FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2020

CENTRAL UNIFIED BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTE TO BEGIN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR WITH DISTANCE LEARNING

During tonight’s Board meeting, the Central Unified Board of Trustees voted to begin the 2020-21 school year with online distance learning. This decision follows Governor Newsom’s latest order to close business operations statewide and additional indoor operations in counties such as Fresno that have been on the County Monitoring List for three consecutive days. Furthermore, the Fresno County Department of Public Health has recommended that students in schools should stay six feet apart while simultaneously wearing masks.

"Since March, we have made the health and safety of our students, staff, and community a priority when we moved to online distance learning. Our Board was scheduled to hear a proposal from the administration to bring students back to campuses, even part-time. Our public health and State leaders have shared the data with us on infection rates, community spread, and ICU capacity which has greatly informed our decision. For the time being, we believe this is the safest course of action for students, staff and community alike,” stated Board President Yesenia Carrillo.

Superintendent Andrew Alvarado said, “We had initially planned to present both a blended learning model as well as an online home school to our Board of Trustees. After speaking to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the Fresno County Department of Public Health and local physicians, we believe the recommendation to keep students six feet apart while they wear masks for several hours, as well as the rapid community spread, make in-class learning untenable at this time. Our hope is the online distance learning will be temporary and students will slowly return to campuses as the community spread of COVID-19 decreases. In the next few days and weeks, we will be working diligently with our certificated staff to make our distance learning robust for students and manageable for parents, while also providing technology on an as-needed basis.”

Prior to the first day of school, teachers will receive expanded training in online education to better meet the needs of students. Students will also receive additional guidance at the start of the year.
to strengthen their online learning skills. The district will provide online support for parents to more easily participate in the education of their students.

Updated information on the district’s online distance learning, the new Central Online Home School, meal distribution, and pertinent announcements will be added to all district and school websites and social media on July 29, 2020.

Central Unified School District is the third-largest school district in Fresno County, serving 16,069 students in 21 schools.

For more information, contact Sonja Dosti, Communications and Public Relations Officer, at sdosti@centralunified.org, 559-274-4700 x63119 (office) or 559-495-5132 (cell).
Central Unified School District

BEGINS THE SCHOOL YEAR online

We aim to reopen as soon as local conditions improve and allow for us to safely educate students in classrooms.

ON CAMPUS APPOINTMENTS WILL BE HELD TO:
- Check out Chromebooks to ensure that each student has a device
- Check out materials students will need to participate in learning at home
- Make sure students have Wifi to participate in class online
- Connect students and families to health resources if needed
- Facilitate special education and counseling services when appropriate

WHAT TO EXPECT
- Frequent interaction between student and teacher
- Attendance will be taken
- Grading will resume
- Tutoring will be included to assist with reading and math

EXPECT FALL 2020 DISTANCE LEARNING TO BE DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS IN THE SPRING.

RESOURCES
- Breakfast & lunch will be provided
- Community & Mental Health Services available

WHEN ON CAMPUS
- Masks required
- Physical distance of 6 ft
- Wellchild / sick child areas
- Wellness screening
- Frequent hand washing

POSSIBLE NEXT STEP
While we are beginning the school year with an online format, our goal is to reopen schools gradually. The next proposed phase would move to opening schools in a blended format.

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR NEXT STEPS WILL BE SHARED AT THE JULY 28, 2020 CUSD BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 PM.

ENROLL HERE: CENTRALUNIFIED.ORG