Dear Mustang Families,

Welcome “back” to school. This is not how any of us imagined starting this school year. The breeze that blows through campus without the sounds of student’s laughter and the excitement of a new year is surreal. There is no place that staff and I would rather be than on campus with students. However, the challenges of this pandemic require our diligence, commitment to safety and patience. Our goal is to get students on campus back in their routines as soon as it is deemed safe to do so in the most responsible way possible.

Until then, as we remain in a distant learning environment, we need to all be committed to the Costa tradition of “STEP UP.” We have a distinguished legacy of excellence, and I remain steadfast in my pride for how Costa teachers flipped to teaching online last Spring amidst a crisis. Our PTSA came in clutch to help bring our teachers technology and supplies. It was a bumpy ride for everyone and not all lesson plans easily transferred to an online format.

As a result, this summer, we committed to making a vast improvement to that experience. We know students must see their teachers daily for their social and emotional wellness. Guided instruction is imperative to keeping our students motivated. Training and development is critical to our staff. To that end, the District has invested in tools and online resource-curriculum such as Schools PLP to help teachers enhance their existing lessons into a relevant online format. With support from MBEF, teachers will be trained and better supported to effectively and efficiently deliver their curriculum online at a level of excellence we have enjoyed for 70 years. Our PTSA is already looking at ways to support our teachers’ connection with our students, as well as investing in health and safety materials to prepare our campus for when staff and students are able to return. Our counselors are focused on checking-in on our students regularly. Campus groups such as Associated Student Board (ASB), Link Crew and Athletics are working to foster students’ connections to Costa.

The commitment I’ve seen among our staff, parents, students and community is tremendous. We’re ready to STEP UP. Are you?

Sincerely,

Ben Dale
Principal