April 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of KHSD students:

At the beginning of each school year, educators, parents, and students are hopeful and have positive expectations for the year to come. When this school year began, we were filled with excitement. None of us could have imagined that we would be facing the challenges, disappointments, and concerns that we face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We must face the reality that our schools will be closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Based upon the recommendation of Governor Gavin Newsom, and in consultation with the Kern County Department of Public Health and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, the Kern High School District and the other 46 Kern County school districts will not reopen to students this school year. We will complete the school year utilizing alternative teaching methods, including online distance learning.

We understand the difficulties this decision creates for our students and families, and we appreciate your support, dedication, and patience. We are also grateful for all the assistance our students, parents, and staff have given supporting safety, the continuity of education, and addressing the ongoing nutritional needs of our students while our school campuses have been closed. Despite the physical closure of our campuses, over the last several weeks we have rapidly adapted to our circumstances by providing online distance learning through distributing Chromebooks and providing enhanced Wi-Fi accessibility to students. Additionally, we will continue providing “grab-and-go” meals at all of our traditional campuses and at Nueva Continuation School for children ages 2-18. Meal distribution will take place from 11:00am – 12:30 pm daily, with the exception of Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) and Monday, April 13.

I understand there are many questions and concerns about the assignment of grades, graduation ceremonies, summer school, freshman registration, transcripts, scholarships, and many more issues. In the coming days and weeks, school districts will receive more guidance from the Department of Education about how public schools should address these concerns. As information becomes available and decisions are made, that information will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

This is an ever-evolving situation and information and circumstances are changing and developing rapidly. I sincerely appreciate your gracious and ongoing collaboration and understanding during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Bryon Schaefer, Ed. D.
Superintendent

The Kern High School District (KHSD) is committed to ensuring equal, fair, and meaningful access to employment and education services. KHSD prohibits discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation, or bullying in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, immigration status, marital status, medical information, national origin, physical or mental disability, parental status, political affiliation, pregnancy and related conditions, race, religion, retaliation, sex, sexual orientation, Military Veterans status, homelessness, foster status, or any other basis prohibited by California state and federal nondiscrimination laws consistent with Education Code 200 and 220, Government Code 11135, and Title IX. If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation, or bullying you should contact your school site principal and/or the District’s Chief Equity Compliance and Title IX Officer. Dr. Dean McGee, 5801 Sundale Avenue, (661) 827-3149. dmcgee@kernhigh.org. A copy of KHSD’s Uniform Complaint policy and Nondiscrimination policy are available at www.kernhigh.org and upon request.