19. It is vitally important that you as community members also do your part to help the spread of this disease.

- That means that all of us need to continue to wash our hands, sanitize surfaces, cover our sneezes and coughs, and stay away from others if we are sick.

- It also means that all of us need to practice social distancing. Please do not let your children gather in groups. Whether it’s going to birthday parties or hanging out on Park Street, allowing your students to congregate will defeat the purpose of our closing schools.

No doubt you have follow-up questions coursework, class credit, and other school-related business. We are gathering and synthesizing this information as quickly as we can and will be communicating about it during the next week in the form of an FAQ. In the meantime, I want to assure you again that your students’ well-being and education are a priority for us, and we continue to work diligently to develop plans that will support that.

Again, I thank you for your patience and for your willingness to adapt to rapidly changing and challenging conditions. Mutual trust, a willingness to be flexible, and a concerted and creative collaboration between schools and families will be the building blocks of us safely and successfully educating our kids through this uncharted territory.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent