



KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of KHSD students:

The Kern High School District continues to be a committed partner with the parents/guardians of District students regarding the education and wellbeing of your children. That commitment remains stronger than ever during the COVID-19 health crisis, even though the methods to meet those goals have been modified due to the closure of our schools. In fact, we rely on each other now in ways none of us could have previously imagined. I am deeply grateful to all of our parents/guardians who have assisted us with the distance learning that our students must now complete at home. As educators, we know and appreciate the daily challenges inherent with teaching kids. Many of us can only imagine the compounded difficulties that parents/guardians now face as you oversee and assist with your child's at home education.

When state and local health and education officials recommended closing our schools on March 18, 2020 we were given a target reopening date of April 14. Like you, Kern High School District teachers and staff maintained sincere hope that the initial efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 would be successful and we could resume our school year on April 14 after the traditional Easter Break. However, based upon the latest recommendations from the Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Kern County Public Health, reopening in April is not possible. At this time, our new projected date for opening our schools is May 4 for staff only, with students reporting on May 5.

The Kern High School District will continue offering "grab and go" meals at all traditional high school campuses, as well as Nueva Continuation School, from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm every weekday, with the exception of Good Friday (April 10) and the Monday after Easter Sunday (April 13). These two days were previously calendared as District holidays, without staff reporting for duty. Given the incredible work and dedication of our staff members who continue to work at our schools and food services sites preparing and delivering these meals and support services, these holidays are a welcome respite that they both need and deserve. Please visit the Kern High School District website at: www.kernhigh.org for a complete listing of schools offering "grab and go" meals and hours of operation.

Teachers, administrators, and support staff have been working tirelessly developing additional materials so that students can continue learning, using paper packets and/or electronic-based assignments. Teachers have continued providing valuable learning lessons and opportunities for students. It is essential that students access the curriculum and it is expected they will complete the work provided to them. If students are having difficulty with materials or have questions, students can reach out to their teachers via email, through one of the available online learning platforms, or by contacting their school site to request assistance. In our ongoing efforts to support student learning, the KHSD has developed a library of online resources for staff and

students. The District recognizes that not all families have access to electronic devices such as computers, or internet/wi-fi technology at home. Therefore, the District is working to provide Chromebooks and wi-fi access to those families in need. Please be patient with us as we continue developing our strategies. The District will provide updates on this project very soon.

The Kern High School District's mission is always to educate and administer services for our students and families, and to provide supports for our teachers and staff members who make all of these things possible. Even in these extraordinary times, these guiding principles have not changed and remain our focus. Please continue reaching out to your child's teachers and school administrators via email or telephone so they can continue assisting with at home schoolwork, answering questions, and providing ongoing supports.

It is true, now more than ever, that we are stronger together. I thank each one of you for your unwavering support of our students, schools, District, and community. I wish you all health, comfort, and safety in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,
Bryon Schaefer, Ed.D.
Superintendent