



March 25, 2020

Dear Jefferson School District Families,

San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas today announced a recommendation to extend the closure of all public schools in San Joaquin County through Friday, April 17, 2020, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus (see attached). The action follows public orders to stay at home issued by the Governor of California on March 19 and by San Joaquin County's Public Health Officer and its Emergency Services Director on March 21.

The recommendation from Mousalimas to extend the school closure is an extension of his March 13 recommendation to close schools. This is a rapidly changing situation and recommendations may change based upon the latest guidance or orders from federal, state, or local agencies. Based upon this recommendation, Jefferson School District will remain closed through Spring Break. Due to the possibility that school closures may last longer, the Jefferson School District will begin Phase Two of its Distance Learning Plan starting April 6, 2020.

This week our JSD staff has been very busy adjusting to the new reality that is JSD Distance Learning. I am very proud of our staff who have seized upon this challenge regardless of their level of comfort or experience with online instruction. All staff will have multiple training sessions and a Distance Learning Planning team has created a structure of technological and instructional support for our students. However, we are starting slowly and managing expectations, in that we understand that we are limited when trying to transition our entire instructional program to an online platform. Most teachers are still strategizing and collaborating on how to engage students in meaningful and relevant activities that can be done at home or online.

### **Distance Learning Plan Phase Two**

Starting April 6, 2020, teachers will be sending out lesson plans that include specific lessons for students to complete in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, and Physical Education. These lessons will be based upon the district's adopted curriculum and are intended to continue students' education. These lessons should take students between 45 minutes and two hours depending on grade level. Teachers will be creating live or recorded messages each morning to explain the daily agenda, demonstrate lessons, and to build community. In addition, teachers will be holding virtual office hours daily for students to get additional help and support. This could end up being an endless letter as I try to convey the scope of the task we have ahead of us but, I will try to keep it concise.

- All students are required to "attend" their classes and attendance will be based on participation and completed assignments.
- Students and families should check for communication daily from their teacher(s).
- Students should check their Google Classroom regularly where many teachers have added information, calendars, and assignments.
- Many teachers will be using Google Hangout Meet to conduct live class sessions. These will also be recorded so students may go back to them.
- Teachers will also be making videos of their instruction that will be uploaded to Google Classroom, YouTube, or emailed to students.
- Tests, quizzes, and other summative assessments will be very difficult for us to administer securely. Although some may use Illuminate and Google Forms in quiz mode or other apps like Quizlet or Kahoot, we expect that student progress will be assessed by assignment completion, where assignments could vary between essays, note taking, projects, problem sets, etc.
- All State Testing has been cancelled including CAASPP, PFT, CAST, and the Summative ELPAC.

## **Update on Access to Technology**

All of the required applications can be used from a phone, tablet, or any computer and a Chromebook is not required. If your family doesn't have access to these digital devices and/or Internet in the home, or don't have enough devices for multiple students participating in distance learning, a communication will go out on Monday, March 30, 2020 surveying families on the need to check out a Chromebook from the school. Once this survey is complete, our IT staff will work with the school sites to prepare Chromebooks for distribution on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. For those families that need Internet connectivity, Comcast is taking immediate steps to help connect low-income families to the Internet at home. New Internet Essentials customers will receive two free months of Internet service, which is available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month plus tax. Apply by April 30, 2020.

<https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19> There are additional options for Internet access on our website. <https://www.jeffersonschooldistrict.com/Page/2968>

## **Update on Meal Services**

To date, Tracy Unified School District has been providing "Grab and Go" bagged lunch and breakfast during the school closure. In the event that schools remain closed after Spring Break, JSD will begin providing "Grab and Go" lunch, which will include breakfast for the following day, at Tom Hawkins and Anthony Traina Elementary Schools starting April 20, 2020. Thank you to our Child Nutrition Services team for making this happen!

## **All Offices Are Closed**

All of our school offices and our District office will be closed to the public until April 20th, but staff will be answering phones starting on March 30, 2020 from 8:00 am until noon each day.

## **Teachers are Available During Normal School Hours**

Starting, March 26, 2020, teachers will be accessible through email. Please remember our teachers are not used to virtual engagement with their students and there will be some learning curve involved for some. In many cases, they are trying to manage their own children's education with their personal lives, participating in professional development, and planning for distance learning. Please be patient as we navigate these uncharted waters together.

## **Special Education**

Please be advised that the District is not changing your child's IEP placement or services. Rather, the District has developed a contingency education plan to implement during this emergency situation. Therefore, please be assured that when it is safe to resume school, your child will receive the placement and related services that are written in the IEP.

As such, please know, to the greatest extent feasible and in line with the health and safety of students and staff, your child will receive some special education and related services. Those services will be delivered in an alternative manner, and consistent with the shelter in place order that is currently in place across the State of California.

We are continuing to receive new information from state and federal agencies on legal requirements and best practices for distance learning for students who receive special education services or 504 accommodations. Service and support strategies for staff, students, and families are being developed and will be made available as soon as possible. Our special education teachers are preparing resources and support for students with IEPs and our instructional aides will also be online to help provide services for students with special needs.

Thank you for your ongoing support, flexibility, and positivity during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

James W. Bridges, Ed.D.

Superintendent



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2020

020-030: San Joaquin County Schools Recommendation

Contact: Zack Johnson, (209) 468-4937

**Superintendent of Schools Recommends Extending School Closures to Help Contain COVID-19**

*Recommendation would extend current San Joaquin County school closures through April 17*

San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas today announced a recommendation to extend the closure of all public schools in San Joaquin County through Friday, April 17, 2020, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The action follows public orders to stay at home issued by the Governor of California on March 19 and by San Joaquin County's Public Health Officer and its Emergency Services Director on March 21.

"During this unprecedented public health emergency, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our children, our families, and our entire community. In the interest of public safety, I am recommending that all public schools in San Joaquin County remain closed through Friday, April 17. Extending current school closures will help prevent the transmission of COVID-19, which is essential to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community and reducing the potential strain on our health care system," Mousalimas said. "Schools play an important role in our communities. Since school closures began, district leaders, teachers, and other school staff across San Joaquin County have been working diligently to provide meals and instructional opportunities for all children."

The recommendation from Mousalimas to extend the school closure is an extension of his March 13 recommendation to close schools. This is a rapidly changing situation and recommendations may change based upon the latest guidance or orders from federal, state, or local agencies.

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) continues to communicate daily with public health officials and district leaders in order to monitor and respond to the evolving situation. Over the past two weeks, the SJC OE and school districts have adapted to the emergency to continue to provide vital services to students and their families.

For updates, resources, and more information about COVID-19 and schools in San Joaquin County, go to [sjcoe.org/healthsafety](http://sjcoe.org/healthsafety). Students and families should also refer to their school district's website or social media for information specific to them. For updates and local information about the countywide response to COVID-19, please go to [sjready.org](http://sjready.org).

***About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:***

*San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJC OE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org).*